

Business and Noninstructional Operations

Food Services Operations/Cafeteria Fund

The Governing Board (Board) intends that school food services shall be a self-supporting, nonprofit program. To ensure program quality and increase cost effectiveness, the Superintendent or designee shall centralize and direct the purchasing of foods and supplies, the planning of menus, and the auditing of all food service accounts for the El Dorado County Office of Education (EDCOE).

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that food service director(s) possess the qualifications required by 7 CFR 210.30 and California Department of Education (CDE) standards.

At least once each year, food service administrators, other appropriate personnel who conduct or oversee administrative procedures, and other food service personnel shall receive training provided by the CDE.

Meal Sales

Meals may be sold to students, EDCOE employees, Board members, and employees or members of the fund or association maintaining the cafeteria.

In addition, meals may be sold to nonstudents, including parents/guardians, volunteers, students' siblings, or other individuals, who are on campus for a legitimate purpose. Any meals served to nonstudents shall not be subsidized by federal or state reimbursements, food service revenues, or U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) foods.

Meal prices, as recommended by the Superintendent or designee and approved by the Board, shall be based on the costs of providing food services and consistent with Education Code 38084 and 42 USC 1760. Students who are enrolled in the free or reduced-price meal program shall receive meals free of charge or at a reduced price in accordance with law, Board policy, and administrative regulation.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish strategies and procedures for the collection of meal payments, including delinquent meal payments. Such procedures shall conform with BP/AR 3553 - Free and Reduced Price Meals, 2 CFR 200.426, and any applicable CDE guidance. The Superintendent or designee shall clearly communicate these procedures to students and parents/guardians, and shall make this policy and the accompanying administrative regulation available to the public pursuant to Education Code 49557.5.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that a student whose parent/guardian has unpaid school meal fees or a student who is enrolled in the free or reduced-price meal program is not overtly identified by the use of special tokens, tickets, or other means and is not shamed, treated differently, or served a meal that differs from the meal served to other students.

Cafeteria Fund

The Superintendent or designee shall establish a cafeteria fund independent of EDCOE's general fund.

The wages, salaries, and benefits of food service employees shall be paid from the cafeteria fund.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that state and federal funds provided through school meal programs are allocated only for purposes related to the operation or improvement of food services and reasonable and necessary indirect program costs as allowed by law.

Contracts with Outside Services

With Board approval, EDCOE may enter into a contract for food service consulting services or management services in one or more EDCOE schools.

Procurement of Foods, Equipment and Supplies

To the maximum extent practicable, foods purchased for use in school meals by EDCOE or by any entity purchasing food on its behalf shall be domestic commodities or products. Domestic commodity or product means an agricultural commodity that is produced in the United States and a food product that is processed in the United States substantially using agricultural commodities that are produced in the United States.

A nondomestic food product may be purchased for use in EDCOE's food service program only as a last resort when the product is not produced or manufactured in the United States in sufficient and reasonable quantities of a satisfactory quality, or when competitive bids reveal the costs of a United States product are significantly higher than the nondomestic product. In such cases, the Superintendent or designee shall retain documentation justifying the use of the exception.

Furthermore, EDCOE shall accept a bid or price for an agricultural product grown in California before accepting a bid or price for an agricultural product grown outside the state, if the quality of the California-grown product is comparable and the bid or price does not exceed the lowest bid or price of a product produced outside the state.

Bid solicitations and awards for purchases of equipment, materials, or supplies in support of EDCOE's child nutrition program, or for contracts awarded pursuant to Public Contract Code 2000, shall be consistent with the federal procurement standards in 2 CFR 200.318-200.326. Awards shall be let to the most responsive and responsible party. Price shall be the primary consideration, but not the only determining factor, in making such an award.

Program Monitoring and Evaluation

The Superintendent or designee shall present to the Board, at least annually, financial reports regarding revenues and expenditures related to the food service program.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide all necessary documentation required for the Administrative Review conducted by the CDE to ensure compliance of EDCOE's food service program with federal requirements related to maintenance of the nonprofit school food service account, meal charges, paid lunch equity, revenue from nonprogram goods, indirect costs, and USDA foods.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

38080-38086.1 Cafeteria, establishment and use

38090-38095 Cafeterias, funds and accounts

38100-38103 Cafeterias, allocation of charges

42646 Alternate payroll procedure

45103.5 Contracts for management consulting services; restrictions

49490-49493 School breakfast and lunch programs

49500-49505 School meals

49550-49564.5 Meals for needy students, especially:
49550.5 Universal breakfast
49554 Contract for services
49580-49581 Food recovery program
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE CODE
58595 Preference for California-grown agricultural products
HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE
113700-114437 California Retail Food Code
PUBLIC CONTRACT CODE
2000-2002 Responsive bidders
20111 Contracts
CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5
15550-15565 School lunch and breakfast programs
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42
1751-1769j School lunch programs
1771-1791 Child nutrition, including:
1773 School breakfast program
CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 2
200.56 Indirect costs, definition
200.317-200.326 Procurement standards
200.400-200.475 Cost principles
200 Appendix VII Indirect cost proposals
CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 7
210.1-210.31 National School Lunch Program
220.1-220.21 National School Breakfast Program
250.1-250.70 USDA foods

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Business and Noninstructional Operations**Food Services Operations/Cafeteria Fund****Payments for Meals**

With the exception of students who are eligible to receive meals at no cost, students may pay on a per-meal basis or may submit payments in advance. The Superintendent or designee shall maintain a system for accurately recording payments received and tracking meals provided to each student.

