

Universal Transitional Kindergarten

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Universal Transitional Kindergarten (UTK)

What is UTK and is it mandatory?

UTK is a stepping stone between preschool and kindergarten. Both TK and kindergarten are entirely optional. Children are only required to attend school in California once they turn 6. Until that age, it is up to parents to decide whether to enroll their children in preschool, or transitional kindergarten, or other childcare arrangements or keep them at home.



2010 - 2022

Transitional Kindergarten



2022 - 2023

Universal Transitional Kindergarten



Transitional Kindergarten (UTK)

Background

TK came about after the Legislature approved the *Kindergarten Readiness Act in 2010*.

Until then, children who were 4 years old on Sept. 1 could still enroll in regular kindergarten if they turned 5 by December 2 of that year. But the new law changed that. Beginning in 2012, children had to be 5 years of age by September 1 to enroll in kindergarten.

That left out about 100,000 students in California who had to wait an extra year to attend school. In response, transitional kindergarten was established in 2012 to serve those 4-year-olds who would have previously been eligible for kindergarten, meaning their birthdates were between September 2 and December 2 of that school year.

**Transitional
Kindergarten**

2012 - 2022

**Enrolled students in
TK who turned 5
between
September 2 -
December 2**

12 YEARS LATER

Assembly 130

In the 2021–22 state budget, California signaled its commitment to early childhood education through the universal transitional kindergarten provision contained in **Assembly Bill 130**.

- Provides the operative language on expanding TK to UTK, which began this school year. It expands UTK age eligibility in two-birth month increments over a period of four years, resulting in universal transitional kindergarten for all children who are 4 years of age in the 2025–26 school year.
- Requires UTK programs to operate with a teacher-student ratio of 1:12.

2022-2023

Age 5 by Feb 2

2023-2024

Age 5 by April 2

2024 - 2025

Age 5 by June 2

2025 - 2026

Age 4 by Sept 1

What is the difference between the original TK program and the new Universal Transitional Kindergarten program?

- Age of Students
- Class Size
- Credentialing of Teachers
- Standardized Curriculum



UTK Credentialing Requirements

2022-2023

- Multiple-Subject Teaching Credential

2023-2024 & Beyond

- Multiple-Subject Teaching Credential
- One of the following:
 - 24 units of ECE or Child Development or combination
 - Professional experience with preschool children comparable to 24 units of ECE/Child Development
 - Child Development Permit issued by CCTC



Universal Transitional Kindergarten

Environment & Curriculum

- The TK classroom environment is engaging and promotes movement; responsive to the diverse backgrounds and experiences of transitional kindergarteners.
- Throughout the day young students are actively engaged in play-based activities that are connected to theme-based, integrated curriculum.
- TK Learning Domains: Social-emotional, English Language Arts, Mathematics and English Language Development. *(Alignment between the Preschool Learning Foundations and the California Kindergarten Common Core Standards)*

UTK committee has revised the curriculum, which now aligns with the preschool emergent curriculum.



UNIVERSAL PRE-KINDERGARTEN (UPK)

Services for 4-Year Olds in Los Al Unified



CA STATE Preschool

3-5 years of age
Must Qualify
No Cost
M-F
3-Hour Program

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

3-5 years of age
Parent Paid
M-F
6:30AM-6:00PM

TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN

(Turn 5 between
Sept. 2 – April . 2)
No Cost
M-F
8:00AM-1:25PM



QUESTIONS?

