



## SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS RELEASE

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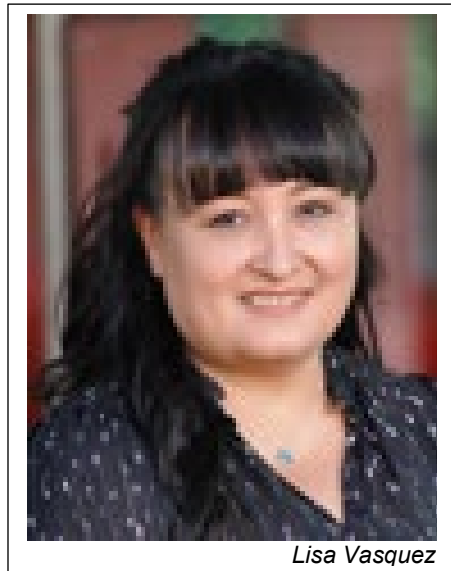
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
April 29, 2025

### **Lisa Vasquez Named New Assistant Director, Child Development Services**

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) Board of Education approved the appointment of Lisa Vasquez as the assistant director, Child Development Services (CDS), at its April 3, 2025, regular board meeting.

In this role, Vasquez will contribute to the leadership of CDS, which provides a comprehensive range of early learning services within SMMUSD. These services span from the infant-toddler center through preschool, support expanded transitional kindergarten programs, and offer before- and after-school care for students in transitional kindergarten through fifth grade in Santa Monica.

Vasquez brings more than 25 years of experience in early childhood education to SMMUSD. She most recently served for nine years as an early childhood education director at the private Stratford School. Prior to that, she was the early education site supervisor and mentor at the USC Children's Creative Learning Center for five years. Her earlier career included experience as a master lead teacher and substitute kindergarten teacher.



*Lisa Vasquez*

"I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to join SMMUSD," said Vasquez. "I look forward to contributing and collaborating with the Child Development Services team to provide quality care and connection with students, families and staff. It is an honor to be part of a distinguished institution."

Vasquez holds a bachelor's degree in liberal studies with an emphasis on elementary education and a master's degree in education with a special emphasis on early childhood, both from the University of La Verne. She also holds all required certifications, permits, and training, including First Aid, CPR, and AED.



*Board members, Superintendent Dr. Antonio Shelton, CDS Director Dr. Susan Samarge-Powell, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Stacy Williamson with Lisa Vasquez*

“I would like to welcome Ms. Vasquez to our management team,” said Superintendent Dr. Antonio Shelton. “Her experience and commitment toward ensuring our youngest learners have a good educational start make her a bright addition to our early learning pathway team.”

Vasquez's appointment follows the upcoming retirement of Monica Simon, the current coordinator for SMMUSD school-age programs, who has dedicated 35 years to the district, including 22 years in her current role.

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