

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT

Licensing

Note: Pursuant to 22 CCR 101156, all child care centers must be licensed by the California Department of Social Services unless exempted by law. Health and Safety Code 1596.792 and 22 CCR 101158 list exemptions from licensure requirements which include, but are not limited to, exemptions for any program that (1) is a "public recreation program" that meets specified criteria; (2) is operated before and/or after school by qualified teachers employed by the district; (3) is a school parenting program or adult education child care program; (4) operates only one day per week for no more than four hours on that day; (5) offers temporary child care services to parents/guardians who are on the same premises as the child care site; or (6) provides activities that are of an instructional nature in a classroom-like setting when K-12 students are normally not in session and the sessions do not exceed a total of 30 days when only school-age children are enrolled or 15 days when younger children are enrolled. If the district offers only programs that are exempted from licensure, it should modify the following regulation accordingly.

All district 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. (Health and Safety Code 1596.8555)

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

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

1. 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 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. (Education Code 8203.5; 5 CCR 18270.5, 18272)

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)

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. 5148.2 - Before/After School Programs)
(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)

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; 42 USC 1766; 5 CCR 18278)

(cf. 3550 - Food Service/Child Nutrition Program)
(cf. 5030 - Student Wellness)
(cf. 5141.27 - Food Allergies/Special Dietary Needs)

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)

8. 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 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.

Enrollment

The district's child care and development services shall be available to infants and children through age 12 years. Individuals with disabilities may be served through age 21 years in accordance with their individualized education program and Education Code 8208. (Education Code 8208, 8263.4)

Children who meet the criteria specified in Education Code 8250 and 8263 shall be eligible for subsidized child care and development services.

Children ages 11-12 years, except for children with disabilities, shall be eligible for subsidized child care and development services only for the portion of care needed that is not available in a before- or after-school program. Subsidized child care and development services may be provided to a child age 11 or 12 years when the parent/guardian certifies, on a form provided by the CDE, that a before- or after-school program is not available. A program may be considered unavailable if: (Education Code 8263.4)

1. The program does not provide services during the hours or days that the child needs services, such as in the early morning, evening, or weekend hours or during summer, school breaks, or intersession.
2. The program is too geographically distant from the child's school or the parent/guardian's residence.
3. Use of the program would create substantial transportation obstacles for the family.

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)

4. Use of the program is otherwise inappropriate for the child or burdensome on the family.

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 equally 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 family through a written notice mailed or delivered within 30 days from the date the application is signed by the parent/guardian. If services are approved, the notice shall contain the basis of eligibility, daily/hourly fee, if applicable, duration of the eligibility, names of children approved to receive services, and the hours of service approved for each day. If services are denied, the notice shall contain the basis of denial and instructions on how the parents/guardians may request a hearing in accordance with the procedures specified in 5 CCR 18120 and 18121 if they do not agree with the district's decision. (5 CCR 18094, 18118)

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

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain a waiting list in accordance with admission priorities and shall contact applicants in order of their priority on the waiting list as vacancies occur. (5 CCR 18106)

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 and records used to determine the child's eligibility and need. (5 CCR 18081)

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.

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)

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.

Whenever the district issues a notice to the families who will be disenrolled due to funding reduction, a parent/guardian may appeal the decision only on the grounds that the factors used to determine the family's disenrollment are incorrect. He/she shall submit the appeal within 14 calendar days of receipt of the notice, or within 19 calendar days if the notice was mailed. The Superintendent or designee shall review the appeal and notify the parent/guardian, in writing, of the district's final decision within 10 calendar days of receiving the appeal request. Services shall continue to be provided pending the appeal decision.

Fees

Except when prohibited by law, 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. (Education Code 8239, 8250, 8263, 8447; 5 CCR 18108, 18109, 18110)

Families receiving services on the basis of having a child who is at risk of abuse, neglect, or exploitation may be exempt from these fees for up to three months. Families receiving services on the basis of having a child receiving 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. The cumulative period of exemption from these fees for these families shall not exceed 12 months. (Education code 8263)

Fees shall be collected prior to providing services and 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 the district's regulations regarding fee collection at the time of initial enrollment into the program. (5CCR 18114, 18115)

The Superintendent or designee shall establish a process which includes parents/guardians in determining whether and how much to charge parents/guardians for field trip expenses. This process also shall be used to determine whether to require parents/guardians to provide diapers. (Education Code 8263)

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Health Examination

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

(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.

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 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

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)

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)

(cf. 5145.6 - Parent Notifications)

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)

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.