

Facts About Transitional Kindergarten

A head start for California's children

- Research indicates that beginning kindergarten at an older age improves children's social and academic development and boosts children's test scores in math, reading and general knowledge.
- Studies suggest that changing California's kindergarten entry date could increase test scores by as much as 27%.*
- Children who begin school at a later age also are less likely to be retained or to be misdiagnosed with a learning disability.*

A positive change for families and schools

- Transitional kindergarten gives parents an additional option to ensure their children enter kindergarten with the maturity and skills they need to excel.
- Schools will be able to do more with what they have because transitional kindergarten will help ensure children enter kindergarten ready to learn.

A winning solution for California

- Transitional kindergarten gives California an unparalleled opportunity to ensure our state's youngest students are better prepared to succeed in kindergarten and beyond.
- Prior to the passage of the Kindergarten Readiness Act, California's December 2 cutoff for kindergarten entry was one of the latest in the nation. In most states, children must turn five by September 1 in order to start kindergarten.
- California's late cutoff allowed children as young as 4 years and 9 months old to be in kindergarten classes with children more than a year older.
- Approximately 120,000 children each year will benefit from the Kindergarten Readiness Act, including 50,000 English language learners and 74,000 served by Title I schools.
- California will ultimately save money because children will be better prepared for success in school and less likely to be placed in special education or retained in later grades.