

**Hacienda La Puente Unified School District  
Universal Transitional Kindergarten (UTK)  
Frequently Asked Questions**

**Who is eligible for Universal Transitional Kindergarten?**

Universal Transitional Kindergarten is offered to a child whose 5<sup>th</sup> birthday occurs between September 2<sup>nd</sup> and April 2<sup>nd</sup> of that school year.

**Is Transitional Kindergarten be mandatory?**

Like Kindergarten, enrollment in Universal Transitional Kindergarten is voluntary.

**Do all schools have a Traditional Kindergarten classroom?**

No. UTK locations are hosted at various school sites across the district.

**Does the district provide transportation to another site if the home school does not have a Transitional Kindergarten class?**

No. Transportation will be the responsibility of the family.

**Do students return to their home sites for Kindergarten the following year?**

Yes, if they choose. HLPUSD has open enrollment in Kindergarten based upon space availability at the time of enrollment.

**Who teaches the Universal Transitional Kindergarten classes and what is the average class size?**

AB 130 requires that a fully credentialed teacher be assigned to teach the Transitional Kindergarten classes. Enrollment is fixed at the 12:1 adult to pupil ratio, or 24:2 adult to pupil ratio, with at least one adult being a fully credentialed teacher.

**Is Universal Transitional Kindergarten half-day or full-day?**

HLPUSD offers full-day Universal Transitional Kindergarten. The class is on the same schedule as the Kindergarten class at the site.

**How is Universal Transitional Kindergarten different from Preschool?**

Transitional Kindergarten provides a bridge between Pre-school and Kindergarten. UTK students build upon the skills they may have learned in pre-school to ensure they will be prepared for success in Kindergarten the following year. The curriculum and teaching requirements are different for Preschool and Universal Transitional Kindergarten.

**How is Universal Transitional Kindergarten different from Kindergarten?**

TK curriculum emphasizes oral language, early academic, social and emotional needs of younger children. It is designed to develop readiness skills necessary for success in kindergarten and beyond. Teachers will expose children to reading, writing, and math in interactive ways by using lots of hands-on, experiential instruction in large and small group settings.

**Will students be eligible to enter First Grade after completing a year in Universal Transitional Kindergarten?**

No. Students who complete UTK will matriculate to Kindergarten the following school year.

**Will Universal Transitional Kindergarten provide support for children who do not speak English?**

Yes, English Learners in Universal Transitional Kindergarten classes will receive the same level of services as those in Kindergarten. A specific ELD curriculum is provided.