

Early Childhood Education

Kindergarten programs

The district shall establish and maintain a kindergarten program or programs. A kindergarten program may be a half-day or full-day program, and the district shall receive state funding for students enrolled in these programs on a half-day or full-day basis, in accordance with state law.

Preschool programs

All district preschool programs shall comply with the rules established by the Department of Education and with the rules for child care centers established by the Department of Human Services.

Preschool special education services/exceptional student services

In meeting its obligation to offer individualized special education preschool/exceptional student services for eligible children with developmental delay disability at age three or as early as two and a half years, as part of transition services mandated under Part C* (birth to three years) regulations, the district shall provide preschool services at no cost to families with students who have been identified as children with developmental delays or disabilities in accordance with their individualized education plan, pursuant to applicable law.

Colorado Preschool Program

In addition, when the district receives funding from the state to do so, the district shall provide a preschool program as part of the Colorado Preschool Program for 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 Human 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. All enrolling four-year-olds must lack overall learning readiness that is attributable to at least one of the significant family risk factors and must be eligible for kindergarten the following year.

Parents/guardians wishing to have their children participate in this program shall make application to the district. Participants then shall be selected on the basis of greatest need.

The Ages and Stages questionnaire is used by the District Child Find Evaluation Team as a screener of children birth to five years who are suspected of having developmental delay.

*Part C refers to early intervention and includes children ages birth to three years of age. At two and a half years, children may transition to Part B (preschool) services.

Adopted: January 7, 1997
Revised: March 14, 2006
Revised: February 24, 2015

LEGAL REFS.: C.R.S. 22-20-101 *et seq.* (*Exceptional Children's Educational Act*)
C.R.S. 22-28-101 *et seq.* (*Colorado Preschool Program Act*)
C.R.S. 22-32-119 (1) (*requires establishment of kindergarten program*)
C.R.S. 22-43.7-201 *et seq.* (*full-day kindergarten capital construction funding*)
C.R.S. 22-44-118 (*full-day kindergarten reserve*)
C.R.S. 22-54-103 (9.5) (*definition of preschool enrollment*)
C.R.S. 22-54-103 (10) (*funding for kindergarten*)
C.R.S. 22-54-108.5 (*mill levy to fund full-day kindergarten*)
C.R.S. 22-54-130, 131 (*full-day kindergarten funding*)
C.R.S. 26-6-102 (1.5) (*definition of child care center*)
1 CCR 301-8, Rules 2220-R-1.00 *et seq.* (*Rules for the Administration of the Exceptional Children's Educational Act*)

CROSS REF.: IHBA, Special Education Programs for Students with Disabilities