



TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is the age requirement for a child to enroll in Transitional Kindergarten (TK)?

TK is available to all children who will have their 4th birthday by September 1st of the school year.

2. Is Transitional Kindergarten (TK) mandatory?

Just like kindergarten, Transitional Kindergarten is voluntary.

3. Is Transitional Kindergarten (TK) Part-Day or Full Day?

Orange Unified School District offers both a Part-Day and Full Day school day experience.

4. Can an age-eligible student who is not toilet trained be enrolled into Transitional Kindergarten (TK)?

Transitional Kindergarten (TK) is offered to all age-eligible children to attend regardless of their toilet training status.

5. What is the adult-to-student ratios for Transitional Kindergarten (TK)?

The adult-to-student ratio is 1 adult to 10 students.

6. How is Transitional Kindergarten (TK) different from preschool?

Preschool and Transitional Kindergarten both implement the Preschool Transitional Kindergarten Learning Foundations to provide research-based guidelines on children's development. PreK and TK intentionally design learning experiences to build school readiness skills and prepare to enter kindergarten with confidence. PreK enrolls 3–4-year-old students, TK enrolls 4-year-olds who will turn 5.

7. How is Transitional Kindergarten different from traditional Kindergarten?

Transitional Kindergarten (TK) is designed for younger children, 4-year olds, to support and build foundational skills in a structured yet developmentally appropriate setting. Using the Preschool Transitional Kindergarten Foundations, TK offers a play-based learning model that focuses on early literacy, numeracy, and social emotional growth. Kindergarten, for 5-year-olds, follows a more rigorous academic curriculum aligned with the California state standards, preparing students for first grade.

8. Will Transitional Kindergarten provide support for children who do not speak English?

Just as for Multi-lingual learners in kindergarten, local education agencies (LEA's) have a legal obligation to Multi-lingual learners in TK: first to provide a program designed to overcome language barriers, and second to provide meaningful access to the core curriculum.

9. Will Transitional Kindergarten be free or will I have to qualify based on income?

Transitional Kindergarten is the only option that is universally available and free of cost for all families with children turning 4 by September 1st of the school year.

10. How will this affect children in special education?

Districts will be required to offer the same services to a Transitional Kindergartener (TK) student with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) as they currently offer a student with an IEP in any other grade.

11. What grade will children enroll in following Transitional Kindergarten?

Children will go on to kindergarten after completing Transitional Kindergarten (TK).