

Primary/Preprimary 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.

For the 2005-2006 school year and each school year thereafter, a child must be five years of age by October 1 to be eligible for enrollment in any kindergarten program, unless the child is otherwise enrolled in the program pursuant to applicable law.

Preschool programs

All district preschool programs shall comply with the rules established by the Department of Education and with rules for child care centers established by the Department of Human Services. However, full-day kindergarten components of the district's preschool program are not required to comply with the Department of Human Services' rules regarding child care centers.

Children with disabilities

In meeting its obligation to offer an individualized program for children with disabilities at age three, the district shall provide a special education preschool program at no cost to students who have been identified as disabled pursuant to applicable law.

Colorado state preschool program

In addition, 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 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. Four and five year old student who qualify based on risk factors may participate in the Head Start Program. Beginning with the 2005-2006 school year, a child must be the requisite age by October 1 of the applicable budget year to be eligible for enrollment, unless the child is otherwise enrolled in the program pursuant to applicable law.

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. When the district receives funding from the state to do so, the district shall also include a full-day kindergarten as part of the preschool program

Other children who wish to enroll on tuition basis

In an effort to offer a well-rounded learning experience, the preschool program may be open on a tuition basis to students who have not been identified as disabled pursuant to applicable law or who are not eligible for the program because of the factors listed above. The administration shall develop admission procedures that take into consideration space and staffing requirements.

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. 22-45-103(1)(g) (*Preschool program fund*)
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. 22-54-105(4) (*At-risk 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 REFS.: BDFC*, Preschool Council
IHBA, Special Education Programs for Students with Disabilities

NOTE 1: If the district has incorporated a Head Start program as part of its preschool, this policy needs to be revised accordingly.

NOTE 2: Pursuant to C.R.S. 22-28-106, the term "significant family risk factors" is defined to mean any of the following:

- *The child is eligible to receive free or reduced-cost lunch pursuant to the National School Lunch Act*
- *Homelessness of the child's family*
- *An abusive adult residing in the home of the child*
- *Drug or alcohol abuse in the child's family*
- *Either parent of the child was less than eighteen years of age and unmarried at the time of the birth of the child*
- *The child's parent or guardian has not successfully completed a high school education or its equivalent*
- *Frequent relocation by the child's family to new residences*
- *Poor social skills of the child*

NOTE 3: School districts participating in the Colorado Preschool Program must budget an amount equal to the district's per pupil operating revenues multiplied by the district's preschool enrollment. This amount must be allocated to the preschool program fund and may be expended only to pay costs of providing preschool services directly to enrolled children (for example teacher and paraprofessional salaries and benefits, supplies, home visits, and the like). Any moneys remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year must remain in the fund.

NOTE 4: Pursuant to C.R.S. 22-54-103, school districts participating in the Colorado Preschool Program may choose to determine the number of students enrolled in such preschool program(s), including those students with disabilities enrolled in such program(s), on November 1 within the applicable budget year or the school date nearest to November 1, instead of on October 1. These preschool students shall be counted as half-day pupils.