

Board Policy

Replacement

Transitional Kindergarten

BP 6170.1

Instruction

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 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)

The Board encourages ongoing collaboration among District preschool staff, other preschool providers, elementary teachers, administrators, and parents/guardians in program development, implementation, and evaluation of the District's TK program.

Eligibility

The District's TK program shall be the first year of a two-year kindergarten program. (Education Code 48000)

1. For the 2021-22 school year, children whose fifth birthday is between September 2 through December 2
2. For the 2022-23 school year, children whose fifth birthday is between September 2 and February 2
3. For the 2023-24 school year, children whose fifth birthday is between September 2 and April 2
4. For the 2024-25 school year, children whose fifth birthday is between September 2 and June 2
5. For the 2025-26 school year, and in each school year thereafter, children who turn four by September 1

A child's eligibility for TK enrollment shall not impact family eligibility for a preschool or childcare program. (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.

The District may admit into the TK program a child whose fifth birthday is after December 2, provided the Superintendent or designee recommends that enrollment in a TK program is in the child's best interest and space is available. Prior to such enrollment, the child's parents/guardians shall be provided information regarding the advantages and disadvantages and any other explanatory information about the effect of early admittance.

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 and preschool curriculum frameworks developed by the California Department of Education. 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.

The number of instructional minutes offered in TK shall be at the least the minimum number of instructional minutes required by Education Code.

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.

A credentialed teacher who is first assigned to a TK class after July 1, 2015, shall, by August 1, 2023, have at least 24 units in early childhood education and/or child development, comparable experience in a preschool setting, and/or a child development teacher permit issued by the CTC. (Education Code 48000)

The Superintendent or designee may provide professional development as needed to ensure that Transitional Kindergarten teachers are knowledgeable about District standards and effective instructional methods for teaching young children, including, but not limited to, developing competencies in serving inclusive classrooms and dual language learners.

The District shall, commencing with 2022-23 school year, maintain an average of at least one adult for every 12 students for TK classrooms and, contingent upon an appropriation of funding, maintain an average of at least one adult for every 10 students commencing with the 2023-24 school year. (Education Code 48000)

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 parental permission 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.

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

Assessment

The Superintendent or designee shall develop or identify appropriate 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.

The Board shall establish the length of the school day in the District's TK program, which shall be at least three hours but no more than four hours long except for TK students enrolled in expanded learning opportunity programs provided by the District pursuant to Education Code 46120.

LIVERMORE VALLEY JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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