

Instruction

TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN

The Board of Trustees desires to offer a high-quality transitional kindergarten (TK) program for eligible children who do not yet meet the minimum age criterion for kindergarten. The TK program shall assist students 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 the development, implementation, and evaluation of the district's TK program.

(cf. 6020 – Parent Involvement)

Eligibility

The district's transitional kindergarten program shall admit children whose fifth birthday is from September 2 through December 2. (Education Code 4800)

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

(cf. 5111 – Admission)

(cf. 5111.1 – District Residency)

(cf. 5141.22 – Infectious Diseases)

(cf. 5141.3 – Health Examinations)

(cf. 5141.31 – Immunizations)

(cf. 5141.32 – Health Screening for School Entry)

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)

(cf. 6141 – Curriculum Development and Evaluation)

(cf. 6161.1 – Selection and Evaluation of Instructional Materials)

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 sciences, English language development, and social-emotional development.

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(cf. 5148.3 – Preschool/Early Childhood Education)
(cf. 6011 – Academic Standards)
(cf. 6174 – Education for English Language Learners)

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 but no more than four 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)

(cf. 6111 - School Calendar)
(cf. 6112 - School Day)

TK 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 TK classes possess a teaching credential or permit from the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) that authorizes such instruction.

(cf. 4112.2 - Certification)

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.

(cf. 4131 – Staff Development)

Continuation to Kindergarten

Students who complete the TK 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 Kindergarten Continuance Form for kindergarten attendance.

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(cf. 5123 – Promotion/Acceleration/Retention)

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 TK and kindergarten. (Education Code 46300)

(cf. 5123 - Promotion/Acceleration/Retention)

Assessment

The Superintendent or designee shall develop or identify appropriate formal and/or informal 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.

(cf. 0500 – Accountability)

(cf. 6162.5 – Student Assessment)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

8973	Extended-day kindergarten
37202	School calendar; equivalency of instructional minutes
44258.9	Assignment monitoring by county superintendent of schools
46111	Kindergarten, hours of attendance
46114-46119	Minimum school day, kindergarten
46300	Computation of average daily attendance, 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 Resources:

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

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://www.tkcalifornia.org>

Orcutt, California