

## Westlake Charter School

BOARD REPORT  
February 10th, 2022

**TOPIC/ AGENDA ITEM:**

Consent Item: Consider and Receive Universal Prekindergarten and Expanded Learning Opportunities Program Plan

**PERSONNEL INVOLVED:**

Chief Business Officer

**ISSUES INVOLVED/FISCAL IMPLICATIONS (IF ANY):**

*(Note to the reader: A list of acronyms is listed at the end of this brief)*

The 2021–22 State Budget package established the UPK Planning and Implementation Grant Program as a state early learning initiative with the goal of expanding access to prekindergarten programs at LEAs. This grant program provides \$200 million for the CDE to allocate directly to LEAs. Under the provisions of California Education Code (EC) Section 8281.5, grant funds are allocated to LEA's with kindergarten enrollment in specific years, according to a specified formula.

Grant funds may be used:

- For costs associated with creating or expanding CSPP programs, for which WCS does not participate; or
- For costs associated with creating or expanding TK programs, for which WCS also does not participate; or
- To establish or strengthen partnerships with other providers of prekindergarten education, for which our planned use of grant funds will revolve.

As a condition of receiving grant funds, state law requires each LEA to create a plan articulating how all children in the attendance area of the LEA will have access to full-day learning programs the year before kindergarten, including the LEA's own expanded offerings. Interestingly, the attendance area of charter schools is considered to be statewide, as charter schools do not have traditional boundaries similar to a traditional district or COE, so we will focus our plan on how we can use the grant funds to help communicate and improve UPK access within our local community.

As we look to establish or strengthen partnerships with other providers of prekindergarten education, we can begin with a review of costs allowed under this section of the program. Specifically then, allowable costs include, but are not limited to:

planning costs, hiring and recruitment costs, staff training and professional development, classroom materials, supplies, and more.

Westlake Charter School is estimated to receive **\$115,730**, and proposes to use the Grant Funds in alignment with the criteria above. Notably, the school plans to use funds to support: Connecting with local entities that provide services to children the year before eligibility for kindergarten, collaborating with LEA's and support providers, as well as communicating opportunities, which may include City of Sacramento programs or similarly-sponsored programs, to families who might have children eligible for pre-kindergarten.

In addition, the 2021–22 State Budget also established the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELO-P). The intent of the program is that all LEAs offer all unduplicated students in classroom-based instructional programs access to comprehensive afterschool and intersessional expanded learning opportunities. The ELO-P requires LEAs to offer in-person before or after-school expanded learning opportunities that, when added to the core instructional day, are no fewer than nine hours of combined instructional time and expanded learning opportunities per instructional day.

LEAs receiving ELO-P funding must meet certain requirements, which include, but are not limited to, offering a minimum of a nine-hour day for students TK–6 during the school year, providing pupil access, and offering 30 non-school days of programming, such as during summer and intersession periods. Fortunately, when considering our before/after school activities and programs [excluding athletics and other extra-curriculars], we currently offer over 11 hours of support throughout the day. In looking ahead at future budget years, we will continue to monitor our before/after school attendance and participation in activities.

More information on the Universal Prekindergarten Grant and Expanded Learning Opportunities Program can be found here:

- <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gs/em/kinderfaq.asp>, and here
- <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ex/elopinfor.asp>, respectively.

**IMPACT ON SCHOOL MISSION, VISION OR GOALS, (IF ANY):**

Using the Educator Effectiveness funds in this manner supports our strategic vision and professional development goals.

**CHIEF BUSINESS OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:**

The Board is asked to consider and receive the Universal Prekindergarten and Expanded Learning Opportunities Program Plan.

**Acronyms**

UPK: Universal Prekindergarten

TK: Transitional Kindergarten

CSPP: California State Preschool Program

LEA: Local Education Authority

CDE: California Department of Education

ELO-P: Expanded Learning Opportunities - Program