

**STATE FUNDED PRESCHOOL**

**Licensing**

All district state funded preschool programs shall be licensed by the California Department of Social Services, unless exempted pursuant to Health and Safety Code 1596.792 or 22 CCR 101158. Parent participation classes are exempt.

The license shall be posted in a prominent, publicly accessible location in the facility. (Health and Safety Code 1596.8555)

Licensed state-funded preschools shall be subject to the requirements of Health and Safety Code 1596.70-1597.21, 22 CCR 101151-101239.2, and, when applicable, 22 CCR 101451-101539.

**Program Components**

The district's child care and development program shall include the following components:

1. The use of a developmental profile recording each child's physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development which shall be used to plan and conduct developmentally and age-appropriate activities (Education Code 8203.5; 5 CCR 18272)

Program staff shall complete the "Desired Results Developmental Profile," available from the California Department of Education (CDE), for each child who is enrolled in a state funded preschool class for at least 10 hours per week and for any child with disabilities regardless of the number of hours enrolled. The profile shall be completed within 60 days of enrollment and at least once every six months thereafter for children of all ages. (Education Code 8203.5; 5 CCR 18270.5, 18272)

2. An educational program which complies with 5 CCR 18273, including the provision of services that are developmentally, linguistically, and culturally appropriate and inclusive of children with special needs

*(cf. 5148.3 - Preschool/Early Childhood Education)*  
*(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)*  
*(cf. 6164.4 - Identification of Individuals for Special Education)*  
*(cf. 6164.6 - Identification and Education Under Section 504)*  
*(cf. 6174 - Education for English Language Learners)*

3. A staff development program which complies with 5 CCR 18274

*(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)*  
*(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)*  
*(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)*

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4. Parent/guardian involvement and education which comply with 5 CCR 18275 and involve parents/guardians through an orientation, at least two individual conferences per year, meetings with program staff, an advisory committee, participation in daily activities, and information regarding their child's progress

*(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)*

5. A health and social services component which complies with 5 CCR 18276 and includes referrals to appropriate community agencies as needed

*(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)*

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

*(cf. 5141 - Health Care and Emergencies)*

*(cf. 5141.23 - Asthma Management)*

*(cf. 5141.6 - School Health Services)*

6. A community involvement component which complies with 5 CCR 18277

7. A nutrition component which ensures that children in the program are provided nutritious meals, beverages, and snacks that meet state and federal standards and have access to drinking water throughout the day, including at meal times (Health and Safety Code 1596.808; 5 CCR 18278; 42 USC 1766)

*(cf. 3550 - Food Service/Child Nutrition Program)*

*(cf. 5030 - Student Wellness)*

*(cf. 5141.27 - Food Allergies/Special Dietary Needs)*

8. For state funded preschool programs, an annual plan for program evaluation which conforms with the state's "Desired Results for Children and Families" system and includes, but is not limited to, a self-evaluation, parent survey, and environment rating scale using forms provided by the CDE (5 CCR 18270.5, 18279, 18280)

*(cf. 0500 - Accountability)*

9. Programs that promote age-appropriate structured and unstructured opportunities for physical activity and that limit the amount of time spent in sedentary activities to an appropriate level

**Staffing Ratios**

The district's state funded preschool program shall maintain at least the minimum adult-child and teacher-child ratios specified in 5 CCR 18290-18292 based on the ages of the children served.

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Any person employed at a district child care center and any volunteer who provides care and supervision to children at such a center shall be immunized against influenza, pertussis, and measles. If a person meets all other requirements for employment or volunteering, as applicable, but needs additional time to obtain and provide his/her immunization records, the person may be employed or volunteer conditionally for a maximum of 30 days upon signing and submitting a written statement attesting that he/she has been immunized as required. In addition, each employee and volunteer shall receive an influenza vaccination between August 1 and December 1 of each year. A person shall be exempt from these requirements only under any of the following circumstances: (Health and Safety Code 1596.7995)

1. The person submits a written statement from a licensed physician declaring either that immunization is not safe because of the person's physical condition or medical circumstances or that the person has evidence of current immunity to influenza, pertussis, and measles.
2. In the case of the influenza vaccine, the person submits a written declaration that he/she has declined the vaccination.
3. In the case of the influenza vaccine required during the first year of employment or volunteering, the vaccine is not timely because the person was hired after December 1 of the previous year and before August 1 of the current year.

