

Access to Preschool

[New]

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

Early Childhood Education

This Memorandum of Agreement is by and between the Board of Education, Independent School District No. 625 (hereinafter “District”); and the Saint Paul Federation of Teachers, Local No. 28 (hereinafter “Federation”) exclusive representative for teachers. It is entered into for the sole purpose of establishing the expectations for District programming for preschool age children.

The District and the Federation agree that access to high-quality Pre-K for all children in St. Paul is one of the most significant steps that can be taken to close the racial opportunity gap.

To that end, the parties have agreed to the following:

1. Beginning with the 2018-19 school year, the Saint Paul Public Schools will offer Pre-K as an option to all children residing in the district who are at least four (4) years old by September 1 of the year in which a school year begins.
2. Pre-K classes will be staffed with licensed teachers and appropriate paraprofessional support, maintaining a ratio of one (1) adult to nine (9) students at all times including naps, outdoor time, and staff breaks as per the recommendations of National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) Implementation Guidelines.
3. Pre-K class sizes will not exceed 18 per the limits agreed to by the parties.
4. Pre-K classrooms will be at least 1000-1,400 square feet, and shall include bathroom(s) and clothing storage areas. Additional spaces for eating and indoor and outdoor large-muscle activities will be provided. Classrooms will be located on the first floor, convenient to outdoor exit and play areas, and bus/parent drop-off and pick-up zones. Classrooms should contain or be readily accessible to a hand washing area and a drinking fountain. Pre-K classrooms should be clustered with common spaces for student activities, teacher planning and parent volunteers.
5. Pre-K classrooms should be equipped with age-appropriate toys, portable tables and stackable chairs, portable equipment with wheels, adjustable shelving and bookcases, easels, counter workspace, a sink with hot and cold

running water, a carpeted storytelling/ reading area, and the ability to easily darken the room. In addition, classrooms should have adequate storage spaces for supplies, toys, and equipment, including large muscle equipment.

6. Pre-K curriculum requires a significant amount of materials and organization. In order to allow time to effectively change units and create intentional and appropriate environments, Pre-K teachers will be compensated at regular pay (annual salary divided by 187) for up to 4 hours per month of classroom work outside of the duty day.
7. In order to minimize the spread of disease, Pre-K classrooms will have access to hot water and cleaning materials to clean toys and surfaces. In addition, any bedding must be in good condition and easily disinfected on a weekly basis.
8. All schools with Montessori programs shall have the option to offer a Children's House program serving students beginning at age three (3).
9. The Saint Paul Federation of Teachers Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) will, pursuant to its professional development contract with the District, provide professional development for home- and center-based daycare and preschool providers in St. Paul. This training will be for the purpose of assisting providers in aligning their work with children to SPPS kindergarten readiness targets. This training will be paid for through the District's two (2) percent set-aside under Minn. Stat. 122A.61 and through other such funds as the District shall provide. The model for this professional development will be the existing Parent Teacher Home Visit Project (PTHVP) model whereby Federation educators conduct training alongside community based childcare and daycare providers who have collaborated on the development of the curriculum with trainers from the Federation in order to ensure the training is relevant to the providers to be served. This training will be delivered without cost to individual providers.

[Signatures]