

Updates to Policy 5101, Student Assignment, to Create TK Feeders from Early Education Schools

April 8, 2025

Overview

This item seeks Board approval of amendments to Board Policy 5101 (Student Assignment) to directly link, via feeder patterns, Transitional Kindergarten students at SFUSD Early Education Schools to specific Attendance Area Elementary Schools that do not have a TK classroom onsite. This means that, starting with students completing TK at an Early Education School in 2026-27, students would be promoted directly into Kindergarten at their corresponding feeder elementary school for the following year, with the first promotions to Kinder in the feeder pattern occurring for school year 2027-28. Assignment rules for applications to TK at EES sites would be changed to match those for the corresponding Feeder Schools starting with assignments for the 26-27 school year. This change has two key benefits:

- **Increasing predictability and proximity for TK families:** TK students across the city would be assigned closer to their homes, using the attendance area tiebreakers to assign students to feeder TK programs near their neighborhoods. Once admitted to TK at an Early Education site, families do not have to re-apply and would have a predictable spot guaranteed for Kindergarten.
- **Increasing enrollment:** For many families, increased chance of being placed in a school closer to home with a predictable feeder pattern will make it more likely for them to choose an SFUSD TK as opposed to other school options.

Board Policy 5101.2 Elementary School Student Assignment Policy is a separate policy. The proposed TK feeder amendment does not impact Board Policy 5101.2.

Current Context

This policy change addresses two challenges with our current Transitional Kindergarten program:

- **Families in some attendance areas have less access to TK than others.** 13 Attendance Area Elementary Schools have no TK classroom onsite due to insufficient classroom space. As a result, families applying to TK who live in these attendance areas don't have a tiebreaker they can use, unlike families living in other parts of San Francisco. This decreases the likelihood for these families to get into their preferred schools and makes it more likely that they opt out of SFUSD entirely.
- **Families in Early Ed Sites do not have predictability for Kindergarten.** The only TK families who still need to apply to Kindergarten are those attending TK at an Early Education School. In some cases, this lack of predictability decreases family interest in Early Ed schools.

In part due to limited predictability, TK students assigned to half of the standalone Early Education sites decline their main round assignments at much higher rates than students assigned to TK at elementary schools - for these sites, about 34% of students accept their TK assignments, compared to 55% across elementary schools.

Policy Proposals

For SY 2026-27, create feeder patterns between (a) TK classes in standalone early education sites and (b) elementary schools.

- When applying to TK at Early Education sites starting in 2026-27, families will get credit for their attendance area (AA) tiebreaker based on the specific feeder pattern. If a family's attendance area school does not have TK, they can apply for their AA pathway at their feeder elementary school. This means that TK Early Education sites may have multiple feeder schools.

For example, TK applicants who live in the Glen Park ES attendance area can apply to the "Glen Park pathway" at Junipero Serra Annex EES, and get the advantage of the Glen Park AA tiebreaker. The tiebreakers for TK at the Early Ed sites will match the tiebreakers for the feeder elementary schools.

- When moving from TK to Kindergarten, these same students will be promoted automatically to their feeder elementary school, without needing to submit an application. For example, students in TK in the "Glen Park pathway" at Junipero Serra Annex EES will be promoted to Glen Park ES for Kindergarten. Based on the TK feeder policy proposal, promotion from TK to K will begin in the 2027-28 school year. Families will continue to have the option to apply to a different school other than their TK feeder elementary school, and they would still be eligible for all tiebreakers outlined in the Student Assignment policy.

These two changes create significant benefits for families:

- Increases fairness by ensuring that every SF family has access to an attendance area TK.
- Increases proximity by ensuring feeder TK's and elementary schools are linked by neighborhood.
- Increases simplicity for families by giving a clear pathway to Kindergarten from each Early Ed TK classroom, and by making the tiebreakers at the feeder schools match the elementary schools. Siblings of students enrolled in the feeder elementary schools who apply to TK at the feeder Early Ed site will be able to get the sibling tiebreaker based on their sibling's school.
- Choice outcomes for TK across attendance areas will be more consistent, which in turn is likely to improve TK acceptance rates. We are seeing increases in Kinder interest (promotions plus applications) after starting the automatic promotion to Kindergarten at the same site, and would expect to see similar increases to Kinder enrollment with this change.

