

PRESCHOOL/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Students

BP 5148.3 (a)

The Governing Board recognizes the value of high-quality preschool experiences to enhance children's social-emotional development and acquisition of instructional knowledge, skills, and abilities. The Board desires to provide a supervised and cognitively rich learning environment designed to facilitate the transition to kindergarten for three and four-year-old children.

(cf. 6170.1 – Transitional Kindergarten)

Collaboration with Community Programs

The Superintendent or designee shall collaborate with other agencies, organizations, the county office of education, and/or 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 comprehensive districtwide and/or countywide plan to increase children's access to high-quality preschool programs.

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)

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

(cf. 1700 - Relations Between Private Industry and the Schools)

The Superintendent or designee shall provide information about preschool options in the community to parents/guardians upon request.

To receive preschool services, a child and the child's parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be required to provide evidences of residency in California. However, any person identified as experiencing homelessness shall only be required to submit a declaration that the person resides in California. (5 CCR 17745)

District Preschool Programs

When the Board determines that it is feasible, the district may contract with the California Department of Education (CDE) to provide preschool services in facilities at or near district schools, either directly or through a subcontract with a public or private provider.

District preschool programs shall comply with all health and safety laws and regulations, including, when applicable, licensure requirements pursuant to 22 CCR 101156.

The Board shall approve, for the district's preschool program, a written philosophical statement, goals, and objectives that reflect the cultural and linguistic characteristics of the families to be served and address the program components specified in 5 CCR 17701-17711 and the accompanying administrative regulation. (5 CCR 17701)

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.

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(cf. 0520.2 - Title I Program Improvement Schools)
(cf. 0520.4 - Quality Education Investment Schools)
(cf. 6171 - Title I Programs)

Facilities for preschool classrooms shall be addressed in the district's facilities master 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.

(cf. 7110 - Facilities Master Plan)
(cf. 7210 - Facilities Financing)

To encourage participation in the district's preschool program and meet the child care needs of parents/guardians, the Superintendent or designee shall recommend strategies to link the district's preschool program with other available child care and development programs in the district or community.

(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 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. 5020 - Parent Rights and Responsibilities)
(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)

The Superintendent or designee shall coordinate the district's preschool program, transitional kindergarten program (TK), and elementary education program to provide a developmental continuum that builds upon children's growing skills and knowledge. In order to provide families with the option of a full-day, high-quality instructional program, the district may enroll children who are in a TK or kindergarten program in a California State Preschool Program (CSPP) before and/or after the regular school day.

If an early enrollment child is enrolled in the district's TK program, the district shall concurrently offer the child enrollment in the district's CSPP program, subject to available space. (Education Code 48000.15)

A child's eligibility for TK enrollment shall not impact family eligibility for a preschool or child care program. (Education Code 8205, 48000)

The district's program shall be aligned with preschool learning foundations and curriculum

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frameworks developed by the CDE which identify the knowledge, skills, and competencies that children typically attain as they complete their first or second year of preschool. The program shall be designed to facilitate children's development in essential skills in the areas of language and literacy, mathematics, physical development, health, visual and performing arts, sciences, history-social science, English language development, and social-emotional development.

The Superintendent or designee shall identify dual language learners in district preschool programs, and shall collect and report related data to CDE as required by Education Code 8241.5. The district's preschool program shall include activities and services that meet the needs of dual language learners for support in the development of their home language and English. (Education Code 8203)

The district's preschool program shall serve children with exceptional needs as required by Education Code 8208. Children with exceptional needs attending any CSPP program shall be educated in the least restrictive environment in accordance with 20 USC 1412. The district's preschool program shall provide appropriate services to support the needs of at-risk children.

(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 available health and social services as needed.

(cf. 3550 - Food Services/Child Nutrition Program)

(cf. 5030 - Student Wellness)

(cf. 5141.31 - Immunizations)

(cf. 5141.32 - Health Screening for School Entry)

(cf. 5141.6 - School Health Services)

The district shall encourage volunteerism by families participating in the program and shall communicate frequently with parents/guardians of enrolled children regarding their child's progress.

