

SECTION 500 – EDUCATION SERVICES

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (PRESCHOOL)

POLICY 580

ARTICLE 1 ECE (PRESCHOOL) PROGRAM

- A. The District shall operate an Early Childhood Education (ECE) Program. The terms “Early Childhood Education” and “Preschool” shall apply to the same program in this policy. The program is to be funded by tuition, revenues from the Colorado Preschool Program, and special education revenues for services to pre-kindergarten children.
- B. The ECE Program shall comply with Rules established by the Colorado Department of Education and with Rules for Child Care Centers established by the Colorado Department of Human Services.
- C. The District shall provide a special education preschool program at no cost to disabled students.
- D. When funding is received from the state to do so, the ECE program shall include three, four and five year old children who lack learning readiness due to significant family risk factors, who are in need of language development, or who are receiving services from the Colorado Department of Social Services as neglected or dependent children. All enrolling three-year olds must lack overall learning readiness that is attributable to at least three of the significant family risk factors:
1. Eligible to receive free or reduced-cost lunch pursuant to the National School Lunch Act;
 2. Homelessness of the child’s family;
 3. An abusive adult residing in the home of the child;
 4. Drug or alcohol abuse in the child’s family;
 5. Either parent of the child was less than eighteen years of age and unmarried at the time of the child’s birth;
 6. The child’s parent or guardian has not successfully completed a high school education or its equivalent;
 7. Frequent relocation by the child’s family to new residences;
 8. Poor social skills of the child.
- E. Parents/guardians wishing to have their children participate in the program shall make application to the Director. Participants shall be selected on the basis of greatest need. The program is open, on a tuition basis, to students who are not disabled or eligible for the program because of factors listed above.

References:

C.R.S. 22-20-101 et seq. Exceptional Children’s Act
C.R.S. 22-28-101 through 113 Colorado Preschool Program Act
C.R.S. 22-45-103 (1) (g) Preschool Program Fund
C.R.S. 22-54-105(4) At-risk Funding
C.R.S. 26-6-102 (1.5) Definition of Child Care Center.
1 CCR 301-8, Rules 2220-1.00 et seq. Rules for the Administration of the Exceptional Children’s Act

Adopted: January 15, 2003

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ARTICLE 2 PRESCHOOL COUNCIL

- A. The Superintendent shall appoint a Preschool Council that provides assistance and makes recommendations in implementing and coordinating a program funded through the Colorado Preschool Program. Members shall serve two-year terms. Membership on the Council shall include but not be limited to:
1. Early Childhood Education Director (Superintendent's Designee);
 2. Two parents of children in the program;
 3. Two members of the business community;
 4. Department of Health Representative;
 5. Department of Social Services Representative;
 6. Representative from Early Childhood Agencies in the District;
 7. Representative from privately funded child care centers in the District.
- B. Members of the Council shall elect a Chairperson for a one-year term, who may be elected to a second term.
- C. In accordance with law, the Council shall:
1. Assist the District in the implementation of the preschool program;
 2. Develop and recommend to the Board of Education plans for coordinating the program with extended day services, family support services, and a program to train parents to provide teaching activities in the home prior to entrance of their children into the preschool program;
 3. Define any additional student eligibility criteria;
 4. Develop a preschool program evaluation;
 5. Develop a training program for preschool staff using all available community resources and, as needed, the Colorado Department of Education;
 6. Recommend to the Board a plan for the annual evaluation of the Preschool;
 7. At least once every five years, assess whether alternative community providers are available in order to ensure the highest quality service delivery at the lowest cost.
- D. No action by the Council shall be final until approved by the Board of Education.
- E. The Council will meet a minimum of six times per year.

References:

C.R.S. 22-20-101 et seq. Exceptional Children's Act
C.R.S. 22-28-101 through 113 Colorado Preschool Program Act
C.R.S. 22-45-103 (1) (g) Preschool Program Fund
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ARTICLE 3 BUDGET

- A. The budget shall include allocations from the General Fund based upon enrollment and Colorado Preschool Fund 19 monies. Any moneys remaining in Fund 19 at the end of any fiscal year must remain in the fund.

ARTICLE 4 HEADSTART

- A. Headstart services, coordinated with the Pre-school program may be contracted through Jefferson County Headstart. The District shall not assume any responsibility for costs of these services but shall furnish a facility and furnishings, and provide school lunch services as required.

References:

C.R.S. 22-20-101 et seq. Exceptional Children's Act
C.R.S. 22-28-101 through 113 Colorado Preschool Program Act
C.R.S. 22-45-103 (1) (g) Preschool Program Fund
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