



SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Agenda Item #9.1e

Meeting Date: November 20, 2014

Subject: Approve Early Kindergarten Board Policy 6170.1

- Information Item Only
- Approval on Consent Agenda
- Conference (for discussion only)
- Conference/First Reading (Action Anticipated: _____)
- Conference/Action
- Action
- Public Hearing

Segment/Department: Academic Office/Early Kindergarten

Recommendation: The Board of Education is requested to approve the Early Kinder Board Policy 6170.1.

Background/Rationale: An important step in reaching the vision outlined in Pillar One, *College and Career Ready Students*, of the district's strategic plan, is to build a stronger support network for our youngest learners. In 2010, California enacted the Kindergarten Readiness Act, S.B. 1381, which has moved back the Kindergarten entry date, and requires districts to offer Transitional Kindergarten, affectionately called Early Kinder in SCUSD. This gift of time affords children who turn five between September 1st and December 2nd an additional year of school and serves as a bridge between preschool and Kindergarten.

The district began its implementation of the Early Kinder program in 2011 with five pilot school sites (Alice Birney Waldorf Inspired K-8, Leonardo da Vinci K-8, Theodore Judah, and Hubert Bancroft/Thomas Jefferson). Since then, it has expanded to H.W. Harkness, A.M. Winn, and Pacific, providing students and families regional access for this early educational opportunity. The response from parents and school staff strongly indicate that Early Kinder provides the extra support to help students develop the social, emotional and academic skills needed for regular Kindergarten and success in school.

The adoption of a Board policy will outline the state regulation and prescribe the essential program components that will necessitate that students enrolled in the program will exist with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that will position them for success in subsequent grades.

Financial Considerations: The adoption of the proposed policy does not have any budget implications. However, the Early Kinder program is supported with funds generated by Average Daily Attendance (ADA) dollars plus added general fund dollars. These additional funds serve to underwrite the costs for classroom set-up, instructional resources and professional learning. The total amount budgeted to maintain the seven programs is \$236,000.

Documents Attached:

1. Proposed Early Kindergarten Board Policy 6170.1

Estimated Time of Presentation: N/A

Submitted by: Olivine Roberts, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer
John Conway, Coordinator, Early Kinder

Approved by: José L. Banda, Superintendent

Sacramento City USD

Board Policy

BP 6170.1

Early Kinder (Transitional Kindergarten)

The governing board desires to offer a high-quality Early Kinder (Transitional Kindergarten) Program for eligible children who do not yet meet the minimum age criterion for Kindergarten. The program shall assist children in developing the academic, social, and emotional skills they need to succeed in Kindergarten and beyond.

The district's Early Kinder shall be the first year of a two-year Kindergarten program (Education Code 48000)

The Board encourages ongoing collaboration among district preschool staff, other preschool providers, elementary teachers, administrators, and parents/guardians in program development, implementation, and evaluation.

(cf. 0420 – School Plans/Site Councils)
(cf. 1220 – Citizen Advisory Committees)
(cf. 6020 – Parent Involvement)

Eligibility

The district's Early Kinder Program shall prioritize student enrollment for children whose fifth birthday lies between: (Education Code: 48000)

- November 2 and December 2 in the 2012-13 school year
- October 2 and December 2 in the 2013-14 school year
- September 2 and December 2 in the 2014-15 school year and each school year thereafter

Parents/guardians of eligible children shall be notified of the availability of this program and the age, residency, and any other enrollment requirements. Enrollment in the Early Kinder Program shall be voluntary.

(cf. 5111 - Admission)
(cf. 5111.1 – District Residency)
(cf. 5111.12 – Residency Based on Parent/Guardian Employment)
(cf. 5111.13 – Residency for Homeless Children)
(cf. 5141.22 – Infectious Diseases)
(cf. 5141.3 – Health Examinations)
(cf. 5141.31 – Immunizations)
(cf. 5141.32 – Health Screening for School Entry)

Curriculum and Instruction

The district's Early Kinder Program shall be based on a modified Kindergarten curriculum that is age and developmentally appropriate. (Education Code: 48000)

(cf. 6141 – Curriculum Development and Evaluation)
(cf. 6161.1 – Selection and Evaluation of Instructional Materials)

Upon recommendation by the Superintendent or designee, the Board shall approve academic standards for Early Kinder that bridge preschool learning foundations and Kindergarten standards. Such standards shall be designed to facilitate students' development in essential skills which may include, as appropriate, language and literacy, mathematics, physical development, the arts, science, social studies, English language development, and social-emotional development.

(cf. 5148.3 –Preschool/Early Childhood Education)
(cf. 6011 – Academic Standards)
(cf. 6174 – Education for English Language Learners)

The number of instructional minutes offered in Early Kinder shall be the same as that required for the district's Kindergarten program.

(cf. 6111 – School Calendar)
(cf. 6112 – School Day)

Early Kinder students may be placed in the same classrooms as Kindergarten students when necessary, provided that the instructional program is differentiated to meet student needs.

Staffing

Teachers assigned to teach in Early Kinder classes shall possess a teaching credential or permit that authorizes instruction at the Kindergarten grade level.

(cf. 4112.12– Certification)

The Superintendent or designee may provide professional development as needed to ensure that Early Kinder teachers are knowledgeable about district standards and effective instructional methods for teaching young children.

(cf. 4131– Staff Development)

Continuation to Kindergarten

Students who complete the Early Kinder program shall be eligible to continue in Kindergarten the following school year.

Students enrolled at a regional non-neighborhood Early Kinder school site shall return to their assigned/neighborhood home school to continue their regular 2nd year in Kindergarten. Parents requesting to continue the second year of Kindergarten at a regional non-neighborhood school would apply to do so through the Open Enrollment Process.

A student shall not attend more than two years in a combination of Early Kinder and Kindergarten. (Education Code 46300)

(cf. 5123 – Promotion/Acceleration/Retention)

Program Evaluation

The Superintendent or designee shall develop or identify appropriate assessments of Early Kinder students' development and progress. He/she shall monitor and regularly report to the Board regarding program implementation and the progress of students in meeting related academic standards.

(cf. 0500 – Accountability)

(cf. 6162.5 – Student Assessment)

Legal Reference:

Education Code

8973 Extended-day Kindergarten

44258.9 Assignment monitoring by county office of education

46111 Kindergarten, hours of attendance

46114-46119 Minimum school day, Kindergarten

46300 Computation of average daily attendance, inclusion of Kindergarten and transitional Kindergarten

48000 Minimum age of admission (Kindergarten)

48002 Evidence of minimum age required to enter Kindergarten of first grade

48200 Compulsory education, starting at age six

60605.8 Academic Content Standards Commission, development of Common Core Standards

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Transitional Kindergarten, Issue Brief, July 2011

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Transitional Kindergarten FAQs

California Preschool Curriculum framework, Vol. 1, 2010

California Preschool Learning Foundations, vol. 1, 2008

PreKindergarten Learning Development Guidelines, 2000

First Class: A Guide for Early Primary Education, 1999

COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING PUBLICATIONS

11-08 Transitional Kindergarten assignments, Credential Information Alert, August 25, 2011

Web Sites:

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

California Kindergarten Association: <http://www.ckanet.org>

Commission on Teacher Credentialing: <http://www.tkcalifornia.org>