



TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is the Kindergarten Readiness Act of 2010?

Senate Bill (SB) 1381 (Chapter 705, Statutes of 2010) amended California Education Code (EC)(Section 46300, 48000, and 48010) to change the required birthday for admission to kindergarten and first grade and established a transitional kindergarten program beginning in the 2012-2013 school year.

2. What is Universal Transitional Kindergarten?

In July 2021, Governor Newsom signed AB 131, which adopts Universal TK by 2025-26. The following depicts a breakdown of the requirements for Districts to implement. The phase-in model begins in the 2022-23 school year with following age eligibility for children enrolling in Transitional Kindergarten:

- 2022-23: 5th birthday between September 2 - February 2
- 2023-24: 5th birthday between September 2 – April 2
- 2024-25: 5th birthday between September 2 – June 2
- 2025-26: 4th birthday by September 1st (UTK in place)

3. What is the minimum age for admittance to kindergarten in California?

In California, a child must be 5 years of age by September 1st of the current school year in order to enroll in a kindergarten program.

4. What is Transitional Kindergarten?

Transitional Kindergarten (TK) is the first year of a two-year kindergarten program that uses a modified kindergarten curriculum that is age and developmentally appropriate. Pursuant to law, EC 48000[c], a child is eligible for TK if their fifth birthday falls between September 2nd and April 2nd of the 2023-2024 school year.

5. Is CUSD required to offer Transitional Kindergarten?

Capistrano Unified School District began offering the Transitional Kindergarten (TK) program in the fall of 2012, as an outcome of the SB1381 legislation or the Kindergarten Readiness Act 2010. Transitional Kindergarten is the first year of a two-year kindergarten program. Currently, Transitional Kindergarten is offered only at select school sites throughout the district and not every campus, however TK *will* be offered at every school campus beginning in the 2023-24 School Year.

6. Are TK students required to matriculate to kindergarten after completing their TK year??

Yes. Children who attend the TK program would continue to kindergarten the following year.

7. Is TK considered a preschool program?

No, TK is the first year of a two-year kindergarten program.

8. How does the TK schedule differ from kindergarten?

TK is a half-day program operating approximately 4 hours per day. It has an Early Bird/Late Owl model with 2 hours of overlap. Kindergarten is a full day program.

9. How long is the TK day?



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Pursuant to law (EC 48000), a TK shall not be construed as a new program or higher level of service. By statute, the maximum school day in kindergarten is six hours (EC 46110).

10. Are standards available for TK?

Yes. TK uses the California Preschool Learning Foundations, and California Preschool Curriculum Frameworks. There is also exposure to the California Academic Content Standards and the Common Core State Standards for English Language Art and Mathematics.

11. What is the curriculum for TK?

California law (EC 48000) defines TK as “the first year of a two-year kindergarten program that uses a modified kindergarten curriculum that is age and developmentally appropriate.” While no state curriculum is mandated, local education agencies must modify the local course of study in order to provide age and developmentally appropriate curriculum for TK. The “World of Wonders” curriculum, which aligns with the Preschool Learning Foundations, was recently adopted as the curriculum for TK.

12. What are The William’s requirements for students in TK?

While instructional materials must be provided to all pupils, the governing board of a school district determines standards-aligned instructional materials and how those materials are to be modified and age-appropriate for TK. *EC 60119* states “sufficient textbook, instructional materials, or both, to use in class and to take home. This paragraph does not require two sets of textbooks or instructional materials for each pupil. The materials may be in a digital format so each pupil, at a minimum, has and can access the same materials in the class and to take home, as all other pupils in the same class or course in the district and can use and could access them at home.”

13. Can students who are age eligible for kindergarten attend TK?

CUSD Trustees have approved a policy to allow children whose fifth birthday falls between June 1 and September 1 to apply for an assignment to a TK class. TK placements for kinder-eligible students are made based on space and availability as the district is obligated to serve all TK eligible students first. (Please also see Board Policy BP 6170.1(a) for more information).

14. What is the teacher-student ratio for TK?

The required average ratio is 1 adult to every 12 students. Transitional Kindergarten class enrollment should not be more than 24 students for each TK classroom with 12 students per session.

15. Does the TK teacher need to have a teaching credential?

The state has defined the following as TK Teacher Qualifications:

A credentialed teacher first assigned to a TK classroom after July 1, 2015, possesses by August 1, 2023, one of the following:

- At least 24 units in early childhood education, or childhood development, or both
- Local educational agency employing the teacher determines that the professional experience in a classroom setting with preschool age children is comparable to the 24 units in early childhood education, or childhood development, or both
- A child development teacher permit issued by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing

16. What if my child’s fifth birthday is after April 2nd?

According to CUSD Board Policy 6170.1, the district will not admit into the TK program a child whose fifth birthday is after April 2; but recommends enrollment in the District’s Early Childhood Preschool Programs.