



COLORADO

Department of Education

Bi-monthly Meeting

Implementing Special Education for Preschoolers within UPK

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Heidi White, Preschool Director, Office of Special Education

May 2, 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 Topics



1. IDEA Maintenance of Effort - Legislative Update (Jennifer Okes)
2. AU Verification of UPK program for students with IEPs
3. Upcoming Meetings, Joint Messaging & Written Q/A

Amendment to School Finance re UPK

- Section 22-20-114(8) was added as an amendment to School Finance
- Provides up to \$10M to ensure that Administrative Units can meet the federal maintenance of effort requirements pursuant to IDEA
- FY 23-24 UPK funding, including the “CPP-based hold harmless” funding under Section 26.5-4.208, will be compared to FY 22-23 Preschool funding from School Finance (CPP & SPED PK) to determine distribution amounts
- CDE will calculate projected distributions for each school district and CSI for the 114(8) “MOE hold-harmless” funding
- Process has not been finalized yet
- Anticipate quarterly projections posted to [School Finance website](#) with payments in June 2024

[Preschool Funding 22-23 PPR and 23-24 UPK projections](#)



Deeper Dive on IDEA MOE

Maintenance of Effort training on regulations, calculations, and exceptions. This will include a discussion of mitigation methods, and time for questions will be offered. Individual meetings for more situation-specific questions will be offered. The content is targeted to Special Education Directors and Finance Personnel but all are welcome.

Tuesday, May 9th 1:00-2:00

Join here : [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 222 479 545 251

Passcode: taWFmT

Contact [Kathryn Hunt](#), Fiscal Specialist, with any questions.



AU Verification Process

Communications to Families with IEPs about UPK Provider on Match Date

Excerpt from [Letter to families with UPK Match](#)

If your child has an active Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and your current match is different from where your child currently attends under their IEP, your assignment may still be under review and not yet final. If this situation applies to you, please reach out to your Special Education Director before you accept your match. They can confirm whether your matched preschool location can provide the services in your child's IEP. Find their contact information here. If the services of your child's IEP cannot be implemented at your current matched provider, the Special Education Director for your area will offer you another option where your child can attend. They can also support you on next steps for getting officially matched with that provider.

Excerpt from [Letter to Families Without UPK Match](#)

Preschool children with an active Individualized Education Program (IEP) are entitled to receive a preschool placement. If your child has an active IEP and you are not yet matched to a preschool provider, please reach out to the Special Education Director in your area. Find their contact information here. They can work with you on an option where your child can attend and receive the services in your child's IEP. They can also talk to you about your next steps for enrolling in universal preschool.



Process for AU Verification of UPK Provider

Purpose: Ensure that children whose parents applied for UPK and indicated that their children have active IEPs are matched to a provider where FAPE can be provided.

- April 27th: Not Matched in December Sped Collection: [Process for AU Verification of UPK Provider](#)
- April 5th: Matched with December Sped Collection: [Process for AU Verification of UPK Provider](#)
- AUs are to review and confirm the UPK match, OR indicate the correct school placement for manual update by CDEC.
- AU accesses CDEC reports from DMS, reviews, and makes alignment with existing IEPs and/or makes contact with the parent/guardian if necessary.
- For changes to occur prior to next Match Date, submit to DMS by May 10th.

Wrap Up & Loose Ends

Joint Messaging & Periodic Updates

Colorado Universal Preschool Update



The banner features the 'CO UNIVERSAL PRESCHOOL' logo on the left, a photograph of a teacher and children at a table on the right, and the word 'UPDATE' in a purple box at the bottom left. Logos for the Colorado Department of Early Childhood (CDEC) and the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) are at the bottom right.

CO
**UNIVERSAL
PRESCHOOL**

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.

Field Service Contacts

Key Contacts at CDE

Communications Tools

CDE Fact Sheets

Colorado Department of Early Childhood

Colorado Law Book

Resources for Learning Teachers

Universal Preschool Updates

Archive of Universal Preschool Updates

Universal Preschool Website

CDE Calendar

CDEC-CDE Updates



Bi-Monthly Meeting Materials

Next Meeting: **Tuesday, May 16th, 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](#)
- [April 4, 2023](#)
- [April 18, 2023](#)



Upcoming Meetings

UPK Town Hall Meeting Schedule (CDEC and CDE)

Upcoming Meeting Dates: Look for meeting invitations in your email with the Zoom meeting links (or contact Contact Jeannie.Lira@state.co.us to be added to the invitation list):

- 1 to 2 p.m. on Friday, May 12
- 1 to 2 p.m. on Friday, May 26
- 1 to 2 p.m. on Friday, June 9



Questions

