

Affirming Our Commitment to Early Education: Formally Identifying Ourselves as a Pre-school through _____ Grade School District

Whereas, _____'s mission is to _____
_____ ; and,

Whereas, Research has demonstrated that developmentally appropriate supports and high quality interactions in the early years has been proven to lay the foundation for the development of pre-literacy and early math skills as well as key learning skills, such as paying attention, managing emotions and completing tasks; and,

Whereas, Early childhood supports have been shown to have the strongest impact on closing the achievement gap between vulnerable and non-vulnerable students, but particularly for low-income students, children in foster care, and dual language learners; and,

Whereas, Third grade reading proficiency continues to serve as a strong predictor of high school graduation, yet a 2007 report found that dual language learners lagged at a rate of 22 percentage points behind their English speaking peers in meeting their English Language Arts proficiency standards by third grade, 85% vs 63% respectively; and,

Whereas, 1 out of 5 students statewide is classified as a dual language learner, while in our district the ratio is nearly _____ (_____) overall and _____ (_____) within the early primary grades; and,

Whereas, research has demonstrated that by 18-months, students from low-income backgrounds show a 30-million word gap relative to their more affluent peers as a result of not having access to language rich environments, which significantly impacts their ability to achieve grade level literacy; and,

Whereas, in California 1 in 4 children live in poverty and nearly half are under six years old (48%), within our district, _____ percent of our children are living in poverty; and,

Whereas, The research by Nobel Laureate Economist James Heckman, has translated the achievement benefits of early childhood investments into a year-over-year financial return of 13% in the form of near and long term savings from a reduction in special education placements, need for remedial services as well as an increase in average daily attendance; and,

Whereas, changes to the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the state school funding formula and to the state preschool and transitional kindergarten programs have provided districts with increased flexibility to establish local plans that address the full spectrum of developmental and instructional needs that are required to improve student outcomes; and,

Whereas, the District has already demonstrated its commitment and leadership on the early learning front through its support for the district preschool program; and,

Therefore be it resolved, That the Governing Board of the _____ and the Superintendent will take the necessary steps to recognize the District's value for early childhood programs by formally identifying the District as a Pre-school through _____ Grade district; and,

Resolved further, That the Board and Superintendent will direct the appropriate departments to make the necessary changes to the district website and communication collateral to reflect the Preschool through Twelfth Grade identity; and,

Resolved further, That the Board will approve making the update to the California School's Directory listing for _____ School District to indicate a "Low Grade" of "P" to reflect the inclusion of preschool within its grade span.

Be it finally resolved, That the Board and Superintendent will continue to explore and support the integration and alignment of the early childhood programs into the District's core educational program by identifying additional funding resources and partnerships, where available, to strengthen the early childhood systems and continue to improve the early learning outcomes for its children and families.