



# Pacifica School District

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*Preparing Students for an Evolving World*

www.pacificasd.org

## MEMORANDUM

*Integrated Services and Human Resources*

Meeting of:

3/8/17

**TO:** Wendy S. Tukloff, Ed.D., Superintendent  
For Board of Trustees

**FROM:** Ray Avila, Associate Superintendent

**SUBJECT:** 2017-2018 Kindergarten Lottery Review

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### Background

Each February, the District holds a Kindergarten Lottery to place students when there are more requests for a particular school than the school has openings. As of February 17, 2017, the date of the 2017/18 Kindergarten Lottery, 301 kindergarten and 56 transitional kindergarten enrollment cards were received. This time last year, 329 kindergarten and 36 transitional kindergarten enrollment cards were received. The District makes priority placements prior to the lottery being held. A priority placement can be for one of the following reasons: (1) a current Kindergartner being retained in Kindergarten for the upcoming school year, (2) a sibling of an incoming Kindergartner who is currently enrolled when the Kindergartner begins attendance, and (3) children of full-time (.75-1.0FTE) employees of the District.

Two sites were involved in a lottery for first choices. Cabrillo School, with 60 kindergarten openings, had 76 first choice requests that included priority placements and new families. Ocean Shore, with 48 kindergarten openings, had 56 first choice requests. Ortega, Sunset Ridge and Vallemar had openings for all priority placements and new families who had requested that site before the lottery.

In order to protect student privacy, the District continued the use of ping-pong balls with numbers matching the numbers on student's enrollment cards. Following District procedure, after drawing for the available Cabrillo and Ocean Shore openings, the remaining numbered balls continued to be drawn to create the waitlists. The cards that corresponded to the numbered ping-pong balls were then sorted by second choice and students were placed at their second then third and then fourth choice school where space was available.

After modifying the staffing for the upcoming school year, the District has a current capacity for 312 kindergartners. 3 kindergarten spaces district-wide have been reserved for possible retentions.

Of the 301 kindergarten applicants, 277 students received their first choice school, of which 159 participated in the lottery, resulting in a 92% first choice placement rate. Sixteen students are on the waitlist for Cabrillo and seven are on the waitlist for Ocean Shore.

The following chart shows the distribution of the 2017/18 kindergarten enrollments:

School	Capacity	Priority Placements (Siblings + Continuing Kdgs)	# openings available for new families (Capacity - Priority)	1st Choice Cards Submitted	Openings Available after placing 1 <sup>st</sup> choice	Openings Available after placing waitlisted students
Cabrillo	60	17	43	59	0 (waitlist of 16)	0 (waitlist of 16)
Ocean Shore	48	17	31	39	0 (waitlist of 7)	0 (waitlist of 7)
Ortega	72	37	35	33	2	0
Sunset Ridge	72	27	45	29	16	11
Valleamar	60	20	40	23	17	0

#### Transitional Kindergarten Lottery

Sunset Ridge School is staffed for 1.5 transitional kindergarten (TK) classes with a total of 36 openings. Ortega can house one TK class of 24 openings. Ortega had ten students placed with priority, leaving 14 openings available and 21 enrollment requests. Sunset Ridge had four students placed with priority, leaving 32 openings available and 21 enrollment requests.

The following chart shows the results of the 2017/18 Transitional Kindergarten Lottery:

School	Capacity	Priority Placements	# openings available for new families	1st Choice Cards Submitted	Openings available
Ortega	24	10	14	21	0
Sunset Ridge	36	4	32	21	4

Currently, transitional kindergarten is available only to those four-year-olds whose fifth birthday falls September 2<sup>nd</sup> through December 2<sup>nd</sup>. The implementation of the transitional kindergarten program has been a developmental process. District staff will continue to monitor and evaluate TK enrollment and be thoughtful of program location, facilities, and community need. TK enrollment guidelines will also be reviewed and revisions made as necessary.