

TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
Updated 2/2021

1. What will the TK schedule be for the 2021-2022 school year?

Currently the District is in the planning phases for the 2021-2022 school year. Although we hope to resume a traditional school year for the 2021-2022 school year, this will depend on local and state guidelines. Should restrictions be lifted and the District allowed to resume a traditional school year, then TK would resume a 4 hour daily schedule. If the District opens the 2021-2022 school year with continued restrictions, then the 2.5 hour daily schedule will continue.

2. Will children have to wear face masks for the 2021-2022 school year?

During the 2020-2021 school year, the District mandated that all students attending school in person be required to use a cloth face covering. Given the current guidelines as of today, yes students will continue to be required to use a cloth face covering for the 2021-2022 school year. Our District will continue to monitor county restrictions and mandates, and any changes to this District mandate will be communicated to families. For more information about the District's current safety plan, please visit <https://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/reopening> . The District updates this website frequently with any changes.

3. Will an online option be offered for TK for the 2021-2022 school year?

Yes, our District is currently planning on including TK as part of an online academy. Please note that families who choose this online option will be making the commitment for the entire duration of the 2021-2022 school year.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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 December 2nd of the current school year.

7. Is CUSD required to offer Transitional Kindergarten?

Yes. Each elementary or unified school district must offer TK classes for all age-eligible children. Although CUSD is required to make a space available for TK eligible children, it is not required to place the child at the parents' preferred school site.

8. Are TK students required to complete the entire two-year program?

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

9. Is TK considered a preschool program?

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

10. How does the TK schedule differ from kindergarten?

TK is a half-day program operating 4 hours per day. Kindergarten is a full day program. **Due to COVID-19, TK hours have been reduced to 2 ½ hours per day to allow social distancing guidelines and classroom sanitation.**

11. How long is the TK day?

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 four hours (EC 46110).

Due to COVID-19, TK hours have been reduced to 2 ½ hours per day to allow social distancing guidelines and classroom sanitation.

12. Are standards available for TK?

TK standards are combined standards using the California Preschool Learning Foundations, California Preschool Curriculum Frameworks, California Academic Content Standards and the Common Core State Standards for English Language Art and Mathematics.

13. 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. For CUSD, the combined standards will be the basis on which the curriculum is taught while using the curriculum resource “Big Day” by Scholastic Books which aligns with the standards documents.

14. How are children placed in a TK class?

Parents must first submit an on line ***Intent to Register in Transitional Kindergarten***. Form can be find on Early Childhood Programs website: <http://childed-capousd-ca.schoolloop.com>

b. Parent’s will be notified, via email, regarding their child,’s placement in the TK program and receive a placement letter. Placement is determined as follows:

1. First priority - Families with siblings attending the family’s first choice.
2. Second priority - Families who reside within the school site boundaries as the home school. Families requesting a TK site when there is not a TK class at their home school will have an option for a first and second choice school. If there is not space available at the requested sites, placement will be made at the closest available opening to the family’s residence.

The placement letter that is sent home outlines the next steps to be taken in the registration process (i.e., on-line registration and forms that must be submitted to the school site). The

placement letter must be submitted to the assigned school, along with proof of completion of the online registration, in order to complete registration.

According to CUSD Board Policy (BP 6170.1(a)): Upon request of a child's parents/guardians, the District may admit into the TK program a child whose fifth birthday is on or before September 1 and who is therefore eligible for kindergarten. Requests may be made by parents/guardians by submitting an Intent to Register in Transitional Kindergarten form. Requests will be considered only after TK numbers are confirmed for the coming school year. Parents/guardians will be notified when an opening occurs and placement is possible. Consideration will be given to requests provided:

- Sufficient openings exist for TK eligible students to enroll during the school year.
- The Superintendent or designee determines that it is in the child's best interest along with assessment data that supports this decision.
- If the child has a current IEP, before enrollment is confirmed an IEP meeting will need to be held to discuss placement options and recommendations for TK.
- A child's fifth birthday is on or after June 1; priority will be given to the child whose birthday is closest to September 1.
- The parents/guardians of a Kindergarten eligible child who is enrolled in TK must agree to sign a Kindergarten Continuance Form upon entrance to TK verifying that they agree to have the child continue in Kindergarten the following year.

Every effort is made to place a student at the school site offering the TK program that is nearest to their home.

15. 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 as long as 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 has the ability to use and access them at home."

16. 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 assignment to a TK class. Selection is based on the criteria that is listed in item 12 above (please also see Board Policy BP 6170.1(a) for more information).

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

This is a local district decision and will most likely be impacted by budget and contract agreements.

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

Yes, the TK teacher must be properly credentialed.

19. What if my child has an Individual Education Plan (IEP)? If your child's birthday is within the TK birth date range, the IEP team will consider TK as a part of the continuum of placement options. An IEP team meeting will be held to discuss this continuum.

20. What if my child's fifth birthday is after December 2nd?

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