



CDE Update: Age Eligibility for California State Preschool Program Services

Effective immediately contractors may enroll Transitional Kindergarten (TK)–age eligible children in the California State Preschool Program (CSPP). Program administrators shall promote parental choice by allowing parents to decide the preferred program for their child. [As a reminder, if a child is dually enrolled in TK and CSPP, contractors cannot be reimbursed for CSPP during the same time in which a child is receiving TK services from a Local Education Agency (LEA).]

“Four-year-old children” are now defined as children who will have their fourth birthday on or before December 1st of the fiscal year in which they are enrolled in a California state preschool program, ***or a child whose fifth birthday occurs after September 1st of the fiscal year in which they are enrolled in a California state preschool program and whose parent or guardian has opted to retain or enroll them in a California state preschool program.***

The California Department of Education (CDE) acknowledges that many guidance documents do not align to these new statutory changes to age eligibility for CSPP, including Management Bulletin 21-04 and the TK frequently asked questions. The CDE is working to align all guidance documents and will notify the field once the guidance has been updated to incorporate the necessary changes.

If you have questions regarding this subject, please contact your assigned Early Learning and Care Division (ELCD), Program Quality Implementation (PQI) office consultant. A listing of ELCD, PQI consultants and their contact information can be accessed at www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/ci/assignments.asp.