

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT

Licensing

District child care and development services may 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 and 22 CCR 101151-101239.2.

Program Components

The district's child care and development program shall include but not be limited to:

1. An educational program which: (5 CCR 18273)
 - a. Is developmentally, linguistically, and culturally appropriate
 - b. Is inclusive of children with special needs
 - c. Encourages respect for others
 - d. Supports children's physical, cognitive, language, social, and emotional development
 - e. Promotes and maintains practices that are healthy and safe

(cf. 6300 - Preschool/Early Childhood Education)

2. A staff development program which: (5 CCR 18274)
 - a. Identifies training needs
 - b. Provides written job descriptions
 - c. Provides an orientation plan for new employees
 - d. Provides staff development opportunities related to the functions in each employee's job description and identified training needs
 - e. Provides for annual written performance evaluations, unless a different frequency is specified in a collective bargaining agreement

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- f. Provides each staff member with information necessary to perform his/her duties

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)
(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)
(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)
3. Parent/guardian involvement and education, including: (5 CCR 18275)
 - a. An orientation for parents/guardians
 - b. At least two individual conferences per year
 - c. Parent/guardian meetings with program staff
 - d. An open-door policy that encourages parents/guardians to participate in the daily activities whenever possible
 - e. A parent/guardian advisory committee to advise the district on issues related to services to families and children
 - f. Sharing of information regarding children's progress
4. A health and social services component which: (5 CCR 18276)
 - a. Identifies the needs of the child and the family for health or social services
 - b. Refers a child and/or family to appropriate agencies in the community as needed
 - c. Conducts follow-up procedures with the parent/guardian to ensure that the needs have been met

(cf. 5141.6 - Student Health and Social Services)
5. A community involvement component which includes soliciting community support and providing information to the community regarding available services (5 CCR 18277)
6. A nutrition component which ensures that children in the program have nutritious meals and snacks that meet federal guidelines for child care programs or the National School Lunch program (5 CCR 18278)

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

(cf. 5030 - Student Wellness)

Staffing Ratios

The child care and development program shall maintain at least the minimum adult-child and teacher-child ratios specified in 5 CCR 18290-18292.

Admissions

Admissions policies shall include criteria designating those children whose needs can be met by the 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 a medical assessment requirement. (5 CCR 18105; 22 CCR 101218)

Child care and development services shall accord equal treatment and access to services in accordance with law.

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)

(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)

(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)

(cf. 6164.4 - Identification and Evaluation of Individuals for Special Education)

(cf. 6164.6 - Identification and Education Under Section 504)

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)

Fees

Fees may be charged 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 8263; 5 CCR 18108, 18109)

No fees shall be assessed for families whose income level, in relation to family size, is less than the first entry in the fee schedule, whose children are enrolled because of a need for child protective services, or whose children are participating in programs prohibited by law from assessing fees. Eligibility for subsidized child care and development services shall be determined in accordance with Education Code 8263. (Education Code 8250, 8263, 54745; 5 CCR 18110)

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(cf. 5148.1 - Child Care Services for Parenting Students)

Fees shall be collected prior to providing services and shall be considered delinquent after seven (7) 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 (2) 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. (5 CCR 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)

Attendance

Sign-in and sign-out sheets shall be used daily for all children for attendance accounting purposes. (5 CCR 18065)

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 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)

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

Any absence due to a reason other than the above, or without the required verification, shall be considered an unexcused absence. After three (3) unexcused absences during the year, the program coordinator or site supervisor shall notify the parents/guardians. Children who continue to have excessive unexcused absences may be removed from the program at the discretion of the program coordinator in order to accommodate other families on the waiting list for admission.

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

(cf. 5145.6 - Parent Notifications)

Rights of Parents/Guardians

At the time a child is accepted into a child care and development center, the child's parent/guardian or authorized representative may be notified of his/her rights as specified in 22 CCR 101218.1, including but not limited to, 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. (22 CCR 101218.1)

The Superintendent or designee shall inform parents/guardians of their right to enter the child care facility without advance notice during normal operating hours or any time their child is receiving services in the facilities.

Records

The Superintendent or designee shall establish and maintain a basic data file for each family receiving child care and development services which shall contain the data specified in 5 CCR 18081.

(cf. 3580 - District Records)

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A developmental profile measuring the child's physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development shall be completed in accordance with 5 CCR 18272. (Education Code 8203.5; 5 CCR 18272)