

CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

CUEA/CUSD Combo Committee Revised Recommendations to EERC

April 24, 2013

**Committee Members: Carter Johnson, Shelly Kurtz, Don Mahoney,
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Recommendations – Principals will consider the following when forming multi-age classes. *Ultimately, principal discretion will be applied to the assignment of teachers and students.*

Considerations for Selecting Teachers for Multi-age Classes*

- Curriculum knowledge/ grade level experience
- When possible, volunteers would be sought first
- Avoid assigning a teacher who is new to the site
- Notify potential teachers of possibility of being a combination teacher as early as possible

Considerations for Student Selection to Multi-age Classes

- To lessen adverse effects on all classes, heterogeneous groups recommended
- Limit number of students with attention/focus issues
- Balance parent volunteers among grade level
- Age of students (e.g., no 8 year old 4th graders with 11 yr. old 5th graders)
- Multi-age classes should be filled initially to avoid adding students new to school
- Parents of students placed in multi-age classrooms will be notified of placement at the same time as all parents

Considerations re: Potential Curricular Issues

- Grade level team is responsible for success of ALL students at the grade level
- Need grade level support from both grade levels
- Administrators will work with grade level teams and multi-age teacher to ensure that needs of all students are met
- Principal should facilitate time for communicating, meeting, and planning for multi-age teachers with both grade level teams
- Principal and multi-age teacher will decide if entire class should participate in field trips, except for trips to science camp or fifth grade culmination activities
- If teacher is willing, and the principal approves looping of a class, the offer to loop should be extended to entire class

Considerations re: Scheduling Issues

- Where possible, reduce duties of multi-age teachers
- Give priority (after K teachers) for library/computer times
- Adjust lunch/recess schedules to accommodate multi-age classes

Additional recommendations for further consideration:

- Allow FTE flexibility for sites with smaller populations
- Allow option of all-day Kindergarten for K/1 multi-age classes
- Should funding permit, block-music release time for 3/4 class teachers

Next Step recommendation:

Another committee could be formed to address the issue of overall class formation with equity considerations being the major focus.

* Note: "Combo class" was changed to "multi-age class" at principals' suggestion due to negative connotation