At the beginning of the school year, and whenever a student enrolls during the school year, parents/guardians shall be notified of the El Dorado County Office of Education (EDCOE) meal payment policies and be encouraged to prepay for meals whenever possible. The Superintendent or designee shall communicate EDCOE's meal payment policies through multiple methods, including, but not limited to:

1. Explaining the meal charge policy within registration materials provided to parents/guardians at the start of the school year
2. Including the policy in print versions of student handbooks, if provided to parents/guardians annually
3. Providing the policy whenever parents/guardians are notified regarding the application process for free and reduced-price meals, such as in the distribution of applications at the start of the school year
4. Posting the policy on EDCOE's web site
5. Establishing a system to notify parents/guardians when a student's meal payment account has a low or negative balance

In any school that uses a system of meal tickets or other similar medium of exchange rather than an electronic point-of-sale system, the Superintendent or designee shall develop a process for providing replacement tickets to any student who reports a ticket as lost or stolen. However, whenever any student reports an excessive number of lost or stolen tickets, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the parent/guardian and may provide an alternative method of tracking meal usage for that student.

In order to avoid potential misuse of a student's food service account by someone other than the student in whose name the account has been established, the Superintendent or designee shall verify a student's identity when setting up the account and when charging any meal to the account. The Superintendent or designee shall investigate any claim that a bill does not belong to a student or is inaccurate, and shall open a new account as appropriate for a student whose account appears to have been misused.

Any payments made to a student's food service account shall, if not used within the school year, be carried over into the next school year or be refunded to the student's parents/guardians.

Unpaid and Delinquent Meal Charges

No later than 10 days after a student's school meal account has reached a negative balance, the Superintendent or designee shall so notify the student's parent/guardian. Before sending this notification, EDCOE shall exhaust all options and methods to directly certify the student for free or reduced-price meals. If EDCOE is not able to directly certify the student, the notice to the parent/guardian shall include a paper copy of, or an electronic link to, an application for free or reduced-

price meals and the Superintendent or designee shall contact the parent/guardian to encourage submission of the application.

EDCOE may attempt to collect unpaid school meal fees from a parent/guardian, but shall not use a debt collector.

The Superintendent or designee may enter into an agreement with a student's parent/guardian for payment of the student's unpaid meal charge balance over a period of time. As necessary, the repayment plan may allow the unrecovered or delinquent debt to carry over into the next fiscal year.

EDCOE shall not direct any action toward a student to collect unpaid school meal fees.

EDCOE's efforts to collect debt shall be consistent with EDCOE policies and procedures, California Department of Education (CDE) guidance, and 2 CFR 200.426. EDCOE shall not spend more than the actual debt owed in efforts to recover unpaid meal charges.

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain records of the efforts made to collect unpaid meal charges and, if applicable, financial documentation showing when the unpaid meal balance has become an operating loss.

Reimbursement Claims

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain records of the number of meals served each day by school site and by category of free, reduced-price, and full-price meals. The Superintendent or designee shall submit reimbursement claims for school meals to CDE using the online Child Nutrition Information and Payment System.

Donation of Leftover Food

To minimize waste and reduce food insecurity, EDCOE may provide sharing tables where students and staff may return appropriate unused cafeteria food items to be made available to students during the course of a regular school meal time. If food on the sharing tables is not taken by a student, the school cafeteria may donate the food to a food bank or any other nonprofit charitable organization.

Food that may be donated includes prepackaged, nonpotentially hazardous food with the packaging still intact and in good condition, whole uncut produce, unopened bags of sliced fruit, unopened containers of milk that are immediately stored in a cooling bin maintained at 41 degrees Fahrenheit or below, and perishable prepackaged food if it is placed in a proper temperature-controlled environment. The preparation, safety, and donation of food shall be consistent with Health and Safety Code 113980.

Cafeteria Fund

All proceeds from food sales and other services offered by the cafeteria shall be deposited in the cafeteria fund as provided by law. The income and expenditures of any cafeteria revolving account established by the Governing Board (Board) shall be recorded as income and expenditures of the cafeteria fund.

The cafeteria fund shall be used only for those expenditures authorized by the Board as necessary for the operation of school cafeterias in accordance with Education Code 38100-38103, 2 CFR Part 200 Appendix VII, and the California School Accounting Manual.

With CDE approval, EDCOE may use cafeteria funds to supplement the provision of universal breakfast. On or before July 1 of each year, EDCOE shall submit to CDE a Board-signed application certifying that breakfast will be provided to all students at no charge and that any cost above the amount provided in federal reimbursement will be covered by EDCOE with nonfederal funds.

Any charges to, or transfers from, a food service program shall be dated and accompanied by a written explanation of the expenditure's purpose and basis.

Indirect costs charged to the food service program shall be based on either EDCOE's prior year indirect cost rate as approved by CDE or the statewide average approved indirect cost rate for the second prior fiscal year, whichever is less.

Net cash resources in the nonprofit school food service shall not exceed three months average expenditures.

U.S. Department of Agriculture Foods

EDCOE shall provide facilities for the storage and control of foods received through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) that protect against theft, spoilage, damage, or other loss. Such storage facilities shall maintain donated foods in sanitary conditions, at the proper temperature and humidity, and with adequate air circulation. EDCOE shall comply with all federal, state, or local requirements related to food safety and health and procedures for responding to a food recall, as applicable, and shall obtain all required health inspections.

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain inventories of USDA foods in accordance with 7 CFR 250.59 and CDE procedures, and shall ensure that foods are used before their expiration dates.

USDA donated foods shall be used in school lunches as far as practicable. USDA foods also may be used in other nonprofit food service activities, including, but not limited to, school breakfasts or other meals, a la carte foods sold to students, meals served to adults directly involved in the operation and administration of the food service and to other school staff, and training in nutrition, health, food service, or general home economics instruction for students, provided that any revenues from such activities accrue to EDCOE's nonprofit food service account.

