

Instruction

TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN

The Governing Board 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 TK students in developing the academic, social, and emotional skills they need to succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

The District's TK program 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 program development, implementation, and evaluation of the District's TK program.

Eligibility

The District's TK program shall admit children who turn four by September 1. (Education Code 48000)

A child's eligibility for TK enrollment shall not impact family eligibility for preschool or childcare programs. (Education Code 48000)

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 TK program shall be voluntary.

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 based upon the District established criteria 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

Instruction

TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN

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

The Board shall establish the length of the school day in the District's TK program, which shall be at least three hours but no more than four hours long except for TK students enrolled in expanded learning opportunity programs provided by the District pursuant to Education Code 46120. 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)

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. (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 teach and has remained in a TK class after July 1, 2015, shall, by August 1, 2023, 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)

A credentialed teacher in the District has met the criteria for professional experience in a classroom setting with preschool age children that is comparable to 24 units of education in early childhood education, or childhood development, or both, and is authorized to teach in a Transitional Kindergarten in the District, upon completion of one school year of full-time service teaching 3-4-year-old children.

Service may be any combination of experience as a teacher or assistant teacher in Transitional Kindergarten, preschool aged classrooms, or Kindergarten classrooms with

Instruction**TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN**

preschool aged students enrolled. Service shall be approved and documented by the District's Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources or their designee. Teachers may be qualified by a combination of classroom experience as described above and units of education in early childhood education, or childhood development, or both, as determined and approved by the District's Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources or their designee. Teachers qualified using these criteria shall complete professional development activities as determined by the District specific to the Transitional Kindergarten program.

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, commencing with the 2022-23 school year, 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 2023-24 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 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. They shall monitor and regularly report to the Board regarding program implementation and the progress of students in meeting related academic standards.

Instruction**TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN**Legal Reference:

<u>State</u>	<u>Description</u>
<u>5 CCR 18000-18308</u>	<u>Early Learning and Care Programs</u>
<u>5 CCR 80067-80067.3</u>	<u>Prekindergarten-3 Early Childhood Education Specialist Instruction Credential</u>
<u>Ed. Code 17375</u>	<u>California Preschool, Transitional Kindergarten, and Full-Day Kindergarten Facilities Grant Program</u>
<u>Ed. Code 313</u>	<u>English Language Proficiency Assessment</u>
<u>Ed. Code 33050</u>	<u>Waiver authority and exceptions</u>
<u>Ed. Code 37202</u>	<u>Equal time in all schools</u>
<u>Ed. Code 44065</u>	<u>Issuance of and functions requiring credentials</u>
<u>Ed. Code 44256</u>	<u>Authorization for teaching credentials</u>
<u>Ed. Code 44258.9</u>	<u>County superintendent review of teacher assignment</u>
<u>Ed. Code 44300</u>	<u>Emergency permits</u>
<u>Ed. Code 46111</u>	<u>Kindergarten; hours of attendance</u>
<u>Ed. Code 46114-46119</u>	<u>Minimum school day; kindergarten</u>
<u>Ed. Code 46120</u>	<u>Expanded learning opportunities</u>
<u>Ed. Code 46300</u>	<u>Method of computing average daily attendance</u>
<u>Ed. Code 48000</u>	<u>Minimum age of admission for kindergarten; transitional kindergarten</u>
<u>Ed. Code 48000.15</u>	<u>Early enrollment in transitional kindergarten</u>
<u>Ed. Code 48002</u>	<u>Evidence of minimum age required to enter kindergarten or first grade</u>
<u>Ed. Code 48003</u>	<u>Kindergarten annual report</u>
<u>Ed. Code 48010</u>	<u>Minimum age of admission to first grade</u>
<u>Ed. Code 48011</u>	<u>Promotion/retention following one year of kindergarten</u>
<u>Ed. Code 48200</u>	<u>Compulsory attendance</u>
<u>Ed. Code 8203.3</u>	<u>Development of pre-kindergarten learning development guidelines</u>
<u>Ed. Code 8207</u>	<u>California State Preschool Program administration</u>
<u>Ed. Code 8241</u>	<u>Staffing ratios for center-based program</u>
<u>Ed. Code 8281.5</u>	<u>California Prekindergarten Planning and Implementation Grant Program</u>

Instruction**TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN**Legal Reference:**State****Description**Ed. Code 8970-8974[Early primary program, including extended-day kindergarten](#)California Department of
Education Publication[Universal Prekindergarten FAQs](#)California Department of
Education Publication[Implementation of the Classroom Assessment Scoring System
\(CLASS\) and CLASS Environment and Removal of the Environment
Rating Scale for the California State Preschool Program \(CSPP\), Early
Education Division Management Bulletin 23-10, December 2023](#)California Department of
Education Publication[Transitional Kindergarten FAQs](#)California Department of
Education Publication[Desired Results Developmental Profile: A Developmental
Continuum from Early Infancy up to Kindergarten Entry, 2015](#)California Department of
Education Publication[California Preschool Curriculum Framework, Vol. 1, 2010](#)California Department of
Education Publication[California Preschool Curriculum Framework, Vol. 2, 2011](#)California Department of
Education Publication[California Preschool Curriculum Framework, Vol. 3, 2013](#)California Department of
Education Publication[California Preschool Learning Foundations, Vol. 1, 2008](#)California Department of
Education Publication[California Preschool Learning Foundations, Vol. 2, 2010](#)California Department of
Education Publication[California Preschool Learning Foundations, Vol. 3, 2012](#)CSBA Publication[Advancing Universal Transitional Kindergarten, April 2022](#)CSBA Publication[The Importance of Early Childhood Education Programs, September
2019](#)Website[Universal Pre-Kindergarten, California's Great Start](#)Website[California Office of Administrative Law](#)Website[CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services](#)

Instruction

TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN

Legal Reference:

<u>State</u>	<u>Description</u>
<u>Website</u>	<u>Transitional Kindergarten California</u>
<u>Website</u>	<u>California Kindergarten Association</u>
<u>Website</u>	<u>Commission on Teacher Credentialing</u>
<u>Website</u>	<u>CSBA</u>
<u>Website</u>	<u>California Department of Education</u>

<u>Management Resources</u>	<u>Description</u>
<u>CA Commission on Teacher Credentialing Publication</u>	<u>Approval of Regulations Authorizing the New PK-3 Early Childhood Education Specialist Instruction Credential, Coded Correspondence 24-03, March 2024</u>
<u>California Department of Education Communication</u>	<u>Interim Guidance on Transitional Kindergarten Students and English Language Proficiency Testing, June 2024</u>
<u>California Department of Education Publication</u>	<u>Proposed Tools and Process for the Early identification of Developmental Delays and Learning Disabilities, October 2023</u>

Policy Adopted: May 23, 2024
Revised: April 10, 2025

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL DISTRICT
Westminster, California