

# Let's Talk Transitions...

Transitioning our students begins on the first day of school and happens every day thereafter as we prepare them for life in the next grade and ultimately, life after USD 259.

Beyond how we transition students, we also need to consider how we are involving families. Helping families support a smooth transition ultimately helps students achieve more. Parents are better prepared to help their child adjust when they are informed and aware of academic, developmental and social milestones their children should be reaching as they transition through elementary, middle and high school. Additionally, parents who are included in the transition and receive information along the way are more likely to remain involved in their child's education throughout the years.

As you plan transitions for your own students and as we meet in small teams and have conversations throughout the rest of this school year, let's be sure our discussions include *how we are involving families in the transition process* for:

- Students who are moving to the next grade level within the school
- Groups of incoming students (Pre-K, Kindergarten, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade)
- Groups of students that are leaving our school (Pre-K, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade)

As these conversations take place, please share your ideas with the Family Engagement Team so we can spread the good news!

On the back of this letter you will find a list of resources that can help us in our planning. These resources can be used in a variety of ways; individual teachers can use them in classrooms, grade levels can use them or the whole school may choose to develop a transition plan. All resources listed are available at: [www.familyengagement.weebly.com](http://www.familyengagement.weebly.com)

Good luck with your planning! Please let us know if you have any questions or need further assistance.

Thank you,  
The Family Engagement Team

# Transitions Resources and Training

## Transitions Professional Development

- **Transitions Professional Development for Staff** – A professional development PowerPoint presentation designed to begin discussions about the schools transitions plan.
- **Transitions Activity: Conversations about Transitions** – A professional development activity designed to generate conversations about current practices, and new plans for transitions.

## Grade-Level Transitions

- **Transitions Ideas – A Resource for Schools** – Transitions ideas to aid in creating a schools transitions plan.
- **Transition Event Ideas and Flyers** – A compilation of various transition events from USD #259 schools.
- **Here's My Child, Handle with Care** – Form for families to communicate key information about their child to their child's teacher and to help teachers better understand and connect with their students.
- **Transitions Placemats** – Interactive mat for various grade level students that allows the student to think and reflect on transitioning to a new grade level.

## Kindergarten Transitions

- **Getting Ready for Kindergarten Mat** – Interactive mat for kindergarten families and students that includes key information on what children need to know before entering kindergarten.
- **Getting to Know My Kindergartener** – Form for families to communicate key information about their child to their child's teacher and to help teachers better understand and connect with their students.
- **Future Kindergarten Families Ask, Kindergarten Answers** – Gives families an opportunity to ask teachers questions about kindergarten.
- **Boo Hoo Breakfast flyer samples** – Flyer samples for a parent Boo Hoo Breakfast.

## Middle School Transitions

- **Transition to Middle School 101** – Important information families need to know before transitioning to middle school.
- **Transitions Student Survey – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Students** – Survey for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students to give feedback on their transition experience.
- **Transition Tips for 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teachers and Families** – Ideas for 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers to embed transition topics into the classroom and distribute correlating transition tips to families.
- **Middle School Contacts** – Form for students to collect contact information on each of their teachers and other important staff members and share it with their parents.
- **5<sup>th</sup> Graders/Families of 5<sup>th</sup> Graders Ask, Middle School Answers** – Gives 5<sup>th</sup> graders and their families an opportunity to ask middle school students and staff questions about middle school.

## High School Transitions

- **Transition to High School 101** – Important information families need to know before transitioning to high school.
- **Transitions Student Survey – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Students** – Survey for 9<sup>th</sup> grade students to give feedback on their transition experience.
- **High School Contacts** – Form for students to collect contact information on each of their teachers and other important staff members and share it with their parents.
- **8<sup>th</sup> Graders/Families of 8<sup>th</sup> Graders Ask, High School Answers** – Gives 8<sup>th</sup> graders and their families an opportunity to ask high school students and staff questions about high school.
- **Don't Stop Now! High School Family Engagement flyer** – Flyer sfor families that includes tips for staying involved.