Contracts with Outside Services

The term of any contract for food service management or consulting services shall not exceed one year. Any renewal of the contract or further requests for proposals to provide such services shall be considered on a year-to-year basis.

Any contract for management of the food service operation shall be approved by CDE and comply with the conditions in Education Code 49554 and 7 CFR 210.16 as applicable. EDCOE shall retain control of the quality, extent, and general nature of its food services, including prices to be charged to students for meals, and shall monitor the food service operation through periodic on-site visits. EDCOE shall not enter into a contract with a food service company to provide a la carte food services only, unless the company agrees to offer free, reduced-price, and full-price reimbursable meals to all eligible students.

Any contract for consulting services shall not result in the supervision of food service classified staff by the management consultant, nor shall it result in the elimination of any food service classified staff or position or have any adverse effect on the wages, benefits, or other terms and conditions of employment of classified food service staff or positions. All persons providing consulting services shall be subject to applicable employment conditions related to health and safety as listed in Education Code 45103.5.

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Business and Noninstructional Operations

Free and Reduced Price Meals

The Governing Board (Board) recognizes that adequate nutrition is essential to the development, health, and learning of all students. The Superintendent or designee shall facilitate and encourage the participation of students from low-income families in the El Dorado County Office of Education (EDCOE) food service program.

EDCOE shall provide at least one nutritionally adequate meal each school day, free of charge or at a reduced price, for students whose families meet federal eligibility criteria.

To provide optimal nutrition and reduce the administrative burden of food service operations, the Superintendent or designee shall assess the eligibility of EDCOE schools to provide breakfast and/or lunch free of charge to all students at the school under a federally funded universal meal service provision, such as Provision 2 or the Community Eligibility Provision, pursuant to 42 USC 1759a.

If any EDCOE school meets the criteria for a "very high poverty school" through its eligibility for the federal Community Eligibility Provision reimbursement rate pursuant to 42 USC 1759a, EDCOE shall apply to the California Department of Education (CDE) to operate a universal meal service, unless the Board adopts a resolution stating that EDCOE is unable to comply with this requirement due to fiscal hardship. The resolution shall be part of the public agenda for at least two consecutive Board meetings, first as an information item and then as an action item. The Board shall reconsider the resolution at least once every four years.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that meals provided through the free and reduced-price meals program meet applicable state and/or federal nutritional standards in accordance with law, Board policy, and administrative regulation.

Schools participating in the Special Milk Program pursuant to 42 USC 1772 shall provide milk at no charge to students who meet federal eligibility criteria for free or reduced-price meals.

The Board shall approve, and shall submit to the CDE for approval, a plan that ensures that students eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals and milk are not treated differently from other students.

Confidentiality/Release of Records

All applications and records related to eligibility for the free and reduced-price meal program shall be confidential and may not be released except as provided by law and authorized by the Board or pursuant to a court order.

The Board authorizes designated employees to use individual records pertaining to student eligibility for the free and reduced-price meal program for the following purposes:

1. Disaggregation of academic achievement data
2. Identification of students eligible for services under the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act pursuant to 20 USC 6301-6576

If a student transfers from EDCOE to another district, charter school, county office of education program, or private school, the Superintendent or designee may share the student's meal eligibility information to the other educational agency to assist in the continuation of the student's meal benefits.

The Superintendent or designee may release the name and eligibility status of a student participating in the free or reduced-price meal program to another school district, charter school, or county office of education that is serving a student living in the same household for purposes related to program eligibility and data used in local control funding formula calculations.

The Superintendent or designee may release the name and eligibility status of a student participating in the free or reduced-price meal program to the Superintendent of Public Instruction for purposes of determining allocations under the local control funding formula and for assessing accountability of that funding.

The Superintendent or designee may release information on the school lunch program application to the local agency that determines eligibility for participation in the Medi-Cal program if the student has been approved for free meals or, if included in the agreement with the local agency, for reduced-price meals. He/she also may release information on the school lunch application to the local agency that determines eligibility for CalFresh or another nutrition assistance program authorized under 7 CFR 210.1 if the student has been approved for free or reduced-price meals. Information may be released for these purposes only if the student's parent/guardian consents to the sharing of information and EDCOE has entered into a memorandum of understanding with the local agency which, at a minimum, includes the roles and responsibilities of EDCOE and local agency and the process for sharing the information. After sharing information with the local agency for purposes of determining eligibility for that program, no further information shall be shared unless otherwise authorized by law.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

48980 Notice at beginning of term

49430-49434 Pupil Nutrition, Health, and Achievement Act of 2001

49490-49494 School breakfast and lunch programs

49500-49505 School meals

49510-49520 Nutrition

49530-49536 Child Nutrition Act of 1974

49547-49548.3 Comprehensive nutrition service

49550-49564.5 Meals for needy students

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

15510 Mandatory meals for needy students

15530-15535 Nutrition education

15550-15565 School lunch and breakfast programs

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1232g Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act

6301-6576 Elementary and Secondary Education Act

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

1751-1769j School lunch program

1771-1791 Child nutrition, especially:

1773 School breakfast program

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 7

210.1-210.31 National School Lunch Program

220.10-220.21 National School Breakfast Program

245.1-245.13 Determination of eligibility for free and reduced-price meals and free milk

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Business and Noninstructional Operations**Free and Reduced Price Meals****Applications**

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the El Dorado County Office of Education (EDCOE) application form for free and reduced-price meals and related materials include the statements specified in Education Code 49557 and 7 CFR 245.5. EDCOE's application packet shall include the notifications and information listed in Education Code 49557.2.

