

ADMISSION TO TK, KINDERGARTEN AND GRADE 1

Admission to Transitional Kindergarten

A student shall be granted admission to Transitional Kindergarten if his/her fifth (5th) birthday occurs between September 2 and December 2 of the current school year. Students transferring from a Transitional Kindergarten program in an out-of-district public school may be admitted to Transitional Kindergarten to allow for continuity of service, pending receipt and review of school records. There are no other provisions for early admission to Transitional Kindergarten.

Admission to Kindergarten

A student shall be admitted to Kindergarten if his/her fifth (5th) birthday is on or before September 1 of the current school year.

Early Admission to Kindergarten

California Education Code 48000(b) allows early admission to Kindergarten on a case-by-case basis. A student may be eligible for early admission to Kindergarten if all of the following conditions are met:

1. The student will have his/her fifth (5th) birthday by December 2 of the current school year, and
2. The parent/guardian of the student requests early admission, and
3. The elementary site administrator and staff determine that early admission to Kindergarten is in the best interest of the student. This determination is to be based on a review of information and data that indicates the student is prepared to successfully meet the academic standards of Kindergarten in one year. Such information and data may include, but are not limited to, preschool experience, recommendation from current/previous school/teacher, interview of the student, and commitment from parent/guardian to provide support needed for success in Kindergarten.
4. The site administrator shall provide information to the parent/guardian regarding the advantages and disadvantages of early admission, in addition to information regarding the school's Kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten programs, to assist the parent/guardian in making an informed decision.
5. Whenever possible, students considered for early admission to Kindergarten will first be placed in a Transitional Kindergarten program until their fifth (5th) birthday, to confirm and verify that Kindergarten is the most appropriate placement. Acceleration of any student at any grade level is determined by the site administrator, teacher(s),

ADMISSION TO TK, KINDERGARTEN AND GRADE 1 (continued)

and parent/guardian. It is especially important that each student's academic achievement, social/emotional maturity and physical development be carefully considered prior to recommending acceleration.

6. **Alternative Placement Recommendation.** If a review of the information and data does not indicate that placement in Kindergarten is in the best interest of the student (e.g., readiness of the student to successfully complete the standards of Kindergarten in one year is questionable) and the student is eligible for Transitional Kindergarten, the student will be allowed admittance to Transitional Kindergarten. Documentation of the request and rationale for the decision will be made available to parent/guardian and placed in the student's cumulative file.
7. **Documentation.** By signing the Early Kindergarten Admission Request form, parent/guardian acknowledges understanding of the criteria specified above. Site administrator and Area Superintendent complete and sign the form, a copy is provided to the parent/guardian, and the original is retained in the student's cumulative file.
8. **Decision.** The site administrator makes the final decision to effect requested acceleration of a student and is responsible for facilitating and ensuring documentation of each step in the process.
9. **Appeal.** If a parent/guardian is dissatisfied with the site administrator's decision, he/she may appeal the decision through the Area Superintendent or Office of Leadership and Learning.

Admission to First Grade

1. California law requires a child to be six years old on or before a September 1 for the 2014-15 school year and each school year thereafter to be legally eligible for first grade (Education Code Section 48010.)
2. A child who was legally enrolled in an out-of-state kindergarten for one school year (using that state's requirements), but who does not meet California age eligibility for first grade, may, with parental consent, be enrolled by the district in first grade (Education Code Section 48011).
3. A child who was not age-eligible for kindergarten (that is, the child turned five after September 1 in the 2014-15 school year or thereafter) and who attended a California private school kindergarten for a year is viewed by the CDE as not legally enrolled in kindergarten,

ADMISSION TO TK, KINDERGARTEN AND GRADE 1 (continued)

pursuant to Education Code Section 48000 requirements. Therefore, this child, upon enrollment in public school, is enrolled in kindergarten, assessed, and may (but is not required to) be immediately promoted to first grade if the child meets the following State Board of Education criteria, pursuant to Title 5, Section 200:

- a. The child is at least five years of age.
- b. The child has attended a public school kindergarten for a long enough time to enable school personnel to evaluate the child's ability.
- c. The child is in the upper 5 percent of the child's age group in terms of general mental ability.
- d. The physical development and social maturity of the child are consistent with the child's advanced mental ability
- e. The parent/guardian has filed a written statement with the district

A statement, signed by the district and parent/guardian, is placed in the official school records for these five-year-olds who have been advanced to first grade (Education Code 48011). This action prevents a subsequent audit exception for first grade placement of an age-ineligible student.

Regulation
approved: December 12, 2017
Effective: February 1, 2018

SAN DIEGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
San Diego, California