

Early Learning and Care Programs, Program Standards, and Staffing Ratios

The following table contains information for relevant child care programs, program standards, an indication of the staffing ratios and adult-child ratios for the programs. A link to each program is provided for additional information as needed.

California State Preschool Program

Description and Eligibility	Staffing Ratios	Additional Information
The California State Preschool Program (CSPP), administered by the California Department of Education (CDE), is the largest state-funded preschool program in the nation. The CSPP offers age and developmentally informed programs designed to facilitate the transition to kindergarten for three- and four-year-old children. The CSPP provides both part-day and full-day services for eligible children and families that offer developmentally, culturally, and linguistically informed activities for the children served. The program also provides meals and snacks to children, parent education, referrals to health and social services for families, and staff development opportunities for programs and support staff. The program is offered statewide through local educational agencies (LEAs), including school districts, county offices of education (COE), community colleges, and direct funded charter schools, and through private, nonprofit and for-profit community-based organizations (CBOs), and family child care home education networks (FCCHEN). Eligibility	CSPP contractors shall maintain at least the following minimum ratios in all centers for preschool age children, three years old to enrollment in kindergarten (including transitional kindergarten [TK]): • 1:8 adult-child ratio • 1:24 teacher-child ratio • Except as otherwise provided in Title 22 of the <i>California Code of Regulations (CCR)</i>, Community Care Licensing Standards, the full-day CSPP may exceed adult-child ratios prescribed by	The CSPP requirements for 2021–22 (DOCX) can be downloaded at https://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/aa/cd/documents/cspp2122.docx

Description and Eligibility	Staffing Ratios	Additional Information
In general, to be eligible for CSPP, a family shall meet the eligibility criteria as follows: • Family is a current aid recipient, • Family is income eligible, • Family is experiencing homelessness, or • Family has children who are recipients of child protective services, or are identified as at risk of being abused, neglected, or exploited. Additionally, there are several options for CSPP contractors to choose from to serve children outside of these categories, including allowing all children, regardless of income, to be served if a program is operating within the boundaries of an elementary school where 80% or more of the students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. See the General Overview of CSPP Standards and Eligibility section of the guidance for additional information.	Section 18290 by 15% of the total number of children in attendance for a period of time not to exceed 120 minutes in any one day. • The ratio for full-day CSPP during a scheduled nap period may be a 1:24 teacher-child ratio, provided that the remaining staff necessary to meet the adult-child ratio specified in Section 18290 of Title 5 of the <i>CCR</i> (5 <i>CCR</i>), are immediately available at the center. • For the naptime ratio to apply, all napping children shall remain on a cot or mat. If one child gets up, additional staff need to be called in immediately to meet the	

Early Learning and Care Programs, Program Standards, and Staffing Ratios

Description and Eligibility	Staffing Ratios	Additional Information
	required adult-child ratio. Compliance with these ratios shall be determined based on actual attendance (5 CCR)	

Head Start

Description and Eligibility	Staffing Ratios	Additional Information
Head Start grantees operate programs that are federally funded. As a federally funded program, Head Start promotes school readiness for children of low-income families. Head Start programs are operated by local nonprofit organizations, community action agencies, and school districts. Head Start providers receive direct funding from the Office of Head Start. The program provides comprehensive services such as education, screenings and assessments, meals and snacks, and referrals for health including social-emotional development. In addition, the Head Start program also focuses on family engagement and provides ongoing training and staff development.	Four- and five- year-old children: A class that serves a majority of children who are four and five years old must have no more than 20 children enrolled in any class, and no more than 17 children enrolled in any double session class. 2:20 adult-child ration (teacher and teaching assistant or two teachers)	The Head Start Performance Standards for the center-based option can be found on the Head Start Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center (ECLKC) 1302.21 Center-based Option web page at https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/45-cfr-c

Early Learning and Care Programs, Program Standards, and Staffing Ratios

Description and Eligibility	Staffing Ratios	Additional Information
Eligibility Families are eligible for Head Start on a variety of factors including: • Family income below the poverty line • Homelessness • Families receiving public assistance such as Temporary Assistance to Needy Families or Supplemental Security Income • Foster children, regardless of their foster family's income • Children with special needs	• 2:17 adult-child ratio (teacher and teaching assistant or two teachers) Three-year-old children: A class that serves a majority of children who are three years old must have no more than 17 children enrolled in any class, and no more than 15 children enrolled in any double. • 2:17 adult-child ratio (teacher and teaching assistant or two teachers) • 2:15 adult-child ration (teacher and teaching assistant or two teachers)	hap-xiii/1302-21-center-based-option

California Alternative Payment Program

Description and Eligibility	Staffing Ratios	Additional Information
In the California Alternative Payment Program (CAPP), Alternative Payment Programs (APPs) help eligible families arrange child care services and pay the child care providers of the family's choice directly for those services. This model is often	Families receiving services through this program can choose between care in a licensed center, licensed family child	The CAPP requirements for 2021–22 (DOCX) can be downloaded from https://www.cdss.ca.gov

