

**District Advisory Committee  
Board of Education Annual End-of-Year Written Report  
2022-2023**

**EARLY CARE AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Administrator Co-chairperson: Susan Samarge-Powell, Ed.D**

**Co-chairperson: Ben Swett**

The purpose of the Early Child Care DAC is to provide a forum for discussion and support for all the early learning programs in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. The DAC promotes advancing the work of the school district to support children from birth through eight years old.

**Equity and Excellence begins with Early Learning in SMMUSD!**

**Charges:**

**Charge 1 – (Services)** The DAC will review potential resources and services available and accessible in the community to provide a robust early care and out of school time programs including the Infant Toddler Center (ITC), all Preschool programs, School Age Programs, and Transitional Kindergarten.

**Charge 2 – (Data)** The DAC will consider the data being gathered from all early learning environments, including ITC, Preschool, Transitional Kindergarten, Kindergarten, and School Age Programs. The DAC will review the data collected to look for trends in early learning in SMMUSD, and to offer suggestions for best practices.

**Charge 3 – (General Program Operation)** The DAC will assist in the process of identifying opportunities for continuously improving the early learning and out of school time programs, the delivery of services within the programs in SMMUSD and the ways in which we outreach to the community regarding program enrollment.

**Accomplishments for the year:**

The greatest strength of our DAC is that the members involved have a strong interest in ensuring the success of our SMMUSD early learning programs. Our accomplishments are wrapped up in the continued connections we provide for all stakeholders to understand why early learning is the cornerstone of student success. The accomplishments of this DAC include providing thoughtful feedback to all presented information from district staff, and asking questions to best guide the administrative team to fully support students, families, and staff involved in early learning in SMMUSD.

**Highlight(s) of Particular note:**

- Our programs served **OVER 700 students, including:** 22 Infants/Toddlers, 189 preschoolers, and about 500 TK-3<sup>rd</sup> graders (in our before and after school care programs).
- Our DAC members created outreach opportunities and we have maintained and strengthened community connections, including with the Council of PTAs, SMC, City of Santa Monica, Early Childhood Wellbeing Project, Early Childhood Task Force, and Cradle to Career
- The school board has been steadfast in its support and has worked to provide ways to ensure Child Development Services can remain as stable as possible. In addition, the school board has been vocal about wanting both strong TK programs *and* strong preschool programs for students in SMMUSD.

**Possible Charges for 2023-24 (to be reviewed by co-chairs & board liaison(s) prior to coming to board for approval in the fall):**

- Continue to research and discuss Universal Prekindergarten integration opportunities including ITC, Preschool, and Transitional Kindergarten.
- Serve as a think tank to explore expanded staffing opportunities to regrow programs.
- Explore the best avenues to maintain stable fiscal support even with variances of outside factors.

**Budgetary Implications:**

The SMMUSD Board of Education deserves recognition for their steady support of **Equity and Excellence beginning with Early Learning in SMMUSD!**

Our funding allows us to provide equitable support to **ALL** students enrolled in our Child Development Services programs.

The DAC is excited to continue our partnership with the staff and Board of Education, and look forward to being able to continue these services with your support moving forward.