Preschool/Early Childhood Education

Adopted: 02/16/2010 **| Last Revised:** 05/05/2026 **| Last Reviewed**: 05/05/2026

The Board of Education 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 two-, three-, and four-year-old children.

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 set priorities for establishing or expanding services as resources become available, giving consideration to the benefits of providing early education programs for at-promise children and/or children residing in the attendance areas of the lowest performing district schools.

Preschool classrooms needs 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 or agencies.

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.

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 in order to assist families whose child care needs extend beyond the length of time that the district's preschool program is offered.

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.

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, subject to available space.

A child's eligibility for TK enrollment shall not impact family eligibility for a preschool or childcare program.

The district's program shall be aligned with preschool foundations and curriculum frameworks developed by 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, science, 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.

The district's preschool program shall serve children with exceptional needs as required by Education Code 8208. Children with exceptional needs attending any CSPP 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-promise children.

To maximize the ability of children to succeed in the preschool program, the program 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.

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.

Staffing

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.

Eligibility, Enrollment, and Disenrollment

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.

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 5CCR 177645-17748.

To receive preschool services, a child and the child's parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be required to provide evidence of residency in California, which may be established by providing evidence of a California street or post office address. However, any person identified as experiencing homelessness shall only be required to submit a declaration that the person resides in California.

Preschool eligibility determinations shall be made without regard to a child's immigration status or that of the child's parent(s)/guardian(s).

The district's program shall not expel or unenroll a child or persuade or encourage a child's parents/guardians to voluntarily unenroll from the program based on the child's behavior, unless the expulsion or unenrollment is in accordance with the procedures specified in the accompanying Board rule.

When necessary due to a reduction in state reimbursements, families shall be disenrolled as specified in the accompanying Board Rule 5148.3.

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

Complaints
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.

Policy Reference Disclaimer:
These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the Board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

Legal References:

STATE
CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS
22 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 17745 Admission requirements; residency
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 80067-80067.3 Prekindergarten-3 Early Childhood Education Specialist Instruction Credential
5 CCR 80105-80125 Commission on Teacher Credentialing; child care and development permits
EDUCATION CODE
17375 California Preschool, Transitional Kindergarten, and Full-Day Kindergarten Facilities Grant Program
44065 Issuance of and functions requiring credentials
44256 Authorization for teaching credentials
48000-48003 Kindergartens
48985 Notices to parents/guardians in language other than English
60910 Data for students enrolled in California State Preschool Program
69617 Golden State Teacher Grant Program
8200-8340 California State Preschool Program
8489-8489.1 Expulsion and suspension procedures
HEALTH & SAFETY CODE
120325-120380 Immunization against communicable diseases
1596.70-1596.895 California Child Day Care Act
1596.90-1597.21 Day care centers

1597.640 Family preparedness in licensed child care and development program facilities; response to immigration enforcement
WELFARE & INSTITUTIONS CODE
10207-10215 General provisions
10207-10492.2 Child Care and Development Services Act
10217-10224.5 Resource and referral programs
10225-10234 Alternative payment programs
10235-10238 Migrant child care and development programs
10240-10243 General child care and development programs
10250-10252 Family child care home education networks
10260-10263 Child care and development services for children with special needs
10480-10487 Local planning councils

FEDERAL

UNITED STATES CODE
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
CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS
45 CFR 1301.1-1305.2 Head Start

MANAGEMENT RESOURCES

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS
UPK Mixed Delivery Quality and Access Workgroup Legislative Report
Assessment and Reporting of Family Fees for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25, Early Education Division Management Bulletin 24-06, June 2024
California State Preschool Program Neighborhood School Eligibility Criteria to Enroll Three- and Four-Year-Old Children, Early Education Division Management Bulletin 24-01, January 2024
Preschool/Transitional Kindergarten Learning Foundations, Early Education Division Management Bulletin 24-07, August 2024
Data Collection for California State Preschool Programs Operated by a Local Educational Agency, Early Education Division Management Bulletin 24-08, August 2024
Early Childhood Division Federal Program Monitoring Instrument
California State Preschool Program and Children with Disabilities (Exceptional Needs), Early Education Division Management Bulletin 23-02, February 2023
Part-day California State Preschool Program as an Extended Learning and Care Option, Early Education Division Management Bulletin 23-05, April 2023
Suspension and Expulsion in the California State Preschool Program, Early Education Division Management Bulletin 23-08, September 2023
Preschool English Learners: Principles and Practices to Promote Language, Literacy, and Learning, 2nd ed., 2009
Implementation of the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) and CLASS Environment and Removal of the Environment Rating Scale for the California State Preschool Program (CSPP), Early Education Division Management Bulletin 23-10, December 2023
California Preschool Learning Foundations
First Class: A Guide for Early Primary Education, 1999
CSBA PUBLICATIONS
The Importance of Early Childhood Education Programs, September 2019
The Preschool Landscape in California and Strategies for Expansion, January 2020
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATION
Policy Statement on Expulsion and Suspension Policies in Early Childhood Settings, 2016
WEBSITES
Universal PreKindergarten, California's Great Start https://express.adobe.com/page/OZrg3IsP1GE8b/
California Office of Administrative Law https://oal.ca.gov/
California County Superintendents Educational Services Association http://www.ccsesa.org/)
CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services https://legalservices.csba.org/

California Commission on Teacher Credentialing https://www.ctc.ca.gov/
National Institute for Early Education Research http://nieer.org/
California Association for the Education of Young Children http://www.caeyc.org/
California Head Start Association http://caheadstart.org/
California Preschool Instructional Network http://www.cpin.us/
Child Development Policy Institute http://www.cdpi.net/
First 5 California http://www.ccfc.ca.gov/
California Department of Social Services http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/
Cities Counties and Schools Partnership https://www.ca-ilg.org/ccs-partnership
California Office of the Attorney General http://oag.ca.gov/
CSBA http://www.csba.org/
California Department of Education http://www.cde.ca.gov/
U.S. Department of Education http://www.ed.gov/

Policy Adopted: 02/16/2010
Revised: 01/12/2016
Revised: 05/05/2026