Description and Eligibility	Staffing Ratios	Additional Information
referred to as “child care vouchers.” The APPs also support families and providers by offering assistance and consumer information about various services and resources available to them. This program is operated by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). Eligibility Families are eligible for APP on a variety of factors including: • Family income • Family receiving public assistance • Homelessness • Children who are recipients of child protective services, or are identified as at risk of being abused, neglected, or exploited	care home, or license-exempt family, friend, and neighbor provider. For centers, the capacity specified on the license shall be the maximum number of children for whom care can be provided. For preschool centers, there must be one teacher to every 12 children or one teacher and one aide to every 15 children. For a small family child care home, the maximum number of children for whom care shall be provided, including children under age 10 who live in the licensee's home, shall be one of the following: • Four infants or • Six children, no more than three of whom may be infants For a large family child care home, the maximum number of children for whom care shall be provided when there is an assistant provider in the home, including children under age 10 who live in the licensee's home and the assistant provider's children under age 10, shall be either:	ov/Portals/9/CalWORKs/CCT/capp2122.docx

Early Learning and Care Programs, Program Standards, and Staffing Ratios

Description and Eligibility	Staffing Ratios	Additional Information
	• 12 children, no more than 4 of whom may be infants or • More than 12 and up to 14 children only if the criteria in California <i>Health and Safety Code</i> Section 1597.465 are met.	

California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids Child Care

Description and Eligibility	Staffing Ratios	Additional Information
Recipients of the California Work Opportunities and Responsibilities to Kids (CalWORKs) grant program are required to engage in work or work preparation activities. CalWORKs programs provide an array of welfare-to-work services. Child care is provided with state and federal funds in three stages. At the local level, CalWORKs child care is operated by the county welfare departments or APPs. This program is operated by the CDSS.	• Identical to the CAPP program.	More information on CalWORKs Stage One can be found on the CDSS CalWORKs Child Care web page at https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/calworks-child-care The CDSS provides more information on program requirements for CalWORKs Stage Two (C2AP) (DOCX) which can be

Description and Eligibility	Staffing Ratios	Additional Information
		accessed at https://www.cdss.ca.gov/Portals/9/CalWORKs/CCT/c2ap2122.docx Visit the CDSS for more information on CalWORKs Stage Three (C3AP) (DOCX) at https://www.cdss.ca.gov/Portals/9/CalWORKs/CCT/c3ap2122.docx

General Child Care and Development

Description and Eligibility	Staffing Ratios	Additional Information
General child care and development programs (CCTR) are state and federally funded programs that use centers and family child care home networks operated or administered by either public or private agencies and LEAs. These agencies provide child development services for children from birth through 12 years of age and older children with exceptional needs. These programs provide an educational component that is developmentally, culturally, and linguistically informed	Three-year-old children until enrollment in kindergarten • 1:8 adult-child ratio • 1:24 teacher-child ratio Kindergarten through 13 years old	Visit the CDSS website for more information on CCTR Requirements for 2021–22, which can be downloaded at https://www.cdss.ca.gov/Portals/9/CalWORKs/CCT/c3ap2122.docx

Early Learning and Care Programs, Program Standards, and Staffing Ratios

Description and Eligibility	Staffing Ratios	Additional Information
for the children served. The programs also provide meals and snacks to children, parent education, referrals to health and social services for families, and staff development opportunities to employees. This program is operated by the CDSS. To be eligible for a general child care program, a family shall meet the eligibility criteria as follows: • Family is a current aid recipient, • Family is income eligible, • Family is experiencing homelessness, or • Family has children who are recipients of child protective services, or are identified as at risk of being abused, neglected, or exploited.	• 1:14 adult-child ratio • 1:28 teacher-child ratio	Ks/CCT/cctr2122.docx

Migrant Child Care and Development

Description and Eligibility	Staffing Ratios	Additional Information
Migrant child care and development programs provide services to families who earn at least 50% of their total gross income from employment in fishing, agriculture, or agriculturally related work during the 12-month	For the CMIG contract, contractors shall maintain at least the following minimum ratios in all centers:	Visit the CDSS website for more information on the California Migrant Program (CMIG) Program

Early Learning and Care Programs, Program Standards, and Staffing Ratios

Description and Eligibility	Staffing Ratios	Additional Information
period immediately preceding the date of application. These programs are operated by the CDSS. California Migrant Program (CMIG): Migrant child care and development programs use centers and FCCHEs operated or administered by either public or private agencies and LEAs. These programs provide early learning and care services for children from birth through 12 years of age and older children with exceptional needs. These programs provide an educational component that is culturally, linguistically, and developmentally informed for the children served. The programs also provide meals and snacks to children, parent education, referrals to health and social services for agricultural families, and staff development opportunities to employees. California Migrant Alternative Payment Program (CMAP): Migrant Alternative Payment programs make payments on behalf of eligible, migrant families to child care providers of the families' choice throughout California's central valley. This program provides services for children from birth through 12 years of age, and for older children with exceptional needs. Funding for services follows families as they move from place to place for agricultural work.	Preschool age (36 months to enrollment in TK) • 1:8 adult-child ratio • 1:24 teacher-child ratio Children enrolled in TK through 13 years old • 1:14 adult-child ratio • 1:28 teacher-child ratio For the CMAP contract, ratios are identical to those in the CAPP program.	Requirements (DOCX), which can be downloaded at https://www.cdss.ca.gov/Portals/9/CalWORKs/CCT/cmig2122.docx Visit the CDSS website to download a copy of the CMAP Program Requirements (DOCX) at https://www.cdss.ca.gov/Portals/9/CalWORKs/CCT/cmap2122.docx