



COLORADO

Department of Education

Bi-monthly Meeting

Implementing Special Education for Preschoolers within UPK

Paul Foster, Executive Director of the Exceptional Students Services Unit

Heidi White, Preschool Director, Office of Special Education

April 4, 2023

Meeting Intentions



- Bi-monthly virtual meeting - First and Third Tuesdays through June
- Audience: AU and LEA Special Education Directors, EC administrators, Fiscal representatives
- Facilitated by CDE with Consortium input in agenda planning, content and feedback loop, CDEC UPK staff invited
- Meant to be responsive, proactive, needs based & solution focused
- Meeting scope: Implementing Special Education for Preschoolers within the UPK landscape



Today's Issues

1. IDEA Maintenance of Effort
2. Alignment of Preschool Program/provider between IEP and UPK
 - Delays in UPK matching process
 - Process for AU review/revision of UPK-selected provider
 - Need for ongoing procedure
3. Updates:
 - New Joint Communication (3/31/23)
 - Where to find links to all bi-monthly meeting presentations
 - ECEA Rules changes to conform with MOU: April 13 State Board meeting

IDEA Maintenance of Effort

IDEA Maintenance of Effort (MOE)

State level MOE: Under Part B of the IDEA states are required to make available at least the same amount of state financial support from one year to the next for the education of children with disabilities 34 CFR 300.163(a).

- CDE does not anticipate the state will have trouble meeting its obligation to make available at least the same amount of state financial support year over year

Some AUs may have difficulty meeting the Local MOE requirements.

- Looks at all special education expenditures across the AU (not preschool specific)
- To be counted towards MOE, expenses must be coded to grant code 3130/3131 through Data Pipeline for the preceding year
- Expenditures of UPK funds for preschoolers with IEPs may be counted, working with CDEC to “tag” revenue for children with an IEP
- Small rural districts and the associated AUs may have more challenges meeting the Local MOE requirements due to the differences in revenues (and associated expenditures)



Provider Alignment between UPK and IEP

AU Verification & Override Process

AU Verification of UPK Provider for Preschoolers with IEPs

- In response to stakeholders, CDEC extended the matching deadline for UPK
- ***The IEP drives the provider selection in UPK:*** Placement is up to the AU and the parent (IEP team) not the LCO or CDEC
- CDEC and CDE have developed a process for AUs to verify the UPK provider, or override with the appropriate school, to align to the child's IEP
- CDE connected UPK records to the CDE December Count 2022 collection records, when possible
 - April 5 - Files uploaded to CDE Data Management System for AU to access (Spec Ed Director or designee)
 - April 5 to April 18 - AU review and verification or override (use instructions provided)
 - April 19 - final date for submission of AU report
 - Starting April 20- CDEC changes UPK placements in accordance with AU reports
 - CDEC Match Communication to Family - No sooner than April 26th
- Not all UPK records could be connected to the CDE December Count 2022 collection records - TBD



AU Verification Fields



S	U	V	W
Colorado Department of Early Childhood (CDEC) Provider Name Selected by Family	AU Responses		
	CDEC Provider location matches IEP placement (Yes/No)	If No, provide correct school code and school/program name	Additional Information

Wrap Up & Loose Ends

ECEA Proposed Rules Changes for CDEC-CDE MOU

- **Current redlined document with proposed rules available on the [Director's Corner on the ESSU](#) website**
- Stakeholder input reviewed and incorporated for April 12-13 State Board of Education meeting
- New proposed Rules presented at State Board of Education meeting



Next Bi-Monthly Meeting & Meeting Materials

Next Meeting: **Tuesday, April 18th, 2 p.m.:** [Zoom link](#)

All Bi-monthly meeting presentations may be found on the CDE website at:

[Special Education and Universal Preschool in Colorado - Bi Monthly Meetings](#)

- [February 7, 2023](#)
- [February 21, 2023](#)
- [March 7, 2023](#)
- [March 21, 2023](#)



Periodic Updates

Colorado Universal Preschool Update



UPDATE



This joint message from CDEC and CDE will provide periodic updates on issues related to the implementation of Universal Preschool Colorado and serving students with disabilities within the new preschool system.

March 31, 2023

Field Service Contacts

Key Contacts at CDE

Communications Tools

CDE Fact Sheets

Colorado Department of Early Childhood

Colorado Law Book

Resources for Latinx Teachers

Universal Preschool Updates

Archive of Universal Preschool Updates
Universal Preschool Website

CDE Calendar

CDEC-CDE Updates

March 16 Q/A
(published 3-31-23)



Joint Messaging



UPDATE



COLORADO
Department of Early Childhood



COLORADO
Department of Education

This joint message from CDEC and CDE will provide periodic updates on issues related to the implementation of Universal Preschool Colorado and serving students with disabilities within the new preschool system.

FEB. 28, 2023

UPK statute prioritizes serving preschoolers with disabilities

Under the UPK statute, beginning in school year 2023-24, funding from the Preschool Program Cash Fund (PPCF) administered by CDEC will be provided to qualifying providers, and according to statute must be prioritized as follows for



UPDATE



COLORADO
Department of Early Childhood



COLORADO
Department of Education

This joint message from CDEC and CDE will provide periodic updates on issues related to the implementation of Universal Preschool Colorado and serving students with disabilities within the new preschool system.

March 16, 2023



Joint messages from CDEC and CDE will provide periodic updates on issues related to the implementation of UPK Colorado and serving students with disabilities within the new preschool system.

[Archive of Colorado Universal Preschool Updates](#)



Questions

