

**PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS**

The Board of Trustees of the Capistrano Unified School District recognizes the importance of high-quality preschool experiences to assist children in preparing for a successful experience in the primary grades and beyond. The involvement of children in high-quality preschool programs results in lasting benefits for their educational futures by developing their pre-literacy skills, stimulating their cognitive development, re-enforcing and supporting the development of their fine and large motor skills, teaching them how to learn and adjust to classroom settings and linking them and their parents to the school with positive, effective learning activities.

State Funded Preschool Programs provide critical assistance to English learning children in the area of English language development and make preschool activities available to the children of poverty served in the Capistrano Unified School District.

The Capistrano Unified School District recognizes that there are a number of affordable, quality preschool programs in our communities. The operation of CUSD Fee-Based Preschool Programs augments and enhances these programs available through the private sector. The Capistrano Unified School District Board of Trustees also recognizes that the operation of Fee-Based Preschool Programs provides unique and important opportunities for District primary teachers to articulate with preschool teachers while also creating an opportunity for consistency among the preschool and primary instructional programs.

The first priority of the Capistrano Unified School District Board of Trustees is to provide high-quality, excellent K-12 instructional programs. It is the policy of the Board of Trustees that preschool programs must not compete for classroom/facility space with the regular K-12 educational program. Thus it is the policy of the Capistrano Unified School District Board of Trustees that State Funded and Fee-Based Preschool Programs may only be established on campuses where space is available either in existing classrooms or by the erection of portable buildings purchased by the preschool program. In the event that a school which houses a CUSD preschool program is in need of the space occupied by that program, the preschool program will be either closed or relocated.

The Capistrano Unified School District Board of Trustees recognized that Fee-Based and State Funded Preschool Programs provide a valuable opportunity for the training of high school students in the areas of preschool education and child development. Thus the Board of Trustees supports the concept of locating State Funded and Fee-Based Preschool Programs in Preschool Centers in available areas of CUSD high school campuses. These programs, which will be staffed by regular personnel, may also serve as laboratories for the practical application of skills for high school students enrolled in preschool education or child development programs. This pairing of high school and preschool programs provides children with positive role models and young adults with positive classroom experiences which can be applied in their professional and personal lives in the future.

**PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS** (continued)

It is the policy of the Capistrano Unified School District Board of Trustees that all Fee-Based Preschool Programs must be fiscally independent of the general fund. Monies collected from tuition must be used to pay all costs, operational and programmatic, associated with the Fee-Based Preschool Program, and funds generated from the program in excess of the indirect cost allocation may be used to provide enriched learning opportunities for primary children at the host site, as well as to expand and extend Fee-Based Preschool Program resources.

Policy  
adopted: August 18, 1997

**CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
San Juan Capistrano, California