



Mendocino Countywide Universal Prekindergarten Implementation Plan

Mendocino County school districts and charter schools have elected to present a collaborative UPK Plan across settings, including early learning and care partners, and led in this work by the Mendocino County Office of Education. While school districts and charter schools will be doing additional planning for Transitional Kindergarten that is specific to their districts and school sites, this overarching, comprehensive UPK Plan was completed in partnership with the following districts and schools:

- Anderson Valley Unified School District
- Arena Union School District
- Fort Bragg Unified School District
- Laytonville Unified School District
- Leggett Valley Unified School District
- Manchester School District
- Mendocino County Office of Education
- Mendocino Unified School District
- Potter Valley Unified School District
- River Oak Charter School
- Round Valley Unified School District
- Shanél Valley Academy
- Tree of Life Charter School
- Ukiah Unified School District
- Willits Unified School District

Focus Area A: Vision and Coherence

In order to provide equity of access for all students and their families, it is vital for the LEA, in partnership with early learning and care programs, to develop a coherent educational system that begins with UPK, includes access to TK and other options for all four-year-old children, and provides nine hours of programming per day through a combination of instructional time and extended learning and care opportunities for those families who choose this option.

In planning for UPK, consider how the LEA's administrative structure will support school leadership in building connections between them and expanded learning programs as well

as early learning and care programs (CSPP, Head Start, other subsidized or privately administered preschool and child care programs) to provide UPK programming and before school and after-school, intersession, and summer learning and care.

The Mendocino County Office of Education envisions a countywide UPK plan that includes all options for Title 5 programming: Universal Transitional Kindergarten at districts and charters, California State Preschool Programs (CSPP), Head Start centers and a combined CSPP and General Childcare (CCTR) center at our Mendocino College Child Development Center. We further recognize that families have freedom of choice in selecting an educational program that best meets their needs and the needs of their children. These programs may differ in educational philosophies, multi-age learning opportunities, teacher certifications, attention to developmentally appropriate practice and curriculum frameworks, but all will meet Title 5 program requirements.

We value an educational framework that embraces an alignment of preschool to third grade (P-3) in an early education continuum that is equitably accessible, developmentally appropriate and serves as a foundation for each student's educational success later in life. We want to bring the world into our classrooms for our youngest learners, honor the multilingual acquisitions of our families and students, and lead with highly qualified teachers who understand the value of teacher-child interactions and the intentional planning behind play-based learning. As a County Office of Education, we will actively support the development of high-quality programming that is culturally responsive, inclusive of a variety of abilities and special needs, and will highlight social-emotional learning and a language-rich environment.

In addition, we recognize the need for a mixed delivery system of childcare, due to the wide array of family desires and needs. A mixed delivery childcare system is also essential to a robust local economy, as not all families need care during the traditional, or even the extended, school day. We know that the best fit for some families will continue to be community-based organizations (CBOs), family child care homes (FCCHs) and private childcare providers, and we want to partner with these organizations as much as possible to ensure a strong, local system of support for families. As a County Office of Education, we will facilitate relationships between school districts, charter schools and Early Learning and Care providers.

Each school district participating in the Mendocino County Joint UPK Implementation Plan will assess their projected enrollment, classroom/workforce capacity, community early learning and care provider capacity, and family/community needs to build a district-level implementation plan for UTK. The Mendocino COE will gather and combine this data and lead collaborative sessions with districts to complete a countywide plan for vision, local partnerships, workforce development, curriculum/instruction, and assessments.

It is imperative that we view this County Wide UPK Implementation Plan as a living document; we will need to continue to be responsive to family needs and choices and to workforce and