The application form and related information shall be distributed in paper form to all parents/guardians at the beginning of each school year and shall be available to students at all times during the school day.

In addition, the EDCOE application form for free and reduced price meals shall be available online. The online application form shall require completion of only those questions necessary for determining eligibility, contain clear instructions for families that are homeless or migrant, and comply with other requirements specified in Education Code 49557.

An application form and related information shall also be provided whenever a new student is enrolled.

At the beginning of each school year, the Superintendent or designee shall send a public release, containing the same information supplied to parents/guardians and including eligibility criteria, to local media, the local unemployment office, and any major employers in the EDCOE attendance area contemplating large layoffs. Copies of the public release shall be made available upon request to any interested person.

Eligibility

The Superintendent or designee shall determine students' eligibility for the free and reduced-price meal program based on the criteria specified in 42 USC 1758 and 1773 and 7 CFR 245.1-245.13 and made available by the California Department of Education.

Participants in the CalFresh, California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKS), and Medi-Cal programs shall be directly certified for enrollment in the free and reduced-price meal program without further application. Participants in other state or federal programs may be directly certified when authorized by law.

Verification of Eligibility

Not later than November 15 of each year, the Superintendent or designee shall verify the eligibility of a sample of household applications approved for the school year in accordance with the sample sizes and procedures specified in 42 USC 1758 and 7 CFR 245.6a.

If the review indicates that the initial eligibility determination is correct, the Superintendent or designee shall verify the approved household application. If the review indicates that the initial eligibility determination is incorrect, the Superintendent or designee shall:

1. If the eligibility status changes from reduced price to free, make the increased benefits immediately available and notify the household of the change in benefits
2. If the eligibility status changes from free to reduced price, first verify the application, then notify the household of the correct eligibility status, and, when required by law, send a notice of adverse action as described below
3. If the eligibility status changes from free or reduced price to paid, send the household a notice of adverse action as described below

If any household is to receive a reduction or termination of benefits as a result of verification activities, or if the household fails to cooperate with verification efforts, the Superintendent or designee shall reduce or terminate benefits, as applicable, and shall properly document and retain on file the reasons for ineligibility. He/she also shall send a notice of adverse action to any household that is to receive a reduction or termination of benefits. Such notice shall be provided 10 days prior to the actual reduction or termination of benefits. The notice shall advise the household of:

1. The change and the reasons for the change
2. The right to appeal, when the appeal must be filed to ensure continued benefits while awaiting a hearing and decision, and instructions on how to appeal
3. The right to reapply at any time during the school year

Confidentiality/Release of Records

The Superintendent designates the following EDCOE employee(s) to use individual records pertaining to student participation in the free and reduced-price meal program for the purpose of disaggregation of academic achievement data and/or the provision of services under the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act pursuant to 20 USC 6301-6576.

Title or Position: Food Service Supervisor

In using the records for such purposes, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that:

1. No individual indicators of participation in the free and reduced-price meal program are maintained in the permanent records of any student if not otherwise allowed by law.
2. Information regarding individual student participation in the free and reduced-price meal program is not publicly released.
3. All other confidentiality provisions required by law are met.
4. Information collected regarding individual students certified to participate in the free and reduced-price meal program is destroyed when no longer needed for its intended purpose.

Nondiscrimination Plan

EDCOE's plan for students receiving free or reduced-price meals shall ensure the following:

1. The names of the students shall not be published, posted, or announced in any manner, or used for any purpose other than the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, unless otherwise provided by law.
2. There shall be no overt identification of any of the students by the use of special tokens or tickets or by any other means.
3. The students shall not be required to work for their meals or for milk.
4. The students shall not be required to use a separate dining area, go through a separate serving line or entrance, or consume their meals or milk at a different time.

When more than one lunch, breakfast, or type of milk is offered, the students shall have the same choice of meals or milk as is available to those students who pay the full price.

Prices

The maximum price that shall be charged to eligible students for reduced-price meals shall be 40 cents for lunch and 30 cents for breakfast.

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Students

Child Care and Development

The Governing Board desires to provide child care and development services which meet the developmental needs of children and offer a convenient child care alternative for parents/guardians in the community.

The Governing Board shall enter into a contract with the California Department of Education (CDE) for the provision of child care and development services by the El Dorado County Office of Education (EDCOE).

EDCOE shall work cooperatively with the local child care and development planning council, public and private agencies, parents/guardians, and other community members to assess child care needs in the community, establish program priorities, obtain ongoing feedback on program quality, and supply information about child care options.

The Governing Board shall approve for EDCOE's child care and development 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 18272-18281 and the accompanying administrative regulation. (5 CCR 18271)

Eligibility and Enrollment

Child care 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 child care center's 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 health examination requirements. (5 CCR 18105; 22 CCR 101218)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that subsidized child care 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 8263 and 5 CCR 18106.

Staffing

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that individuals working in child care and development programs have the necessary qualifications and have satisfied all legal requirements.

Facilities

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent or designee, the Board may approve any of the following for the provision of child care and development services:

1. The use of existing EDCOE facilities that have capacity
2. Renovation or improvement of EDCOE facilities to make them suitable for such services
3. Purchase of relocatable child care facilities
4. Inclusion of child care facilities in any new construction
5. Agreement with a public agency or community organization for the use of community facilities

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that facilities used for child care services meet all applicable health and safety standards.

Complaints

For a licensed child care center, any complaint alleging health and safety violations shall be referred to the California Department of Social Services. For a license-exempt facility, such complaints shall be referred to the appropriate Child Development regional administrator. Any other alleged violation of state or federal laws governing child care and development programs shall be investigated and resolved using EDCOE's procedures in BP/AR 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures.

