



BELLFLOWER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE; NOTHING LESS

PRESCHOOL FAQs

Bellflower Unified School District is proud to announce that beginning in the 2016-2017 school year, California State Preschool Program services will be offered at various school locations throughout the district. Below are responses to frequently asked questions (FAQs).

How old do children have to be to participate in the new BUSD preschool program?

The BUSD preschool program will serve children who are 3 and 4 years old. Children who turn age 3 prior to September 1, 2016, will be eligible to enroll.

Is there a cost or can children participate for free?

Eligible children may participate at no cost to families. The required income limits for State Preschool are higher than Head Start, which means that more families may qualify for State Preschool than qualify for Head Start. As an example, for a typical family of four, Head Start has a maximum income of approximately \$22,000.00 annually. With BUSD's new State Preschool program, for a family of four, the income limit will be approximately \$53,000. This means that a family of four earning less than \$53,000 per year may qualify for BUSD preschool services.

Why is BUSD closing the Head Start program and beginning California State Preschool?

BUSD had an opportunity to develop a proposal for its own funding rather than receive money through Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), which takes some of the federally funded Head Start money for their oversight of the program. The new BUSD State Preschool funding is through a contract with the State of California for State Preschool rather than through LACOE. This change in funding is intended to:

- Provide greater BUSD fiscal and administrative oversight for preschool program services
- Grow BUSD's early childhood education programs to better meet the needs of BUSD students and families with more program options
- Align BUSD preschool services with current district curriculum for PreK/TK/K including training opportunities for staff
- Create more cohesion for preschool through grade 12 programs in support of improved student outcomes

How many student openings will be available?

BUSD was awarded funds to provide State Preschool for 240 children, which increases the number of children who can participate. The current Head Start program is funded for 216 students.

How many days and hours will children attend?

Children will participate in 3 hour sessions, five days per week. Families will be able to choose between morning or afternoon sessions.



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Will meals be provided in the program for children?

Yes. Participating children will be served either breakfast or lunch, depending on whether they are enrolled in a morning or afternoon session.

Will participating children have access to additional services?

BUSD will leverage existing district resources and programs, as well as community partners to assure that children and families have access to social services, parent resources, mental health services and nutrition services.

How will parents be involved?

BUSD will continue to provide and expand opportunities for parents to be involved in their children's early childhood education. Parents may volunteer in the classroom, attend parent workshops, or participate through school and district level committees and parent advisory groups.

Which schools will have preschool classrooms?

BUSD is in process of determining which schools will offer preschool classes. Specific information will be available in June 2016.

Will a language immersion program be offered?

Yes, BUSD's State Preschool Program offerings will include an English/Spanish language immersion learning environment for families desiring for their children to be on a learning pathways to develop biliteracy starting in preschool.

How can I enroll my child?

Families can pick up an enrollment packet at the BUSD Early Childhood Education Office located at:

BUSD Early Childhood Education Office
9301 Flower Street
Bellflower, CA 90706

Or please call: **(562) 461-2227**