

TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN

The Governing Board desires to offer a high-quality transitional kindergarten program for eligible children who do not yet meet the minimum age criterion for kindergarten. The program shall assist children in developing the academic, social, and emotional skills they need to succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

The district's transitional kindergarten shall be the first year of a two-year kindergarten program. (Education Code 48000)

The Board encourages ongoing collaboration among district preschool staff, other preschool providers, elementary teachers, administrators, and parents/guardians in program development, implementation, and evaluation.

Eligibility

The district's transitional kindergarten program shall admit children whose fifth birthday is from September 2 through December 2. ~~lies between:~~ (Education Code 48000)

- ~~1. November 2 and December 2 in the 2012-13 school year~~
- ~~2. October 2 and December 2 in the 2013-14 school year~~
- ~~3. September 2 and December 2 in the 2014-15 school year and each school year thereafter~~

Parents/guardians of eligible children shall be notified of the availability of this program and the age, residency, and any other enrollment requirements. Enrollment in the transitional kindergarten program shall be voluntary.

Upon request of a child's parents/guardians, the district may, on a case-by-case basis after the Superintendent or designee determines that it is in the child's best interest, admit into the district's TK program a child whose fifth birthday is on or before September 1 and who is therefore eligible for kindergarten.

At any time during the school year, the district may admit into the TK program a child whose fifth birthday is after December 2 of that same school year, provided that the Superintendent or designee recommends that enrollment in a TK program is in the child's best interest and the child's parents/guardians approve. Prior to such enrollment, the child's parents/guardians shall be provided information regarding the advantages and disadvantages and any other explanatory information about the effect of early admittance. (Education Code 48000)

Curriculum and Instruction

The district's transitional kindergarten program shall be based on a modified kindergarten curriculum that is age and developmentally appropriate. (Education Code 48000)

TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN (continued)

~~Upon recommendation by the Superintendent or designee, the Board shall approve academic standards for transitional kindergarten that bridge preschool learning foundations and kindergarten standards. Such standards shall be designed to facilitate students' development in essential skills which may include, as appropriate, language and literacy, mathematics, physical development, the arts, science, social sciences, English language development, and social-emotional development.~~

The program shall be aligned with the preschool learning foundations and preschool curriculum frameworks developed by the California Department of Education. It shall be designed to facilitate students' development in essential skills related to language and literacy, mathematics, physical development, health, visual and performing arts, science, history-social science, English language development, and social-emotional development.

The Board shall establish the length(s) of the school day in the district's TK program. TK programs may be maintained for different lengths of time either at the same or different school sites, as long as the school day is at least three hours. The Superintendent or designee shall annually report to the California Department of Education as to whether the district's TK programs are offered full day, part day, or both. (Education Code 37202, 46111, 46117, 48003)

Transitional kindergarten students may be placed in the same classrooms as kindergarten students when necessary, provided that the instructional program is differentiated to meet student needs.

Staffing

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that teachers assigned to teach in transitional kindergarten classes shall possess a teaching credential or permit from the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) that authorizes such instruction at the kindergarten grade level.

A credentialed teacher who is first assigned to a TK class after July 1, 2015, shall, by August 1, 2020, have at least 24 units in early childhood education and/or child development, comparable experience in a preschool setting, and/or a child development teacher permit issued by the CTC. (Education Code 48000)

The Superintendent or designee may provide professional development as needed to ensure that transitional kindergarten teachers are knowledgeable about district standards and effective instructional methods for teaching young children.

Continuation to Kindergarten

Students who complete the transitional kindergarten program shall be eligible to continue in kindergarten the following school year. Parents/guardians of such students shall not be required to submit a signed parental permission form for kindergarten attendance.

TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN (continued)

However, whenever children who would otherwise be age-eligible for kindergarten are enrolled in TK, the Superintendent or designee shall obtain a Kindergarten Continuance Form signed by the parent/guardian near the end of the TK year consenting to the child's enrollment in kindergarten the following year.

A student shall not attend more than two years in a combination of transitional kindergarten and kindergarten. (Education Code 46300)

Program Evaluation Assessment

The Superintendent or designee shall develop or identify appropriate assessments of transitional kindergarten students' development and progress. He/she shall monitor and regularly report to the Board regarding program implementation and the progress of students in meeting related academic standards.

Legal Reference continued on next page.

TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

8973 *Extended-day kindergarten*

37202 School calendar; equivalency of instructional minutes

44258.9 *Assignment monitoring by county office of education*

46111 *Kindergarten, hours of attendance*

46114-46119 *Minimum school day, kindergarten*

46300 *Computation of average daily attendance, inclusion of kindergarten and transitional kindergarten*

48000 *Minimum age of admission (kindergarten)*

48002 *Evidence of minimum age required to enter kindergarten or first grade*

48003 Kindergarten annual report

48200 *Compulsory education, starting at age six*

60605.8 *Academic Content Standards Commission, development of Common Core Standards*

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

~~*Transitional Kindergarten, Issue Brief, July 2011*~~

What Boards of Education Can Do About Kindergarten Readiness, Governance Brief, May 2016

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Transitional Kindergarten FAQs

Desired Results Developmental Profile, 2015

Transitional Kindergarten Implementation Guide: A Resource for California Public School California

District Administrators and Teachers, 2013

Preschool Curriculum Framework, Vol. 1, 2010

California Preschool Learning Foundations, Vol. 1, 2008

~~*Prekindergarten Learning Development Guidelines, 2000*~~

~~*First Class: A Guide for Early Primary Education, 1999*~~

~~COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING PUBLICATIONS~~

~~*11-08 Transitional Kindergarten Assignments, Credential Information Alert, August 25, 2011*~~

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

California Kindergarten Association: <http://www.ckanet.org>

Commission on Teacher Credentialing: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov>

Transitional Kindergarten California: <http://www.tkcalifornia.org>