# Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten Information Night

Monday, February 2, 2026
7:00-8:00 pm

PALO ALTO
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Welcome to PAUSD!

Danae Reynolds, Executive Director Curriculum & Instruction

Judy Argumedo, Administrator of Early Childhood Education

Amy Love, Manager, Enrollment Services and Student Transportation

Stephanie Bowen, Teacher - Program Specialist at Greendell

Kerith Bates, Psychologist - Greendell

Erika Buck, Partners In Education (PiE) Foundation

**Elementary Principals:**

Annora Lee, Palo Verde

Jeff Downing, Addison

Brittany Gardner, Duveneck

**Spanish Translation:** Claudia Quiroga Cortez

**Mandarin Translation:** Jenny Hsiung

# Expected Outcomes

- Overview of PAUSD
- Overview of PAUSD schools and Choice Programs
- Overview of PAUSD Elementary Special Education Services
- How to prepare for Kindergarten
- How to register your child for Kindergarten
- Time for questions

# Welcome to PAUSD!







**Our Schools:**

Twelve Elementary Schools (TK – 5th )

One Pre-K School

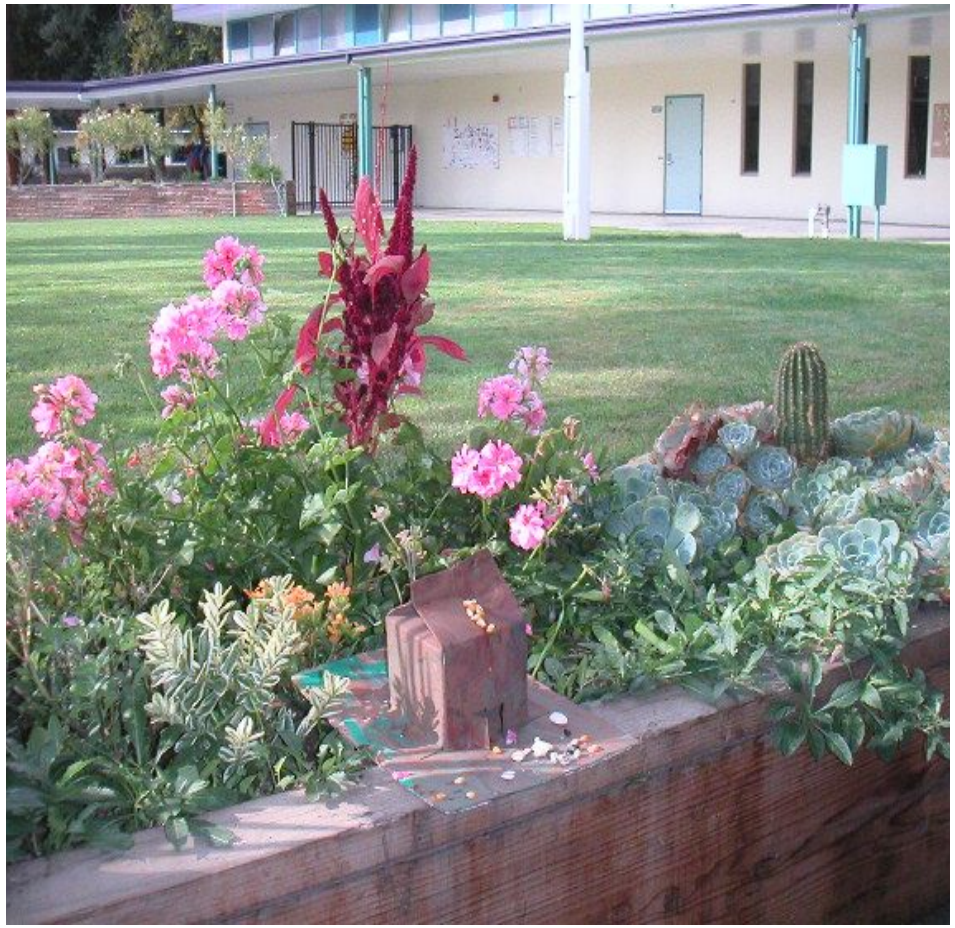
Three Middle Schools (6th – 8th)

One Adult School program

Three High Schools (9th – 12th)

Children's Hospital School

# Elementary Schools (all with kindergarten classes)



**North cluster:**

Addison, Duveneck (+TK), Walter Hays (+TK)

