



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

June 20, 2023

Today's Topics

1. Direct Placements into UPK to Align with IEP
2. Data Sharing Agreement template from CDEC
3. Input on Meetings and Supports, Prior & Future



Direct Placement in UPK to Align with IEP

Direct Placement of Preschoolers with IEPs into UPK

While longer-term solutions are being developed, follow these steps:

For Students with Active IEPs, Districts, and AUs may:

1. For AUs that are not registered UPK providers, **consider entering a short-term DSA with CDEC**. CDEC will work to have a **Data Sharing Agreement template** available for AUs to sign as soon as possible.
2. **AU's send a list to CDEC of all preschool children who are not currently matched in alignment with the student's IEP** or students whose families have not yet applied for services through the BridgeCare system through a secured data sharing platform of their choice. *Be sure to include: the first and last name of the student, the student's date of birth, the full name of the school where the child should be placed, and the program type (part-time, half-day, full-day).*
3. **CDEC will directly place the student in the correct program in alignment with the child's IEP outside of the deferred acceptance algorithm (DAA).**
4. When the parent-requested placement is different than the IEP team placement, the **AU will communicate directly with the family** about the need to place the child in accordance with the IEP team's decision.
5. **AUs should send updated list/s to CDEC on an ongoing basis.**



Ensure Alignment between UPK Program and IEP

For students identified for special education services and placed during summer months:

1. IEP teams identify children for eligibility and, **when appropriate, place the child.**
2. **Support families to apply for services through BridgeCare**, in alignment with the student's IEP.
3. AUs should **include these newly identified students on the list that need direct placement by CDEC.** (See number 2 on prior slide).
4. **CDEC will directly place the student in the program in alignment with the child's IEP** outside of the deferred acceptance algorithm (DAA).

Direct Placement Contacts for UPK

For direct placement of students with IEPs (outside the UPK BridgeCare deferred acceptance algorithm), please contact:

Michael Cooke, Early Childhood Transition Director *through June 30, 2023*
303-906-7636 and m.michael.cooke@state.co.us

Or

Dawn Odean, Director Universal Preschool
Colorado Department of Early Childhood
Cell Phone 720.483.5505 and dawn.odean@state.co.us

General questions about preschool special education or this process, reach out to Heidi White at white_h@cde.state.co.us and 303-501-0837.



Input to CDE

Slido Poll Question 1



Are you interested in participating in a monthly special education meeting focused on UPK starting in August? (similar in structure to our past meetings this Spring)

Multiple Choice Poll 20 votes 20 participants

Yes - 18 votes



No - 0 votes



It depends - 2 votes



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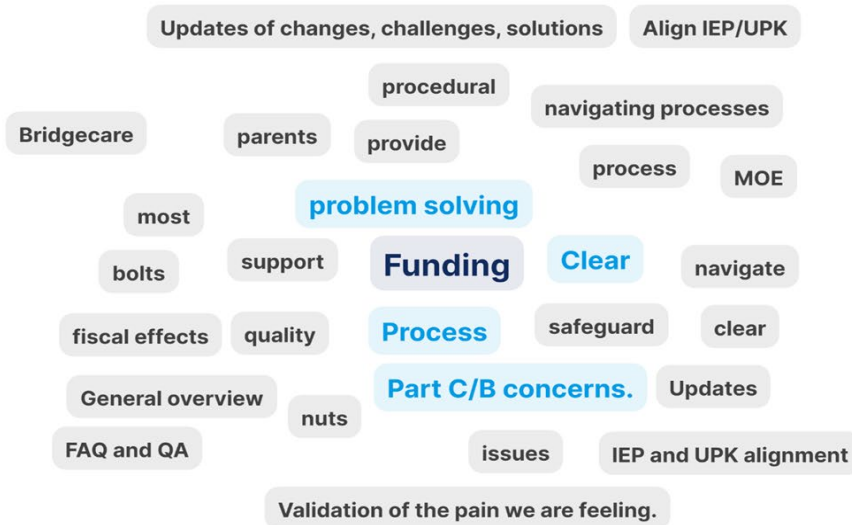


Slido Word Cloud



What topics were most useful to you in the past 6 months of meetings?

Wordcloud Poll 30 responses 17 participants

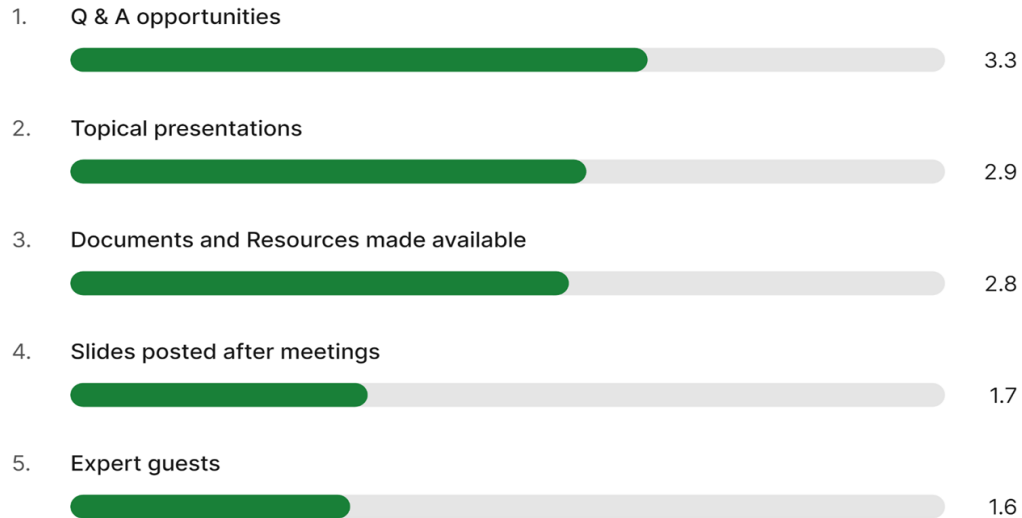


Slido Ranked Structure of Meetings



Thinking about the structure of the meetings, what worked best for the information that was shared?

Ranking Poll 17 votes 17 participants





You can see the analytics and answers to all of the poll questions at this link:

[Slido Overview](#)

The link will only be available from June 21, 2023 until July 6, 2023. After this, you can request the results by contacting blum_m@cde.state.co.us

Today is Last Scheduled Meeting

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](#)
 - [March 7, 2023](#)
 - [April 4, 2023](#)
 - [May 2, 2023](#)
- [February 21, 2023](#)
 - [March 21, 2023](#)
 - [April 18, 2023](#)
 - [May 16th, 2023](#)

Thank you

