

Ms. Ratliff – Seek Greater Opportunities for Four Year Olds (Res-079-14/15) (Waiver of Board Rule 72)

Whereas, The Los Angeles Unified School District is committed to providing every student with a quality education and ensuring that every student will graduate college-prepared and career ready;

Whereas, The first opportunity to ensuring that all children, regardless of background, are on the path to college and career readiness, is dedicating resources to early education in order to prepare pupils to enter kindergarten ready to succeed;

Whereas, On June 18, 2013, the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District adopted the “Resolution in Support of Aligning Preschool through Third Grade”, calling for a P-3 Task Force to develop a framework based on (1) educational standards, (2) curricula, (3) assessment, and (4) professional development that are all aligned across high-quality pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, first, second, and third grades;

Whereas, On August 26, 2014, the Board reaffirmed its commitment to its youngest learners by adopting the “Reaffirming Our Commitment to Early Education through the Local Control Funding Formula and an Improved Economic Climate in the Los Angeles Unified School District” resolution, which, among other things: (a) directed the Superintendent to invest an additional \$14 million in 2015-2016 to the Early Education Division and \$20 million in 2016-2017; and (b) again requested the development of a specific plan for how additional resources will be allocated for early education;

Whereas, the District has limited resources and, as part of a fiscal stabilization plan, will be eliminating the District’s School Readiness and Language Development Program (SRLDP) which currently serves 13,968 students at 290 sites;

Whereas, Transitional Kindergarten (TK) could serve the needs of many of the students who will not be able to attend SRLDP; and

Whereas, TK provides a full day program, which may better meet the needs of students and parents than the current SRLDP program; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Superintendent direct the appropriate staff to immediately contact the Honorable Governor Brown, his representatives, and members of the California Legislature asking that the Education Code and any other applicable laws be changed or clarified so as to allow the District to enroll in TK any child who will have his or her fifth birthday prior to September 1 of the immediately following school year; and, be it finally

Resolved, That the Superintendent shall report back to the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District on the results of such efforts as soon as practicable.