



**Governing Board Agenda Item**

Meeting Date: February 13, 2025

From: Denise Linsalata, Assistant Superintendent

Subject: Special Education Aides

Priority: Recruit, retain, and support highly effective staff, teachers, and leaders

Consent  Action  Discussion

**Background:**

The Play and Learn (PAL) program is experiencing significant growth, both in terms of student enrollment and the complexity of their needs. To ensure the continued success of our students, it is critical that we provide adequate classroom support. We have recently hired an additional teacher to address the growing student population. However, the current and upcoming student needs—particularly with respect to behavioral, academic, and toileting support—require that we hire additional aides to support this teacher effectively.

As of now, we have 215 students enrolled and attending PAL, with each classroom containing between 13-15 students. Additionally, there is an ongoing process of evaluations, screenings, and Multi Educational Team/Individual Education Plan meetings for the next few months. Based on these projections, we anticipate our student enrollment could grow by as much as 20-30 + students between the end of February and end of April, with the potential to qualify even more. It is likely that we will end the school year close to 230-250 students.

**Summary of Requests:**

In light of the substantial growth in student enrollment, the increased complexity of student needs, and the staffing challenges we currently face, we need to hire two additional aides to ensure the continued success of the PAL program. These positions will allow us to meet both the academic and behavioral needs of our students, maintain a safe classroom environment, and support the teachers in delivering high-quality education. The cost for these two positions for the remainder of the school year, including Employee Related Expenses, will be \$15,450.47 and they will be funded from the IDEA Grant.

**Recommended Motion:**

I move that the Governing Board approve the addition of two special education aides at Play and Learn (PAL) effective immediately.

Approved for transmittal to the Governing Board:



Dr. Daniel Streeter, Superintendent

*Questions should be directed to: Denise Linsalata, Assistant Superintendent  
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