

GOVERNING BOARD AGENDA ITEM AMPHITHEATER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 10

DATE OF MEETING: October 3, 2023

TITLE: Early Childhood Education Programs Review

BACKGROUND:

Early childhood education produces many long-term benefits for our children in Amphi. These include the following:

1. <u>Foundation for Lifelong Learning</u>: Early childhood is a critical period for brain development. Quality education during this time establishes a strong foundation for a child's future learning and academic success.

2. <u>Social and Emotional Development</u>: Early education helps children develop essential social and emotional skills. They learn how to interact with peers, manage emotions, and build relationships, which are crucial for their overall well-being.

3. <u>Cognitive Development</u>: Educational activities in early childhood stimulate cognitive development. Children develop problem-solving skills, language abilities, and a love for learning, which can lead to better academic outcomes.

4. <u>Preparation for School</u>: Early childhood education prepares children for kindergarten. It introduces them to routines, classroom environments, and basic academic concepts, reducing the potential for educational gaps.

5. <u>Enhanced Creativity and Imagination</u>: Creative activities in early education foster imagination and creativity, which are valuable skills for problem-solving and innovation later in life.

6. <u>Socialization and Teamwork</u>: It provides opportunities for children to interact with peers, promoting social skills and teamwork, which are essential.

7. <u>Early Identification of Challenges</u>: Teachers and educators in early childhood settings can identify developmental or learning challenges early on and provide appropriate interventions or support.

8. <u>Reduction of Achievement Gaps</u>: Access to high-quality early childhood education can help reduce achievement gaps, particularly among children from disadvantaged backgrounds, promoting greater equality in education.

9. <u>Family Engagement</u>: Early education often involves parents and caregivers, fostering a collaborative relationship between families and schools, which can positively influence a child's educational journey.

10. <u>Community Development</u>: A strong early childhood education system contributes to the overall development of communities by nurturing capable and educated citizens who can contribute to society.

Early childhood education prepares children for academic success and plays a crucial role in their social, emotional, and cognitive development. It sets the stage for a lifetime of learning and has extensive benefits for individuals and society.

This presentation will provide updated information regarding Early Childhood Education in Amphi. It will include the work of our Parents as Teachers (PAT) who serve our families birth-five, our Imagine preschools, and Inclusive preschools. Community partnerships will be updated along with the continued expansion of our workforce development. An overview of the preschool model and supplemental curriculum used in our classrooms will be reviewed.

RECOMMENDATION: This item is presented for the Governing Board's information.

INITIATED BY:

Tassi Call, Associate Superintendent for Elementary Education K-5

Date: September 25, 2023

Todd A. Jaeger, (I.D., Superintendent