

## Early Childhood Education

It is a well-known fact that all children do not enter school at the same level of development. Low socioeconomic children are more likely than their middle-class peers to perform poorly as they enter school because they have not developed many of the skills, habits and attitudes expected of children in kindergarten and first grade.

Participation by children in good preschool developmental programs can help them become better prepared in the skills, attitudes and habits expected of kindergarten and first grade students. Thus, early intervention can allow economically disadvantaged children to be more successful throughout their academic careers.

To promote the healthy development of preschool children, the district will use developmentally appropriate programs led by competent child development professionals. To achieve this goal a preschool child development program should have the following characteristics:

1. A validated, developmentally appropriate curriculum model implemented by qualified early childhood teachers;
2. Appropriate support systems to maintain the curriculum model such as administrative leadership in instruction and in-service training in the curriculum model;
3. Teacher participation in curriculum planning, implementation and evaluation;
4. Collaboration between teaching staff and parents as partners in the education and development of children including face-to-face communication at least monthly;
5. A program of reasonable length.

END OF POLICY

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Legal References:

[ORS 329.237](#)