

Denton Independent School District
Board of Trustees
Early Childhood Education Update
February 9, 2010

Board Goals:

I. Vision ...

In pursuit of excellence, the district will:

- remain committed to providing equitable and outstanding opportunities for every student on every campus

II. Teaching & Learning...

In pursuit of excellence, the district will:

- expect full curriculum implementation on each campus by instructional leaders
- establish quality staff development programs and promote professional learning communities
- strive to deliver all academic programs through teachers possessing advanced degrees and demonstrable competence in their areas of professional responsibility
- stay abreast of and incorporate best practices into teaching, learning and leadership

Purpose of Report:

To recommend pilot programs from the Pre-School Task Force that could be offered at the Popo and Lupe Gonzalez School for Young Children.

The following recommendations are the result of the Gonzalez Pre-School Task Force's studies and meetings during the past six months, visits to other school districts in the region and input that was received from parent surveys, phone calls and other informational meetings.

Objectives:

To discuss and possibly take action on the "planned" program offerings and the "piloted programs" at the Popo and Lupe Gonzalez School for Young Children.

Overview:

To provide information on the following:

- Recommended program offerings
- Piloted program offerings

Operational Impact:

- The operational impact will be determined after early registrations are conducted in February and March and the regular registrations in April and possibly May.
- The Pre-School Task Force is recommending that the district not pilot the regular Pre-School Education transportation or "transportation for a fee" program in the first year because of the Parent Survey results, the operational impact and budgetary costs.
- The Pre-School Task Force is recommending that the district not pilot the "dual language program" the first year because of the Parent Survey results, the operational impact and budgetary costs.

Results:

The recommended programs are identified and outlined in this report.

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Attachments:

- No. 1 – Popo and Lupe Gonzalez School for Young Children Brochure
- No. 2 - Flyers & Posters for early registration – starting Feb. 20 - for Gonzalez School for Young Children.
- No. 3 – Superintendent’s letter to TEA requesting the “tuition-based” Pre-Kindergarten Program.

Regular Programs for Gonzalez School for Young Children

The Gonzalez Pre-School Task Force recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the “piloting” of the following programs for the 2010-11 school year for the Popo and Lupe Gonzalez School for Young Children:

PPCD (Preschool Program for Children with Disabilities):

- PPCD is a special education program that serves children - between three to five - who have delays in speech, language or physical, social and/or emotional development.
- Eligible students attend this program at no cost to the family.
- PPCD Bilingual (Spanish) classrooms are provided when necessary. The amount of time and type of services provided are determined by an Individual Education Program (IEP) committee. Students are eligible for services on their third birthday – pending tests results and ARD approval.

Pre-Kindergarten Program for 4-year olds:

- This is a state-funded program that serves children who are four years of age on or before Sept. 1
- Students may attend this program free of charge if they meet any of the following criteria:
 - is limited English speaking.
 - qualifies for free or reduced lunch.
 - is an active military dependent.
 - has been with Department of Family and Protective Services.
 - is homeless.

This program follows the State of Texas Pre-School curriculum. This includes: language development, math skills, physical education/motor skill development, art, music and other skills to help them prepare for a successful educational career.

ESL/Bilingual Pre-Kindergarten Program.

- This program is for those students with limited English-speaking abilities.
- They must be four years of age on or before Sept. 1.

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‘Piloted’ Programs for Gonzalez School for Young Children

Pre-Kindergarten Program for 3-year olds:

- This is a state-funded program that serves children who are three years of age on or before Sept. 1
- Students may attend this program free of charge if they meet any of the following criteria:
 - is limited English speaking. (*This would include ESL-Bilingual Pre-Kindergarten classes for three years olds.*)
 - qualifies for free or reduced lunch.
 - is an active military dependent.
 - has been with Department of Family and Protective Services.
 - is homeless.

This program follows the State of Texas Pre-School curriculum. This includes: language development, math skills, physical education/motor skill development, art, music and other skills to help them prepare for a successful educational career.

Pre-School Academy:

- The Pre-School Academy is for 3-year-olds/4-year-olds, whose parents are willing to pay tuition.
- Children who are three- or four-years-old on or before Sept. 1 are eligible to enroll.
- Pre-School Academy - is designed to help children grow academically and physically. Children will discover that learning is fun at this academy where they will follow the State of Texas Pre-School curriculum. This includes: language development, math skills, physical education/motor skill development, art, music and other skills.
- Parents may choose a half-day or full-day program.

Costs of Programs:

Full Day Pre-School Academy: \$600 month for 10 months plus \$75 registration fee and \$30 per semester for supplies.

Half-Day Pre-School Academy: \$340 month for 10 months – plus \$60 registration fee and \$25 per semester for supplies.

Extended School Day Services: \$165 per month plus \$45 registration fee.

* **Pre-K Program:** Free to students who qualify for a half day.

PPCD: Free to students who qualify..

*Those students who qualify for a half-day Pre-K program and want to attend all-day sessions may do so by paying a fee established by the state - for the other half-day session– plus \$60 registration fee and \$25 per semester for supplies.

Extended School Day

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Program Goals

- Provide a nurturing environment designed to foster security, happiness and total child development.
- Located within Gonzalez School for Young Children.
- Offer a flexible program that fits the needs of the students and those of today's busy parents.

Program Operation Information

- Hours: 3 to 6 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. Program operates on school district calendar.
- Costs: \$165 per month for each student.
- Programming: Provides structured activities, in enrichment, academic, recreation and social skills instruction.
- Staffing: Background in early childhood development. Staffing ratio is 1:8, which provides small group instruction to better meet the needs of the students that are being served.

School Hours of Operations

- **Half-day programs:** 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. (morning sessions)
12 p.m. to 3 p.m. (afternoon sessions)
- **Full-day programs:** 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **Extended School Day:** 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

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