



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

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# Monthly Meeting

## **Implementing Special Education for Preschoolers in UPK**

Paul Foster, Executive Director

Heidi White, Early Childhood Special Education Director

Exceptional Students Services Unit, Office of Special Education

February 13, 2024

# Meeting Intentions



- Monthly virtual meeting - Second Tuesday of every month
- Meeting scope: Intersection of Special Education and Universal Preschool
- Audience: AU and LEA Special Education Directors, District level EC administrators Fiscal representatives
- Hosted by CDE with field input in agenda planning, content and feedback loop, CDEC UPK staff invited
- Meant to be responsive, proactive, needs based & solution focused



# Monthly Meeting Schedule for 23-24 School Year

**Second Tuesday of each  
month from 2 - 3 p.m.**

**[Zoom link \(register\)](#)**

## **Remaining Dates:**

Mar 12, 2024

Apr 9, 2024

May 14, 2024

Jun 11, 2024

- Are these meetings meeting your needs?
- What topics do you need addressed?

Please complete this [Survey](#) by February 29th to provide input for the remainder of this school year.



# Today's Topics

- Mary Bivens & Tanya Klein: Updates on ECSE Endorsement
- Department of Early Childhood Updates on Universal Preschool for AUs



# Educator Talent Updates on ECSE Endorsement

## Revised ECSE Endorsement standards

- [Feedback open now](#)
- ECSE Specialist endorsement standards recommended for sunset

## Draft legislation [HB24-1087](#)

## Two upcoming pathways

- Alternative Licensure Pathway for ECSE
  - both initial and added endorsement
- Added endorsement ECSE [worksheets](#)



Thanks to CDEC for sharing updates



# Universal Preschool Update for Special Ed

February 13, 2024



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# Agenda

- Payment for 3 year olds with IEPs
- Holding Seats for children with IEPs 24/25
- Existing placement process (accessing reports, making placements for current year.
- Update on IEP placement process for 24/25
- General Q&A's





# Payments for 3s with IEPs -2023/24

- **3 year old payments**
  - We will make payments for three-year-old children based on children currently enrolled in the system.
- **AU Next Steps**
  - To streamline the process it would be greatly appreciated if the AU is able to review your IEP report and confirm enrollment status and start date
  - After the payment is made, we can work together to identify any 3-year-old children with an IEP missing from the report and submit a request in the IEP Placements per AU form
  - Change in start date must be submitted to the payment vendor ticketing system

# Holding Seats for 2024/25

- Providers are able to indicate the number of IEP seats per program when they submit the Program Set Up form
- There will be windows of time where providers are able to adjust seats for children with an IEP
- Keep the lines of communication open with the AU and provider



# 2023-2024 Placement Process - AU Reports

## Accessing AU Reports

- The AU Reports are a live report. You may download the report daily to see any changes that were made that you requested from the IEP Placements per AU form to CDEC
- We recommend that you download this report at least once a week to verify all children with IEPs in your district are on the report and in an enrolled status

# 2023-2024 Placement Process - Review AU Reports

Review of reports must include

- child is in an enrolled status
- verify start date is accurate (Column W) is accurate
- make sure the child is still attending
- has the child has withdrawn
- Status Update (Column X) will show date of recent children added to your report

The AU Reports are a live report. You may download the report daily to see any changes that were made that you requested from the IEP Placement form submitted to CDEC.

# 2023-2024 Placement Process - Initiating an Application

CDEC Supports AUs with the IEP Placement via IEP Placement form

- Initiating an application for a child that is 3 after 10/1 in order to bypass the age requirements and or Initiating application for child new to district.
  - CDEC will send an email to the family and cc the requestor so that you know it is in process
  - It is the responsibility of the AU/District to follow up with family if you do not see the child on the report within 24 hours

# 2023-2024 Placement Process

CDEC Supports AUs with the IEP Placement via IEP Placement form

- Add or Remove the IEP from the Child's Application
- Placement change for a child
  - Change of Provider
  - Change of Program
  - Transfer from District to another district

