

Enrollment Season Begins this Month!

This is the time of year that families start looking for the AUSD programs that they think will best suit their children. AUSD's online enrollment period officially starts January 28. But the enrollment season begins on November 19, when "open enrollment" middle and high schools (meaning those that accept students from all over Alameda, not just one neighborhood) start holding information nights and accepting applications. Those open enrollment schools are ASTI, Bay Farm's middle school program, Wood Middle School, and Encinal Jr. & Sr. High School. Maya Lin School, which is also an open enrollment school, will start accepting online applications on January 22. You can find the schedule of their information sessions (plus application directions) on our website at: www.alamedaunified.org/enrollment.

The Transitional Kindergarten Information Night is January 16 (6:30-7:30 pm, Paden Elementary School), and the Kindergarten Information Night is January 17 (6:30-7:30 pm, at each elementary school). Kindergarten tours at the elementary schools will be held from January 22 through January 29. A list of those information nights, as well as step-by-step directions on how to enroll, are also available at <http://www.alamedaunified.org/Enrollment>.

Please be aware that middle and high schools across the island are also holding information sessions and tours starting this month. That schedule is also available via the [enrollment page](#).

Important note: In April, 2018, the Board of Education directed the schools to return to a shortened (rather than extended) day kindergarten schedule. This was due to two reasons: 1) the Board was taking steps to reprioritize the AUSD budget to find money to improve employee salaries; 2) kindergarten teachers had indicated that a shorter day was emotionally, socially, academically, and physically better for their students.

Under the previous shortened day schedule, all kindergarteners attended school from roughly 8:20 am to 12:40 pm. Then on two days, half of the class (the "A Group") stayed until 1:40 pm for small group instruction, and the other half ("B Group") went home. On the other two days, the "B Group" of the class stayed for small group instruction, while the "A Group" was dismissed at 12:40 pm.

This "A/B schedule" will resume in 2019-20. A **sample** schedule of how this used to work is below. Please note that we are still finalizing the schedule for 2019-20, and the start/times of this A/B schedule may vary slightly from what is below.

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

The first three weeks of school are short days, and then the A/B schedules will start. Families will learn in which group their child has been placed during those first three weeks. School sites will try to accommodate parent/guardian work and childcare schedules to the best of their abilities, and AUSD is currently working with after-school providers in order to explore ways to adjust their schedules and continue to serve our kindergarten families.