

Superintendent's Update

Early Childhood Education

Board of Education Meeting

February 1, 2022

Meeting No. 14



Excelling Together with Endless Pathways for Success!

College, Career, Life Ready Graduates

Academic Rigor

- High Expectations
- Pathways, Choices & Personalization
- Cultural Competence



Safe Learning Environment

- Inclusion
- Mental & Physical Wellness
- Sense of Belonging

Board of Education Priorities



Board of Education Priorities



Maximize Student Achievement

- Close the digital and equity gap.
- Offer robust in-person and independent study learning programs.
- Accelerate learning and improve attendance and engagement.

Foster a Positive Culture of Learning

- Ensure equitable teaching and learning opportunities led by excellence.
- Support culturally relevant curriculum that emphasizes inclusion.
- Increase school connectedness for students, parents, and families.

Ensure the Health and Safety of Students and Employees

- Strengthen mental health support and programs.
- Ensure best practices for safe and healthy learning environments.
- Support physical, social, and emotional wellbeing.

Maintain District Financial Responsibility

- Ensure the fiscal health of the District.
- Implement a fiscal plan to preserve the District resources.
- Plan for the District's future educational and facility needs.

Maximize Student Achievement

- Close the digital and equity gap.
- Offer robust in-person and independent study learning programs.
- Accelerate learning and improve attendance and engagement.



Topics:

- Current GUSD Early Education Programs
- The Future of GUSD Early Education
- Opportunities for State Funding and Partnerships with Other School Districts

Why is Early Education Important?

- “High-quality child care and preschool programs have numerous benefits such as promoting the early development of children’s social, emotional, and academic skills, and supporting work among parents or other caregivers.” (Public Policy Institute of California)
- “People who attend preschool are more productive in school, work, and society generally—with higher levels of education and earnings, less involvement in delinquency and crime, and fewer chronic health problems.” (W. Steven Barnett, National Institute for Early Education Research)
- “Early developmental opportunities can provide a foundation for children’s academic success, health, and general well-being. Preschool-aged children experience profound biological brain development and achieve 90 percent of their adult brain volume by age 6. This physiological growth allows children to develop functional skills related to information processing, comprehension, language, emotional regulation, and motor skills.” (Center for Disease Control and Prevention)



GUSD Early Education Programs



Infant/Toddler
Young Parent
Program

As Needed



3-4 Year Old
Preschool Programs

392
students



4-5 Year Old
Transitional
Kindergarten

260
students



5-6 Year Old
Kindergarten

1,724
students



First Grade and
Beyond!

2,376 students are currently enrolled in GUSD early education programs!

Kindergarten

- GUSD has 71 kindergarten classes across 20 elementary schools including 20 dual immersion classrooms
- Students attend school for 180 days and a total of 42,300 minutes (an average of 235 minutes a day)
- Funded by Average Daily Attendance – General Fund



Current Transitional Kindergarten Programs

- Transitional Kindergarten (TK) is the first year of a two-year Kindergarten program.
- Students attend school 180 days for a total of 40,500 minutes (average of 225 minutes a day)
- Uses a preschool curriculum that is age and developmentally appropriate.
- TK serves a bridge between preschool and kindergarten for children turning 5 years old on or between September 2 and December 2.
- Funded by Average Daily Attendance – General Fund

Schools with TK Classrooms 2021/22

- Cerritos
- Columbus
- Glenoaks
- Jefferson (2)
- La Crescenta
- Lincoln
- Mann
- Marshall
- Mountain Ave
- Muir (Spanish)
- Valley View
- Verdugo Woodlands



Full-Day Preschool and Extended Learning Services

- Provides a safe and nurturing environment for students from 6:30am-6:00pm.
- Full-day preschool classes are located at: Cerritos, Cloud, College View, Mann and Spanish Immersion at Pacific Avenue.
- Children receive age-appropriate educational and life experiences that facilitate development in essential skills related to language and literacy, mathematics, technology, physical development, and physical and social-emotional development.
- Lunch and snack are provided to all students and time for napping is included.
- Funded by a combination of State Preschool funds and parent-fees.
- Subsidized tuition is available for income-eligible families who meet State requirements.



Spanish Immersion Preschool

- Children are taught 100% in Spanish.
- Students engaged with a research-based preschool curriculum that prepares them for GUSD's dual immersion kindergarten program.
- Enrollment in the Spanish dual immersion preschool program does not guarantee enrollment in a GUSD FLAG program.



Half-Day Preschool

- The half-day preschool program operates three hours each day and lunch is provided to all students.
 - Morning - 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
 - Afternoon - 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Programs are located at Cerritos, Columbus, and Jefferson Elementary Schools.
- Children receive age-appropriate educational and life experiences that facilitate development in essential skills related to language, literacy, mathematics, technology, physical development, health, visual and performing arts, science, history, social science, English language development, and social-emotional development.
- Funded by State Preschool funds for families who are income-eligible.





Special Education Preschool Programs

- Students who might have a disability are referred to the Preschool Assessment Team. These referrals can be done by parents, doctors, Regional Center and/or other support organizations.
- Students can be assessed for services as young as 2 years, 9 months and begin services on their 3rd birthday.
- Special Education preschool classes are located at:
 - Cloud Preschool, Cerritos, College View, and Pacific Preschool
- GUSD offers multiple levels of special education preschool classes for approximately 166 students who are placed in the least restrictive environment to meet their unique needs:
 - Inclusion in a CDCC preschool classroom
 - Blended in a self-contained Special Education classrooms w/ typical peers
 - Self-Contained – Self-contained classrooms for mild/moderate needs
 - Intensive – Self-contained classrooms for moderate/severe needs

Young Parent Education Program

- When needed, GUSD provides an opportunity for young parents to continue their education with quality childcare provided at Daily High School.
- The daycare is staffed with experienced childcare providers with both an indoor and outdoor play area.
- The program enrolls infants as young as three weeks old and up to three years old when the children matriculate into a CDCC preschool program.
- Teen parents can attend any GUSD high school while accessing the childcare opportunity for their infant/toddler.
- This program is staffed on an as-needed basis and is funded by LCFF supplemental funds.



The Future of GUSD Early Education

- Collaboration with our teachers, labor partners and community organizations to expand access for our youngest students
- Expansion of TK for all 4-Year-Old Children
- Transitioning GUSD Preschool Programs to Serve Younger Children





Opportunities for Proposed State Funding and Partnerships with Other School Districts

- Proposed State and Federal Grants:
 - Preschool, TK, and Full-Day Kindergarten Facilities Grant Program
 - Pre-Kindergarten Planning and Implementation Grant
 - Expansion of California State Preschool Program Funds
 - Special Education Early Intervention Grant
 - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 619 Federal Preschool Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program
 - Expanded Learning Opportunities Program
- Partnership with Las Virgenes Unified to provide pathways for teachers to earn Early Childhood Education permits necessary to teach TK



Questions?