

Top 10 general questions about transitional kindergarten

Will transitional kindergarten be mandatory for children with birthdays between September and December?

Just like kindergarten, transitional kindergarten enrollment will be voluntary.

How is transitional kindergarten different from preschool?

The standards, curriculum and teaching requirements in transitional kindergarten will be different from preschool. Transitional kindergarten will be part of the K-12 public education system and it will be based on the kindergarten standards. It will build on the skills children may have learned in preschool to ensure they will be able to begin kindergarten with confidence.

How is *transitional* kindergarten different from *traditional* kindergarten?

Although the curriculum in transitional kindergarten will be based on the kindergarten standards, it will be modified to meet the academic, social and emotional needs of younger children. The transitional kindergarten environment will include more opportunities for social-emotional, language development and communication through dramatic play; small group instruction; and intentional teaching through hands-on activities.

Will transitional kindergarten provide support for children who do not speak English?

English learners in transitional kindergarten will have the same level of services as those in kindergarten.

Will transitional kindergarten be free or will I have to qualify based on income?

Transitional kindergarten will be free and open to all age-eligible children.

What kinds of qualifications will transitional kindergarten teachers have?

Transitional kindergarten teachers will be required to have a teaching credential, just like kindergarten teachers.

How old will transitional kindergarteners be when they begin first grade?

Transitional kindergarteners will typically be 6 years old when they start first grade and turn 7 years old during the first few months of the school year.

Will children in transitional kindergarten be 19 years old when they graduate from high school?

No, they will be 18 years old when they graduate and will turn 19 years old several months after graduation.

How will this affect children in special education?

Districts will be required to offer the same services to transitional kindergarteners with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) as they currently offer to children in kindergarten.

What grade will children go into after transitional kindergarten?

Transitional kindergarten is the first year of a two-year kindergarten experience. Most children will go on to kindergarten after completing transitional kindergarten, however some children may move to first grade if the school and the family agree that they are ready.

Where will transitional kindergarten be offered?

Transitional kindergarten will be offered at Joe Nightingale Elementary School. Children will return to their neighborhood school for traditional kindergarten the following year.

If the law goes into effect in 2012, when will these programs be available in our district?

These programs will be available in our district beginning in the 2012-2013 school year to all children with birthdays between September and December.

What curriculum will transitional kindergarten use?

Transitional kindergarten will use a developmentally appropriate curriculum that is designed to meet their needs. Students will have more time to learn important social, emotional and academic skills that will help them build a strong foundation for success in elementary school. This builds on what they may have learned in preschool and help them adjust to the elementary school environment.

Is transitional kindergarten offered part day or full day?

Transitional kindergarten is a part day program, the same as our traditional kindergarten programs.