



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICY BULLETIN

TITLE: PREKINDERGARTEN POLICY

NUMBER: BUL-839

ISSUER: Carmen N. Schroeder, Assistant Superintendent
Early Childhood Education Division

DATE: February 27, 2004

ROUTING
Local District
Superintendents
Elementary School
Principals
All Early Education
Centers
ECE Directors

POLICY: To provide direction and guidance for implementation of the early literacy program for prekindergarten students enrolled in LAUSD, Early Childhood Education Division Programs.

Prekindergarten students of LAUSD are defined as all enrolled children who turn four-years-old on or before December 2, of the current school year.

GUIDELINES: The following guidelines apply:

Background: Current focus on brain research and school readiness has resulted in a nationwide interest in maximizing the preschool experience to better prepare children for a more rigorous and successful kindergarten and lifelong school experience. The Los Angeles Unified School District is committed to action to address the achievement gap of children from families living in poverty, minority students, and children who are English Learners (ELs) and Standard English Learners (SELs). The mission of the Early Childhood Education Division (ECED) is to provide a high quality early education program to maximize school readiness.

Current issues have propelled the ECED to further attend to the education needs of prekindergarten children:

- Research findings validate the benefits of a challenging prekindergarten experience for kindergarten success and beyond.
- Evidence that articulation between prekindergarten and kindergarten enhance successful school transitions.
- Studies of child development substantiate that the prekindergarten experiences are essential to a systemic education reform.
- The Elementary Reading Program's kindergarten expectations call for more rigorous standards in prekindergarten.
- Evidence that important emergent literacy skills and the motivation to learn to read are indicators of the development of reading skills by third grade.



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- The two Board of Education motions related to API 1 and 2 elementary schools and Closing the Achievement Gap propel the need to ensure that prekindergarten children are ready for school.

Purpose: PreKindergarten children are served in one of three Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) early education programs, State Preschool (SPS), School Readiness and Language Development (SRLDP) and Early Education Centers (EEC) programs. Admission policies mandate priority enrollment of four year old children in SPS and in SRLDP. The early education centers admission policies include enrollment of two, three and four year old children.

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide direction and guidance to early education centers administrators and teachers implementing the Early Literacy Program for prekindergarten students in early education centers. This bulletin does not alter the policies regarding enrollment of preschool students based on the mandated funding terms and conditions governing enrollment priorities. However, administrators are directed to create prekindergarten classrooms for successful implementation of the Early Childhood Education Division's early literary curriculum.

Procedures: All early education center programs are to adhere to the classroom organization and guidelines described below:

- Each site will establish separate and distinct prekindergarten classrooms based on the enrollment of the center.
- Whenever enrollment of prekindergarten students at a center exceeds the capacity of an available classroom, prekindergarten students will be assigned to classrooms with the next oldest group of preschool children at the site or assigned to a prekindergarten/kindergarten classroom.

AUTHORITY: This is a policy of the Early Childhood Education Division to ensure that the mission of the Early Childhood Education Division (ECED) to provide a high quality early education program to maximize school readiness is achieved.

ASSISTANCE: For assistance or further information please contact Imelda Foley, Director of Instruction, Early Childhood Education Division at 213-625-6526 or at imelda.foley@lausd.net.