



Date: August 18, 2021

To: Board of Directors of Navigator Schools

From: Sharon Waller, Director of Student Services

Subject: Policy for Expanded Transitional Kindergarten Admittance

As Watsonville Prep School launches its first Transitional Kindergarten program, it is important to set clear guidelines for admittance into the lottery for students whose birthdays fall into the Expanded Transitional Kindergarten (ETK) parameters. The attached draft board policy provides criteria for admission, based on a child's ability to independently perform self-care.

It is recommended that the Navigator Schools Board of Directors approve the Expanded Transitional Kindergarten Admittance Policy included in the Consent Agenda for the August 24th board meeting.



Policy for Expanded TK Admittance at Navigator Schools

With the addition of an Expanded Transitional Kindergarten program at Watsonville Prep School and in regards to Education Code 48000(c)(3)(B), the Navigator School Board adopts the following policy for making a determination that admittance into Expanded Transitional Kindergarten (ETK) is in the best interest of a child who reaches four years of age after December 2nd.

The overall Navigator TK program is designed to be developmentally appropriate and evolve its structure and schedule across the year. Therefore, it is the default opinion of the Navigator Board that entry into this program will be in the best interest of almost all students who reach four years of age after December 2nd. However, there may still be some younger children for whom a full day program is not appropriate. In making this determination, the following questions should be considered:

1. Can the younger child independently perform self-care?
2. Can the younger child sustain presence and participation across the full school day?
3. Is the younger child able to appropriately detach from the home caregivers for a full day?
4. Does the younger child have sufficient receptive and expressive abilities (in any language) to benefit from the TK program?

Parents are the foremost experts on their children and their perspective carries significant weight. With the rarest exception, the decision to not enroll a child in Navigator ETK should rest with the family. Therefore, all ETK families will receive information about the opportunities and demands of the Navigator Transitional Kindergarten program repeatedly throughout the application and enrollment process. This will include:

1. A paper notification of opportunities and demands alongside school recruiting materials,
2. A verbal notification and brief discussion of the opportunities and demands with all Expanded TK families at the time of acceptance,
3. A paper notification of opportunities and demands shortly before the start of school, and
4. A verbal notification and brief discussion of the opportunities and demands, as needed, at an orientation shortly before the start of school.

In the event of an irreconcilable disagreement between the school team and the family about the readiness of a young child to participate in Navigator ETK, a case-by-case and final determination will be made by a committee of Navigator leadership including the Director of Student Services, the site principal, and a member of the Educational Leadership Team.

No part of this policy will be allowed to conflict with Navigator's obligations as an LEA to identify and support students with special needs as articulated in the Individual with Disabilities Education Act, specifically Part B, Subpart B, 300.111, "Child Find." Any child whose lack of readiness for ETK is determined to be resulting or potentially resulting from an identified or likely disability should maintain their enrollment with Navigator and begin the student success team process immediately.