

Dave 1/19 ✓

CSBA Sample Administrative Regulation

Students

AR 5148(a)

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT

Note: The following administrative regulation reflects provisions generally applicable to programs under the Child Care and Development Services Act (Welfare and Institutions Code 10207-10490). Such programs include resource and referral programs (Welfare and Institutions Code 10217-10224.55 CCR 18240-18248), alternative payment programs (Welfare and Institutions Code 10225-10234; 5 CCR 18220-18231), migrant child care and development programs (Welfare and Institutions Code 10235-10238), general child care and development programs (Welfare and Institutions Code 10240-10243), and programs for children with special needs (Welfare and Institutions Code 10260-10263). Pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code 10200-10206, effective July 1, 2021, the state's responsibility for administering these programs transferred from the California Department of Education (CDE) to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). Education Code 8207, as amended and renumbered by AB 131 (Ch. 116, Statutes of 2021), clarifies that the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the California Department of Education retain administrative supervision of the California State Preschool Programs.

The district may revise this regulation to reflect specific requirements for the program(s) it offers. See BP/AR 5148.2 - Before/After School Programs for requirements pertaining to the After-School Education and Safety program (Education Code 8482-8484.65) and 21st Century Community Learning Centers (Education Code 8484.7-8484.9), and BP/AR 5148.3 - Preschool/Early Childhood Education for CSPP requirements.

The following administrative regulation does not reflect all policy language mandated for each specific program. The district should be careful to include the mandates, if any, applicable to the program(s) it offers. For example, for the alternative payment program, 5 CCR 18221 mandates a written policy statement that includes specified components, including, but not limited to, program purpose, enrollment priorities, reimbursement of providers, and family fee collection. For the resource and referral program, 5 CCR 18244 mandates written referral policies and written complaint procedures.

In addition to the program requirements described below, child care and development programs may be subject to other policies in the district's policy manual (e.g., BP/AR 1240 - Volunteer Assistance, AR 3514.2 - Integrated Pest Management, BP/AR 3550 - Food Service/Child Nutrition Program). Districts should consult legal counsel if they have questions regarding the applicability of other laws to the district's child care and development program.

Licensing

Note: Pursuant to 22 CCR 101156, all child care centers must be licensed by CDSS unless exempted by law. Health and Safety Code 1596.792 and 22 CCR 101158 list exemptions from the licensure requirements including, but not limited to, any program that (1) is a "public recreation program" that meets the criteria specified in Health and Safety Code 1596.792, (2) is operated before and/or after school by qualified teachers employed by the district, (3) is a school parenting program or adult education child care program, (4) operates only one day per week for no more than four hours on that day, (5) offers temporary child care services to parents/guardians who are on the same premises as the child care site, (6) provides activities that are of an instructional nature in a classroom-like setting when K-12 students are normally not in session and the sessions do not exceed a total of 30 days when only school-age children are enrolled or 15 days when younger children are enrolled, or (7) is a CSPP program operated in a school building that meets specified health and safety requirements. If the district offers only programs that are exempted from licensure, it should modify the following regulation accordingly.

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Pursuant to Health and Safety Code 1596.951, CDSS was required to adopt regulations by January 1, 2021 to create a new child care center license including components for serving infant, toddler, preschool, and school-age children; health and safety standards; and enhanced ability to transition children to the next age group. However, the regulations were delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code 1596.951, all child care centers are required to obtain this license by January 1, 2024.

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

Note: Items #1-7 and 9 below list components of child care and development programs that are required for all providers pursuant to 5 CCR 18272-18281. The Governing Board is required, pursuant to 5 CCR 18271, to approve goals and objectives addressing each of these program components; see the accompanying Board policy. The district may add components of other programs offered by the district.

