



FACT SHEET

Guidance for Fund Carryovers

In the Colorado Preschool Program

The Colorado Preschool Program was established to serve three- and four-year-old children who lack overall learning readiness due to significant family risk factors, who are in need of language development, or who are receiving services from the department of human services as neglected or dependent children and who would benefit from participation in preschool.

Carryover of Colorado Preschool Program Funds

How a Carryover May Occur:

Unlike other funding streams, funds from CPP are for direct preschool use only, and Fund 19 is the identified sub-fund to track CPP funds. The grant code of 3141 is an alternative location. Any moneys remaining in the district's preschool program budget at the end of the year remain in the budget for use in preschool.

Each spring, the Public School Finance office releases a carryover report for the previous school year. This report lists out each district's amounts and percentages of carryover funds. The funds may have been spent down since the end of the previous school year, but CPP regional support specialists now verify this information with CPP coordinators and district staff.

Considerations When Your District Has Carryover:

The majority of CPP funds should be expended each year to provide a high-quality early childhood program to all sites funded by CPP (charter schools, community partner preschools, etc.). Districts carrying over more than 15% of the CPP funds will be asked to provide a detailed plan for spend down or explanation as to why money is being carried over (saving for a large expense such as playground renovations, for example.)

When a district is not using all of the preschool funding, we explore questions such as: are the teachers on the K-12 teacher pay scale? What kinds of professional development opportunities or college courses are available? Do non-degreed teachers have an opportunity to pursue a degree using carryover funds? What about budgets for equipment, playground improvements and provision of healthy snacks? Are all classrooms in the district benefitting?

District CPP advisory councils should create the spend down plans. The plans should be intentional and in keeping with investing in the high quality preschool experience. It is not appropriate, for example, to buy a preschool classroom individual iPads that may or may not be used just to make a dent in the carryover balance. Contact your CPP Regional Support Specialist with questions about carryover and spend down plans.

Allowable Expenses

Funding provided to school districts for CPP shall only be used to meet the costs of providing preschool services directly to children enrolled in each school district's program (22-28-108 (5.5) C.R.S.).

Allowable expenses for the program include:

- Teacher and paraprofessional salaries and benefits
- Supplies and materials
- Expenses associated with home visits and parent education activities
- The entire cost of any CPP contracted services
- Services provided by a district to children enrolled in CPP or their families
- Associated professional development activities
- Costs that a district would not have incurred without the services provided in conjunction with the preschool program
- A reasonable allocation of district overhead costs, which should not exceed five percent (5%) of the total CPP funding provided to the district.