

PIEDMONT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Randall Booker, Superintendent
Cheryl Wozniak, Assistant Superintendent

DATE: February 9, 2022

RE: **ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION 5111: ADMISSION**

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Board of Education approved revisions to Administrative Regulation 5111 Admission on October 13, 2021. These revisions included the establishment of birthday cut-off dates for admission to Kindergarten and 1st Grade in accordance with the following Education Code:

“At the beginning of each school year, the Superintendent or designee shall enroll any otherwise eligible child into Kindergarten only if they will have their fifth birthday on or before September 1 of that year and into First Grade only if they will have their 6th birthday on or before September 1 of that year (Education Code [48000](#), [48010](#)).”

The Board of Education requested to review this administrative regulation, and at the Board meeting on January 26, 2022, Dr. Cheryl Wozniak, Assistant Superintendent, presented the previous Board policy language for AR 5111, new language for AR 5111 adopted in October, 2021, and the following information for the Board to consider:

- Elementary principals report that they have not experienced a problem with “redshirting.”
- Parents made decisions for next fall based on the previous language in AR 5111.
- Transitional Kindergarten is being rolled out in phases and this adds another layer to navigating the Administrative Regulation at this point in time.

The Board directed the District administration to develop language that allowed the greatest amount of flexibility for families and school sites. The District had planned to bring to the Board for consideration a draft of new language that was similar to

the previous language in AR 5111 along with clarifying language related to the rollout of Universal Transition Kindergarten.

On January 26, 2022, the third reading of Senate Bill 70 Elementary Education: Kindergarten, passed in the Senate. If SB 70 is signed into law by Governor Newsom, this will mean compulsory education in California will begin at 5 years old and Kindergarten will become mandatory. This new language will restrict the District's ability to provide the degree of flexibility that School Board members requested at the previous Board meeting; therefore, this item is being placed on the Board agenda for additional information and discussion.

II. SUPPORT INFORMATION

Rationale for SB-70: Since kindergarten is not mandatory, students that do not attend kindergarten miss fundamental instruction putting them at a disadvantage when they enter first grade. Since the Education Code allows parents to delay their child's entrance into school until the first grade, students may be unprepared for the educational environment they will encounter in elementary school.

According to the National Education Association, research has shown that kindergartners who miss 10% or more school days have lower academic performance when they reach the first grade. The impact is even greater and more detrimental for students who do not attend kindergarten at all and miss an entire academic school year.

Concerns have been raised about the opportunity gap being heightened by school closures due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Experts report that now more than ever, kindergarten attendance is necessary to ensure all students receive critical early instruction to help avoid falling behind. Those supporting Senate Bill 70 believe that requiring kindergarten attendance will ensure students are well prepared, set them on track to learn at grade-level pace, and help avoid students falling behind.

III. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

Dr. Cheryl Wozniak, Assistant Superintendent, will present the amendments made to SB-70 Elementary Education: Kindergarten, the restrictions this places on the District to make revisions to Administrative Regulation 5111: Admission, and the District's interpretation of how this will impact families with children planning to enroll their children in Kindergarten and First Grade for the 2022-23 school year.