

Early Learning Pathway Additional Information

Updated responses for the Board of Education
January 17, 2019



Purpose of the Update

At the School Board's request, provide clarification regarding:

- Common Messaging
- Communication
- Outreach Plans
- Enrollment Procedures and Criteria



How we got to this moment

SMMUSD with Head Start

- SMMUSD opens Head Start in 2001
- Program begins with 293 eligible students
- Program currently serves 118 eligible students

Challenges with Head Start

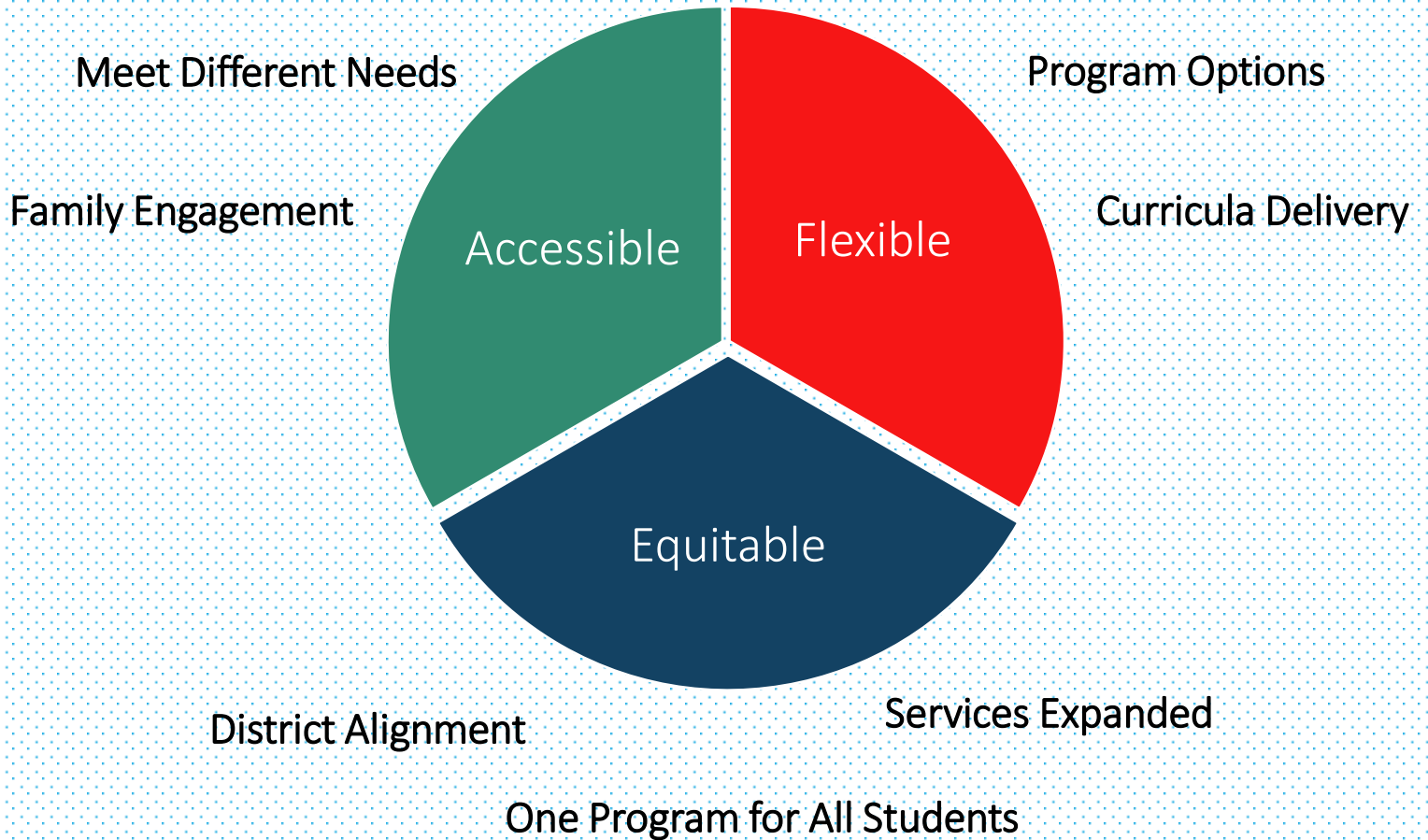
- Declining enrollment in approved service areas
- Head Start students only served in specific classrooms
- Administrative challenges

