

Regulation 5148: Child Care And Development

Status: ADOPTED

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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 (Welfare and Institutions Code 10209.5; 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. (Welfare and Institutions Code 10209.5; 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 includes 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)
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, 18281)

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 levels every five years. 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 Welfare and Institutions Code 10275.5 and 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 a person meets all other requirements for employment or volunteering, as applicable, but needs additional time to obtain and provide immunization records, the person may be employed or volunteer conditionally for a maximum of 30 days upon signing and submitting a written statement attesting that the person has received the required immunizations. Employees and volunteers shall be immunized against influenza between August 1 and December 1 of each year. (Health and Safety Code 1596.7995)

A person shall be exempt from the above immunization 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 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 Welfare and Institutions Code 10213.5. (Welfare and Institutions Code 10213.5, 10273; 5 CCR 18089, 18407, 18422)

To participate in the district's subsidized child care program, families shall document both an eligibility basis and need for care as follows: (Welfare and Institutions Code 10271 and 10271.5)

1. The family is eligible for subsidized services on the basis of being:
 - a. A current aid recipient
 - b. Income eligible
 - c. Homeless
 - d. The family's children are recipients of child protective services or have been identified as being or at risk of being abused, neglected, or exploited

- e. A member of the household is certified to receive benefits from Medi-Cal, CalFresh, the California Food Assistance Program, the California Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, the federal Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, Head Start, Early Head Start, or any other means-tested government program as determined by the California Department of Social Services.

2. The family has a need for child care based on either of the following:

- a. The parents/guardians 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, 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 experiencing homelessness

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. (Welfare and Institutions Code 10271)

Second priority for enrollment shall be given to families, regardless of the number of parents in the home, who are income eligible, as defined in Welfare and Institutions Code 10271.5. 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 in which the primary home language is a language other than English shall be admitted first. If there is no family of the same priority in which the primary home language is a language other than English, the family of the same priority that has been on the waiting list for the longest time shall be admitted first. (Welfare and Institutions Code 10271 and 10271.5)

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. (Welfare and Institutions Code 10273)

After all children eligible for subsidized services have been enrolled, the district may enroll other 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 24 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 24 months. If such eligibility ends before the end of the child care and services program year, eligibility shall be extended until the end of the program year as long as applicable age-eligibility requirements specified in Welfare and Institutions Code 10213.5 are met. (Welfare and Institutions Code 10271)

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 Welfare and Institutions Code 10271.5, 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. (Welfare and Institutions Code 10271)

Additionally, a family establishing eligibility for services on the basis of receiving services under a CalWORKs Stage 1,

2, or 3 program 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. (Welfare and Institutions Code 10271)

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 including, but not limited to, 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. (Welfare and Institutions Code 10260, 10271, 10290, 10291, 10436; 5 CCR 18078, 18108-18110)

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. (Welfare and Institutions Code 10291; 5 CCR 18110)

In addition, any family receiving child care on the basis of having 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, may be exempt from these fees for up to 12 months. (Welfare and Institutions Code 10271 and 10291)

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. (Welfare and Institutions Code 10290; 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. (Welfare and Institutions Code 10292)

District child care centers shall post in a prominent location adjacent to the license at the child care facility the rates, and discounts or scholarship policies if any. (Welfare and Institutions Code 10288)

Expulsion/Unenrollment and Suspension Based on Behavior

The district's child care and development program shall not expel or unenroll a child or persuade or encourage a

child's parents/guardians to voluntarily unenroll from the program based on the child's behavior, unless the district first takes the following actions to address the child's behavior: (Welfare and Institutions Code 10491)

1. In writing, inform the parents/guardians of the child's persistent and serious challenging behaviors and consult with the parents/guardians and teacher, and if available engage an early childhood mental health consultant, 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), contact, with written parent/guardian consent, the agency or district employee responsible for such plan or program to seek consultation in regard to serving the child
3. If appropriate, consider completing a comprehensive screening to identify the needs of the child, including, but not limited to, screening the child's social and emotional development, referring the parents/guardians to community resources, and implementing behavior supports within the program

If the district 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, the district 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. The district shall, to the greatest extent possible, support direct transition to a more appropriate placement. The district may then unenroll the child. The district shall have up to 180 days to complete the actions described above. (Welfare and Institutions Code 10491.1)

A child shall not be suspended from the district's child care and development program, nor shall a child's parent/guardian be encouraged or persuaded to prematurely pick up a child before the program day ends, except as a last resort in extraordinary circumstances, when a safety threat exists that cannot be eliminated or reduced without the removal of the child. (Welfare and Institutions Code 10491.1)

