

## **Dry Creek Joint Elementary School District Universal PreKindergarten Implementation Plan**

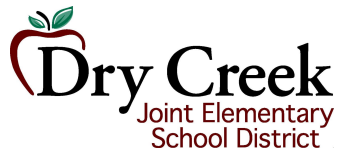
### **Universal PreKindergarten in California-Overview**

California seeks to set children on a trajectory of lifelong success by investing in early and equitable learning experiences. Decades of research demonstrate that an early and strong foundation for learning matters. Children who have effective learning opportunities before kindergarten have an advantage in school and in life over children who do not, especially children with adverse childhood experiences. Children who attend quality preschool programs are more prepared for school in terms of their early literacy, language, and math skills, their executive function, and emotional development.

To provide universal prekindergarten (UPK) options for all four-year-old children and to expand service for three-year-old children in California, the Budget Act of 2021, included an investment in the expansion of transitional kindergarten (TK) and the California State Preschool Program (CSPP). Within this budget package, the UPK planning and Implementation Grant Program was established to support the costs associated with the development of expanded prekindergarten options, such as universal-available TK and CSPP for eligible students. As a condition of receiving grant funds, state law requires each LEA to create a plan based on certain required questions in five planning areas with approval by the local school Board.

### **Dry Creek Joint Elementary School District's UPK Plan-Required Questions**

Dry Creek Joint Elementary School District's (DCJESD) UPK Planning Team included certificated educators, site administrators, and district leadership. This team met on multiple occasions to review, collaborate, and address the CDE-required UPK planning questions. In addition, the District surveyed incoming and current Transitional Kindergarten families to provide input for building the plan.



## Focus Area A: Vision and Coherence

**Has the local educational agency (LEA) identified a model of service delivery to implement universal pre kindergarten (UPK) for all four year-old children, including classes fully inclusive of children with disabilities?**

Dry Creek Joint Elementary School District will provide UPK for all four-year old children, including fully inclusive classes, via the following models:

- TK offered at all elementary and K-8 school sites
- CSPP and Head Start programs offered in Placer County at multiple locations
- CSPP and Head Start programs offered in Sacramento County at multiple locations
- Autism Spectrum Disorders Special Day Class Preschool
- Special Day Class PreSchool
- Language Intervention Preschool Program

**Has the LEA determined if it will implement full-day, TK, part-day TK, or both?**

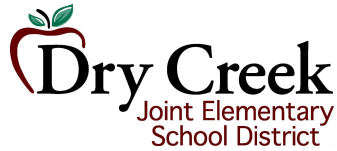
Dry Creek Joint Elementary School District will keep the current Transition Kindergarten schedule in which students attend three hours and twenty minutes of school.

**Does the LEA plan to operate a California State Preschool program or expand its current CSPP contract?**

Dry Creek Joint Elementary School District does not plan to operate a CSPP, however, our families will have information and access to programs operated by our partners, offering CSPP and Head Start in both Sacramento and Placer County.

**If the LEA answered yes, has the LEA identified what age of children it will serve through a CSPP contract?**

The Dry Creek Joint Elementary School District students served under a CSPP contract will be three and four year old children, along with eligible four and five year old children whose families do not wish to enroll in Transitional Kindergarten.



**Has the LEA identified whether it will serve students eligible for early admittance TK, for children whose fifth birthday occurs after date for the year of implementation?**

For the 2022-23 academic year, Dry Creek Joint Elementary School District students will need to be born in 2017/2018 and be 5 years old between September 2, 2022 and March 31, 2023 to be eligible for the Transitional Kindergarten program.

## **Focus Area B: Community Engagement and Partnerships**

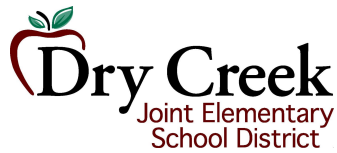
**Has the LEA identified which opportunities it will offer to obtain public input on the UPK Plan?**

Dry Creek Joint Elementary School District obtained public input through a parent survey of current and incoming transitional kindergarten students. We plan to share and review the plan with the School Site Council, English Language Learner (ELAC), and the District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC).

**Has the LEA selected the programs it will combine with the TK instructional day to offer a minimum of nine hours per day of programming for children whose families opt in for extended learning and care?**

Dry Creek Joint Elementary School District will partner with the following organizations to provide extended learning and care for students:

- Sunrise Parks and Recreation
- Roseville City Parks and Recreation
- Sacramento County Head Start
- Sacramento County Early Learning
- Placer County Head Start
- Placer County Early Learning



## **Focus Area C: Workforce Recruitment and Professional Development**

**Which of the following strategies does the LEA intend to use to support diverse and effective prospective TK teachers, including multilingual educators to earn a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential?**

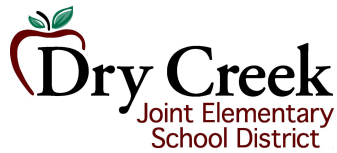
The Dry Creek Joint Elementary School District currently has enough Multiple Subject Teaching Credential holders to staff Transitional Kindergarten classes. Dry Creek has partnered with Sierra College and Placer County Office of Education to offer additional Early Childhood credit as needed.

**On which child observational assessments does the LEA intend to offer professional learning to TK, CSPP, and other early education teachers during the 2022-23 school year?**

Dry Creek Joint Elementary School District intends to use the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale and will be offering the transitional kindergarten teachers training on using the scale to evaluate students.