Program Evaluation

The Superintendent or designee shall annually conduct an evaluation of EDCOE's child care and development services in accordance with state requirements. The evaluation report shall be submitted to the Governing Board and the CDE along with an action plan which establishes program goals and objectives for the coming year and addresses any areas identified as needing improvement.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

8200-8499.10 Child Care and Development Services Act, especially:

8200-8209 General provisions for child care and development services

8210-8216 Resource and referral program

8220-8226 Alternative payment program

8230-8233 Migrant child care and development program

8235-8239 California state preschool program

8240-8244 General child care programs

8250-8252 Programs for children with special needs

8263 Eligibility and priorities for subsidized child development services

8263.3 Disenrollment of families due to reduced funding levels

8263.4 Enrollment of students ages 11-12 years

8273-8273.3 Fees

8278.3 Child Care Facilities Revolving Fund

8360-8370 Personnel qualifications

8400-8409 Contracts

8482-8484.65 After-school education and safety program

8484.7-8484.8 21st Century community learning centers

8493-8498 Facilities

8499-8499.7 Local planning councils

49540-49546 Child care food program

49570 National School Lunch program

56244 Staff development funding

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

1596.70-1596.895 California Child Day Care Act

1596.90-1597.21 Day care centers

120325-120380 Immunization requirements

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

- 4610-4687 Uniform complaint procedures
- 18000-18434 Child care and development programs, especially:
- 18012-18122 General requirements
- 18180-18192 Federal and state migrant programs
- 18210-18213 Severely handicapped program
- 18220-18231 Alternative payment program
- 18240-18248 Resource and referral program
- 18270-18281 Program quality, accountability
- 18290-18292 Staffing ratios
- 18295 Waiver of qualifications for site supervisor
- 18300-18308 Appeals and dispute resolution
- 80105-80125 Commission on Teacher Credentialing, child care and development permits

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 22

- 101151-101239.2 General requirements, licensed child care centers, especially:
- 101151-101163 Licensing and application procedures
- 101212-101231 Continuing requirements
- 101237-101239.2 Facilities and equipment

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

- 1751-1769j National School Lunch Program
- 9831-9852 Head Start programs
- 9858-9858q Child care and development block grant

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 7

- 210.1-210.31 National School Lunch program

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 45

- 98.2-98.93 Child care and development fund

New Policy Approved: November 2019

Students

Child Care and Development

Licensing

All El Dorado County Office of Education (EDCOE) child care and development services shall be licensed by the California Department of Social Services, unless exempted pursuant to Health and Safety Code 1596.792 or 22 CCR 101158.

The license shall be posted in a prominent, publicly accessible location in the facility.

Licensed child care centers 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

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

1. The use of a developmental profile reflecting each child's physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development to plan and conduct developmentally and age appropriate activities
Program staff shall complete the "Desired Results Developmental Profile," available from the California Department of Education (CDE), for each child who is enrolled in the program 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.
2. An educational program that complies with 5 CCR 18273, including the provision of services that are developmentally, linguistically, and culturally appropriate and inclusive of children with special needs
3. A staff development program which complies with 5 CCR 18274
4. Parent/guardian involvement and education that comply with 5 CCR 18275 and include 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
5. A health and social services component that complies with 5 CCR 18276 and includes referrals to appropriate community agencies as needed
6. A community involvement component that complies with 5 CCR 18277
7. As applicable, a nutrition component that ensures 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 meal times
8. 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
9. 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/guardian survey, and environment rating scale using forms provided by the CDE

Staffing

EDCOE's child care and development 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.

All persons employed at a licensed EDCOE child care center and all volunteers who provide care and supervision to children at such a center shall be immunized against influenza, pertussis, and measles. If they meet all other requirements for employment or volunteering, as applicable, but need additional time to obtain and provide immunization records, they may be employed or volunteer conditionally for a maximum of 30 days upon signing and submitting a written statement attesting that they have been immunized as required. In addition, employees and volunteers 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:

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 declining 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.

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

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

Eligibility and Enrollment

EDCOE's subsidized child care and development services may be available to infants and children through 12 years of age and to individuals with disabilities through 21 years of age in accordance with their individualized education program and Education Code 8208.

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

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.
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 engaged in an educational program for English language learners or to attain a high school diploma or general educational development certificate; 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, EDCOE's 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, EDCOE shall refer

the child's parent/guardian to local resource and referral services so that services for the child can be located.

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.

EDCOE shall allow eligible children 11-12 years of age to combine enrollment in a before-school or after-school program with subsidized child care services during the time that the before-school or after-school program does not operate. Children 11-12 years of age, except for children with disabilities, shall be eligible for subsidized child care services only for the portion of care needed that is not available in a before-school or after-school program.

After all children eligible for subsidized services have been enrolled, EDCOE may enroll children in accordance with the priorities established by the Governing Board.

EDCOE'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.

Upon establishing eligibility for services, a family shall be eligible for and shall receive services for not less than 12 months before having the family's eligibility or need recertified and shall not be required to report changes to income or other changes for at least 12 months. However, a family establishing eligibility on the basis of income shall report any increases in income that exceed the threshold for ongoing income eligibility specified in Education Code 8263.1, and the family's ongoing eligibility shall be recertified at that time. At any time a family may voluntarily report income or other changes, which shall be used, as applicable, to reduce the family's fees, increase the family's services, or extend the period of eligibility before recertification. (Education Code 8263)

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:

1. A determination made during recertification or the 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
2. Failure of the parent/guardian to document the family's need or eligibility after EDCOE requested such documentation in writing
3. An indication by the parent/guardian that the service is no longer wanted
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.