**West cluster:**

Barron Park (+TK), Escondido, Juana Briones, Nixon

**South cluster:**

El Carmelo (+TK) , Fairmeadow (+TK), Palo Verde (+TK)

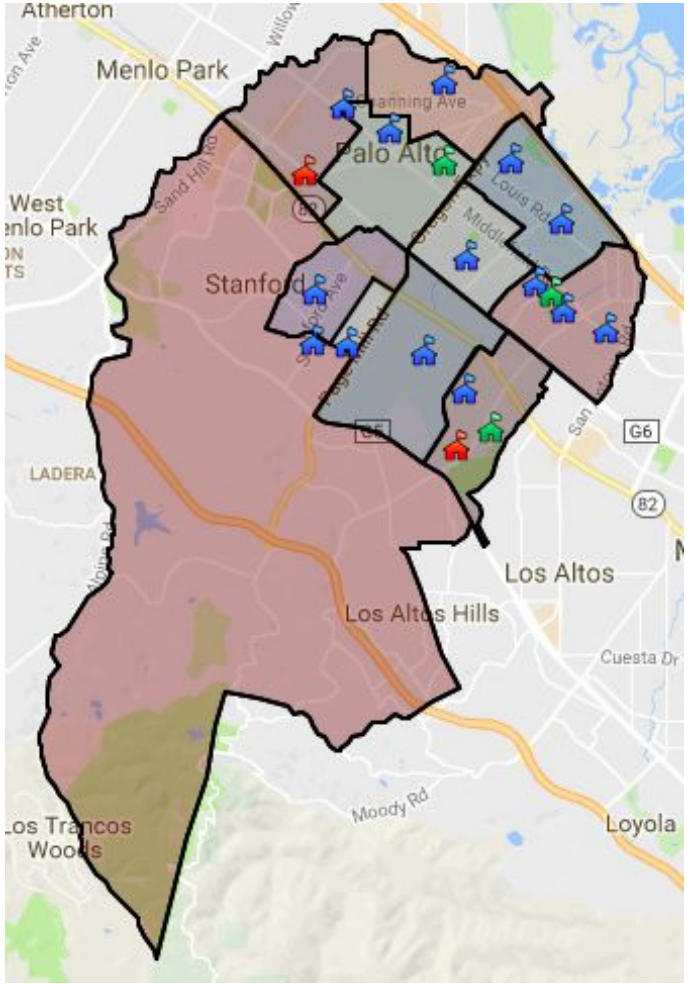
**Greendell:**

Special Education Preschool (+TK)

**Choice Programs:**

Hoover (+Young Fives), Ohlone (Mandarin Immersion), Escondido (Spanish Immersion)

# What is Your Neighborhood School?




- School Finder
- PAUSD policy: students attend their neighborhood school
- Placement priority is by Registration *completion* date, or date of residency, whichever is later
- Some students may be overflowed to a school with space and waitlisted for a space at neighborhood school (get on the daycare waitlist!)
- Approvals for transfers are only made in special circumstances

# Academic Excellence For All

*The PAUSD Promise*

- Equity, Inclusion and Belonging
- High Quality Teaching and Learning
- Innovation and Social Responsibility
- Mental Health and Wellness
- Serve and Celebrate Others



- "All students shall experience an environment characterized by high expectations, acceptance, respect, and support to become invested in the pursuit of learning and excellence…"
- Over 95% of PAUSD graduates attend college
- Teachers are among the most well prepared in the state and nation



PAUSD Greendell
Growing Together

# Special Education Preschool and Transitional Kindergarten

# Special Education Services in Elementary Schools

- A continuum of services are available across the district to support students with IEPs
- All students w/ IEPs are enrolled in the general education TK/kindergarten classroom
- Every site may not have the full continuum of services, in which case your child's IEP team will discuss alternative placement options together with you