**Has the LEA identified professional learning topics it will offer regarding early childhood education to site leaders and principals.**

During the past five years, Dry Creek Joint Elementary School District site leaders have received training to support students' social-emotional wellbeing, social-emotional learning (SEL), Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS), and instructional supports for English learners and students with disabilities, trauma-informed practices, and engaging culturally diverse families. Although all site administrators have experience with Transitional Kindergarten on campus, Dry Creek intends to provide additional training on the Preschool Learning Foundation and Frameworks. This will better enable administrators to effectively evaluate the early children education program on campus and facilitate a deeper understanding of effective instructional practice to support early childhood educators.



## **Focus Area D: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment**

### **Does the LEA plan to provide any of the language models for TK students?**

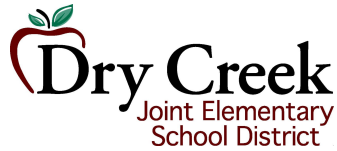
Dry Creek Joint Elementary School District will not be offering a Dual Immersion Program in the 2022-23 school year. This could change and be reevaluated in the future years. As with all the Dry Creek students in Grades K-8, TK will receive English-only instruction with home-language support, as feasible.

### **Identify the methods the LEA plans to use to support the development of social-emotional learning and executive function skills through specific instruction in these areas by embedding and reinforcing this instruction in all curriculum areas.**

Currently, Dry Creek Joint Elementary School District educators who serve students in the Transitional Kindergarten program provide a balanced, rigorous and developmental-appropriate program. This program will continue for 2022-23 and include additional resources and support in developmentally-appropriate learning environments. TK teachers design developmentally-appropriate learning environments to allow for individual and group activities that promote social-emotional learning and executive function skills. In addition, learning this will be promoted through play as a context for social and emotional development, including social-emotional learning. All Dry Creek's staff is fully trained in Restorative Practices. For the 2022-23 school year, we have contracted with Placer County Office of Education's Early Childhood Specialist to work with our TK teachers in planning and implementing appropriate instruction in all areas.

### **What instructional practices does the LEA plan to implement to support children with disabilities?**

Dry Creek Joint Elementary School District has a robust instructional program with support for students with disabilities. This program currently and will continue to extend support to students in the UPK programs. We have a specific UPK offering for students with disabilities, students with autism, and two classes for students who have speech and language delays. All Dry Creek educators have received training in social-emotional learning (SEL), focused on building positive relationships and inclusion routines. Dry Creek also employs a team of educational specialists with expertise in the area of Early



Childhood Education, including a Speech/Language Therapist, a School Psychologist, and Occupational Therapists, Behavior Specialist, and an Adaptive Physical Education Teacher.

### **What assessments does the LEA plan to use in TK or Kindergarten?**

Dry Creek Joint Elementary School District plans to use the district developed pacing guide and assessments. These assessments include testing students in the following areas:

- Colors
- Shapes
- Upper and lower case letters
- Letter sounds
- Letter identification

In the 2022-23 school year our TK team will continue to review the CDE recommended assessments, and evaluate our current practices, along with the use of development profile scales.

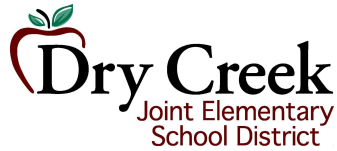
## **Focus Area E: LEA Facilities, Services, and Operations**

**To support an overall increase in UPK access, what efforts does the LEA plan to make to prevent the displacement of any early education programs on LEA campuses?**

Dry Creek Joint Elementary School District carefully projects enrollment on a multi year basis and adjusts facility needs accordingly. To date, Dry Creek has adequate classroom facilities to accommodate enrollment. Further expansion will be accomplished through incorporating into the Facilities Master Plan.

**Does the LEA have adequate classroom space to meet the Projected Enrollment of TK students for the respective implementation year?**

Dry Creek Joint Elementary School District has adequate classroom space to meet the projected enrollment.



**Does the space meet the kindergarten standards described in California Code of Regulations, Title 5?**

Yes, the space meets with the Kindergarten standards described in California Code of Regulations, Title 5 with some minor exceptions.

**If not, what modifications need to be made? What resources are needed to make them?**

Modifications include reconfigurations of classroom locations to be adjacent to restroom facilities and/or addition of new restroom facilities. Resources needed to be dependent on enrollment figures and additional funding from increased enrollment.

**Does the space contain necessary adaptive equipment, assistive technology, or other accommodations to ensure students with disabilities have access to education in the least restrictive environment?**

All Dry Creek Joint Elementary School District classrooms will be equipped to meet the varying needs of students.

**Does the LEA's Facilities Master Plan adequately address the need for UPK programming?**

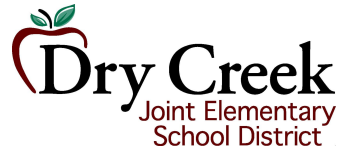
Dry Creek Joint Elementary School District will be updating the Facilities Master Plan to include strategies for incorporating needed adjustments for UPK.

**In which of the following areas does the LEA intend to make updates to facilities?**

Dry Creek Joint Elementary School District may need to make updates to restrooms, possible future classroom additions, and technology updates.

**What transportation will the LEA offer to children enrolled in TK?**

Dry Creek Joint Elementary School District will follow its district policies and boundaries on transportation for students in transitional kindergarten.



**Will the LEA offer transportation to transport Transitional children to extended learning and care opportunities that are at other sites other than the one the child is enrolled at for TK?**

Dry Creek Joint Elementary School District will offer transportation from the school of attendance to the Extended Learning Opportunity “hubs” for those students in an extended learning program.