Fees and Charges

Except when offering a program that is prohibited by law from charging any fees, the Superintendent or designee may charge fees for services according to the fee schedule established by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the actual cost of services, or the maximum daily/hourly rate specified in the contract, whichever is least.

However, no fee shall be charged to a family that is receiving CalWORKS cash aid, an income-eligible family whose child is enrolled in a part-day California State Preschool Program, or a family whose income level, in relation to family size, is less than the first entry in the fee schedule.

In addition, any family receiving child care on the basis of having a child who is a recipient of child protective services, or having a certification by a county child welfare agency that child care services continue to be necessary, may be exempt from these fees for up to 12 months.

Fees shall be assessed at initial enrollment and reassessed when a family is recertified or experiences a change in status. Fees shall be considered delinquent after seven days from the date that fees are due. Parents/guardians shall be notified in the event that fees are delinquent. If a reasonable plan for payment of the delinquent fees has not been provided by the parents/guardians, services shall be terminated if all delinquent fees are not paid within two weeks of such notification. Parents/guardians shall receive a copy of EDCOE's regulations regarding fee collection at the time of initial enrollment into the program.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish a process that involves parents/guardians in determining whether to require parents/guardians to provide diapers. This process shall also be used 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.

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:

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.

Health Examination and Information

A physical examination and evaluation, including age-appropriate immunization, shall be required prior to or within six weeks of enrollment.

The requirement for a physical examination and evaluation shall be waived if a parent/guardian submits a letter stating that such examination is contrary to the parent/guardian's religious beliefs.

However, a child may be exempted from the immunization requirements only if:

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 the parent/guardian's 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).

If there is good cause to believe that a child is suffering from a recognized contagious or infectious disease, the child shall be temporarily excluded from the child care and development program until it is determined that the child is not suffering from that contagious or infectious disease.

When a child enrolls or reenrolls in a licensed child care program, the center shall provide the child's parent/guardian with written information on the risks and effects of lead exposure, blood lead testing recommendations and requirements, and options for obtaining blood lead testing, including any state or federally funded programs that offer free or discounted tests.

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 EDCOE representative.

Absences shall be excused for the following reasons:

1. Illness or quarantine of the child or of the parent/guardian
2. Family emergency
 - a. 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.
2. Time spent with a parent/guardian or other relative as required by a court of law
3. Time spent with a parent/guardian or other relative which is clearly in the best interest of the child

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.

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 child's parent/guardian. 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.

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 the rights 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.

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.

In addition, if a parent/guardian disagrees with any EDCOE action to deny a child's eligibility for subsidized child care services, disenroll the child due to a funding shortage, increase or decrease fees, increase or decrease the amount of services, terminate services, or otherwise change the level of services, the parent/guardian may file a request for a hearing with the Superintendent or designee within 14 calendar days of the date the Notice of Action was received. Within 10 calendar days of receiving the request for a hearing, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the parent/guardian of the time and place of the hearing, which, to the extent possible, shall be convenient for the parent/guardian.

The hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures specified in 5 CCR 18120 by an EDCOE administrator who is at a staff level higher in authority than the staff person who made the contested decision. Within 10 calendar days after the hearing, the EDCOE administrator shall mail or deliver a written decision to the parent/guardian. If the parent/guardian disagrees with the written decision, the parent/guardian may, within 14 calendar days, appeal the decision to the CDE.

Records

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

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Students**Preschool/Early Childhood Education**

The Governing Board (Board) recognizes the value of high-quality preschool experiences to enhance children's social-emotional development, knowledge, skills, abilities, and attributes necessary for a successful transition into the elementary education program. The Board desires to provide children ages 3-4 years access to developmentally appropriate activities in a safe, adequately supervised, and cognitively rich environment.

The Superintendent or designee shall collaborate with the local child care and development planning council, the county office of education, other public agencies, organizations, 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 countywide plan to increase children's access to high-quality preschool programs.

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

El Dorado County Office of Education Preschool Programs

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

EDCOE 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 EDCOE'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 18272-18281 and the accompanying administrative regulation.

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-risk children and/or children residing in the attendance areas of the lowest performing county schools.

Preschool classroom needs shall be addressed in EDCOE'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.

Because parents/guardians are essential partners in supporting the development of their children, the Superintendent or designee shall involve them in program planning.

The Superintendent or designee shall coordinate EDCOE'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.

EDCOE's program shall be aligned with preschool learning 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.

EDCOE's preschool program shall provide appropriate services to support the needs of at-risk 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.

EDCOE shall encourage volunteerism 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 EDCOE 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.

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 8263 and 5 CCR 18106.

The Superintendent or designee shall recommend strategies to link EDCOE's preschool program with other available child care and development programs in the community in order to assist families whose child care needs extend beyond the length of time that EDCOE's part-day preschool program is offered.

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

EDCOE's Williams 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 California State Preschool Program. However, licensed programs shall refer complaints alleging health and safety violations to the California Department of Social Services.