Once CDEC has completed the request the AU or Designee has entered, we will send an email to let you know that they are completed

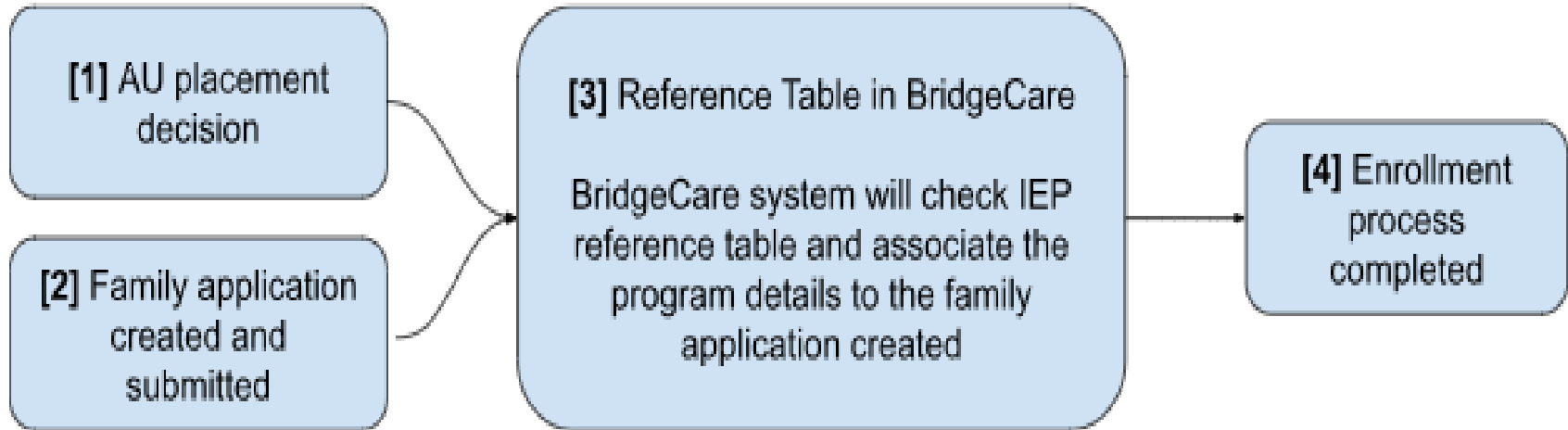
# IEP Process 2024/25

The updated process aims to do two things:

1. Honor the relationship between AU's, Providers, and Families by using the Colorado Universal Preschool program application as a way for families to secure their benefits while not jeopardizing decisions already made about placement
2. Design processes that maintains the strictest of confidentiality



# Overview- IEP Process 2024/25





# IEP Process Steps 2024/25

1. The AU provides the IEP placement decision/data
  - a. Either through a file upload or through manual applications
2. The family submits an application
3. The Universal Preschool Portal associates a family with an IEP with the program identified by the AU
4. Providers complete final validation and the enrollment process is complete



# IEP Process 2024/25 - Timeline

**02/16/24** - Provider program setup form closes.

*Program setup forms give providers the chance to identify the seats they will have for IEP students.*

**2/13/24 - 2/16/24** - AU upload testing

**2/20/24 - 2/28/24** - AU validate and update existing data

*More information to come*

**02/29/24** - The family application opens



# IEP Process 2024/25 - FAQ

## **What if an AU provides the wrong data (i.e., doesn't enter the right name)?**

That is ok! This is why BridgeCare requires the reference table to match the information entered by the family, if it doesn't match then the application will be reported as needing further work. CDEC will be reviewing these reports regularly and reaching out to AU's for support.

**What happens if an AU doesn't upload or manually enter the information and a family initiates an application?** That is ok! Once a family checks that they have an IEP they are removed from the DAA matching process and their application will be reported. CDEC will be reviewing these reports regularly and reaching out to AU's for support.



# Q&A



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Thank you!



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