

El Dorado County CARES Program
POLICY ISSUE: Prerequisite Course Work

The Questions:

Can a provider enrolled in the CARES Program working toward a Teacher Permit, enroll in prerequisite General Education courses to satisfy their 6 semester unit requirement for stipend payments?

Can a provider enrolled in the CARES Program working toward a Teacher Permit, enroll in ESL courses to satisfy their 6 semester unit requirement for stipend payments?

Current Policy:

Current program requirements state that CARES Providers must complete at least 6 semester units of course work each program year demonstrating progress on the Child Development Permit Matrix with a grade of C or better while providing early care and education services for children birth through age five in El Dorado County.

The Issue:

Providers that have successfully completed the required Early Childhood Education courses to meet the Teacher Level Permit are then required to complete 16 semester units of General Education. Prior to enrolling in General Education course work, students must demonstrate entry level proficiency in English and Math. Students not meeting entry level proficiency must enroll in prerequisite course work to help master basic skills. Prerequisite course work does not meet graduation requirements and is not applicable to the Child Development Permit Matrix. As a result, advancement on the Permit Matrix is hindered until prerequisite course work has been satisfied. A few program providers have requested that current program policy be amended to allow prerequisite courses to satisfy program requirements for stipend payment.

Options for Consideration:

Support existing program policy: Allow only units that demonstrate progress on the Child Development Permit Matrix

Reaffirms the intent of the program and supports the existing program requiring successful completion of course work providing progress on the Child Development Permit Matrix. Providers are required to complete prerequisite course work outside the scope of the CARES Program. These courses do not satisfy the program requirements for stipend payments

Amend existing program policy: Allow Prerequisite and ESL units to qualify for program requirements

Allowing the college level prerequisite units for degree applicable GE courses and ESL units to meet program requirements once the provider has successfully completed 12 ECE units (Associate Teacher Permit level). This addresses the issue that providers need further training and support to become proficient in English and Math and compensates providers for furthering their education. Providers can take a maximum of 3 semester units/5 quarter units of Prerequisite or ESL courses per program year. The remaining 3 semester units/4 quarter units would need to be applicable to the Child Development Matrix.

Recommendation: Amend existing policy

Allow Prerequisite and ESL units to qualify for program requirements

Allow a minimum of 3 semester units/5 quarter units of college level prerequisite units for degree applicable GE courses and ESL units to meet program requirements once the provider has successfully completed 12 ECE units (Associate Teacher Permit level). All units need to be degree and/or Permit applicable (or allowing for providers to build skills needed to take Permit/degree applicable courses). This addresses the issue that providers need further training and support to become proficient in English and Math and compensates providers for furthering their education.

Amended Policy Approved by the El Dorado County Early Care and Education Planning Council on May 11, 2005:

Resolution: Allow Prerequisite and ESL units to qualify for program requirements

Allow a minimum of 3 semester/5 quarter units of college level prerequisite units for degree applicable GE courses and ESL units to meet program requirements once the provider has successfully completed 12 ECE units (Associate Teacher Permit level).