

Policy 5148: 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.

Upon approval by the Governing Board, the district shall enter into a contract with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) for the provision of child care and development services by the district.

The district 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 the district'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)

In accordance with Governing Board Policy/Administrative Regulation 5141.21—Administering Medication and Monitoring Health Conditions, the Superintendent or designee shall make epinephrine delivery systems available at each child care and development program operated by or under contract with the district for providing emergency medical aid to any person suffering, or reasonably believed to be suffering, from an anaphylactic reaction. (Education Code 49414)

Response to Immigration Enforcement

The district's child care and development program shall provide families with the Attorney General's Immigration webpage during enrollment so families can access the Attorney General's model policies in, "Promoting Safe Early Childhood Education for All: Guidance and Model Policies for Early Childhood Education and Child Care Providers Pursuant to the Family Preparedness Plan Act of 2025."

The district and district staff shall act in accordance with Health and Safety Code 1597.640 and Board Policy/Administrative Regulation 1445 - Response to Immigration Enforcement with respect to:

1. Soliciting or collecting information or documents regarding the citizenship or immigration status of a child or the child's family members
2. Nondiscrimination on the basis of immigration status
3. Responding to the presence of immigration enforcement activity on district property, including requests for access to children or access to district-provided transportation, nonpublic areas of district property or facilities, or nonpublic area in which a district-sponsored activity is occurring
4. Responding to a request for information regarding a child or a child's family or household from immigration authorities

If the district's child care and development program responds to a request for information regarding the child, the district shall make a copy of the documents requested and shall document the name of the person/agency to whom the documents were provided. The child care and development program shall keep a record of the documents produced and place the copy in the child's file.

5. Responding in the event a child's parent/guardian is detained or deported
6. Permitting families to update children's emergency contact information as needed throughout the year

Families may provide as many alternative contacts as they wish if no parent/guardian is available.

7. Accessing, reviewing, or obtaining employee records by immigration authorities, except as to I-9 Employment Eligibility Verification forms and other documents for which a Notice of Inspection has been provided to the employer

The district shall review the Attorney General's website by June 1 of each calendar year. If there are updated model policies related to protecting the rights of immigrants and families to safely access child care and development programs, the district shall update this Governing Board policy and accompanying administrative regulation with equivalent policy language by July 1 of that calendar year.

Eligibility, Enrollment, and Disenrollment

Child care and development 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 and development 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 and development services are provided to eligible families to the extent that state and/or federal funding is available and in accordance with enrollment priorities specified in Welfare and Institutions Code 10271 and 5 CCR 18106.

To the extent that space is available after the enrollment of children who are eligible for subsidized services, priority for admissions shall be given to district students, children of district students, and children of district employees.

So long as the district has submitted a completed incidental medical services plan to CDSS, a child may be enrolled in the district's child care and development program prior to approval of the plan. Additionally, for a child with disabilities, the child may attend the district's child care and development program prior to the approval of an incidental medical services plan or amended plan of operation, so long as the forms have been submitted to CDSS. (Health and Safety Code 1596.802)

A child's eligibility for transitional kindergarten enrollment shall not impact family eligibility for a child care and development or preschool program. (Education Code 48000)

A child shall not be expelled or unenrolled from the district's child care and development program, nor shall the child's parents/guardians be persuaded or encouraged to voluntarily unenroll from the program based on the child's behavior, unless in accordance with the procedures specified in the accompanying administrative regulation.

When necessary due to a reduction in state reimbursements, families shall be disenrolled from subsidized child care and development services as specified in the accompanying administrative regulation.

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 in accordance with law and the accompanying administrative regulation.

Staffing

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

Facilities

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

1. The use of existing district facilities that have capacity
2. Renovation or improvement of district facilities to make them suitable for such services
3. Purchase of relocatable child care and development facilities
4. Inclusion of child care and development 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 and development services meet all applicable health and safety standards. (5 CCR 18020; 22 CCR 101238-101239.2)

Complaints

For a licensed child care and development center, any complaint alleging health and safety violations shall be referred to CDSS. (5 CCR 4611)

Any other alleged violation of state or federal laws governing child care and development programs shall be investigated and resolved using the district's procedures in Governing Board Policy/Administrative Regulation 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures.

Program Evaluation

The Superintendent or designee shall annually conduct an evaluation of the district's child care and development services in accordance with state requirements. The results of the evaluation shall be used to develop an action plan which establishes program goals and objectives for the coming year and addresses any areas identified as needing improvement. (5 CCR 18279-18281)