

PreK Enrollment Analysis
August 17, 2022

I. Purpose of the Early Learning Center (ELC) Program

The district must ensure that a free appropriate public education (FAPE) is provided in the least restrictive environment (LRE) for every child with a disability in its jurisdiction ages 3 to 22. The district strives to provide a broad continuum of special education services in-district, rather than sending students to other locations, in order to satisfy the requirement to provide FAPE. The ELC is a special education preschool program designed to provide special education services to eligible preschool-age children in an integrated, inclusive setting.

The ELC program uses a play and language-based approach to learning, designed to provide developmentally appropriate experience for children ages three to four years old to support cognitive, communication, social/emotional, motor, and daily life skills development. The program uses the CT ELDS Framework, Preschool Curricular Goals, and Benchmarks. For students that receive special education services, program recommendations are made specific to the needs of each individual child and are determined by the Planning and Placement Team (PPT).

The ELC program also enrolls “typical”/role model students in order to maintain an “inclusive” setting. In order to be considered an “inclusive” setting, a student’s classroom must be comprised of no more than 50% students identified for special education.

II. Philosophy

All students benefit from being educated in an inclusive setting. Children with disabilities, including those with the most significant disabilities and the highest needs, can make significant developmental and learning progress in inclusive settings. Children with disabilities in inclusive settings experience greater cognitive, communication, and social/emotional skill development than children with disabilities who are in separate settings, with this being particularly apparent among children with more significant disabilities.

Typically developing children can show positive developmental and social outcomes from inclusive experiences. They are also capable of demonstrating greater compassion and empathy, and can have a more positive perception of peers with disabilities, as well as developing a better understanding of diversity and disability. Children without disabilities in high-quality inclusive early childhood settings also benefit from developmental specialists who can identify and address delays in development that might otherwise go unnoticed.

III. Enrollment

There are currently three morning and three afternoon sections of PreK scheduled for this year, with a cap of 16 students in each section. This number of sections (6) is the same as last year (2021-2022), but we have raised the cap from 14 students to 16 students in each section. This is still comfortably within the Office of Early Childhood recommendation for a maximum preschool class size of 18. The projected proportion of

students with disabilities in each section ranges from 42% to 66% depending on the section and the timing of Birth to Three students becoming eligible.

At this time, there are four seats available for unanticipated parent referrals that result in additional eligible students, which would further increase the proportion of students with disabilities. If additional seats above these four are required, then we could add additional students to each section by increasing class size to 18. This would allow for 16 unanticipated eligible students in total. However, the proportion of students with disabilities would increase to the range of 50% to 72%.

IV. Trend Data 2019 - 2022

The following information provides historical information about the number of students who enrolled in the ELC program once the school year began. The columns highlighted suggest that we could reasonably anticipate additional students to become eligible and enroll during the year.

School Year	# of <u>seats</u> held for parent referrals that become eligible during the year	# of parent referrals (not enrolled) made in this school year that became <u>eligible</u>	# of enrolled typical students referred that became <u>eligible</u>	Total ELC enrollment as of June 15	Total identified students w/ IEPs as of June 15	Percent (%) of students w/ IEPs as of June 15	Number of sections of ELC
2018-19	9 seats available	2	3	79	27	34%	8
2019-20	6 seats available	2	7	91	20	22%	Started with 7, added an 8th as enrollment increased
2020-21	9 seats available	4	7	75	29	39%	Started with 8, reduced to 6 based on enrollment
2021-22	6 seats held	7	7	73	35	48%	6

V. Adding a 4th section - "What if scenario"

Staffing

Each ELC classroom consists of one special education teacher certified to teach preschool, and two paraprofessionals. The paraprofessionals only work on days that ELC is in session and are therefore 0.8 FTE paraprofessionals.

Staffing	Salary	Fica/Medicare
Paraprofessional (0.8 FTE)	\$19,235.00	\$1,471.48
Paraprofessional (0.8 FTE)	\$19,235.00	\$1,471.48
SpEd Teacher (MA 7)	\$70,636.00	\$1,024.22
Estimated Staff Cost	\$113,073.18	

Opening a fourth ELC classroom will require hiring for a special education preschool teacher and two paraprofessionals. We currently have a posting for a special education preschool teacher to generate a pool of candidates. However, given that the ELC starts on September 8, this will likely require the use of substitutes to staff the fourth classroom to begin the school year.

Furniture

An additional set of preschool furniture will be needed for a fourth section of ELC. A new set of furniture would cost approximately \$30,000. It would likely take three months for the furniture to arrive. Existing PreK furniture from Consolidated would be brought over and used in the interim, or could be used in lieu of purchasing a new set of furniture.

Revenue

The tuition collected for a typical peer is \$3,500 for 2022-23. If we were to add a fourth section, we could theoretically add 16-20 typical peers, while maintaining slots for seven additional referrals during the school year. Potential revenue generated from additional typical peers is \$56,000 to \$70,000.

