

Students

Transitional Kindergarten

The Board of Education 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 children in developing the academic, social, and emotional skills they need to succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

The District's TK 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.

Eligibility

The District's TK program shall admit children as follows: (Education Code 48000):

1. For the 2023-24 school year, children whose fifth birthday is between September 2 and April 2;
2. For the 2024-25 school year, children whose fifth birthday is between September 2 and June 2;
3. For the 2025-26 school year, and in each school year thereafter, children who turn four by September 1.

A child's eligibility for TK enrollment shall not impact family eligibility for a preschool or childcare program, including, but not limited to, a Head Start program, a childcare center serving children through an alternative payment program, a general childcare and development program, a California State Preschool Program (CSPP), a migrant childcare and development program, childcare and development services for children with special needs, or a program serving children through a CalWORKs Stage 1, Stage 2, or Stage 3 program. (Education Code 48000).

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

On a case-by-case basis, a child whose fifth birthday is on or before September 1 may be admitted into the District's TK program upon request of a child's parents/guardians, if the Superintendent or designee determines that it is in the child's best interest.

At any time during the school year, the District may admit into the TK program a child whose fifth birthday is after the date specified for admittance for the applicable year as described above, provided that the Superintendent or designee recommends that enrollment in a TK program is in the child's best interest and the child's parents/guardians approve. Prior to such enrollment, the child's parents/guardians shall be provided information regarding the advantages and disadvantages and any other explanatory information about the effect of early admittance. (Education Code 48000)

Curriculum and Instruction

The District's TK program shall be based on a modified kindergarten curriculum that is age and developmentally appropriate. (Education Code 48000)

The program shall be aligned with the Preschool Learning Foundations and Preschool curriculum frameworks developed by the California Department of Education (CDE). It shall be designed to facilitate students' development in essential knowledge and skills related to language and literacy, mathematics, physical development, health, visual and performing arts, science, history-social science, English language development, and social-emotional development.

The number of instructional minutes offered in transitional kindergarten shall be the same as that required for the District's kindergarten program. If the District has adopted an extended-day kindergarten, the length of the school day for the TK program may be different than the length of the school day for the kindergarten program either at the same or different school sites. The Superintendent or designee shall annually report to CDE as to whether the District's TK programs are offered full day, part day, or both. (Education Code 8973, 37202, 46111, 46115, 46117, 48003)

The Superintendent or designee shall collaborate with parents/guardians and relevant community groups, in accordance with the plan developed for how all children in the attendance area of the District will have access to full-day learning programs the year before kindergarten that meet the needs of parents/guardians, including through partnerships with the District's expanded learning offerings, the After School Education and Safety Program, the California State Preschool Program (CSPP), and other community-based early learning and care programs.

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.

The District shall maintain an average TK class enrollment of not more than 24 students for each school site, not including students who are continuously enrolled in and meet the minimum day requirement for independent study for more than 14 school days in a school year. (Education Code 48000)

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.

A credentialed teacher who is first assigned to a TK class after July 1, 2015, shall, by August 1, 2025, 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 or an early childhood specialist credential issued by the CTC. (Education Code 48000)

The Superintendent or designee may provide professional development as needed to ensure that TK teachers are knowledgeable about the standards and effective instructional methods for teaching young children, including, but not limited to, developing competencies in serving inclusive classrooms and dual language learners.

The District shall maintain an average of at least one adult for every 12 students for TK classrooms and, contingent upon an appropriation of funding, maintain an average of at least one adult for every 10 students commencing with the 2025-26 school year. (Education Code 48000)

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.

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 kindergarten or a combination of TK and kindergarten. (Education Code 46300)

Assessment

The Superintendent or designee may develop or identify appropriate formal and/or informal assessments of TK students' development and progress. The Superintendent or designee shall monitor and regularly report to the Board regarding program implementation, the progress of students in meeting related academic standards, and student preparedness for future education.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

8203.3 Development of pre-kindergarten learning development guidelines

8207 California State Preschool Program administration

8241 Staffing ratios for center-based program

8281.5 California Prekindergarten Planning and Implementation Grant Program

8970-8974 Early primary program, including extended-day kindergarten

17375 California Preschool, Transitional Kindergarten, and Full-Day Kindergarten Facilities Grant Program

33050 Waiver authority and exceptions

37202 Equal time in all schools

44065 Issuance of and functions requiring credentials

44256 Authorization for teaching credentials

44258.9 County superintendent review of teacher assignment

44300 Emergency permits

46111 Kindergarten, hours of attendance

46114-46119 Minimum school day, kindergarten

46120 Expanded learning opportunities

46300 Method of computing average daily attendance

48000 Minimum age of admission for kindergarten; transitional kindergarten

48000.15 Early enrollment in transitional kindergarten

48002 Evidence of minimum age required to enter kindergarten or first grade

48003 Kindergarten annual report

48010 Minimum age of admission to first grade

48011 Promotion/retention following one year of kindergarten

48200 Compulsory attendance

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

18000-18308 Early Learning and Care Programs

80067 Professional Clear Early Childhood Education Specialist Instruction Credential