

# Santa Barbara Unified School District

## Administrative Regulation

**Students**

**AR 5148.3**

### **PRESCHOOL/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

When approved by the California Department of Education (CDE) under the California State Preschool Program, the district may operate one or more part-day preschool programs in accordance with law and the terms of the state contract.

*(cf. 5148 - Child Care and Development)*

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

*(cf. 5148.2 - Before/After School Programs)*

#### **Eligibility**

Children eligible for the district's preschool program include those who will have their third or fourth birthday on or before October 1 of the 2013-14 fiscal year or September 1 of each fiscal year thereafter. (Education Code 8208, 8235, 8236)

*(cf. 5111 - Admission)*

*(cf. 6170.1 - Transitional Kindergarten)*

#### **Enrollment Priorities**

The Superintendent or designee shall refer to the county's centralized eligibility list to identify children in need of services.

First priority for enrollment in a preschool program shall be given to neglected or abused children who are recipients of child protective services or who are at risk of being neglected, abused, or exploited, upon written referral from a legal, medical, or social service 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 8236)

*(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)*

*(cf. 1400 - Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)*

*(cf. 1700 - Relations Between Private Industry and the Schools)*

After all such children are enrolled, the district shall give priority to eligible children age 4 years prior to enrolling eligible children age 3 years. (Education Code 8236)

After enrolling all eligible children who meet the criteria for subsidized services as specified in the section entitled "Fees and Charges" below, up to 10 percent of the program's enrollment, calculated throughout the entire contract, may be filled with children whose family income is no more than 15 percent above the income eligibility threshold. (Education Code 8235)

The district may certify eligibility and enrollment up to 120 calendar days prior to the first day of the beginning of the preschool year. After establishing eligibility at the time of initial enrollment, a child shall remain eligible for the remainder of the program year. (Education Code 8237)

When necessary due to a reduction in state reimbursements, families shall be disenrolled in the following order: (Education Code 8236, 8263.3)

1. Children age 3 years whose families have the highest income in relation to family size shall be disenrolled first, followed by children age 4 years whose families have the highest income in relation to family size.

At each age level, if two or more families have the same income ranking, the child with disabilities shall be disenrolled last. If there are no families that have a child with disabilities, the child who has received services the longest shall be disenrolled first.

2. Families of children age 3 or 4 years who are receiving child protective services or who have been documented to be at risk of being neglected, abused, or exploited, regardless of income, shall be disenrolled last.

### **Minimum Hours/Days of Operation**

The district's part-day preschool program shall operate a minimum of three hours per day, excluding time for home-to-school transportation, and for a minimum of 175 days per year unless otherwise specified in the program's contract. (Education Code 8235)

*(cf. 6111 - School Calendar)*

*(cf. 6112 - School Day)*

### **Wraparound Child Care Services**

In accordance with its contract with the CDE, the district may offer full-day services to meet the needs of eligible families through a combination of part-day preschool and wraparound child care services that are offered for the remaining portion of the day or year following completion of the preschool services. Child care and development services offered through this program shall meet the requirements of general child care and development programs pursuant to Education Code 8240-8244. (Education Code 8239)

Wraparound services shall operate a minimum of 246 days per year unless otherwise specified in the contract. For this period of time, part-day preschool programs shall operate 175-180 days and general child care and development programs may operate a full day for the remainder of the year after the completion of the preschool program. (Education Code 8239)

### **Family Literacy Services**

When any district preschool program receives funding for family literacy services pursuant to Education Code 8238.4, the Superintendent or designee shall coordinate the provision of: (Education Code 8238)

1. Opportunities for parents/guardians to work with their children on interactive literacy activities, including activities in which parents/guardians actively participate in facilitating their children's acquisition of prereading skills through guided activities such as shared reading, learning the alphabet, and basic vocabulary development

*(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)*

2. Parenting education for parents/guardians of participating children to support their children's development of literacy skills, including, but not limited to, parent education in:
  - a. Providing support for the educational growth and success of their children
  - b. Improving parent-school communications and parental understanding of school structures and expectations

- c. Becoming active partners with teachers in the education of their children
3. Referrals to providers of adult education and instruction in English as a second language as necessary to improve parents/guardians' academic skills

*(cf. 6200 - Adult Education)*

4. Staff development for teachers in participating classrooms that includes, but is not limited to:
  - a. Development of a pedagogical knowledge, including, but not limited to, improved instructional strategies
  - b. Knowledge and application of developmentally appropriate assessments of the prereading skills of children in participating classrooms
  - c. Information on working with families, including the use of on-site coaching, for guided practice in interactive literacy activities

*(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)*

### **Fees and Charges**

Fees for participation shall be assessed and collected in accordance with the fee schedule established by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. (Education Code 8239, 8263)

*(cf. 3260 - Fees and Charges)*

Children shall be eligible for subsidized services as follows:

1. Children shall be eligible for subsidized preschool services if their family is 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. (Education Code 8235, 8263, 8263.1)
2. Children shall be eligible for subsidized wraparound services if their family meets at least one of the criteria specified in item #1 above and/or needs child care services because of either of the following circumstances: (Education Code 8239, 8263)
  - a. The child is identified by a legal, medical, or social services agency or emergency shelter as a recipient of protective services or as being, or at risk of being, neglected, abused, or exploited.
  - b. The parents/guardians are engaged in vocational training leading directly to a recognized trade, paraprofession, or profession; are employed or seeking employment; are seeking permanent housing for family stability; or are incapacitated.

The district shall involve parents/guardians in the decision-making process to determine whether and how much to charge for field trip expenses and whether to require parents/guardians to provide diapers. 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 8263)