

For Immediate Release
January 9, 2012



San José Unified School District
"Inspiring and Preparing for Success"

Contact:
Karen Fuqua- 408.535.6444
Karen_fuqua@sjusd.org

San Jose Unified cautiously moves forward with Transitional Kindergarten program

Parent information meetings scheduled for January 10 & January 19

San Jose, CA. In spite of the Governor's proposed budget, which includes the elimination of Transitional Kindergarten (TK), SJUSD is moving ahead cautiously with plans to implement a Transitional Kindergarten program in fall 2012, but only if it is funded. Our hope is that through the legislative process, Transitional Kindergarten will be funded and the program can begin in the fall.

Transitional Kindergarten is for students with birthdates between September 1st and November 30th. TK is an early childhood education program that builds a bridge between preschool years and traditional Kindergarten.

"San Jose Unified's Board of Education recently approved the District's new mission statement: *San Jose Unified School District's mission is to eliminate the opportunity gap and provide every student with the finest 21st century education.* By implementing a Transitional Kindergarten program, we feel this will provide a bridge for students to gain the knowledge and skills needed for a successful entry into school and help to close the opportunity gap," expressed Dr. Vincent Matthews, Superintendent of SJUSD.

California Senate Bill 1381, was recently passed to create Transitional Kindergarten, but only requires November birthdates to be a part of the TK program in 2012. SJUSD believes the inclusion of the October and September birthdates into our Transitional Kindergarten program this fall is in the best interest of all children.

Transitional Kindergarten students will participate in a full 5-hour daily program, which will include whole group and small group instruction, independent, and "hands-on" learning. Credentialed teachers will expose children to reading and math in an exciting, interactive way by using educational games to teach children about words and sentences and help them understand mathematical concepts like counting, quantity, and patterns. Students will learn important foundational content skills for kindergarten, but the emphasis will be on strengthening oral language and explicitly teaching social skills.

~more~

Superintendent ♦ Vincent C. Matthews, Ed.D.
San José Unified Board of Education
Jorge González, President ♦ Pam Foley ♦ Rich Garcia ♦ Veronica Lewis ♦ Leslie Reynolds

Transitional Kindergarten will be offered at several San Jose Unified elementary schools located throughout the district. All SJUSD November birthdate students will be offered a placement at one of our sites that offer a TK program and we will attempt to place students with eligible October and September birthdates in a TK program. Due to the eligible number of students and available classroom space, not all SJUSD elementary sites will offer a TK program.

SJUSD is 90% prepared to implement the TK program. We will continue to move forward with the implementation of the program until further information is provided. We will continue to seek clarification from the State based on the Governor's proposal to understand better the options available for this program. We realize this delay can be difficult for parents making educational decisions for their children, but our intent is to make a final decision on whether or not we move forward on Transitional Kindergarten by later this spring.

January 10, 2012

6:00 - 7:00 pm

Graystone Elementary School

6982 Shearwater Dr., 95120

January 19, 2012

6:00 - 7:00 pm

SJUSD Central Office

855 Lenzen Ave., 95126

The opportunity to make an appointment for school registration is now available.

School registration begins February 6, 2012.

Please contact:

Burnett Information & Enrollment Center *Appointments: (408) 535-6412*

110 East Hedding Street, 95112

SJUSD Information & Enrollment Center *Appointments: (408) 535-6436 820*

Steinbeck Drive, 95136

For more information regarding Transitional Kindergarten, please visit our website: www.sjUSD.org

Contact: Jodi Lax, *Manager of Curriculum, Instruction, and EL Services PreK-5*

(408) 535-6204, Transitional_Kindergarten@sjUSD.org

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