

Info on why LCMSD is not offering TK

Here is a link to TK information from EdSource's website. See #6 for the state's TK requirement in the coming years. There is no TK mandate at this time. I'm sure you could find more information on the California Department of Education's website if you need additional information after reading this:

<https://edsources.org/2022/10-things-california-parents-should-know-about-transitional-kindergarten/682477#:~:text=Both%20TK%20and%20kindergarten%20are,or%20keep%20them%20at%20home.>

Also, here is communication from our Superintendent which explains the decision rationale for the 2022-23, 2023-24 school year and 2024-25:

LCMSD prides itself in our commitment to every student, every day. This means we strive to make sure every student is known, challenged, supported, and respected. With that, we provide classroom experiences to support a full range of learners and push all to 1+ years growth. Additionally, we provide rich experiences such as art, music, dedicated PE teachers, and a wide array of elective choices for our middle school students.

These commitments are greatly supported by our community through the parcel tax, SPARK, and PTO/A. Community funding is what takes a great district to new heights. As you may, or may not know, LCMSD is designated as a Basic Aid district. About 10% of all school districts in California are also deemed this as our property taxes meet/exceed the minimum per pupil expenditure as defined by the state. The other 90% of districts are LCFF funded, which means they rely on state funding in addition to their property taxes to meet this minimum per pupil requirement.

When transitional kindergarten was announced by Governor Newsom, it was said to be funded. We have since learned that the funding is only guaranteed for LCFF districts, not Basic Aid. There are different variations of Basic Aid. For example, Laguna Beach is what many would define as deep Basic Aid since their property taxes significantly exceed this threshold, while LCMSD is barely Basic Aid as we are very close to the cut off.

Unfortunately, over the years LCMSD has been deficit budgeting and has been faced with ongoing fiscal challenges to meet the costs of our current programming. The one-time funding from the state has helped delay some of these issues from the current year to next year, but our pattern of deficit budgeting continues. **Since there is no additional funding for LCMSD to add this additional grade level, we have made the very difficult decision to not offer TK for 2022-23. (and this has applied to 2023-24 and now 2024-25 school year)**

There are Basic Aid advocate groups who are pushing the Governor to fund this program. Should they be successful and/or if another funding source is provided, we will revisit this decision. Some Basic Aid districts will be able to afford TK since their property tax greatly exceeds the threshold set by the state; however, we are not in that group.

I am sorry that this is my first communication to many of you. We see the benefits of TK and it pains us to make this decision in light of the new information regarding the lack of state funding.