Funding Requirements

- Grant funding contingent upon enrollment
- EHS is a requirement moving forward
- Five year commitment expected

Our Common Message

SMMUSD programs are:



Communication Plan

Should the school board elect not to renew our contract with LACOE for Head Start, and instead provide funding for an SMMUSD program for students who qualify, the Child Development Services Department will need to provide communication opportunities with our families regarding:

- **Rationale for developing an SMMUSD Early Learning Program**
 - Expanding opportunities for in-depth support services for more students
 - Developing a classroom environment reflective of the economic diversity in our community
 - Continue providing focused learning experiences with district aligned philosophies



Communication Plan

- **Requirements for participation**

- Current SMMUSD residents
- Current Head Start qualified families

- **Services Provided**

- Continuing with same level of service as offered with the Head Start requirements
 - Health, Mental Health, Special Education Support (as needed)
 - Academic Opportunities
 - Family Engagement
 - Community Connections



Outreach Plan

Child Development Services will need to make a concerted effort to reach out to current and prospective families. Outreach plans include:

- Determine which current Head Start families are residents
- Set up individual meetings with all current Head Start families who still have one year remaining in preschool
 - For those who are residents, offer the same type of program (possibly at a different location) with no new paperwork
 - For those who are not residents, connect them with LACOE and/or nearby Head Start programs so they may continue with their final year of Head Start

Outreach Plan

Child Development Services will need to make a concerted effort to reach out to current and prospective families.

Working with our SMMUSD Public Relations Officer, our outreach plans will include:

- Meeting with current community partners
 - *Including WIC, St. Joseph's, FSSM, Community Corps, St. Johns, City of SM, City of Malibu, etc...)*
- Inform partners of district plans to support Santa Monica-Malibu preschool families
- Set up consistent outreach meetings with partners to determine if there are eligible resident families
 - *Develop individual recruitment plans with each organization*

Enrollment Criteria and Procedures

To ensure we provide programming for families who would traditionally qualify for Head Start services, enrollment eligibility will be determined based on guidelines similar to those of Head Start:

- **Families must demonstrate a financial need, based on Federal Guidelines**
 - Families must present finances as part of the application
- **Families must meet the Preschool Age Requirement**
 - Child needs to be three or older by September 1 of the school year



Enrollment Criteria and Procedures

- **Families must be residents of Santa Monica or Malibu***
 - Families must provide residence documentation
 - Families may also be homeless
 - *Families in our local communities who qualify, can still be served at our full day sites
- **Families must meet health requirements**
 - Students must be on track with required immunizations
 - Students need to have had a physical
 - Families must provide allergy information and required medication





Criteria and Procedures for Evaluation

Safeguards to ensure program quality and accountability will come from:

- **Family/Parent Governance team**
- **Early Childhood District Advisory Committee (DAC)**
 - Community representatives serve as a support mechanism and sounding board for programmatic decisions
- **Program Goals and Self-Evaluation (Early Learning SPSA)**
 - Teacher self-evaluations
 - Teacher observations/goal setting
 - CLASS, ECRS, DRDP used as program evaluative tools
- **School Board Monthly Reports and Quarterly reviews**
 - Monthly reports for key components of the program (fiscal, attendance, health, education, etc...)
 - Quarterly School Readiness Outcome reports
 - Bi-annual presentation to the school board

Funding Needs

The anticipated funding costs are based on services needed to emulate the Head Start Model. There will be anticipated revenue, but the fiscal costs are:

Service/Position	Estimated Cost
Certificated Salaries (Teachers, Administrators, Nurse)	\$286,810
Classified Salaries (Assistants, Custodial, Office Staff)	\$344,999
Employee Benefits	\$294,131
Program Operating Costs (Food, Supplies, Utilities, Consultants, Licensing)	\$166,527
Total Expenditures	\$1,092,467



Next Steps...

In order to strengthen the SMMUSD vision for our Early Learning pathway:

- It is recommended that the Board of Education elect not to reapply through LACOE for Head State program funding, and instead, approve the funding to further support an SMMUSD Early Learning program, which provides preschool opportunities to eligible resident families



SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Thank you for your time and
investment in Early Learning!