Rooms

Consolidated School is equipped with four ELC classrooms. Currently, a first-grade class has been assigned to one of the ELC rooms. This room is equipped with first grade furniture. If a fourth classroom of ELC is necessary, the reconfiguration of rooms will include the relocation of this classroom.

New Fairfield Public Schools - ELC Sections - 6 Sections

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Class #1 AM	Student	Class #2 AM	Student	Class #3 AM	Student
1	Full Day Special Education Student	1	Full Day Special Education Student	1	Full Day Special Education Student
2	Full Day Special Education Student	2	Full Day Special Education Student	2	Full Day Special Education Student
3	Special Education Student	3	Special Education Student	3	Special Education Student
4	Special Education Student	4	Special Education Student	4	Special Education Student
5	Special Education Student	5	Special Education Student	5	Special Education Student
6	Special Education Student	6	Special Education Student	6	Special Education Student
7	Special Education Student	7	Special Education Student (not currently registered)	7	Special Education Student
8	Birth to Three Student (December)	8	Birth to Three Student (November)	8	Birth to Three Student (November)
9	Parent referral, anticipate eligibility by 11/10/22	9	Parent referral in process, anticipate eligibility by 9/28/22	9	Registered Typical Peer
10	Registered Typical Peer	10	Typical Peer (registration and referral in process)	10	Registered Typical Peer
11	Registered Typical Peer	11	Registered Typical Peer	11	Registered Typical Peer
12	Registered Typical Peer	12	Registered Typical Peer	12	Registered Typical Peer
13	Registered Typical Peer	13	Registered Typical Peer	13	Typical Peer (registration in process)
14	Registered Typical Peer	14	Registered Typical Peer	14	Typical Peer (registration in process)
15	Typical Peer (registration in process)	15	Registered Typical Peer	15	Typical Peer (from waitlist)
16	Typical Peer (registration in process)	16	Typical Peer (registration in process)	16	HOLD for unanticipated referral
Total 9/8/22	7 Sped, 7-Typical (50%)	Total 9/8/22	6- Sped, 7-Typical, 1 in referral (46%)	Total 9/8/22	7 - Sped, 7- Typical (50%)
Anticipated on 1/15/23	9 - Sped, 7- typical (56%)	Anticipated on 1/15/23	10- Sped, 6 Typical (63%)	Anticipated on 1/15/23	8 - Sped, 7- Typical (53%)
Class #1 PM	Student	Class #2 PM	Student	Class #3 PM	Student
1	Full Day Special Education Student	1	Full Day Special Education Student	1	Full Day Special Education Student
2	Full Day Special Education Student	2	Full Day Special Education Student	2	Full Day Special Education Student
3	Special Education Student	3	Special Education Student	3	Special Education Student
4	Special Education Student	4	Special Education Student	4	Special Education Student
5	Special Education Student	5	Move in under referral (September)	5	Special Education Student
6	Special Education Student	6	Birth to Three Student (November)	6	Move in assuming eligibility (September)
7	Birth to Three Student (December)	7	Birth to Three Student (January)	7	Birth to Three Student (March)
8	Birth to Three Student (May)	8	Birth to Three Student (February)	8	Birth to Three Student (March)
9	Birth to Three Student (June)	9	Typical in referral	9	Birth to Three Student (June)
10	Typical Peer In referral	10	Registered Typical Peer	10	Typical Peer (registration & referral in process, anticipate eligibility by 11/10/22)
11	Registered Typical Peer	11	Registered Typical Peer	11	Registered Typical Peer
12	Registered Typical Peer	12	Registered Typical Peer	12	Registered Typical Peer
13	Typical Peer (registration in process)	13	Registered Typical Peer	13	Registered Typical Peer
14	Typical Peer (registration in process)	14	Registered Typical Peer	14	Typical Peer (registration in process)
15	Typical Peer (registration in process)	15	Typical Peer (registration in process)	15	Typical Peer (registration in process)
16	HOLD for unanticipated referral	16	HOLD for unanticipated referral	16	HOLD for unanticipated referral
Total 9/8/22	6- Sped, 6-Typical (50%)	Total 9/8/22	4- Sped, 6-Typical, 2- in referral (40%)	Total 9/8/22	5- Sped, 7-Typical 2 in referral (42%)
Anticipated on 1/15/23	8- Sped, 5 Typical (62%)	Anticipated on 1/15/23	8 - Sped, 6 Typical (57%)	Anticipated on 1/15/23	7 - Sped, 5 -Typical (58%)

