



# 2020 EARLY LEARNING TOUR SAN DIEGO USD TK 4 PROGRAM

## DISTRICT PROFILE

San Diego Unified School District (District) is the second largest district in California and the eighth largest district in the United States. It is home to the largest military installation in the nation, creating unique demands on its educational programs, including its Early Learning program.

As one of California’s largest direct contractors, the District operates a robust Early Learning program continuum. The District offers services through the California State Preschool Program (CSPP), Early Childhood Special Education, and General Child Care focused primarily on school-age children. In total, the District serves 1,600 children across these programs.

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

In the fall of 2019, the District began planning for the implementation of a high-quality, district-administered, comprehensive, and cohesive program designed to serve four-year-old children in the community with the ultimate goal of achieving a universal prekindergarten experience for all.

The District successfully launched its TK 4 Program a year later, even amidst the challenges of COVID-19. While many districts across the state experienced precipitous drops in their Transitional Kindergarten (TK) and kindergarten enrollments, demand for the TK 4 Program was substantially greater than its initial capacity developed during the pilot year. With over 2,500 interest and intent requests, the District’s TK 4 Program is one of California’s bright spots, particularly during such gloomy times spawned by the COVID-19 health crisis that has shaken the roots of education.

SAN DIEGO USD FACTS	
Total Enrollment	122,916
Total State Funding	\$1.3 billion
Total Federal Funding	\$105 million
Spending per Student	\$14,276
Unduplicated Pupil Percentage (district disadvantage %)	60.6%
% English Learners	21.1%
% FRPM Students	58.5%

TK 4 PROGRAM FAST FACTS	
Total Program Demand	2,500
Total Program Capacity	1,000
Number of Schools	55
Number of Classrooms	62
Average Class Size	24
Average Class Ratios (Teacher-to-Student)	1:8
Number of Credentialed Teachers	1
Number of ECE Permit Teachers	2 or more

## PROGRAM DESIGN

Differences in California laws and regulations that govern TK and CSPP, both of which serve 4-year-old children, create disincentives, if not impediments, for districts to design a single, coherent, comprehensive, high-quality prekindergarten experience for all 4-year-olds in their communities. Examples of critical programmatic differences are noted in the chart below.

	TK	CSPP
<b>Teacher Qualifications</b>	BA + teaching credential	16 units + 175 hours of teaching
<b>Class Ratios</b>	Maximum 24-to-1	Maximum 8-to-1
<b>Required Program Evaluation</b>	None	Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP)
<b>Funding Sources/Amount* annual per student</b>	LCFF: \$8,503	SRR: \$5,402

\*Approximately 80% of district-administered CSPP programs are part-day, so we use the part-day Standard Reimbursement Rate (SRR). The Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) Base Grant is the same for both part-day and full-day TK.



Despite these programmatic differences, the District set off to ensure that every 4-year-old it serves will receive the same high-quality prekindergarten experience with quality teachers to help them prepare for future academic and life success.

Instead of seeing the disparate requirements of TK and CSPP as barriers, the TK 4 Program leverages the quality elements from these programs and blends them to create a seamless educational program for 4-year-olds in the San Diego community. A fully credentialed teacher works in collaboration with at least one Early Learning permitted teacher and, when necessary, additional paraeducators who specialize in

supporting other student needs. These collaborations not only aid the teachers in the classroom, they have the added benefit of ensuring that the students receive the attention they need during a critical time in their development. The TK 4 Program uses a district-developed TK alignment framework that bridges the kindergarten Common Core State Standards and California’s Early Learning Foundation Standards. This curricular bridge acknowledges the social-emotional and developmental needs of 4-year-olds while helping them prepare for the academic road ahead. Because the District must maintain compliance with both TK and CSPP, the TK 4 Program continues to conduct DRDP evaluations of all students. These evaluations, which must be conducted at least twice annually, help teachers identify the academic and developmental needs of each of their students, as well as inform adjustments to instructional strategies and curriculum design. The TK 4 Program is part of the District’s integrated model that works in collaboration with the District’s Office of Language Acquisition, giving dual language and emerging bilingual students the linguistic, cultural, and academic support they need to learn and thrive. The District takes great pride in providing its full inclusion Early Childhood Special Education Program to support all students.

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