

Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District Universal Transitional Kindergarten Report

Background:

The Kindergarten Readiness Act of 2010 amended the California Education Code, adding an additional year of Kindergarten called Transitional Kindergarten (TK). LVJUSD has implemented Transitional Kindergarten since the 2012-13 school year. This was a gradual implementation until students turned 5 by September 1, 2014. LVJUSD's TK program is named Students Participating in Readiness Opportunities Using Themes in Science or SPROUTS. In 2014, Livermore's SPROUTS TK program was recognized by the California School Boards Association (CSBA) with the distinguished Golden Bell Award for being a model early learning program.

The Education Code (48000) has since been amended to expand Universal Transitional Kindergarten (UTK) to children turning 4 years old by September 1, 2025. There will be an incremental birthdate change over the next 3 years to support this transition. In addition, LVJUSD will offer access to an afterschool program option for all TK through 6th grade unduplicated pupils to meet the nine-hour per day requirement for students during the school year. We will also offer access to a total of 30 non-school days of programming, such as during the summer and intersession periods.

UTK will provide children with effective learning opportunities that will build an early and strong foundation for learning before Kindergarten. The benefits of a quality early childhood experience have been documented in research to better prepare students in language development, early literacy, math skills, executive function and social emotional development. UTK will include a fundamental shift in instruction that is aligned with the Preschool Learning Foundations to provide developmentally appropriate educational experiences for our four-year-old students.

In keeping with our commitment of supporting all students, we will also be offering a Dual Immersion Transitional Kindergarten class at Junction K-8. Students who are native Spanish speakers as well as those students who wish to learn Spanish, will have the opportunity to begin early learning in two languages (English and Spanish). All of our TK/UTK classes will address the unique needs of the students who come from homes where the home language is something other than English. English learners will have the same level of services as provided in our K-12 programs. Teachers will use Specifically Designed Academic Instruction in English (SDAIE) strategies during integrated and designated ELD times. Additionally, special education students receive the same special education services when attending TK/UTK. Services provided are based on the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Status:

LVJUSD currently offers TK at nine of our eleven elementary/K-8 school sites (Altamont Creek, Arroyo Seco, Leo R. Croce, Jackson Avenue, Lawrence, Joe Michell, Rancho Las Positas, Emma C. Smith, and Sunset), serving 198 students this school year. We will be expanding our TK to Marilyn Avenue and Junction K-8, offering TK at all of our school sites next school year (2022-23). As program enrollment increases, new classrooms will be opened at our existing sites.

A child is eligible for UTK if they have a fourth birthday by September 1, 2025. The incremental birthday change will be as follows. When a child has a *fifth* birthday between:

School Year	Turning 5 years old by these dates:
2021- 2022	9/2/21-12/2/21
2022-2023	9/2/22-2/2/23
2023-2024	9/2/23-4/2/24
2024-2025	9/2/24-6/2/25

Education Code (48000) requires a 12:1 pupil to adult ratio in our TK/UTK classrooms for the 22-23 school year. Beginning the 23-24 school year, the ratio will be 10:1. The minimum instructional minutes will be 180 minutes which is considered a part-day program. LVJUSD currently implements a full-day TK program (defined as 4 or more hours).

Next Steps:

LVJUSD formed a UTK Committee to work on developing this long-term UTK plan. It is composed of three Transitional Kindergarten Teachers, an Elementary Principal, and the Curriculum Department Coordinator who focuses on Early Literacy. We have reached out to parents through various school and District meetings, Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), District English Language Advisory Council (DELAC), School Site Council (SSC) meetings at various elementary school sites). We plan to continue to reach out to families to learn their needs.

Vision and Coherence

Our overall vision and plan for UTK is an expansion of our current stand-alone TK classroom model, which is already close to the guidelines for UTK (1 teacher, 1 full-time aide with an average class size of 24 students). We are connecting with our After School Education and Safety (ASES) and other community partners for extended hours and intermission support. Our long-term goal is to have a developmentally appropriate program that will vertically align our TK-3 program.

Community Engagement and Partnerships

We have been in conversation with our State Preschool and Headstart Programs (CAPE) that are housed on our campuses to partner with them for the wraparound services to complete the 9 hours of access for our unduplicated students. We are also working with our ASES program as well.

Workforce Recruitment and Professional Learning

LVJUSD has joined Alameda County Office of Education to apply for the Early Education Teacher Development Grant to support development and recruitment of UTK teachers.

Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

LVJUSD Curriculum Department and UTK Committee will continue to work together on aligning our curriculum, report cards, and assessments. We will work on aligning it to the revised Preschool Learning Foundations (upon release) and to vertically align with our Preschool to third grade (P-3).

District Facilities, Services, and Operations

LVJUSD multiple departments have met to discuss and plan for our UTK expansion. We continue to work on this expansion as we receive updates on enrollment.