

**Resolution Of The Board Of Trustees Of The
Alum Rock Union Elementary School District
Re: The Equitable And Fair Distribution Of California Prekindergarten Planning And
Implementation Grant Program Funds For The Prekindergarten School Children In Our Public
School District**

RESOLUTION #37-21/22

WHEREAS, the Alum Rock Union Elementary School District (“District”) is one of the largest elementary school districts in the City of San José and County of Santa Clara, serving more than 8,000 students;

WHEREAS, The District serves some of the most economically challenged communities in the County with more than 73.8% of students enrolled in District schools identifying as low income (measured by Free/Reduced Lunch eligibility), English Learner, and Foster Youth;

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees finds that the early education of children in our community is essential to providing a 21st century education and to providing the learning and skills essential to succeed and compete in the global community, and essential to improving educational outcomes of children in our community;

WHEREAS, beginning in 2015 the District made a policy decision to begin investing some of the District’s resources in the development of education services and programming for 4-year old children in our community who were not yet eligible for enrollment in kindergarten;

WHEREAS, the District’s decision to allocate resources to early pre-kindergarten education came at a time when statewide funding for such programs was not yet widely available, but was seen by the Board of Trustees as a critical and necessary investment in the children in our community;

WHEREAS, the District offers pre-kindergarten programs and kindergarten programs at 17 separate District schools serving more than 1,100 children in our community;

WHEREAS, in July 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom and the State Legislature established the Prekindergarten Planning And Implementation Grant Program (the “Pre-kindergarten Grant Program”) with the goal of expanding access to classroom-based prekindergarten programs at local educational agencies;

WHEREAS, the Pre-kindergarten Grant Program includes a base grant to be paid to each “local educational agency” (“LEA”) based on the LEA’s kindergarten enrollment for the 2021-2022, and also “enrollment grants” and a “supplemental grants”;

WHEREAS, the Pre-kindergarten Grant Program defines a “local educational agency” to include “a school district”, a county office of education, or a “charter school”;

WHEREAS, the District has been informed by the California Department of Education that the District’s total grant under the Pre-kindergarten Grant Program for 2021 is \$319,556.00 to be utilized throughout 17 school sites in the District;

WHEREAS, the definition of “local educational agency” in the Pre-kindergarten Grant Program means that a charter school operator in our District community with fewer schools and fewer students than the District receives more grant funding than the District to provide the same educational services;

WHEREAS, in demonstration of that point, the 2021 Universal Prekindergarten Planning & Implementation Grant Allocations released by the State show that a charter school operator within the District with fewer students and fewer kindergarten classes and with just four schools within the District has received grant funding of \$368,934, *which is 15% more than the grant received by the District in connection with the Pre-kindergarten Grant Program*;

WHEREAS, in further demonstration of that point, based on the Pre-kindergarten Grant Program funding formula the charter school operator receives nearly \$1,000 per student, whereas the District receives only about \$290.00 per student;

WHEREAS, the funding formula in the Pre-kindergarten Grant Program including, specifically, the definition of “local educational agency”, results in the inequitable distribution of Program funds and disadvantages children in the District schools and results in District schools receiving significantly lower resources per site and on a per-pupil basis.

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of Trustees of the Alum Rock Union Elementary School District does hereby find, resolve and determine that the Pre-kindergarten Grant Program adopted by the State has resulted in the inequitable distribution of Program grant funds for children attending District schools per District school site and on a per-pupil basis;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Trustees finds that the Pre-kindergarten Grant Program funding criteria adopted by the State disadvantages the children of the District’s schools and the District by allocating Program funding away from some of the neediest students and families in our District and by disproportionately favoring charter school operators within the District community;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Trustees does hereby call upon the California State Legislature and Governor Gavin Newson to correct and amend the Pre-

kindergarten Grant Program so that funding is provided on a more equitable basis for the protection of District students and families and for the protection of all public school district students and families;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Trustees does hereby call upon the California Department of Education, the California State Legislature and Governor Gavin Newsom to direct more supplemental funding to the District and similarly situated public school districts for the purpose of enhancing such public school districts' abilities to provide access to high quality classroom-based prekindergarten programs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Trustees does hereby call upon Governor Gavin Newsom, Superintendent of Public Schools Tony Thurmond, the California State Legislature and the California Department of Education to rectify the inequitable distribution of public funds affecting students in our public school districts and to ensure that all state school and program funding is equitably distributed between public school districts and charter schools for the protection and benefit of students attending schools in California's public school districts;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Trustees does hereby direct the District Superintendent to send a copy of this Resolution to Governor Gavin Newsom, to all members of the California Senate Standing Committee on Education, to all members of the California Assembly Committee on Education, and to all members of the California State Assembly and California State Senate representing all or any portion of Santa Clara County encouraging and requesting their support for the resolutions and measures outlined herein.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Trustees of the Alum Rock Union Elementary School District, Santa Clara County, State of California, on March 10, 2022, by the following vote:

Ayes: ____ Noes: ____ Abstain: ____ Absent: ____

Clerk of the Governing Board

Date: March 10, 2022