

Instruction

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 transitional kindergarten program shall assist students in developing the academic, social, and emotional skills needed to succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

The District's transitional kindergarten program 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 the development, implementation, and evaluation.

Eligibility

The District's transitional kindergarten program shall admit children whose fifth birthday lies between: (Education Code 48000)

1. In the 2022–23 school year, a child with their fifth birthday between September 2 and February 2 shall be admitted to a transitional kindergarten program maintained by the school district or charter school.
2. In the 2023–24 school year, a child who will have their fifth birthday between September 2 and April 2 shall be admitted to a transitional kindergarten program maintained by the school district or charter school.
3. In the 2024–25 school year, a child with their fifth birthday between September 2 and June 2 shall be admitted to a transitional kindergarten program maintained by the school district or charter school.
4. In the 2025–26 school year, and in each school year after that, a child who will have their fourth birthday by September 1 shall be admitted to a transitional kindergarten program maintained by the school district or charter school.

There will be no early admittance into the transitional kindergarten program.

Instruction

TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN (continued)

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

Curriculum and Instruction

The District's transitional kindergarten program shall be based on age and developmentally appropriate curriculum. (Education Code 48000)

The program shall be aligned with the California Preschool Learning Foundations and Preschool Curriculum Frameworks developed by the California Department of Education. 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 knowledge and 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 number of instructional minutes offered in transitional kindergarten shall be the same or similar as that required for the District's kindergarten program.

Staffing

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

A credentialed teacher who is first assigned to a transitional kindergarten class after July 1, 2015, shall, by August 1, 2023, have at least 24 units in child development, comparable experience in a preschool setting, and/or a child development teacher permit issued by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing. (Education Code 48000)

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

Instruction

TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN (continued)

Continuation to Kindergarten

Students who complete the transitional kindergarten program shall be eligible to continue in kindergarten the following school year. Therefore, parents/guardians of such students shall not be required to submit a signed Kindergarten Continuance Form for kindergarten attendance.

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

Program Evaluation

The Superintendent or designee may develop or identify appropriate formal and/or informal assessments of transitional kindergarten students' development and progress. In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall monitor and regularly report to the Board regarding program implementation and students' progress in meeting academic standards and preparedness for future education.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

- 8235 California State Preschool Program
- 8970-8974 Early primary programs; extended-day kindergarten
- 37202 School calendar; equivalency of instructional minutes
- 44258.9 Assignment monitoring by the county superintendent of schools
- 46111 Kindergarten, hours of attendance
- 46114-46119 Minimum school day, kindergarten
- 46300 Computation of ADA, the inclusion of kindergarten and transitional kindergarten
- 48000 Age of admission, kindergarten, and transitional kindergarten
- 48002 Evidence of minimum age required to enter kindergarten or first grade
- 48003 Kindergarten annual report
- 48200 Compulsory education, starting at age six

Management Resource:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

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 District Administrators and Teachers, 2013

Instruction

TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN (continued)

California Preschool Curriculum Framework, Vol. 3, 2013

California Preschool Learning Foundations, Vol. 3, 2012

California Preschool Curriculum Framework, Vol. 2, 2011

California Preschool Learning Foundations, Vol. 2, 2010

California Preschool Curriculum Framework, Vol. 1, 2010

California Preschool Learning Foundations, Vol. 1, 2008

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://tkcalifornia.org>