

Update on Kindergarten Program for 2019-2020

January 8, 2019

Teaching and Learning, Educational Services

Presentation Goals

- Provide background information on recent kindergarten program decisions
- Present plan for transitioning to 2019-20 kindergarten program including:
 - Timeline
 - Staff Engagement Process
 - Communication with Community

Background

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| February 2016 | AUSD announces plan to offer longer day kindergarten program at all elementary schools beginning in 2016-17 school year |
| August 2016 | Longer day Kindergarten program implemented |
| August 2017 | Paraprofessional FTE provided as pilot program to all kindergarten classrooms to support small-group instruction |
| April 2018 | Board of Education confirms elimination of longer day Kindergarten program effective 2019-2020 and discontinuation of pilot paraprofessional support for small group instruction effective 2018-2019 |
| September 2018 | Presentation to Board of Education updating public on Kindergarten program changes in 2019-2020 |

Kindergarten Enrollment Timeline

Jan. 16, 2019 @ 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Transitional Kindergarten Parent Information Night held at Paden Elementary School for ALL AUSD TK programs
Jan. 17, 2019 @ 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Kindergarten Parent Information Night and tour sign ups at each neighborhood elementary school
Jan. 28, 2019	Families can begin online enrollment and make enrollment appointments for TK-K pre-enrollment period that opens on January 28, 2019
Jan. 22, 24, and 29, 2019 9:00 am – 10:00 am	TK-Kindergarten tours - All schools except Earhart Elementary
January 22, 24, and 29, 2019 for Kindergarten January 25, 2019 for TK 9:00 am – 10:00 am	TK-Kindergarten tours – Earhart Elementary
Feb. 4, 2019	TK-Kindergarten pre-enrollment appointments begin February 4
March 4, 2019	Grades 1 through 12 pre-enrollment begins for 2019-20

TK-Kindergarten enrollment is ongoing.

Kindergarten Schedules

Prior to 2016-17, kindergarten utilized an 'A/B' schedule in which students stayed for a longer day two days each week, allowing for small group time.

Example*:

Days	'A' Schedule	'B' Schedule
Monday, Tuesday	8:20 – 1:40	8:20 – 12:45
Wednesday	8:20 – 12:45	
Thursday, Friday	8:20 – 12:45	8:20 – 1:40

A typical current kindergarten schedule** is:

Days	Schedule
Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri	8:20 – 2:50
Wednesday	8:20 – 1:50

* Information on 2019-2020 school day end times to be communicated in early 2019.

** Slight variations exist.

Kindergarten Instructional Minutes

State Mandates:

- Minimum of 36,000 minutes per year
- Minimum of 180 minutes per day

In the former kindergarten schedule, instructional minutes totaled approximately 42,000 minutes*

In the current kindergarten schedule, instructional minutes total approximately 56,000 minutes*

*Slight variations occur due to recess/lunch length and modifications due to site-based waivers

Summary of Key Shifts

Transition to the former kindergarten schedule will require planning to address the following key shifts:

- Reduced need for elementary music, physical education, and teacher librarian FTE (primary source of fiscal savings)
- Increase in scope of need for afterschool programs and other aftercare providers
- Collaboration to establish shared vision and define best practices for implementation of reduced class size time within A/B schedule
- Loss of separately staffed music, physical education, and media center instruction for kindergarten students
- Reduction in per student instructional minutes (minimal shift in total classroom teacher time)
- Kindergarten teachers return to 6 hours prep/week (relative to 4 prep periods/week at 1st-5th grades) with all 6 hours common across the grade level (1st-5th grades are guaranteed to share only 1 common prep hour)

Transition to 2019-2020

Staff will be working with kindergarten faculty across sites to transition back to the kindergarten schedule effective prior to 2016-17. Key steps in the transition process include:

- October: Seek Board input
- October – May: Engage teachers in program transition
- October-November: Communication to community
- May: Present update to Board

Community Engagement

Staff have engaged the community to let them know that the Kindergarten program will revert to the 2015-2016 and prior Kindergarten schedule:

- Primary web page for K/TK enrollment information
- Home page
- “Notes from AUSD” column in Journal (November 8)
- Newsletter to all families, employees, and media partners (November 2)
- Enrollment ads are coming up for January 11 and 25.

Preliminary Teacher Input

Common successes experienced:

- More time for play/choice time
- More time to prep lessons within the day – supports whole class lessons in math and science
- Students get to experience PE and Music with specialists
- More time to teach math, science, social studies, new ELA curriculum

Common challenges experienced:

- Students tired at end of day – difficult to teach new material and manage behavior
- Difficult to teach students in small groups

Teacher recommendation:

- Return to the previous 'A/B' schedule to support more targeted instruction

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Questions?