*(cf. 1240 - Volunteer Assistance)*

*(cf. 4112.4/4212.4/4312.4 - Health Examinations)*

Documentation of the required immunizations or exemptions from immunization shall be maintained in the employee's personnel file. (Health and Safety Code 1596.7995)

*(cf. 4112.6/4212.6/4312.6 - Personnel Files)*

In addition to the above immunization requirements, teachers employed in a child care center shall present evidence of a current tuberculosis clearance and meet other requirements specified in Health and Safety Code 1597.055. (Health and Safety Code 1597.055)

**Eligibility and Enrollment**

Eligible families shall be those who document both an eligibility basis and a need for care, as follows: (Education Code 8263)

1. The family is eligible for subsidized services on the basis of being a current aid recipient, income eligible, or homeless and/or the family's children are recipients of protective services or have been identified as being, or at risk of being, abused, neglected, or exploited.

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2. The family has a need for child care based on either of the following:
  - a. The unavailability of the parents/guardians to care for and supervise their children for some portion of the day because they are participating in vocational training leading directly to a recognized trade, paraprofession, or profession; are employed or seeking employment; are seeking permanent housing for family stability; or are incapacitated
  - b. The child is identified by a legal, medical, or social services agency, the district liaison for homeless students, a Head Start program, or an emergency or transitional shelter as being a recipient of protective services, as being or at risk of being neglected, abused, or exploited, or as being homeless

First priority for enrollment shall be given to neglected or abused children who are recipients of child protective services, or children who are at risk of being neglected or abused, upon written referral from a legal, medical, or social services agency. If unable to enroll a child in this category, the district shall refer the child's parent/guardian to local resource and referral services so that services for the child can be located. (Education Code 8263)

Second priority for enrollment shall be given to families who are income eligible, as defined in Education Code 8263.1. Families with the lowest gross monthly income in relation to family size shall be admitted first. If two or more families are in the same priority in relation to income, the family that has a child with disabilities shall be admitted first or, if there is no child with disabilities, the family that has been on the waiting list for the longest time shall be admitted first. (Education Code 8263, 8263.1)

The district's decision to approve or deny services shall be communicated to the parent/guardian through a written Notice of Action mailed or delivered within 30 days from the date the application is signed by the parent/guardian. (5 CCR 18094, 18118)

*(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)*

Subsequently, the Superintendent or designee shall mail or deliver a Notice of Action to a parent/guardian at least 14 calendar days before any intended change in services, including, but not limited to, an increase or decrease in fees, an increase or decrease in the amount of services, or termination of services, due to any of the following circumstances: (5 CCR 18095, 18119)

1. A determination during recertification or update of the application that the need or eligibility requirements are no longer being met or the fee or amount of service needs to be modified

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2. Failure of the parent/guardian to document the family's need or eligibility after the district requested such documentation in writing
3. An indication by the parent/guardian that he/she no longer wants the service
4. The death of a parent/guardian or child
5. The conclusion of a limited-term agreement, provided that the parent/guardian has been informed in writing of the date that the services would terminate

The Superintendent or designee shall establish and maintain a basic data file for each family receiving child care and development services containing the completed and signed application for services, documentation used to determine the child's eligibility and need, and copies of all Notices of Action. (5 CCR 18081, 18095)

**Fees and Charges**

The Superintendent or designee shall establish a process to determine whether and how much to charge parents/guardians for field trip expenses, within the limit specified in law. A child shall not be denied participation in a field trip due to the parent/guardian's inability or refusal to pay the fee, and no adverse action shall be taken against a parent/guardian for that inability or refusal. (Education Code 8273.3)

**Disenrollment**

When necessary due to a reduction in state reimbursements, families shall be disenrolled from subsidized child care and development services in the following order: (Education Code 8263.3)

1. Families with the highest income in relation to family size shall be disenrolled first.
2. If two or more families have the same income ranking, children without disabilities who have been enrolled in child care services the longest shall be disenrolled first. After all children without disabilities have been disenrolled, children with disabilities shall be disenrolled, with those who have been enrolled in child care services the longest being disenrolled first.
3. Families whose children are receiving child protective services or are at risk of neglect, abuse, or exploitation, regardless of family income, shall be disenrolled last.

