

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT

Licensing

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. 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 (Education Code 8203.5; 5 CCR 18272)

Program staff shall complete the developmental profile 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)

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 (Health and Safety Code 1596.808; 5 CCR 18278; 42 USC 1766)

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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 system and includes a self-evaluation, parent/guardian survey, and environment rating scale (5 CCR 18270.5, 18279, 18280)

Health and Safety

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. (Health and Safety Code 1596.7996)

If a licensed child care center is located in a building that was constructed before January 1, 2010, the center shall have its drinking water tested for lead contamination every five years following an initial test conducted between January 1, 2020 and January 1, 2023. The center shall notify the parents/guardians of enrolled children of the requirement to test a facility's drinking water and of the test results. If notified of elevated lead levels, the center shall immediately make inoperable and cease using the fountains and faucets where elevated lead levels may exist and shall obtain a potable source of water for children and staff at that location. (Health and Safety Code 1597.16)

Staffing

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.

All persons employed at a licensed district 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: (Health and Safety Code 1596.7995)

1. The person submits a written statement from a licensed physician declaring either that immunization is not safe because of the person's physical condition or medical

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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. (Health and Safety Code 1597.055)

Eligibility and Enrollment

The district'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. (Education Code 8208, 8263.4; 5 CCR 18089, 18407, 18422)

Eligible families shall be those who document both an eligibility basis and a need for care, as follows: (Education Code 8263, 8263.1)

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

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- b. The child is identified by a legal, medical, or social services agency, the district liaison for homeless students, a Head Start program, or an emergency or transitional shelter as being a recipient of protective services, as being or at risk of being neglected, abused, or exploited, or as being homeless

The Superintendent or designee shall consult the county's centralized eligibility list, when available, or shall maintain a district waiting list in accordance with admission priorities. As vacancies occur, applicants shall be contacted in order of their priority. (5 CCR 18106)

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

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

The district 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. (Education Code 8263.4)

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

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

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

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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: (5 CCR 18095, 18119)

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 the district 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. (5 CCR 18081, 18095)

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 state fee schedule, the actual cost of services, or the maximum daily/hourly rate specified in the contract, whichever is least. (Education Code 8250, 8263, 8273, 8273.1, 8447; 5 CCR 18078, 18108-18110)

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. (Education Code 8273.1; 5 CCR 18110)

In addition, any family receiving child care on the basis of having a child who is a recipient

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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. (Education Code 8273.1)

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 the district's regulations regarding fee collection at the time of initial enrollment into the program. (Education Code 8273; 5 CCR 18082, 18114, 18115)

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. (Education Code 8273.3)

Disenrollment

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

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

Health Examination and Immunizations

Prior to or within six weeks of enrollment, a child enrolling in a child care center shall obtain a physical examination and evaluation and receive age-appropriate immunizations. (Education Code 8263)

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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. (Education Code 8263)

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

1. A licensed physician indicates that immunization is not safe due to the physical condition or medical circumstances of the child.

A medical exemption shall be submitted using the standardized medical exemption certification form developed by California Department of Public Health and transmitted using the California Immunization Registry. The request shall include, but not be limited to, a description of the medical basis for which the exemption for each individual immunization is sought and whether the medical exemption is permanent or temporary, including the date upon which a temporary medical exemption will expire. A temporary exemption shall not exceed one year. (Health and Safety Code 120372)

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. (Education Code 8263)

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)

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

Any absence due to a reason other than any of those stated above, or without the required verification, shall be considered an unexcused absence. After three unexcused absences during the year, the program coordinator or site supervisor shall notify the 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. (5 CCR 18066)

Rights of Parents/Guardians

At the time a child is accepted into a licensed child care and development center, the child's parent/guardian or authorized representative shall be notified of 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. (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

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parent/guardian. (Health and Safety Code 1596.857)

In addition, if a parent/guardian disagrees with any district 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. (5 CCR 18120)

The hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures specified in 5 CCR 18120 by a district 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 district 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. (5 CCR 18120-18122)

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 under the state contract.