TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN

In alignment with LCAP Goal 1.2, 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 program shall assist TK children 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)

Eligibility

The district's TK program shall admit children whose fifth birthday is from September 2 through December 2. (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.

Upon request of a child's parents/guardians, the district may, on a case-by-case basis after the Superintendent or designee determines that it is in the child's best interest, admit into the district's TK program a child whose fifth birthday is on or before September 1 and who is therefore eligible for 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.

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, preschool curriculum frameworks developed by the California Department of Education, as well as the CCSS and Kinder curriculum framework. It 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.

(cf. 5148.3 - Preschool/Early Childhood Education)
(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)
(cf. 6174 - Education for English Language Learners)

The Board shall fix the length of the school day in the district's TK program to mirror the length of the Kindergarten day.

(cf. 6111 - School Calendar)
(cf. 6112 - School Day)

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.

**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, and is in compliance with the requirements of Education Code 48000, as per collective bargaining agreements.

(cf. 4112.2 - Certification)

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.

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

**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.
TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN (continued)

A student shall not attend more than two years in a combination of TK and kindergarten. (Education Code 46300)

(cf. 5123 - Promotion/Acceleration/Retention)

Assessment

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

(cf. 0500 - Accountability)
(cf. 6162.5 - Student Assessment)

Legal Reference:
EDUCATION CODE
8973 Extended-day kindergarten
37202 School calendar; equivalency of instructional minutes
44258.9 Assignment monitoring by county superintendent of schools
46111 Kindergarten, hours of attendance
46114-46119 Minimum school day, kindergarten
46300 Computation of ADA, inclusion of kindergarten and transitional kindergarten
48000 Age of admission, kindergarten and transitional kindergarten
48002 Evidence of minimum age required to enter kindergarten or first grade
48200 Compulsory education, starting at age six

Management Resources:
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS
Transitional Kindergarten FAQs
Desired Results Developmental Profile, 2015
WEB SITES
CSBA: http://www.csba.org
California Department of Education: http://www.cde.ca.gov
California Kindergarten Association: http://www.ckanet.org
Commission on Teacher Credentialing: http://www.ctc.ca.gov
Transitional Kindergarten California: http://www.tkcalifornia.org

Policy
adopted: December 12, 2017
Effective: February 1, 2018
Revised: October 10, 2018