

PRESCHOOL/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

The Governing Board recognizes that high-quality preschool experiences for children ages 3-5 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.

Collaboration with Community Programs

The 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 Board encourages the development of a community-wide plan to increase children's access to high-quality preschool programs.

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

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

District Preschool Programs

When the Board determines that it is feasible, the district may provide preschool services at or near district schools.

The Board shall set priorities for establishing or expanding services as resources become available. In so doing, the Board 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.

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

Facilities for preschool classrooms shall be addressed in the district's comprehensive facilities plan, including an assessment as to whether adequate and appropriate space exists on school sites. As necessary, the Superintendent or designee shall provide information to the Board regarding facilities financing options for preschool classrooms and/or facilities available through partnering organizations.

To enable children of working parents/guardians to participate in the district's preschool program, the 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.

PRESCHOOL/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (continued)

Inasmuch as parents/guardians are essential partners in supporting the development of their children, the 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 students regarding their child's progress.

The Board shall adopt standards which identify the knowledge, skills, and experience that students will be expected to attain in the district's preschool program in order to be prepared for the early primary grades, including but not be limited to, development of language, cognitive, social, emotional, and physical skills.

The district's preschool program shall provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services and support the needs of English learners. The program also shall provide appropriate services for students with disabilities, including but not limited to early screening to identify special needs among preschool students and intervention services to assist students identified with special needs in accordance with law.

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

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that administrators, teachers, and paraprofessionals in district preschool programs possess the appropriate credential(s) or permit(s) issued by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing and meet any additional qualifications established by the Board.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement an annual plan of evaluation which conforms to state requirements.

He/she shall regularly report to the Board regarding enrollments in district preschool programs and the effectiveness of the programs in preparing preschool students for transition into the elementary education program.

Legal Reference: (see next page)

PRESCHOOL/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

8200-8498 *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*

8235-8237 *State Preschool Programs*

8240-8244 *General child care programs*

8250-8252 *Programs for children with special needs*

8263 *Eligibility and priorities for subsidized child development services*

8360-8370 *Personnel qualification*

8400-8409 *Contracts*

8493-8498 *Facilities*

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

18000-18122 *General provisions, general child care programs*

18130-18136 *State Preschool Program*

18180-18192 *Federal and State Based Migrant Programs*

18210-18213 *Severely Handicapped Program*

18270-18281 *Program quality, accountability*

18290-18292 *Staffing ratios*

18295 *Waiver of qualifications for site supervisor*

18300-18308 *Appeals and dispute resolution*

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: (see next page)

PRESCHOOL/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (continued)

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

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

CDE PUBLICATIONS

Prekindergarten Learning Development Guidelines, 2000

First Class: A Guide for Early Primary Education, 1999

CDE MANAGEMENT BULLETINS

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.cffc.ca.gov>

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

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

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

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>