Before determining that a suspension is necessary, the district shall collaborate with the child's parents/guardians and, as needed, shall use appropriate community resources to determine that no other reasonable option is appropriate. (Welfare and Institutions Code 10491.1)

When suspension is deemed necessary, the district shall help the child return to full participation in the program as soon as possible while ensuring safety, by doing all of the following: (Welfare and Institutions Code 10491.1)

1. Continuing to engage with the child's parents/guardians and continuing to use appropriate community resources
2. Developing a written plan to document the action and supports needed
3. Providing referrals to appropriate community resources
4. If the child has an IFSP or IEP, contacting, with written parent/guardian consent, the agency responsible for the child's IFSP or IEP, to seek consultation on servicing the child

Upon enrollment, the parents/guardians of each child shall be notified, in writing, of the limitations on expulsion, suspension, or any form of disenrollment and how the parents/guardians may file an appeal to CDSS in the event of expulsion or suspension. If the district suspends or expels a child from the child care and development program, the district shall, at least 24 hours before the effective date of the suspension or expulsion, issue the child's parents/guardians a written "Notice of Action, Recipient of Services," as described in 5 CCR 18095, informing the parents/guardians of the right to file an appeal of the action directly with CDSS no later than 14 calendar days after receiving the notice. (Welfare and Institutions Code 10491.1)

If a child is suspected of having a developmental delay, disability, or mental health issue, the child's parent/guardian shall be referred, if appropriate, to the mental health system, the state's early intervention program, or the district's special education program regarding evaluation for services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Children identified as having exceptional needs may only be suspended or expelled in conformance with the procedures and limitations of the IDEA.

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: (Welfare and Institutions Code 10272.5)

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 who have been enrolled in child care services the longest shall be disenrolled first.
3. If two or more families have the same income, children without disabilities shall be disenrolled first.
4. Families whose children are receiving child protective services or are at risk of neglect or abuse, 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. (Welfare and Institutions Code 10271)

A child may be exempted from the immunization requirements only if a licensed physician indicates that immunization should not be given and specifies how long this exemption is expected to be needed. (22 CCR 101220.1)

A medical exemption shall be submitted using the standardized medical exemption certification form developed by California Department of Public Health (CDPH) 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. All medical exemptions shall not extend beyond the current grade span of the student, and a temporary exemption shall not exceed one year. (Health and Safety Code 120372)

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. (Welfare and Institutions Code 10271)

District child care centers shall disclose immunization information to the local health department and CDPH in accordance with Health and Safety Code 120440, and maintain the confidentiality of such information in the same manner as other students records in accordance with law and as specified in Administrative Regulation 5125 - Student Records. (Health and Safety Code 120440)

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 the district's authorized representative if verification is made by telephone. (5 CCR 18065, 18066)

Absences shall be excused for the following reasons:

1. Illness or quarantine of the child or of the parent/guardian (Welfare and Institutions Code 10213.5)
2. Family emergency (Welfare and Institutions Code 10213.5)

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 (Welfare and Institutions Code 10213.5)
4. Time spent with a parent/guardian or other relative which is clearly in the best interest of the child (Welfare and Institutions Code 10213.5)

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)

When a child has been absent and the family has not been in communication with the program coordinator or site supervisor for seven consecutive calendar days, the district shall attempt to contact the parent/guardian through a variety of communication methods, including one attempt in writing which may be through electronic means, informing the parent/guardian that failure to communicate with the district may result in termination of child care services. The district shall keep documentation of all such communication attempts in the family's data file, and, if there has been no communication for a total of 30 consecutive calendar days, issue a Notice of Action to disenroll the family on the basis of abandonment of care. (5 CCR 18066.5)

Parents/guardians shall be notified of the policies and procedures related to excused 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 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 Child Development Division. (5 CCR 18120-18122)

Coordinating Transitions

When a child in the district's child care and development program transfers to a local public school, the district's child care and development program administrator shall provide the child's parent/guardian with information from the previous year which is beneficial to the student and the student's teacher, including, but not limited to, developmental issues, social interaction abilities, health background, and diagnostic assessments, if any. The program administrator shall transfer this information to the student's elementary school, with permission of the student's parent/guardian. (Welfare and Institutions Code 10315)

To facilitate the transition of a child with a disability, the district designates the individual listed below as the main point of contact for coordinating and completing, with other agencies and persons, the transition of a child and family from infant/toddler programs to preschool (Part C to Part B of IDEA), including establishing practices to educate and support families during the transition: (Government Code 95008)

Andrea Paxton, Chief Administrator of Instructional Services
300 S. Robinson Street
Tehachapi, CA 93561
(661) 822-2100
apaxton@tehachapiusd.com

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.