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

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

8200-8499.10 Child Care and Development Services Act, especially:

8200-8209 General provisions for child care and development services

8230-8233 Migrant child care and development program

8235-8239.1 California State Preschool Program

8240-8244 General child care and development programs

8250-8252 Programs for children with special needs

8263 Eligibility and priorities for subsidized child development services

8263.3 Disenrollment of families due to reduced funding levels

8264.8 Center-based child care programs, staffing ratios
8273.1 Family fees
8360-8370 Personnel qualifications
8400-8409 Contracts, administrative appeal procedure
8493-8498 Facilities, capital outlay
8499.3-8499.7 Local child care and development planning councils
44065 Interchange between certificated and classified positions
44256 Credential types
48000 Transitional kindergarten
48985 Notification, primary language other than English
HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE
1596.70-1596.895 California Child Day Care Act
1596.90-1597.21 Day care centers
120325-120380 Immunization requirements
CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5
4680-4687 Williams uniform complaint procedures
18000-18434 Child care and development programs, especially:
18130-18136 California State Preschool Program
18295 Waiver of qualifications for site supervisor
80105-80125 Permits authorizing service in child development programs
CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 22
101151-101239.2 General requirements, licensed child care centers, especially:
101151-101163 Licensing and application procedures
101212-101231 Continuing requirements
101237-101239.2 Facilities and equipment
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20
1400-1482 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
6311-6322 Title I, relative to preschool
6371-6376 Early Reading First
6381-6381k Even Start family literacy programs
6391-6399 Education of migratory children
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42
9831-9852c Head Start programs
9857-9858r Child Care and Development Block Grant
CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 45
1301.1-1305.2 Head Start

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Students

Preschool/Early Childhood Education

When approved by the California Department of Education (CDE) under the California State Preschool Program (CSPP), the El Dorado County Office of Education (EDCOE) may operate one or more part-day preschool programs in accordance with law and the terms of its contract with CDE.

EDCOE's preschool program shall include all required program components, as described in 5 CCR 18272-18281 and AR 5148 - Child Care and Development, for the educational program, the creation of a developmental profile for each child, staff development, parent involvement and education, community involvement, health and social services, nutrition, and program evaluation.

Minimum Hours/Days of Operation

EDCOE's part-day preschool program shall operate a minimum of three hours per day, excluding time for home-to-school transportation, and for a minimum of 175 days per year unless otherwise specified in the program's contract.

Staffing

The preschool program shall maintain an adult-child ratio of at least one adult for every eight children and a teacher-child ratio of at least one teacher for every 24 children. If EDCOE cannot recruit a sufficient number of parents/guardians or volunteers to meet the required adult-child ratio, teacher aides shall be hired as necessary.

Any person employed at an EDCOE preschool and any volunteer who provides care and supervision to children at a preschool shall, unless exempted by law, be immunized against influenza, pertussis, and measles in accordance with Health and Safety Code 1596.7995 and AR 5148 - Child Care and Development. Documentation of required immunizations, or applicable exemptions, shall be maintained in the employee's personnel file.

In addition, preschool teachers shall present evidence of a current tuberculosis clearance and meet other requirements as specified in Health and Safety Code 1597.055.

Wraparound Child Care Services

In accordance with its contract with CDE, EDCOE may offer full-day services to meet the needs of eligible families through a combination of part-day preschool and wraparound child care services that are offered for the remaining portion of the day or year following completion of the preschool services. Child care and development services offered through this program shall meet the requirements of general child care and development programs pursuant to Education Code 8240-8244.

Wraparound services shall operate a minimum of 246 days per year unless otherwise specified in the contract. Within this period of time, the part-day preschool program shall operate 175-180 days. After the completion of the preschool program, a part-time general child care and development program may operate a full day for the remainder of the year.

Family Literacy Services

When any EDCOE preschool program receives funding for family literacy services pursuant to Education Code 8238.4, the Superintendent or designee shall coordinate the provision of:

1. Opportunities for parents/guardians to work with their children on interactive literacy activities, including activities in which parents/guardians actively participate in facilitating their children's acquisition of prereading skills through guided activities such as shared reading, learning the alphabet, and basic vocabulary development
2. Parenting education for parents/guardians of children in participating classrooms to support their child's development of literacy skills, including, but not limited to, parent education in:
 - a. Providing support for the educational growth and success of their children
 - b. Improving parent-school communications and parental understanding of school structures and expectations
 - c. Becoming active partners with teachers in the education of their children
 - d. Improving parental knowledge of local resources for the identification of and services for developmental disabilities, including, but not limited to, contact information for a special education referral
3. Referrals to providers of adult education and instruction in English as a second language as necessary to improve academic skills of parents/guardians
4. Staff development for teachers in participating classrooms that includes, but is not limited to:
 - a. Development of a pedagogical knowledge, including, but not limited to, improved instructional and behavioral strategies
 - b. Knowledge and application of developmentally appropriate assessments of the prereading skills of children in participating classrooms
 - c. Information on working with families, including the use of on-site coaching, for guided practice in interactive literacy activities
 - d. Providing targeted interventions for all young children to improve kindergarten readiness upon program completion

Eligibility and Enrollment

Children eligible for EDCOE's CSPP program include those who will have their third or fourth birthday on or before December 1 of the fiscal year that they are being served. Children who have their third birthday on or after December 2 may be enrolled on or after their third birthday.

Eligibility for the CSPP program shall be as follows:

1. Children shall be eligible for subsidized preschool services if their family is a current aid recipient, income eligible, or homeless and/or the children are recipients of protective services or have been identified as being, or at risk of being, abused, neglected, or exploited.
2. Children shall be eligible for subsidized wraparound preschool and child care services if their family meets at least one of the criteria specified in item #1 above and needs child care services due to either of the following circumstances:
 - a. The child is identified by a legal, medical, or social services agency, the EDCOE 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.
 - b. The parents/guardians are engaged in vocational training leading directly to a recognized trade, paraprofession, or profession; are engaged in an educational program for English language learners or for the attainment of a high school diploma or general educational development certificate; are employed or seeking employment; are seeking permanent housing for family stability; or are incapacitated.

First priority for enrollment in a preschool program shall be given to neglected or abused children ages 3-4 who are recipients of child protective services or who, based upon written referral from a legal, medical, or social service agency, are at risk of being neglected, abused, or exploited. If unable to enroll a child in this category, EDCOE shall refer the child's parent/guardian to local resource and referral services so that services for the child can be located.