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

(cf. 5148.2 - Before/After School Programs)

(cf. 5148.3 - Preschool/Early Childhood Education)

(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)

(cf. 6164.6 - Identification and Education Under Section 504)

(cf. 6174 - Education for English Learners)

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3. A staff development program which complies with 5 CCR 18274

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)

4. Parent/guardian involvement and education that comply with 5 CCR 18275 and include 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

(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)

5. A health and social services component that complies with 5 CCR 18276 and includes referrals to appropriate community agencies as needed

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

(cf. 5141 - Health Care and Emergencies)

(cf. 5141.23 - Asthma Management)

(cf. 5141.6 - School Health Services)

6. A community involvement component that complies with 5 CCR 18277

Note: Health and Safety Code 1596.808 establishes beverage standards for licensed child care centers. In addition, centers that receive funding through the Child and Adult Care Food Program (42 USC 1766) must meet federal guidelines for meals, snacks, fluid milk or nutritionally equivalent milk substitutes, and drinking water.

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)

(cf. 3550 - Food Service/Child Nutrition Program)

(cf. 5030 - Student Wellness)

(cf. 5141.27 - Food Allergies/Special Dietary Needs)

Note: Item #8 below is **optional** and may be revised to reflect district practice. 42 USC 1766 encourages child care centers to provide opportunities for physical activity and to limit the amount of time spent in sedentary activities, such as time spent using electronic devices.

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

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Note: 5 CCR 18279-18281 require an annual evaluation using the standardized "Desired Results for Children and Families" system. The system requires a program self-evaluation that includes a staff assessment, a parent/guardian survey, and an environment rating scale. Each contractor is required to submit a summary of the self-evaluation findings by June 1 of each year.

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)

(cf. 0500 - Accountability)

Health and Safety

Note: The following section is for use by districts that offer one or more licensed child care programs. Health and Safety Code 1596.7996 requires licensed child care programs to provide parents/guardians of enrolled children with a flyer developed by CDSS in conjunction with the California Department of Public Health, which contains specified information regarding lead exposure and blood testing. The flyer is available on the CDSS web site.

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)

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

Note: Pursuant to Health and Safety Code 1597.16, a licensed child care center located in a building that was constructed before January 1, 2010 must have its drinking water tested for lead contamination as provided below. A licensed child care center is subject to the temporary suspension of its license if it fails to comply with the requirements to cease using any fountains and faucets where elevated lead levels may exist and to provide potable water.

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 every five years following an initial test conducted between January 1, 2020 and January 1, 2023. 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)

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)**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 they meet all other requirements for employment or volunteering, as applicable, but need additional time to obtain and provide immunization records, they may be employed or volunteer conditionally for a maximum of 30 days upon signing and submitting a written statement attesting that they have been immunized as required. In addition, employees and volunteers shall receive an influenza vaccination between August 1 and December 1 of each year. A person shall be exempt from these 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.

(cf. 1240 - Volunteer Assistance)

(cf. 4112.4/4212.4/4312.4 - Health Examinations)

Documentation of the required immunizations or exemptions from immunization shall be maintained in the employee's personnel file. (Health and Safety Code 1596.7995)

(cf. 4112.6/4212.6/4312.6 - Personnel Files)

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)

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Eligibility and Enrollment

Note: State funding is only available for services to families who meet the criteria for subsidized services as specified in Welfare and Institutions Code 10271 and 10271.5. The district may also provide services to nonsubsidized families provided the district uses other funding sources or the families pay the full cost of services; see section on "Fees and Charges" below.

Pursuant to 5 CCR 18105, districts contracting to offer child care services are **mandated** to develop written admissions policies and procedures that conform to requirements of 22 CCR 101218, including criteria designating those children whose needs can be met by the child care center's program and services and the ages of children who will be accepted.

The following section should be revised to reflect the district's contract(s).

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, 10218; 5 CCR 18089, 18407, 18422)

Note: Pursuant to 5 CCR 18082-18083, the parent/guardian must submit an application for services which contains specified information and documentation. The family's or child's eligibility must be certified by a person designated by the district.

Pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code 10271.5, income eligibility is based on an adjusted monthly family income at or below 85 percent of the state median income, adjusted for family size.

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 current aid recipient; income eligible, or homeless and/or 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.
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

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- 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 being homeless

Note: The following paragraph may be revised to reflect district practice. Unless state funding is allocated to support the centralized eligibility list established in each county pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code 10231, such lists will be maintained only if locally funded. In situations where there is no locally funded centralized eligibility list or the district elects not to participate in the local list, the district must establish its own waiting list in accordance with admission priorities pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code 10271 and 5 CCR 18106.

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 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)

Note: The following **optional** paragraph may be revised to reflect additional enrollment priorities or criteria established by the district, such as priority for district students, children of district students, or children of district employees; see the accompanying Board policy.

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.

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Note: 5 CCR 18094 and 18118 require the district to provide written notification to the parent/guardian as to whether the application for subsidized services has been approved or denied. For this purpose, the district should use the state's Notice of Action form.

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 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. 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)

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 containing 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)

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)**Fees and Charges**

Note: Welfare and Institutions Code 10290 requires CDSS, in consultation with CDE, to establish a fee schedule for families using child care services, including families who are eligible for subsidized child care services based on the criteria specified in item #1 in the section "Eligibility and Enrollment" above.

Welfare and Institutions Code 10260 and 5 CCR 18110 prohibit districts from assessing fees for children enrolled in a program for severely disabled children or a federally based migrant program. Districts may revise the following paragraph to reflect any such program(s) offered by the district. Districts that offer only programs prohibited from charging fees may delete the following section.

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, 10270, 10290, 10291, 10436; 5 CCR 18078, 18108-18110)

Note: Pursuant to AB 131, and in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, additional funds are available to provide subsidized child care to families and to provide child care programs with COVID-19 pandemic-related assistance. Pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code 10290, as added by AB 131, family fees may not be collected for families receiving subsidized child care services from child care programs administered by CDSS.

However, for the 2021-22 fiscal year, family fees shall not be collected as specified in Welfare and Institutions Code 10290.

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. (Education Code 8253; 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)

Note: Pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code 10290, family fees must be assessed at initial enrollment and reassessed at recertification.

Pursuant to 5 CCR 18114, districts contracting to offer child care services are mandated to adopt a policy for the collection of fees in advance of providing services, as provided below. 5 CCR 18114 contains an alternative definition of delinquency for alternative payment programs offered pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code 10225-10234.

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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)

Note: The following paragraph is for use by districts that contract to offer child care services and wish to require parents/guardians to provide diapers and/or to pay the costs of field trips (unless the program is exempt from fees), and may be modified to delete diapers as appropriate for the age of the children served. Welfare and Institutions Code 10292 **mandates** that such districts have a written policy which includes parents/guardians in the decision-making process. Pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code 10292, the fees cannot exceed \$25 per child in the contract year.

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)

Disenrollment

Note: Welfare and Institutions Code 10272 specifies the order by which families must be disenrolled from child care and development services when funding levels are reduced. Parents/guardians may appeal such actions pursuant to 5 CCR 18120-18122, but only on the grounds that the factors used to determine the family's disenrollment are incorrect. See section "Rights of Parents/Guardians" below.

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 without disabilities who have been enrolled in child care services the longest shall be disenrolled first. After all children without disabilities have been disenrolled, children with disabilities shall be disenrolled, with those who have been enrolled in child care services the longest being disenrolled first.

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3. Families whose children are receiving child protective services or are at risk of neglect, abuse, or exploitation, regardless of family income, shall be disenrolled last.