The 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 Board, 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)

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(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)

Preschool admissions policies and procedures shall be in writing and available to the public. Such policies and procedures shall include criteria designating those children whose needs can be met by the program and services, the ages of children who will be accepted, program activities, any supplementary services provided, any field trip provisions, any transportation arrangements, food service provisions, and a health examination requirement. (5 CCR 4 Policy Reference Disclaimer: 17743; 22 CCR 101218.1)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that subsidized preschool is provided to eligible families to the extent that state and/or federal funding is available and shall establish enrollment priorities in accordance with Education Code 8208, 8210, and 8211 and 5 CCR 17746-17748.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the plan to provide access to full-day learning programs the year before kindergarten addresses the needs of preschool children and their families as specified in Board Policy 6170.1 - Transitional Kindergarten. (Education Code 8281.5)

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement an annual plan of evaluation which conforms to state requirements. (5 CCR 17709 -17711)

The district's uniform complaint procedures, with modifications as necessary, shall be used to investigate and resolve complaints alleging violation of applicable health or safety requirements for license-exempt programs operating under the CSPP. However, licensed programs shall refer complaints alleging health and safety violations to the California Department of Social Services. (Education Code 8212; 5 CCR 4610, 4611, 4690-4694, 17781)

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

(cf. 0500 - Accountability)

(cf. 6190 - Evaluation of the Instructional Program)

State References:

CCR 101151-101191 Licensing and application procedures

22 CCR 101151-101239.2 General requirements; licensed child care centers

22 CCR 101212-101231 Continuing requirements

22 CCR 101237-101239.2 Facilities and equipment

5 CCR 14001-14036 School housing

5 CCR 17700-17833 California State Preschool Program

5 CCR 17701-17711 General Program Requirements

5 CCR 17746-17748 Enrollment priorities

5 CCR 18295 Waiver of qualifications for site supervisor

5 CCR 4600-4670 Uniform complaint procedures

5 CCR 4690-4694 Complaints regarding health and safety issues in license-exempt preschool programs

5 CCR 80067 Professional Clear Early Childhood Education Specialist Instruction Credential

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State References continued:

5 CCR 80105-80125 Commission on Teacher Credentialing; child care and development permits Ed. Code 17375 California Preschool, Transitional Kindergarten, and Full-Day Kindergarten Facilities Grant
Ed. Code 44065 Issuance of and functions requiring credentials
Ed. Code 44256 Authorization for teaching credentials
Ed. Code 48000-48003
Ed. Code 48985 Notices to parents in language other than
Ed. Code 60910 Data for students enrolled in California State Preschool Program
Ed. Code 69617 Golden State Teacher Grant
Ed. Code 8200-8340 California State Preschool
Ed. Code 8489-8489.1 Expulsion and suspension
H&S Code 120325-120380 Immunization against communicable diseases
H&S Code 1596.70-1596.895 California Child Day Care
H&S Code 1596.90-1597.21 Day care
W&I Code 10207-10215 General
W&I Code 10207-10492.2 Child Care and Development Services
W&I Code 10217-10224.5 Resource and referral programs
6 W&I Code 10225-10234 Alternative payment programs
W&I Code 10235-10238 Migrant child care and development programs
W&I Code 10240-10243 General child care and development programs
W&I Code 10250-10252 Family child care home education networks
W&I Code 10260-10263 Child care and development services for children with special needs
W&I Code 10480-10487 Local planning councils

Federal References:

20 USC 1400-1482 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
20 USC 6311-6322 Title I, relative to preschool
20 USC 6391-6399 Education of migratory children
42 USC 9831-9852c Head Start programs
42 USC 9857-9858r Child Care and Development Block Grant
45 CFR 1301.1-1305.2 Head Start

Policy

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VACAVILLE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Vacaville, California