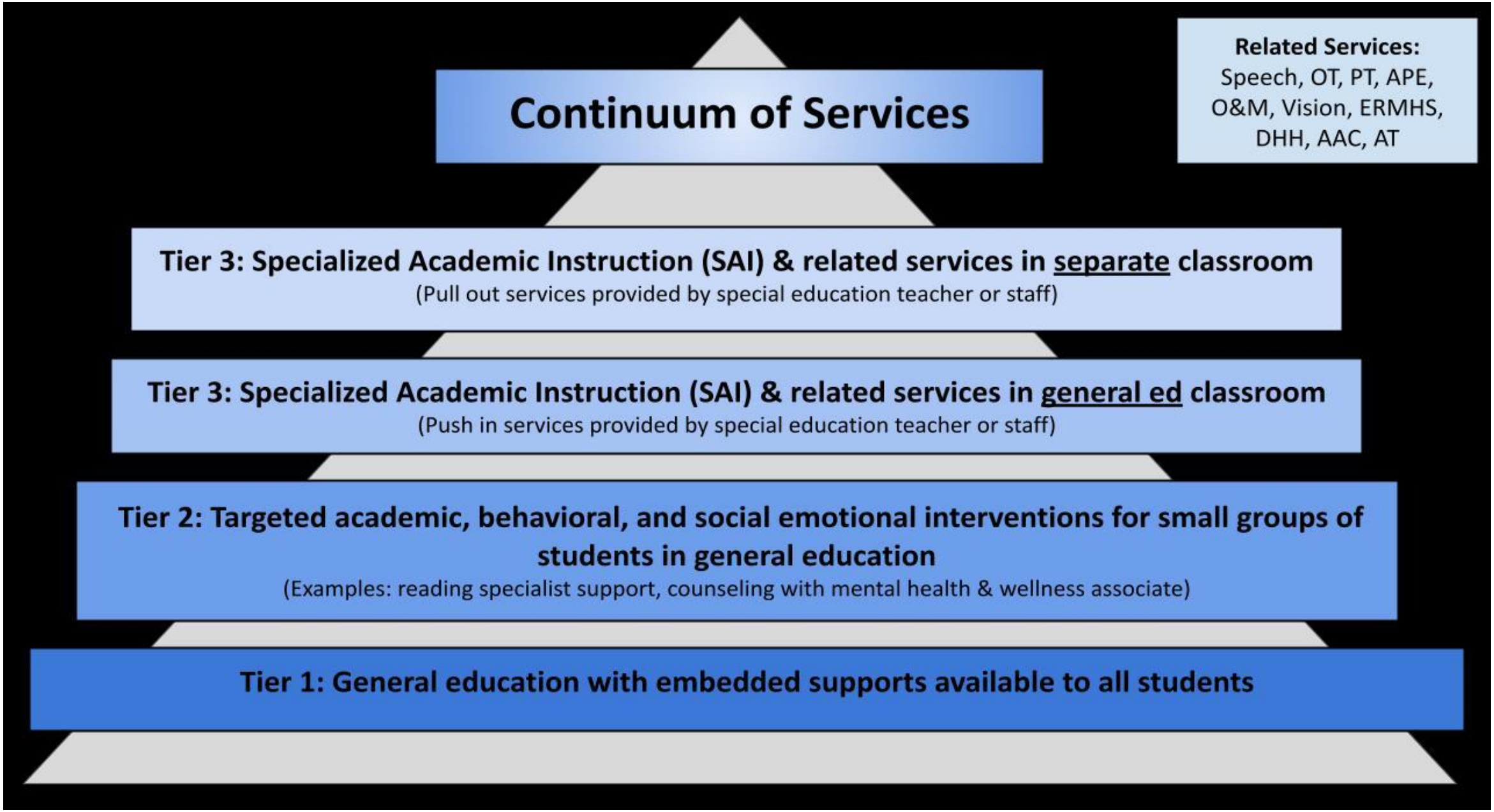
# Schools with Both Mild/Mod & Extensive Support Needs (ESN) Teachers

