

Primary/Preprimary Education

Kindergarten programs

The district shall establish and maintain a kindergarten program or programs. A kindergarten program may be a half-day or full-day program, and the district shall receive state funding for students enrolled in these programs on a half-day or full-day basis, in accordance with state law.

Preschool programs

All district preschool programs shall comply with the rules established by the Department of Education and with the rules for child care centers established by the Department of Human Services.

Children with disabilities

In meeting its obligation to offer an individualized program for children with disabilities at age three, the district shall provide a special education preschool program at no cost to students who are identified as children with disabilities pursuant to applicable law.

Universal Preschool Colorado (UPK) program

In addition, when the district receives funding from the state to do so, the district shall participate as a provider in the Universal Preschool Colorado (UPK) program. The district shall adhere to the Colorado Department of Early Childhood (CDEC)'s quality standards for providers as articulated in state law and regulation.

Colorado Preschool and Kindergarten Program

In addition, when the district receives funding from the state to do so, the district shall provide a preschool program as part of the Colorado Preschool Program for three-, four- and five-year-old children who lack learning readiness due to significant family risk factors, who are in need of language development or who are receiving services from the Department of Human Services as neglected or dependent children. All enrolling three-year-olds must lack overall learning readiness that is attributable to at least three significant risk factors.

Parents/guardians wishing to have their children participate in the Colorado Preschool Program shall make application to the district. Participants then shall be selected on the basis of greatest need.

Other children who wish to enroll on tuition basis

In an effort to offer a well-rounded learning experience, the preschool program may be open on a tuition basis to students who have not been identified children with disabilities pursuant to applicable law or eligible for the Colorado Preschool and Kindergarten Program because of the factors listed above. The administration may develop admission procedures that take into consideration space and staffing requirements.

Adopted: August 14, 2007
Revised: May 14, 2013
Revised: April 28, 2020
Revised: October 25, 2023

LEGAL REFS.: C.R.S. 22-20-101 *et seq.* (*Exceptional Children's Educational Act*)
C.R.S. 22-28-101 *et seq.* (*Colorado Preschool and Kindergarten Program Act*)
C.R.S. 22-32-119(1) (*requires establishment of kindergarten program*)
C.R.S. 22-32-119.5 (*full-day kindergarten phase-in plan*)
C.R.S. 22-54-103(9.5) (*definition of preschool enrollment*)
C.R.S. 22-54-103(10) (*funding for kindergarten*)
C.R.S. 26-6-102 (1.5) (*definition of child care center*)
C.R.S. 26.5-4-201 *et seq.* (*Universal Preschool Colorado program*)
1 CCR 301-8, Rules 2220-R-1.00 *et seq.* (*Rules for the Administration of the Exceptional Children's Educational Act*)

CROSS REFS.: BDFC*, Preschool Council
IHBA, Special Education Programs for Students with Disabilities

Garfield School District No. Re-2, Rifle, Colorado