

Executive Summary

Prepared for Board of Trustees Meeting

February 25, 2014

Early Childhood Update

Board Goals: *In pursuit of excellence, the District will:*

- Demonstrate effective and efficient management of district resources.
- Remain committed to providing equitable and outstanding opportunities for every student on every campus

Purpose of Report: To present the DISD Trustees with a report on current Early Childhood programs in DISD, particularly Pre-K, as well as seek direction on possible adjustments to the program.

Objectives

- To provide the board with information currently being studied by the Denton ISD Pre-K Study Group, including
 - current areas within Denton ISD which would be considered “highly impacted” by Pre-K eligible students;
 - updated financial impact of providing transportation for Pre-K students;
 - facilities currently available across the district for possible adjustment of Pre-K offerings
- To seek the guidance of the board on additional areas of focus for the Pre-K Study Group

Operational Impact The district would face financial investment for additional capital and personnel to properly support expanding Pre-K to a full-day program. The district would face financial investment for additional capital and personnel to provide transportation for Pre-K students.

Results It is believed by many that the expansion of Pre-K services to a full-day program will provide opportunities for students to experience high quality instruction for a longer period of time. A full-day program may address the needs of some families for supervision of their children for a longer period, reducing day care expenses in some instances. The district might anticipate increased interest in participating in a full-day versus a half-day program, which could result not only in increased enrollment numbers but might also necessitate a more restrictive identification process for eligible participants. The anticipated increased enrollment might necessitate the discontinuation of Academy Pre-K services due to space restrictions. Expansion of these services to a full-day program may be impeded by additional costs to the district in both capital and personnel. A limited implementation in the form of well-designed action research projects might be an option to determine the true value of full day programs.

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Many families report challenges with transportation to and from current Pre-K programs. District-provided transportation has significant financial implications. Relocating some current classrooms or establishing new Pre-K programs at “highly impacted” schools may provide opportunities for increased enrollment, but also has facilities and personnel implications.

The district has sought partnerships with local agencies to expand services. Though there are those who have agreed to participate in the Study Group, to date no group has agreed to a partnership. The Study Group will continue to pursue these options.

Other Options The Board could determine that current programming is viable. The Board could consider investigating the pursuit of additional licensure to provide extended services. The Board could direct the Pre-K Study Group to investigate other options not listed here.