New Fairfield Public Schools - ELC Sections - 8 Sections

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Class #1 AM	Student	Class #2 AM	Student	Class #3 AM	Student	Class #4 AM	Student
1	Full Day Special Education Student	1	Full Day Special Education Student	1	Full Day Special Education Student	1	Full Day Special Education Student
2	Special Education Student	2	Full Day Special Education Student	2	Full Day Special Education Student	2	Special Education Student
3	Special Education Student	3	Special Education Student	3	Special Education Student	3	Special Education Student
4	Special Education Student	4	Special Education Student	4	Special Education Student	4	Special Education Student
5	Special Education Student	5	Special Education Student	5	Special Education Student	5	Special Education Student
6	Birth to Three Student (December)	6	Special Education Student (not currently registered)	6	Birth to Three Student (November)	6	Parent referral in process, anticipate eligibility by 9/28/22
7	Parent referral, anticipate eligibility by 11/10/22	7	Birth to Three Student (November)	7	HOLD for unanticipated referral	7	Typical Peer (registration and referral in process)
8	ADD'L HOLD for unanticipated referral	8	ADD'L HOLD for unanticipated referral	8	ADD'L HOLD for unanticipated referral	8	ADD'L HOLD for unanticipated referral
9	Registered Typical Peer	9	Registered Typical Peer	9	Registered Typical Peer	9	Registered Typical Peer
10	Registered Typical Peer	10	Registered Typical Peer	10	Registered Typical Peer	10	Registered Typical Peer
11	Registered Typical Peer	11	Registered Typical Peer	11	Registered Typical Peer	11	Registered Typical Peer
12	Registered Typical Peer	12	Registered Typical Peer	12	Typical Peer (from waitlist)	12	Typical Peer (registration in process)
13	Typical Peer (registration in process)	13	Typical Peer (registration in process)	13	Typical Peer (registration in process)	13	Typical Peer (registration in process)
14	ADD TYPICAL	14	ADD TYPICAL	14	ADD TYPICAL	14	ADD TYPICAL
15	ADD TYPICAL	15	ADD TYPICAL	15	ADD TYPICAL	15	ADD TYPICAL
16		16		16		16	
Total 9/8/22	5 Sped, 7 typical (42%)	Total 9/8/22	5 Sped, 7 typical (42%)	Total 9/8/22	5 Sped, 7 typical (42%)	Total 9/8/22	5 Sped, 8 typical (39%)
Anticipated on 1/15/23	7 Sped, 7 typical (50%)	Anticipated on 1/15/2023	7 Sped, 7 typical (50%)	Anticipated on 1/15/2023	6 Sped, 7 typical (46%)	Anticipated on 1/15/2023	7 Sped, 7 typical (50%)
Class #1 PM	Student	Class #2 PM	Student	Class #3 PM	Student	Class #4 PM	Student
1	Full Day Special Education Student	1	Full Day Special Education Student	1	Full Day Special Education Student	1	Full Day Special Education Student
2	Special Education Student	2	Full Day Special Education Student	2	Full Day Special Education Student	2	Special Education Student
3	Special Education Student	3	Special Education Student	3	Special Education Student	3	Special Education Student
4	Special Education Student	4	Birth to Three Student (January)	4	Special Education Student	4	Special Education Student
5	Birth to Three Student (December)	5	Birth to Three Student (February)	5	Move in under referral (September)	5	Move in assuming eligibility (September)
6	Birth to Three Student (May)	6	Typical Peer (referral in process, antic. elig. by 11/22)	6	Birth to Three Student (March)	6	Birth to Three Student (November)
7	Birth to Three Student (June)	7	Typical Peer In referral	7	Birth to Three Student (June)	7	Birth to Three Student (March)
8	Typical In referral	8	HOLD for unanticipated referral	8	HOLD for unanticipated referral	8	HOLD for unanticipated referral
9	Registered Typical Peer	9	Registered Typical Peer	9	Registered Typical Peer	9	Registered Typical Peer
10	Registered Typical Peer	10	Registered Typical Peer	10	Registered Typical Peer	10	Registered Typical Peer
11	Typical Peer (registration in process)	11	Registered Typical Peer	11	Typical Peer (registration in process)	11	Registered Typical Peer
12	Typical Peer (registration in process)	12	Typical Peer (registration in process)	12	Typical Peer (registration in process)	12	Typical Peer (registration in process)
13	ADD TYPICAL	13	ADD TYPICAL	13	ADD TYPICAL	13	ADD TYPICAL
14	ADD TYPICAL	14	ADD TYPICAL	14	ADD TYPICAL	14	ADD TYPICAL
15	ADD TYPICAL	15	ADD TYPICAL	15	ADD TYPICAL	15	ADD TYPICAL
16		16		16		16	
Total on 9/8/22	4 Sped, 8 typical (33%)	Total on 9/8/22	3 Sped, 9 typical (25%)	Total on 9/8/22	4 Sped, 7 typical (36%)	Total on 9/8/22	5 Sped, 7 typical (42%)
Anticipated on 1/15/2023	6 Sped, 7 typical (46%)	Anticipated on 1/15/2023	6 Sped, 7 typical (46%)	Anticipated on 1/15/2023	5 Sped, 7 typical (42%)	Anticipated on 1/15/2023	6 Sped, 7 typical (46%)