



COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

201 East Colfax Avenue • Denver, Colorado 80203-1799
303.866.6600 • www.cde.state.co.us

Robert K. Hammond
Commissioner of Education

Diana Sirko, Ph.D.
Deputy Commissioner

To: Colorado Preschool Program (CPP) Coordinators, CPP District Advisory Council Members and School District Administrators

From: Lori Goodwin Bowers, Colorado Preschool Program Supervisor

Date: April 18, 2011

Subject: CPP Collaboration with Head Start Agencies and Child Care Agencies

There have been a number of questions regarding the statutory requirements for contracting Colorado Preschool Program slots with community providers.

It is clear when the Colorado Preschool Program was established it was the legislative intent that early childhood community programs, which meet the requirements for the Colorado Preschool Program, be given the opportunity to serve CPP funded children. The General Assembly believes that this type of collaborative service delivery model utilizes existing and established infrastructures (22-28-109 (1) C.R.S.) and therefore can provide CPP services more efficiently (22-28-109 (1) (b) C.R.S.). Furthermore, statutory language emphasizes the point that these partnerships with community early childhood programs provides opportunities for families to access extended day services (22-28-111 (1) (a) C.R.S.), which may not otherwise be available to CPP families. In addition, family support services may be enhanced through community collaborations (22-28-111.5 C.R.S.).

To this end, statute requires that one of the responsibilities of the district advisory council is to submit a request for proposal (RFP) every two years to privately funded child care centers and publicly funded early childhood programs in the community (22-28-105 (2) (a.3) C.R.S.). This determines which community programs are appropriate and available to serve CPP children. The CPP district advisory council is then to review and evaluate these proposals and recommend to the local board of education a plan for operating the Colorado Preschool Program with the school district. Any change in how CPP slots are distributed has to be approved by both the CPP District Advisory Council, as well as the local school board (22-28-105 (2) (b) C.R.S.).

In allocating slots, the department has been directed to give priority to those districts who have collaborated with public and private childcare agencies (22-28-107 (3) C.R.S.). As a result, the current CPP slot allocations your district has been awarded were based, in part, on the collaborative relationships you have established. Any changes in how slots are contracted out could affect future Colorado Preschool Program allocations.

Should you have any questions about this guidance, please feel free to contact me.