Barron Park
El Carmelo
Fairmeadow
Nixon
Walter Hays

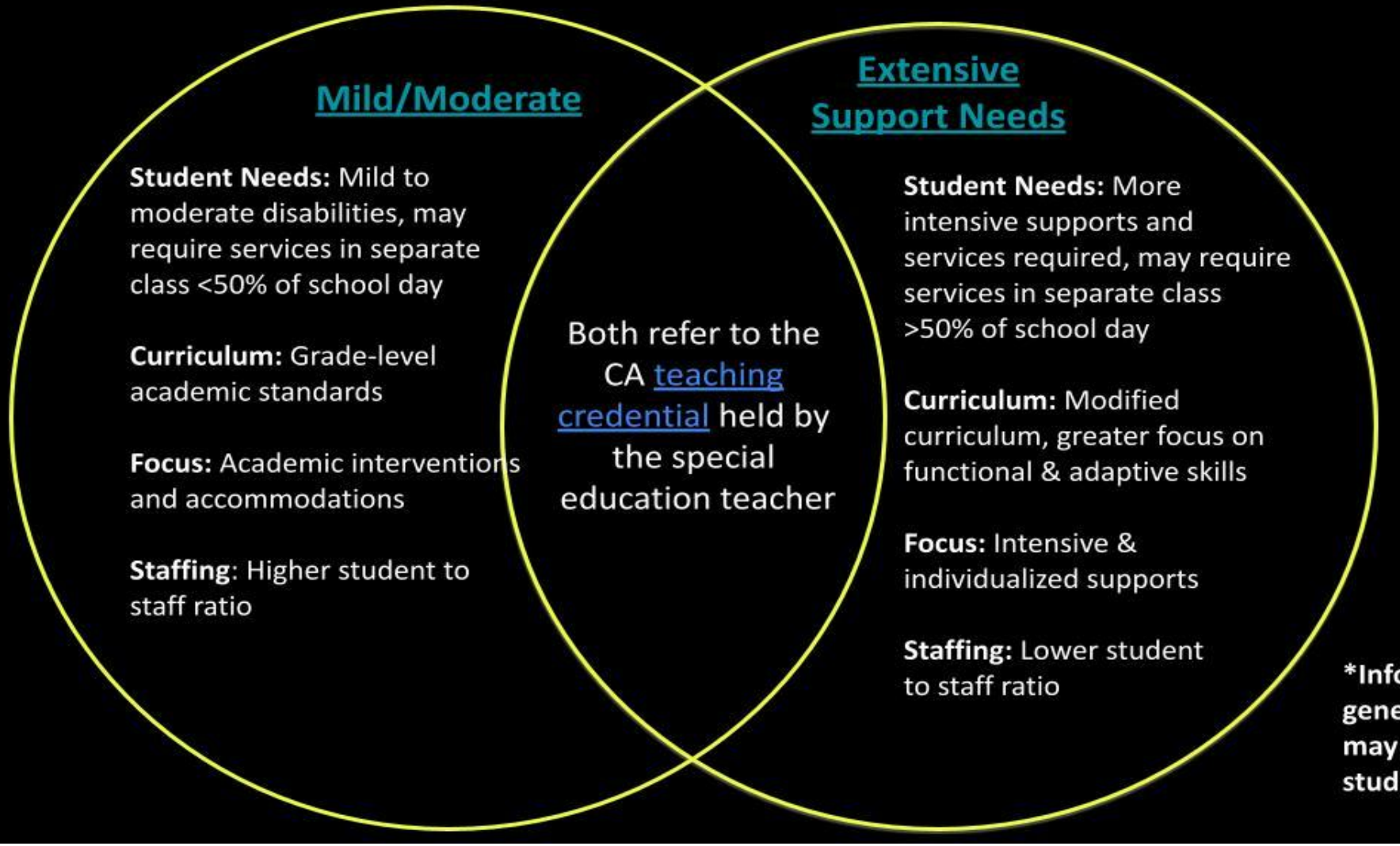
# Schools with Specialized Programs

Juana Briones - Orthopedic Impairment (OI) Program (K-5)

Duveneck - Therapeutic Support (TS) Program (K-5)


Continuum of Services
Related Services:
Speech, OT, PT, APE, O&M, Vision, ERMHS, DHH, AAC, AT
Tier 3: Specialized Academic Instruction (SAI) & related services in separate classroom
(Pull out services provided by special education teacher or staff)
Tier 3: Specialized Academic Instruction (SAI) & related services in general ed classroom
(Push in services provided by special education teacher or staff)
Tier 2: Targeted academic, behavioral, and social emotional interventions for small groups of students in general education
(Examples: reading specialist support, counseling with mental health & wellness associate)
Tier 1: General education with embedded supports available to all students

# What is the difference between "mild/moderate" and "extensive support needs"?*




***Information is generalized and may not apply to all students**

# Unique Opportunities at PAUSD



- TK-5 elementary schools with some of the smallest class sizes in the state
- Music, PE, Library, and Arts
- Intervention Specialist
- Behavior Team
- Libraries with credentialed librarians
- Mental Health & Wellness Counselors

