



Orange County Educational Arts Academy

March 4, 2015

Subject: Transitional Kindergarten Waiver

Dear Parents:

As the transitional kindergarten (TK) program began this school year, it was determined that a morning program would be most appropriate for these young children. The school day for TK is 195 minutes on regular schedule and 185 minutes on Wednesday's. The state minimum school day for kindergarten students is 180 minutes. The kindergarten students attend an extended day during the second half of the year, which is typically 302 minutes during regular schedule days and 240 minutes on Wednesday's.

California *Education Code (EC) 37202(a)* calls for all kindergarten and TK classes to have the same number of instructional minutes. Since TK is a new program for California and because of the tender age of the children, OCEAA's Board and Administration feel that a full day is not considered developmentally appropriate for our TK children. Therefore the OCEAA's Board directed the Director of Operations to request a waiver of *EC 37202(a)* from the California State Board of Education. The waiver was submitted in August 2014 and the California State Board took action to approve this waiver at its regular meeting in January 2015. The single condition of approval is that OCEAA is directed to inform the parents of our TK students, the OCEAA community as well as its authorizer, Santa Ana Unified School District, that this waiver has been approved. Further, our TK students will continue to attend class for more than the minimum state required daily instructional minutes.

This letter is to inform you of this approval of our TK daily schedule, and to provide advance notice that it is the District's intention to continue this daily schedule in the 2015-2016 school year and years to come.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Besack
Director of Operations