Health Examination and Immunizations

Note: Welfare and Institutions Code 10271 requires children enrolling in a child care center to obtain a physical examination and evaluation, including immunizations, unless a parent/guardian submits a letter stating that such examination is contrary to the parent/guardian's religious beliefs. However, with respect to immunization requirements, Health and Safety Code 120335 eliminated the personal beliefs exemption unless the parent/guardian filed a letter or affidavit prior to January 1, 2016 or a licensed physician indicates that a student should be exempted for medical reasons. An exemption granted for personal beliefs is only effective until the next grade span (i.e., birth through preschool, grades K-6, and grades 7-12). See BP/AR 5141.31 - 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)

(cf. 5141.3 - Health Examinations)

(cf. 5141.31 - Immunizations)

The requirement for a physical examination and evaluation shall be waived if a parent/guardian submits a letter stating that such examination is contrary to the parent/guardian's religious beliefs. (Welfare and Institutions Code 10271)

A child may be exempted from the immunization requirements only if: (Health and Safety Code 120335)

1. A licensed physician indicates that immunization is not safe due to the physical condition or medical circumstances of the child.

Note: Pursuant to Health and Safety Code 120372, a child care center may only accept a medical exemption request that is made by a licensed physician or surgeon on an electronic, standardized, statewide medical exemption certification form developed by the California Department of Public Health and transmitted using the California Immunization Registry. However, Health and Safety Code 120370 requires that a child who has a medical exemption issued prior to January 1, 2020 be allowed to continue enrollment until the next grade span.

A medical exemption shall be submitted using the standardized medical exemption certification form developed by California Department of Public Health 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

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permanent or temporary, including the date upon which a temporary medical exemption will expire. A temporary exemption shall not exceed one year. (Health and Safety Code 120372)

2. The parent/guardian submitted a letter or affidavit prior to January 1, 2016 stating that such examination is contrary to the parent/guardian's personal beliefs. An exemption from immunization granted for personal beliefs is effective only until the next grade span (i.e., birth through preschool, grades K-6, and grades 7-12).

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)

(cf. 5141.22 - Infectious Diseases)

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 district representative. (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)

Note: Pursuant to 5 CCR 18066, districts contracting to offer child care services are mandated to adopt policies delineating circumstances constituting an excused absence for a family emergency. The following paragraph may be revised to reflect district practice.

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)

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Note: 5 CCR 18066 **mandates** a policy that delineates circumstances constituting an excused absence "in the best interest of the child." The following paragraph may be revised to reflect district practice.

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)

Note: 5 CCR 18066 **mandates** that providers adopt a policy governing unexcused absences which may include reasonable limitations, if any. The following paragraph may be revised to reflect district practice.

Any absence due to a reason other than any of those stated above, or without the required verification, shall be considered an unexcused absence. After three unexcused absences during the year, the program coordinator or site supervisor shall notify the child's parent/guardian. Children who continue to have excessive unexcused absences may be removed from the program at the discretion of the program coordinator in order to accommodate other families on the waiting list for admission.

Parents/guardians shall be notified of the policies and procedures related to excused and unexcused absences for child care and development services. (5 CCR 18066)

Rights of Parents/Guardians

Note: The following two paragraphs are for use by districts that operate one or more licensed child care centers, but may be used by license-exempt providers.

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)

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Note: The remainder of this section is for use by all districts and applies to licensed and unlicensed child care programs.

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 CDE. (5 CCR 18120-18122)

Records

Note: State contracts require the district to submit data on both subsidized and nonsubsidized families served by child care centers. In addition, the district is required to provide monthly reports regarding any families receiving subsidized services during that month.

Welfare and Institutions Code 10315, as added by AB 131, requires a preschool or infant and toddler program to, when a child in a state-funded preschool or infant and toddler program will be transferring to a local public school, provide the parent/guardian with information from the previous year deemed beneficial to the student and the public school teacher, including, but not limited to, development issues, social interaction abilities, health background, and diagnostic assessments, if any. The preschool or infant and toddler program may, with the permission of the parent/guardian, transfer this information to the student's elementary school.

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.

(cf. 3580 - District Records)

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

(3/19 6/21) 12/21