# Getting to School Safely

- Families living 1-2 miles from campus, please consider the benefits of walking and biking to school.
  - Meaningful learning & socialization opportunities between home and school.
  - Greater independence and self-confidence.
  - The physical activity that supports academic success and long-term healthy habits.
  - Improved safety, air quality and campus access.
- Bussing and carpooling are great walk/bike alternatives, especially on rainy days.
- PAUSD school route safety resources (Safe Routes)
  - In-class K-5th grade road safety education.
  - Walk/bike school route maps.
  - Complimentary bike repair and yearly encouragement events.
  - Accessible, on-campus bike parking.
  - Transportation information on school websites.
  - Click on the QR code for more information.
- 40% of PAUSD students walk and bike to school. If you drive, thank you for sharing the road mindfully and safely.



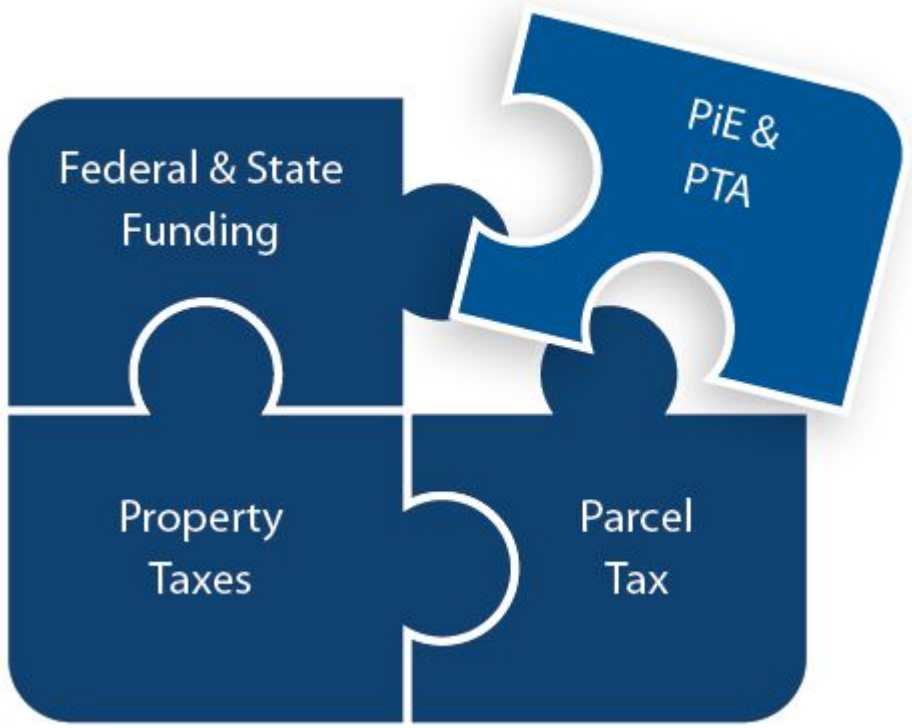





PALO ALTO
Partners in Education
OUR EDUCATION FOUNDATION

# Introduction to Partners in Education (PiE)

# Why is PiE Needed?




Traditional funding sources are not sufficient to provide the enriched education and staff that PAUSD parents' desire

# What Does PiE Provide?




PiE is the sole nonprofit that raises money for additional staff at all Palo Alto schools. Donations to PiE benefit every student.

- Classroom and Instructional Aides
- Spectra Art Teachers
- Music Teachers
- Social-Emotional Health Programs and Counselors
- Hands-On Science Programs


SCHOOL

# What Will My Child Learn in Kindergarten?

- Social-emotional development
- Standards-based curriculum
- Academic areas of reading, writing, math, science, and social studies
- Physical education, music, and art

