

STUDENTS

SUBJECT: Preschool/Early Childhood Education

The County Board of Education and County Superintendent of Schools recognize that high-quality preschool experiences for children ages 3-4 years help them develop knowledge, skills, and attributes necessary to be successful in school and provide for a smooth transition into the elementary education program. Such programs should provide developmentally appropriate activities in a safe, well-supervised, cognitively rich environment.

(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)

(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)

Collaboration with Community Programs

The County Superintendent or designee shall collaborate with other agencies, organizations, and private preschool providers to assess the availability of preschool programs in the community and the extent to which the community's preschool needs are being met. The County Board of Education and County Superintendent of Schools encourage the development of a community-wide plan to increase children's access to high-quality preschool programs.

(cf. 1400 - Relations between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)

Information about preschool options in the community shall be provided to parents/guardians upon request.

The County Superintendent or designee shall establish partnerships with feeder preschools to facilitate articulation of the preschool curriculum with the district's elementary education program.

Preschool Programs

When the County Office of Education determines that it is feasible, the County Office of Education may provide preschool services in facilities at or near County Office of Education schools.

The County Office of Education shall set priorities for establishing or expanding services as resources become available. In so doing, the County Office of Education shall give consideration to the benefits of providing early education programs for at-risk children and/or children residing in the attendance areas of the lowest performing district schools.

(cf. 0520.1 - High Priority Schools Grant Program)

(cf. 0520.2 - Title I Program Improvement Schools)

(cf. 0520.4 - Quality Education Investment Schools)
(cf. 6171 - Title I Programs)

On a case-by-case basis, the County Office of Education shall determine whether the County Office of Education shall directly administer preschool programs or contract with public or private providers to offer such programs.

To enable children of working parents/guardians to participate in the County Office of Education's preschool program, the County Superintendent or designee shall recommend strategies to provide a full-day program and/or to link to other full-day child care programs in the district or community to the extent possible.

(cf. 5148 - Child Care and Development)
(cf. 5148.1 - Child Care Services for Parenting Students)
(cf. 5148.2 - Before/After School Programs)

Because parents/guardians are essential partners in supporting the development of their children, the County Superintendent or designee shall involve them in program planning. Program staff shall encourage volunteerism in the program and shall communicate frequently with parents/guardians of enrolled children regarding their child's progress.

(cf. 1240 - Volunteer Assistance)
(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)

The County Office of Education's program shall be aligned with preschool learning foundations published by the California Department of Education which identify the knowledge, skills, and competencies that children typically attain as they complete their first or second year of preschool. Program components shall address social-emotional, physical, and cognitive development in key areas that are necessary for kindergarten readiness.

The County Office of Education's preschool program shall provide appropriate services to support the needs of English learners and children with disabilities.

(cf. 6164.4 - Identification and Evaluation of Individuals for Special Education)
(cf. 6174 - Education for English Language Learners)

To maximize the ability of children to succeed in the preschool program, program staff shall support children's health through proper nutrition and physical activity and shall provide or make referrals to health and social services.

(cf. 3550 - Food Services/Child Nutrition Program)
(cf. 5030 - Student Wellness)
(cf. 5141.32 - Health Screening for School Entry)

The County Superintendent or designee shall ensure that administrators, teachers, and paraprofessionals in district preschool programs possess the appropriate permit(s) issued by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, meet any additional qualifications established by the County Office of Education, and participate in professional development opportunities designed to continually enhance their knowledge and skills.

(cf. 4112.2 - Certification)

(cf. 4112.4/4212.4/4312.4 - Health Examinations)

(cf. 4112.5/4312.5 - Criminal Record Check)

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4212.5 - Criminal Record Check)

(cf. 4222 - Teacher Aides/Paraprofessionals)

(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)

The County Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement an annual plan of evaluation which conforms to state requirements. (5 CCR 18279)

The County Superintendent or designee shall regularly report to the County Board of Education regarding enrollments in County Office of Education preschool programs and the effectiveness of the programs in preparing preschoolers for transition into the elementary education program.

(cf. 6190 - Evaluation of the Instructional Program)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

8200-8499.10 Child Care and Development Services Act, especially:

8200-8209 General provisions for child care and development services

8230-8233 Migrant child care and development program

8235-8239 California state preschool program

8250-8252 Programs for children with special needs

8263 Eligibility and priorities for subsidized child development services

8300-8303 Early Learning Quality Improvement System Advisory Committee

8360-8370 Personnel qualifications

8400-8409 Contracts

8493-8498 Facilities

8499.3-8499.7 Local child care and development planning councils

54740-54749 Cal-SAFE program for pregnant/parenting students and their children

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

1596.70-1596.895 California Child Day Care Act

1596.90-1597.21 Day care centers

120325-120380 Immunization requirements

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

18000-18434 Child care and development programs

80105-80125 Permits authorizing service in child development programs

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

6311-6322 Title I, relative to preschool

6319 Qualifications for teachers and paraprofessionals

6371-6376 Early Reading First

6381-6381k Even Start family literacy programs

6391-6399 Education of migratory children

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

9831-9852 Head Start programs

9858-9858q Child Care and Development Block Grant

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 22

101151-101239.2 General requirements, licensed child care centers, including:

101151-101163 Licensing and application procedures

101212-101231 Continuing requirements

101237-101239.2 Facilities and equipment

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 45

1301-1310 Head Start

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Expanding Access to High-Quality Preschool Programs: A Resource and Policy Guide for School Leaders, 2005

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

California Preschool Learning Foundations, Vol. 1, 2008

Preschool English Learners: Principles and Practices to Promote Language, Literacy, and Learning, 2007

Prekindergarten Learning Development Guidelines, 2000

First Class: A Guide for Early Primary Education, 1999

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION MANAGEMENT BULLETINS

08-13 California State Preschool Program, November 2008

01-06 The Desired Results for Children and Families System, May 31, 2001

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Good Start, Grow Smart, April 2002

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Association for the Education of Young Children: <http://www.caeyc.org>

California Children and Families Commission: <http://www.cafc.ca.gov>

California County Superintendents Educational Services Association:
<http://www.ccsesa.org>

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

California Head Start Association: <http://caheadstart.org>

California Preschool Instructional Network: <http://www.cpin.us>

Child Development Policy Institute: <http://www.cdpi.net>

Cities, Counties, and Schools Partnership: <http://www.ccspartnership.org>

First 5 Association of California: <http://www.f5ac.org>

National Institute for Early Education Research: <http://nieer.org>

National School Boards Association: <http://www.nsba.org>

Preschool California: <http://www.preschoolcalifornia.org>

U.S. Department of Education: <http://www.ed.gov>