

Draft for Board Consideration

January 26, 2021

The Honorable Kevin McCarty
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2136
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 22 (McCarty) - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember McCarty:

The San Mateo – Foster City School District supports AB 22 (McCarty), which would expand access to full school day transitional kindergarten (TK) to all four-year-olds statewide. By removing the birthday window requirement and opening full school day TK to all four-year-olds, AB 22 provides universal access to quality preschool through the public school system as recommended by the state's bold, new Master Plan for Early Learning and Care.

AB 22 builds upon the existing TK program to phase in full-day, universal early learning by providing a year of transitional kindergarten for all four-year-olds while making necessary quality improvements to benefit the state's youngest students and the teachers and staff who educate them. Specifically, AB 22 would create a standard curriculum that bridges the gap between preschool and kindergarten by connecting the Preschool Learning Foundation standards to the kindergarten Common Core State Standards. Importantly, the bill would also lower teacher to student ratios, ensuring that teachers can meaningfully interact with each student.

Finally, by serving four-year-olds in the public school system, AB 22 will allow nearly \$1 billion state preschool program funds that are currently spent on four-year-olds to be used to improve access and quality of programs serving younger children. This will allow more low-income three-year-olds, infants, and toddlers to receive two years of quality early learning to prepare them for kindergarten and beyond. A recent report by the American Institutes for Research shows that the need for care and education among this group is acute.

AB 22 will allow us to improve the school readiness of all children in California by providing transitional kindergarten to all four-year-olds regardless of income. It will increase access to high-quality early care and education for younger children by leveraging *existing* state resources. For these reasons, we strongly SUPPORT AB 22 and request your AYE vote when it comes before you for consideration.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Chin
President of the Governing Board

Joan Rosas, Ed.D.
Superintendent
San Mateo – Foster City School District