

TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN

A Strong Start for Young Learners



presented by
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District Advisory Council
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Objectives

- Understand the context and rationale for California's Transitional Kindergarten Program.
- Provide feedback on SDUSD's plan to leverage this program to benefit our youngest learners.



The Kindergarten Readiness Act (2010) changed the entry date for Kindergarten from December 2 to September 2 so that children enter kindergarten as age 5.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
2012	Kindergarten										TK
2013	Kindergarten									TK	
2014	Kindergarten								TK		

Sept. 1 Cutoff
date for K

Dec. 2 Cutoff
date for TK

This legislation created a new grade level for students who turn 5 between September 2 and December 2 – our “young fives.”

Transitional Kindergarten

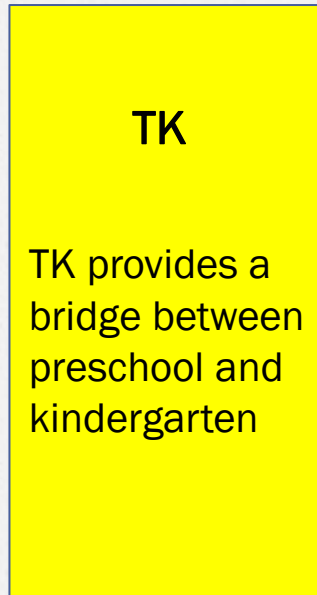


But ... what is TK?

Transitional kindergarten is defined as “the first year of a two-year kindergarten program that uses a modified kindergarten curriculum that is age and developmentally appropriate.”



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What are the benefits of a Kindergarten Readiness program – like Transitional Kindergarten?

- ✓ Children gain the pivotal skills needed for success in Kindergarten and beyond.
- ✓ Children gain confidence, social skills, and maturity.
- ✓ Children develop healthy attitudes about school and learning.
- ✓ Children do better in literacy and math on all academic measures.
- ✓ Reduces special education referrals.
- ✓ Reduces grade retention rates.
- ✓ Reduces high school drop out rates.
- ✓ Children stay in school, go to college, and earn higher wages

SDUSD recognizes that:

Our early learning programs present an important opportunity for ensuring that our children succeed in school.

TK provides our children with the gift of time – time that must be used wisely.

We need to provide a highest-quality start for every child.

We are working on ...

- ✓ Developing end-of-year expectations for TK based on the Common Core Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics.
- ✓ Developing age-appropriate curricula for English Language Arts and Mathematics.
- ✓ Developing a “start-up” materials kit for TK classrooms.
- ✓ Developing a video library of promising practices.
- ✓ Developing assessments so we can monitor each student’s progress.

Looking Ahead



Provide a high quality Transitional Kindergarten program at every elementary school.

Equity and Access

Quality Neighbor Schools

Looking Ahead



Establish a developmentally appropriate academic staircase for our youngest learners.

Kindergarten
full-day *academic* program

Transitional Kindergarten
modified-day *academic* program

Preschool
3-hour *academic* program

Looking Ahead



Establish an embedded system of intervention to assure that every student gets the support they need from highly trained specialists.



Thoughts?
Questions?
Reactions?



Please feel free to share any additional questions and/or thoughts.

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