

# Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) Update

May 31, 2022

SWRCSD BOE Meeting



# UPK 2021-2022



# Thank you St. Anselm's





# Long Term UPK Planning Needed

Over the next six months the District will need to consider long range goals for UPK programming. The recent timing of funding announcements has not allowed for the normal pro-active planning process and community discussion. Funding for UPK is now at \$405,000 and it is possible UPK grant funding for SWRCSD increases in the future. Ideally, all UPK seats would be at one location. However, in many Districts due to lack of space, partnerships are established with multiple providers.

## Considerations:

- Permanent setting of a UPK program?
- Funding UPK into the future?
- All children or just grant-funded?
- Continue with vendor based?





# UPK Information

- Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) refers to state government-funded preschool programs that are free for those who attend it.
- The per pupil amount for SWRCSD is \$5,400.
- No parent and/or guardian of a child participating in a UPK program can be subjected to a fee/charge for the instructional program.
- The District received an allocation for \$172,800 (32 students) for 2021-22
- The allocation was increased to \$405,000 (75 students) for 2022-23
- Districts will only be provided funding equivalent to the number of students it serves for any given year. (ie: If we service 10 students we would receive \$54,000)
- 2022-23 UPK expansion grants, per the NYS Office of Early Learning, will be available in 2023-2024 regardless of usage in 2022-2023 unless future action is taken by the NYS Legislature.



# Maximizing Funding Opportunities

- The District has consistently looked to maximize funding opportunities including the new UPK funds.
- UPK funds provide an educational benefit to 75 students and a financial benefit to 75 families in the SWRCSD District.
- Since being notified of the increased UPK funding in May, the District has been exploring options for providing a program for the 43 additional seats.



# UPK Timeline

## April 2021:

- For the first time, the District receives \$172,000 (32 students @ \$5,400) in NYS UPK funding for full-time 5-hour seats. The District goes out for proposals for out-of-district providers.
- St. Anselm's is awarded a contract and provided services for 32 students this year.
- The cost per student exceeded \$5,400 per student. Federal grant funds were utilized to cover the additional cost of approximately \$1,500 per student.





# UPK Timeline

## May 2022

- District receives \$405,000 (75 students @ \$5,400) in NYS UPK funding. This represented an increase of 43 UPK seats for the 2022-23 school year from the prior year.
- The District goes out for proposals for out-of-district providers that have room to provide the program. St. Anselm's was awarded 36 seats. No other UPK provider responded to the request for proposals for out-of-district seats.
- The District subsequently goes out for proposals for an in-district program.





# Request for Proposal Results: In-District UPK

- The District had 3 respondents for an in-district program in which the District provides the room/furniture and the vendor provides the oversight, staffing, curriculum and instruction.
- After review of the proposals, SCOPE Educational Services has been identified as a vendor to provide UPK services for the District.
  - SCOPE currently provides in-district UPK programming in 27 Long Island Districts.
  - SCOPE fees do not require the District to supplement funding through the use of additional federal grant funds. The fees are \$5,400 per student which is equivalent to our per student grant allocation.



# SCOPE/District Responsibilities

## SCOPE Provides

- Required staff for two classrooms
- All instruction and screenings
- Substitutes as needed
- Curriculum, supplies, materials, centers, etc...
- Program oversight: Field Supervisor visits
- UPK teacher cell phones for direct parental communication
- Professional development and staff support
- Snacks



## District Provides

- Two rooms and furniture
- Playground access
- Access to nurse
- Lunch for economically disadvantaged students as needed
- \$5,400 per student through the NYS UPK grant



# Wading River School Option for UPK

- There are no open rooms at Miller Avenue in 2022-2023
- Opening Briarcliff for UPK is cost prohibitive as current NYS UPK funding levels are inadequate to cover the full costs of running a building.
- Wading River is currently projected to have two available classrooms next year for 2022-2023. Two rooms (TBD) remain available for building use or for increased enrollment if needed.

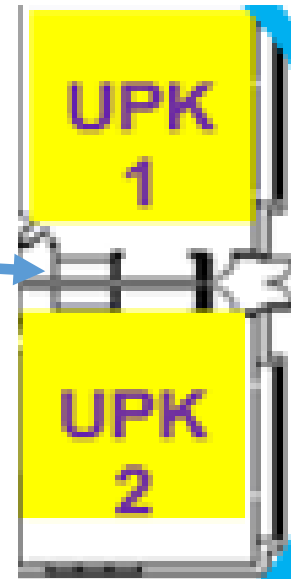
<b>Wading River Current Class Sizes for 2022-23</b>			
<b>Grade</b>	<b>Projected Enrollment 2022-23</b>	<b>Sections</b>	<b>Class Size</b>
<b>3</b>	112	5	22.4
<b>4</b>	137	6	22.8
<b>5</b>	127	6	21.2



# Wading River School Option for UPK

- UPK students (5 hour day) will have a later start time and an earlier dismissal than grades 3-5.
- Both rooms have a pre-existing bathroom now functioning as a closet. Fixtures will need to be reinstalled.

Parent drop off/pick-up available



There is a separate entrance with a foyer between the two rooms



# Additionally

- Both programs are aligned to the NYS Learning Standards for UPK; however, the curriculum may vary in some instances
- The 75 UPK lottery awardees will be contacted in numerical lottery order to allow them to provide their preferred setting and to confirm their interest in the program. However, the District will not guarantee the setting.



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