



May 9, 2024

Via: *Electronic Submittal: <https://csm.ca.gov/dropbox.shtml>*

Gayle Miller, Chairperson
Commission on State Mandates
980 9th Street, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95814

RECEIVED
May 6, 2024
*Commission on
State Mandates*

Revised May 9, 2024

Re: Transitional Kindergarten Program, 23-TC-02

Position: Support

Dear Ms. Miller:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Huntington Beach City School District to express our support for the test claim: Transitional Kindergarten Program, 23-TC-02, scheduled for consideration by the Commission on State Mandates on November 22, 2024.

As California progresses into the second year of phasing in universal transitional kindergarten (UTK), by the 2025-26 school year, all local educational agencies (LEAs) are expected to provide transitional kindergarten (TK) to all children reaching four years of age by September 1 of each year. The state supports this initiative by rebenching Proposition 98 with General Fund allocations to include the growing population of TK students, having provided nearly \$1 billion over the last two fiscal years, with projected annual costs increasing to approximately \$2.7 billion upon full implementation.

While state support underscores a strong commitment to fund UTK, the current funding distribution methodology does not cover community-funded districts like ours. Despite the state's explicit directive for all districts to offer TK, our community-funded district does not receive the necessary funding to implement this critical grade level, effectively making it an unfunded mandate.

Moreover, the Huntington Beach City School District is proactively working toward implementing TK to align with state goals despite the financial challenges posed by the absence of dedicated state funding. This commitment to early childhood education, crucial for the developmental needs of our youngest learners, highlights the necessity for equitable funding solutions.

The requirement for community-funded districts to implement UTK without corresponding financial support clearly constitutes a new program or higher level of service imposed on LEAs, creating a significant financial burden. The state's expectation for universal implementation, paired with a funding mechanism that excludes districts like ours, exemplifies this unfunded mandate.

Therefore, we strongly support the test claim initiated by the Hope Elementary School District and the Sunnyvale School District. Without a favorable decision from the Commission on this claim, districts like ours will be compelled to divert resources from other vital educational programs to fulfill this mandate.

We urge the Commission staff to recommend approval of this test claim and for the Commission members to acknowledge the necessity of this funding during the upcoming hearing. Implementing TK is a substantial commitment that promises significant educational benefits, and it is imperative that all districts receive the support required to offer this program successfully.

Thank you for considering our position on this crucial issue.

A. Certification

I certify by my signature below, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California, that the statements made in this document are true and complete to the best of my own personal knowledge or based on information and belief and that I am authorized and competent to do so.

May 9, 2024



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cc: Members and Staff, Commission on State Mandates

DECLARATION OF SERVICE BY EMAIL

I, the undersigned, declare as follows:

I am a resident of the County of Sacramento and I am over the age of 18 years, and not a party to the within action. My place of employment is 980 Ninth Street, Suite 300, Sacramento, California 95814.

On May 29, 2024, I served the:

- **Current Mailing List dated May 28, 2024**
- **Mercy Anyika, Hope School District Comments on the Test Claim filed May 13, 2024 revised May 20, 2024**
- **Jamie and Jayson Poe, Parents, Hope School District Comments on the Test Claim filed May 10, 2024 revised May 20, 2024**
- **Meg Kailikole, Business Manager, Mendocino Unified School District Comments on the Test Claim filed May 9, 2024 revised May 20, 2024**
- **Jason Morse, Superintendent, Mendocino Unified School District Comments on the Test Claim filed May 9, 2024 revised May 20, 2024**
- **Jammie Behrendt, Associate Superintendent, Menlo Park City School District Comments on the Test Claim filed May 9, 2024 revised May 20, 2024**
- **Sharon Burns, Principal, Menlo Park City School District Comments on the Test Claim filed May 9, 2024 revised May 20, 2024**
- **Marites Fermin, Chief Business Officer, Menlo Park City School District Comments on the Test Claim filed May 9, 2024 revised May 20, 2024**
- **Chana Stewart, Director of the Early Learning Center, Menlo Park City School District Comments on the Test Claim filed May 9, 2024 revised May 20, 2024**
- **Katherine Strach, Menlo Park City School District Comments on the Test Claim filed May 9, 2024 revised May 20, 2024**
- **Matt Dunkle, Superintendent, Forestville Union School District Comments on the Test Claim filed April 30, 2024 revised May 17, 2024**
- **Corey Josenhans, Parent, Hope School District Comments on the Test Claim filed May 13, 2024 revised May 17, 2024**
- **Lilly Josenhans, Parent, Hope School District Comments on the Test Claim filed May 13, 2024 revised May 17, 2024**
- **Tim Reinauer, Parent, Hope School District Comments on the Test Claim filed May 13, 2024 revised May 16, 2024**

- **Jimmy Monreal, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, Santa Cruz City Schools District Comments on the Test Claim filed May 10, 2024 revised May 15, 2024**
- **Ronan Collver, Superintendent, Brisbane School District Comments on the Test Claim filed May 1, 2024 revised May 14, 2024**
- **Meredyth Hudson, Assistant Superintendent of Business, Campbell Union High School District Comments on the Test Claim filed May 6, 2024 revised May 14, 2024**
- **Leisa Winston, Superintendent, Huntington Beach City School District Comments on the Test Claim filed May 6, 2024 revised May 9, 2024**

Transitional Kindergarten Program, 23-TC-02

Statutes 2021, Chapter 44, Section 60 (AB 130);

Education Code Section 48000, Effective July 9, 2021

Hope Elementary School District and Sunnyvale School District, Claimants

by making it available on the Commission's website and providing notice of how to locate it to the email addresses provided on the attached mailing list.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct, and that this declaration was executed on May 29, 2024 at Sacramento, California.



Jill Magee

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COMMISSION ON STATE MANDATES

Mailing List

Last Updated: 5/28/24

Claim Number: 23-TC-02

Matter: Transitional Kindergarten Program

Claimants: Hope Elementary School District
Sunnyvale School District

TO ALL PARTIES, INTERESTED PARTIES, AND INTERESTED PERSONS:

Each commission mailing list is continuously updated as requests are received to include or remove any party or person on the mailing list. A current mailing list is provided with commission correspondence, and a copy of the current mailing list is available upon request at any time. Except as provided otherwise by commission rule, when a party or interested party files any written material with the commission concerning a claim, it shall simultaneously serve a copy of the written material on the parties and interested parties to the claim identified on the mailing list provided by the commission. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 1181.3.)

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