After all children with first priority are enrolled, EDCOE shall give second priority to eligible children 4 years of age who are not enrolled in a transitional kindergarten (TK) program prior to enrolling eligible children 3 years of age. (Education Code 8236)

After all otherwise eligible children have been enrolled, the program may provide services to children with disabilities who are ages 3-4 and whose family income is above the income eligibility threshold.

In addition, after enrolling all eligible children, up to 10 percent of the program's enrollment, calculated throughout the entire contract, may be filled with children who exceed the age limitations and children whose family income exceeds the income eligibility threshold by no more than 15 percent.

EDCOE may certify eligibility and enrollment up to 120 calendar days prior to the first day of the beginning of the preschool year. After establishing eligibility at the time of initial enrollment, a child shall remain eligible for the remainder of the program year.

EDCOE's decision to approve or deny a child's enrollment shall be communicated to the family through a written Notice of Action mailed or delivered within 30 days from the date the application is signed by the parent/guardian.

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:

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
2. Failure of the parent/guardian to document the family's need or eligibility after EDCOE 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

For each child enrolled in EDCOE's preschool program, the Superintendent or designee shall maintain a family data file including, but not limited to, a completed and signed application for services, documentation of income eligibility, and a copy of all Notices of Action. For each child not receiving subsidized services, the family data file shall also include records of the specific reason(s) for enrolling each child, the child's family income, and evidence that EDCOE has made a diligent search for children eligible for subsidized services.

Combined Preschool/Transitional Kindergarten Classroom

When a child is eligible for both the preschool program and EDCOE's TK program, EDCOE may place the child in a classroom which is commingled with children from both programs as long as the commingled program meets all of the requirements of each program as well as the following requirements: (Education Code 8235, 48000)

1. An early childhood environment rating scale, as specified in 5 CCR 18281, shall be completed for the classroom.
2. All children enrolled for 10 or more hours per week shall be evaluated using the Desired Results Developmental Profile, as specified in 5 CCR 18272.
3. The classroom shall be taught by a teacher who holds a credential issued by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing in accordance with Education Code 44065 and 44256.
4. The classroom shall comply with the adult-child ratio specified in Education Code 8264.8.
5. Contractors of EDCOE shall report the services, revenues, and expenditures for children in the preschool program in accordance with 5 CCR 18068.
6. The classroom shall not include children enrolled in TK for a second year or children enrolled in a regular kindergarten classroom.

Fees and Charges

Fees for participation in EDCOE's preschool program shall be assessed and collected in accordance with the fee schedule established by the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI).

However, no fee shall be charged to an income-eligible family whose child is enrolled in a part-day preschool program or a family that is receiving CalWORKs cash aid.

A family may be exempt from the fees for up to 12 months if the child qualifies for preschool on the basis of being the recipient of child protective services or as being, or at risk of being, abused or neglected.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish a process that involves parents/guardians in determining whether to require parents/guardians to provide diapers and/or 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.

Disenrollment Based on Reduced Funding

When necessary due to a reduction in state reimbursements, families shall be disenrolled in the following order:

1. Children 3 years of age whose families have the highest income in relation to family size shall be disenrolled first, followed by children 4 years of age whose families have the highest income in relation to family size.

At each age level, if two or more families have the same income ranking, the child with disabilities shall be disenrolled last. If there are no families that have a child with disabilities, the child who has received services the longest shall be disenrolled first.
2. Families of children 3 or 4 years of age who are receiving child protective services or who have been documented to be at risk of being neglected or abused, regardless of income, shall be disenrolled last.

Expulsion/Unenrollment Based on Behavior

An EDCOE preschool program shall not expel or unenroll a child based on the child's behavior, unless EDCOE first takes the following actions to address the child's behavior:

1. Inform the parents/guardians of the child's persistent and serious challenging behaviors and consult with the parents/guardians and teacher in an effort to maintain the child's safe participation in the program

2. If the child has an individualized family service plan (IFSP) or individualized education program (IEP), with written parent/guardian consent, contact the agency or EDCOE employee responsible for such plan or program to seek consultation in regard to serving the child
3. If the child does not have an IFSP or IEP, consider if it is appropriate to complete a universal screening of the child, including, but not limited to, screening the child's social and emotional development, referring the parents/guardians to community resources, implementing behavior supports within the program, and considering an IEP for the child

If EDCOE has taken the actions specified in items #1-3 above and the child's continued enrollment would present a serious safety threat to the child or other enrolled children, EDCOE shall refer the parents/guardians to other potentially appropriate placements, the local child care resource and referral agency, or any other referral service available in the local community. Within 180 days of the start of the process, EDCOE may unenroll the child.

Children with disabilities may only be suspended or expelled in conformance with the procedures and limitations of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Parent Hearing

If a parent/guardian disagrees with any EDCOE action to deny his/her child's eligibility for subsidized preschool services, disenroll the child due to a funding shortage, increase or decrease fees, increase or decrease the amount of services, terminate services, or otherwise change the level of services, he/she may file a request for a hearing with the Superintendent or designee within 14 calendar days of the date the Notice of Action was received. Within 10 calendar days of receiving the request for a hearing, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the parent/guardian of the time and place of the hearing, which, to the extent possible, shall be convenient for the parent/guardian.

The hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures specified in 5 CCR 18120 by an EDCOE administrator who is at a staff level higher in authority than the staff person who made the contested decision. Within 10 calendar days after the hearing, the EDCOE administrator shall mail or deliver a written decision to the parent/guardian. If the parent/guardian disagrees with the written decision, he/she may, within 14 calendar days, appeal the decision to CDE.

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