

PRIMARY/PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION (CHILD DEVELOPMENT)

Code **IHBIB** Revised **3/13**

Purpose: To establish the basic structure for the district's delivery of primary and pre-primary education.

Four-year-old program

The South Carolina Education Improvement Act of 1984 and the Early Childhood Development and Academic Assistance Act of 1993 (Act 135) require school districts to establish and provide for the education of four-year-old children with predicted significant readiness deficiencies. South Carolina law provides for at least a half-day early childhood development program for these four-year-old children.

Special needs students

The district will make available special education and related services to all pre-school disabled children whose parents request these services. These children are ages three to five and have delayed developmental progress requiring a special education program. Included in this category are four-year-old vision and hearing impaired children as well as children with deficits in cognitive, social, emotional, perceptual, visual, hearing, motor and speech-language abilities.

The district will apply the following criteria when screening children for enrollment in the program.

- a screening instrument approved by the state department of education for use in determining each child's developmental level.
- an entrance age requirement which specifies a child must be three (if the program serves three-year-olds) or four years of age on or before September 1 of the applicable school year
- legal birth certificate
- South Carolina certificate of immunization
- a comprehensive health appraisal (before or within 120 days of enrollment) as developed by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control and approved by the state board of education.

The district will include ongoing staff development as a part of the long-range comprehensive plan and annual updates required to carry out the purposes of Act 135.

The administration will develop appropriate regulations to assure that the district conducts the program under state board of education guidelines.

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Adopted 6/1/98; Revised 3/4/13

Legal references:

A. United States Code:

1. 20 U.S.C.A., Sections 1412-1420 – Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

B. S.C. Code, 1976, as amended:

1. Section 59-19-340 – Allows local boards of trustees to provide programs for children reaching age four on or before September 1 and programs for three- and four-year-olds.
2. Section 59-67-425 – Three-, four- or five-year-old children attending public school sponsored programs of child development can ride state-owned buses to the extent that funds are made available by the General Assembly or as long as transportation services may be provided at no additional cost to the state.
3. Section 59-5-65(8) – School districts may contract with appropriate groups and agencies to provide part or all of the programs.
4. Section 59-139-05, et seq. – Early Childhood Development and Academic Assistance Act of 1993.
5. Section 59-36-10 – Preschool Programs for Children with Disabilities.

C. State Board of Education Regulations:

1. R43-264.1 – Half-day child development programs for four-year-olds.