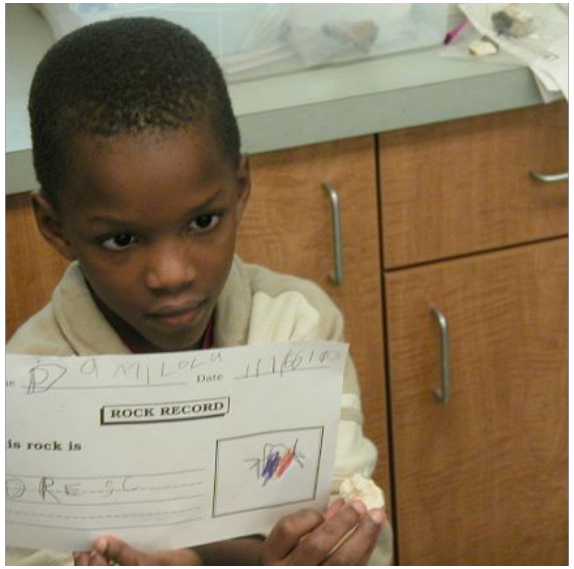




# Expectations for Learning

- Work Together
- Follow Directions
- Develop Independence and Student Voice








# 2-Year Kindergarten Programs for Year 2026-2027

## Transitional Kindergarten (TK):

Birthdates between 09/02/2021 to 09/01/2022

*TK is used that is age and developmentally appropriate*

## Young Fives:

Same birthdate requirements as Kindergarten (09/02/2020 to 09/01/2021)*

**Curriculum designed to prepare young children for kindergarten in all areas of development, with a focus on social emotional growth*
*By application and child observation*

# Choice Programs

- **Ohlone,** Developmental approach to teaching the whole child with integrated academic, physical, and social-emotional learning
- **Ohlone:** Mandarin Immersion, Ohlone's approach to teaching with a goal of bilingualism & biliteracy in English and Mandarin Chinese.
- **Hoover,** Social, emotional, and intellectual growth in a cohesive, structured learning community
- **Escondido:** Spanish Immersion, bilingualism & biliteracy in both English and Spanish

# Choice Program Lottery Dates

- Submit application to ONE Choice Program by **4:00 PM on February 20**
- Must complete Registration prior to application deadline
- Attend a Parent Information Night (***strongly*** encouraged)
- Lottery for all Choice Programs: **February 27**
  *Waitlists generated and tracked through 5th grade*
- Deadline for parent decision: **4:00 PM on March 4** Applicants who miss the deadline are placed at the bottom of the waitlist

# Registration Overview

- All students receiving PAUSD educational services MUST be registered
- All info is on PAUSD web site: http://www.pausd.org/Enrollment
- *Current residents* only; future residents register 2 weeks prior to move-in date
- **Online registrations** must be completed first
  - Priority Registration: complete by **4:00 p.m. on February 20**
  - After Feb 20: priority set by the completion date or residency date
- **Documents** required at the in-person appointment :
  - *S*tudent ID (birth certificate, passport) and parent ID
  - *Three* residency documents
  - *Official* immunization record
  - And more!

# The Importance of Residency (California Law)

Primary Residence must be within PAUSD boundaries, or Ravenswood City School District boundaries for Tinsley/VTP families

- There can only be *one primary residence* for a parent
- Student must live *continuously* within these boundaries to remain enrolled in a PAUSD school
- Property ownership *does not* qualify as residency (unless student lives/sleeps there)
- Temporary housing must be within these boundaries (renovations)
- Notify Registration Services of all changes of address
- Verify residency every year - Parent must do this via the Annual Data Update

PAUSD makes every effort to verify that a student is a ***current resident*** during, and after, registration. This includes investigations, conducted by the PAUSD Registrations Services department, to determine authenticity of the home address

# The Importance of Attendance: Promotes Learning, Health, and Connection

**What does California Law say?**

- Every child ages 6 - 18 must attend school every day and on time, and defines excused absences; if it is not on the list, it is unexcused
- Defines “Truant”: any combination of 3 unexcused absence categories: full-day absence, 30 minutes or more absence, tardies
- Defines “Chronic Absentee”: student is absent 10% or more days of the year
- Requires schools to notify parents, and partner with parents to address any issues with the goal of returning the child to the classroom

**For more information:** Visit our Healthy Attendance page at www.pausd.org

# How Can I Learn More?

## Kindergarten Visitation Day for Parents

**Friday, February 20, 2026**

Neighborhood Schools Only (not Escondido SI, Ohlone or Hoover)

9:00 -10:00 am

Special Education Extensive Needs Sites

10:30 - 11:30 am

(Barron Park, El Carmelo, Fairmeadow, Nixon, Walter Hays)

## TK Visitation Day for Parents

**TBD in May**

**Important Dates**

Check each school's website for details

www.pausd.org

Submit a question via Let's Talk!



# Thank you!





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