To ensure that all SDC students in TK have the advantage of a TK-5 pathway, the district will move the TK classes at Early Education sites to elementary schools with the appropriate SDC pathways. This ensures the same benefits for all special education and general education students, since the feeder pattern concept is very difficult to apply to SDCs, where classes in the same pathway are spread across the city.

Community Feedback

From December 2024 to March 2025, we conducted a community engagement campaign to present this proposal and gather feedback from different sets of stakeholders. Enrollment staff shared an online survey in English, Spanish, and Chinese with families enrolled in Early Education sites, and with several community based organizations (CBO) serving students aged 0-5. Staff also worked with Early Education sites to co-host 5 community workshops, including meetings in English, Spanish, and Cantonese. Finally, staff did presentations for principals at both Early Education sites and at elementary schools with no TK, and site leaders were asked to complete a survey.

All together, staff heard from 64 family survey respondents, 55 focus group participants, and 17 site leaders. More information about the demographic profile of the survey respondents and a summary of their response can be found in this [slide deck](#). Responses were largely in favor of the policy proposals:

- 67% of family survey respondents indicated that they agreed or strongly agreed with the proposal.
- Site leaders were even more enthusiastic, with 90% in favor of creating feeder patterns and 84% in favor of their specific EES-ES pairing.

Families expressed a few concerns with the policy change in focus groups; Enrollment Center responses are italicized:

- Concern about specific feeder patterns containing an Early Education School and an Elementary School that are geographically far apart, or that have either the same or different school start times. *For the elementary schools included in these feeder patterns, no space is available for a TK class on that site or in a nearby location. Linking the Early Ed sites to elementary schools is the best way for the district to provide a tiebreaker to TK for all families. For families who are not able to make it to the feeder school, they will still have an attendance area tiebreaker to their elementary school in Kindergarten. That said, we will make every effort to open up new TK classrooms and will adjust feeder patterns as the portfolio adjusts.*
- Citywide schools without TK would be the only schools where TK is not available - these schools include Lilienthal and Alice Fong Yu. *As we are able to open more TK classrooms, we can consider TK feeders for these schools, but ensuring fairness across Attendance Area schools is top priority so that all families have access to a TK tiebreaker.*
- Students already enrolled in the Pre-K at an Early Education School who don't live in the Feeder school's Attendance Area would lose a tiebreaker to TK at the Early Ed site for 2026-27. *After hearing this concern, we adjusted the policy to ensure that students who are not currently enrolled don't lose out on a priority that they had in the past. For students currently enrolled in Pre-K at Early Education sites, we will grant them the tiebreaker to TK at their site - a one-year tiebreaker for the 26-27 school year is now included in the policy.*

Proposed Early Education to Elementary School Feeder Patterns for use starting with the enrollment cycle for the 2026-27 school year. Adjustments to these feeder patterns will be published at the beginning of the enrollment cycle in October each year, to accommodate additional TK classrooms and program changes.

Elementary School	Early Education School Feeder
Buena Vista Horace Mann K-8	Mission Education Center
Chin	Commodore Stockton EES*
Cleveland	McLaren EES
Glen Park	Junipero Serra Annex EES
Huerta (2nd TK class)	Mission Education Center
Jefferson	Argonne EES
Marshall Elementary	Mission Education Center
Monroe	Junipero Serra Annex EES
New Traditions	Tule Elk Park EES

Peabody	Tule Elk Park EES
Sloat	San Miguel EES
Sunnyside	San Miguel EES
Sunset	Noriega EES
Taylor (2nd TK class)	McLaren EES
Ulloa	Noriega EES
Webster	Rodriguez EES
Wo	Tule Elk Park EES

Early Education School Feeder	Elementary School(s)
Argonne EES	Jefferson ES
Commodore Stockton EES*	John Yehall Chin
Junipero Serra Annex EES	Glen Park ES Monroe ES
McLaren EES	Cleveland ES ER Taylor (2nd TK Class)
Mission Education Center	Buena Vista Horace Mann K-8 Dolores Huerta ES (2nd TK class) Marshall ES
Noriega EES	Sunset ES Ulloa ES
Rodriguez EES	Daniel Webster ES
San Miguel EES	Commodore Sloat ES Sunnyside ES
Tule Elk Park EES	New Traditions ES George Peabody ES Yick Wo ES

*pending possible facility updates at Chin to add TK at that site. Updated information will be provided at the start of October enrollment cycle.