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Board Cover Memorandum

To Board of Education

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Meeting Date March 11, 2026

Subject Board Update: 5th Progress Report, Fiscal Stabilization Transitional Kindergarten Hub Strategy and Implementation Update

Ask of the Board Receive this Board Update on the District’s Transitional Kindergarten (TK) Hub Strategy and phased implementation plan as part of OUSD’s broader fiscal stabilization, enrollment, and early learning access work. No Board action is requested at this time.

Background Oakland Unified School District is expanding its Transitional Kindergarten (TK) Hub model as part of the District’s broader fiscal stabilization and enrollment strategy. This work builds on early pilot efforts at Kaiser Elementary and the Hintil campus, which demonstrated that when early learners are served in purpose-designed environments with dedicated staff, aligned systems, and strong family engagement, students thrive and families respond positively. The District is now shifting from pilot implementation to intentional expansion in order to extend the benefits of this model to additional communities across Oakland.

The TK Hub strategy responds to two conditions currently facing the District. First, many neighborhood schools are at or near capacity and do not have the physical space to add a TK classroom without displacing existing instructional space. Second, the District has underutilized capacity at selected campuses that can be strategically leveraged to expand early learning access. The hub model allows OUSD to operate centralized TK programs within active school campuses so that families from capacity-constrained schools can still access high-quality TK programming while maintaining stability at existing K–5 schools.

This work also aligns with the Board’s fiscal stabilization direction. The TK hub expansion was outlined in Scenario 3 and is also a key element of Phase 3 of the District’s fiscal stabilization implementation plan, specifically to expand enrollment by developing TK hubs in underutilized campuses. In this context, TK hubs are

intended to improve early access for families, strengthen kindergarten readiness, increase neighborhood capture, contribute to long-term enrollment stability in increase the revenue to the school district's General Fund, which is largely driven by two factors: Enrollment and Average Daily Attendance.

Discussion

The TK Hub strategy is designed to advance both student-centered and fiscal goals. From an academic perspective, the District's early childhood approach is grounded in safe, engaging, play-based learning environments that support physical, emotional, social, creative, and intellectual growth. The presentation to the Board highlights that high-quality TK programs improve early literacy and math readiness, strengthen social-emotional development, improve attendance and school engagement, and can reduce the need for later interventions, including remediation and special education services.

From an access and enrollment perspective, the TK hub model provides a solution for families whose neighborhood schools cannot add TK due to space limitations. Rather than limiting access at those sites, the District can create regional hubs on campuses with available capacity and launch coordinated early learning programming. This allows families to access TK through a nearby hub while retaining neighborhood priority, sibling priority, and continuing student priority for their home school. The District currently has strong unmet demand in several attendance areas, including high-demand schools such as Chabot, Peralta, Cleveland, Crocker, Hillcrest, Thornhill, Montclair, and Laurel.

The current implementation plan contemplates expansion in phases. For 2026–27, the District is advancing additional TK classrooms through existing and expanded hubs, including Burbank, Hintil, Kaiser, Carl B. Munck, and an additional hub location in the Crocker/Cleveland area, still under discussion.

Fiscal Impact

Implementation of the TK Hub strategy is projected to **generate approximately \$1.1 million in net additional unrestricted LCFF revenue** after programmatic expenses are covered, helping support the District's broader fiscal stabilization efforts and ongoing deficit reduction work. In addition, there will be additional restricted funds that are generated by Title 1, ELOP and other restricted resources that are enrollment-driven. Program costs will be supported through a braided funding model that includes LCFF, the TK Add-On, Supplemental Grant funding, and Oakland Children's Initiative support, with site readiness costs funded separately through identified facilities and capital sources.

Attachment(s)

- Presentation: 3.11.2026 Update 5-Fiscal Stabilization + TK Hub Strategy