**STATE FUNDED PRESCHOOL** (continued)**Health Examination**

A physical examination and evaluation, including age-appropriate immunization, shall be required within 30 days of enrollment, unless the parent/guardian submits a letter stating that such examination is contrary to his/her religious beliefs. (Education Code 8263)

The requirement for a physical examination and evaluation may be waived if a parent/guardian submits a letter stating that such examination is contrary to his/her religious beliefs. (Education Code 8263)

A child may be exempted from the immunization requirements only if: (Education Code 8263; Health and Safety Code 120335)

1. A licensed physician indicates that immunization is not safe due to the physical condition or medical circumstances of the child.
2. The parent/guardian submitted a letter or affidavit prior to January 1, 2016 stating that such examination is contrary to his/her personal beliefs. An exemption from immunization granted for personal beliefs is effective only until the next grade span (i.e., birth through preschool, grades K-6, and grades 7-12).

*(cf. 5141.22 - Infectious Diseases)*

*(cf. 5141.3 - Health Examinations)*

*(cf. 5141.31 - Immunizations)*

**Attendance**

Sign-in and sign-out sheets shall be used daily for all children for attendance accounting purposes. Attendance records shall include verification of excused absences, including the child's name, date(s) of absence, specific reason for absence, and signature of parent/guardian or district representative. (5 CCR 18065, 18066)

Absences shall be excused for the following reasons:

1. Illness or quarantine of the child or of the parent/guardian (Education Code 8208)
2. Family emergency (Education Code 8208)

A family emergency shall be considered to exist when unforeseen circumstances cause the need for immediate action, such as may occur in the event of a natural disaster or when a member of the child's immediate family dies, has an accident, or is required to appear in court.

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3. Time spent with a parent/guardian or other relative as required by a court of law (Education Code 8208)
4. Time spent with a parent/guardian or other relative which is clearly in the best interest of the child (Education Code 8208)

An absence shall be considered to be in the best interest of the child when the time is spent with the child's parent/guardian or other relative for reasons deemed justifiable by the program coordinator or site supervisor.

Except for children who are recipients of child protective services or are at risk of abuse or neglect, excused absences in the best interest of the child shall be limited to 10 days during the contract period. (5 CCR 18066)

Any absence due to a reason other than any of those stated above, or without the required verification, shall be considered an unexcused absence. After three unexcused absences during the year, the program coordinator or site supervisor shall notify the parents/guardians. Children who continue to have excessive unexcused absences may be removed from the program at the discretion of the program coordinator in order to accommodate other families on the waiting list for admission.

Parents/guardians shall be notified of the policies and procedures related to excused and unexcused absences for child care and development services. (5 CCR 18066)

**Rights of Parents/Guardians**

At the time a child is accepted into a licensed child care and development center, the child's parent/guardian or authorized representative shall be notified of his/her rights as specified in 22 CCR 101218.1, including, but not limited to, the right to enter and inspect the child care facility and the right to be informed, upon request, of the name and type of association to the center of any adult who has been granted a criminal record exemption. (Health and Safety Code 1596.857; 22 CCR 101218.1)

The written notice of parent/guardian rights also shall be permanently posted within the facility in a location accessible to parents/guardians. Notwithstanding these rights, access to the facility may be denied to an adult whose behavior presents a risk to children present in the facility or to noncustodial parents/guardians when so requested by the responsible parent/guardian. (Health and Safety Code 1596.857)

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**Records**

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain records of enrollment, attendance, types of families served, income received from all families participating in the district's child care and development program, and any other records required by the CDE.

*(cf. 3580 - District Records)*

*(cf. 5125 - Student Records)*