

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Policy

BP 6170

Instruction

Transitional Kindergarten (TK) Student Instructional Program and Eligibility

PURPOSE: The purpose of this policy is to offer a high-quality transitional kindergarten (TK) program for eligible children who do not yet meet the minimum age for kindergarten and their fifth birthday falls between September 2 and December 2 (Education Code 48000).

POSITION: The Board of Education desires to assist children in developing the academic, social, and emotional skills they need to succeed in kindergarten and beyond. The district's transitional kindergarten shall be the first year of a two-year kindergarten program. (Education Code 48000).

1. Children are eligible for kindergarten enrollment if they have their fifth birthday on or before September 1, 2015 for the 2015-16 school year and beyond.
2. Children whose admission to kindergarten would be delayed because of the age requirements are required to be offered a transitional kindergarten program beginning with the 2012-13 school year.
3. For purposes of this policy, "transitional kindergarten" refers to the first year of a two-year kindergarten program offered by the District.
4. The District's transitional kindergarten program shall be based on a modified kindergarten curriculum that is age and developmentally appropriate. (Education Code 48000).
5. Upon recommendation by the Superintendent or designee, the Board shall approve standards for transitional kindergarten that bridge preschool learning foundations and kindergarten standards. Such standards shall be designed to facilitate students' development in essential skills which may include, as appropriate, language and literacy, mathematics, physical development, the arts, science, social sciences, English language development, and social-emotional development.
6. For students who are eligible to receive special education services in transitional kindergarten any additional supports and services based upon the student's IEP will be provided accordingly. Transitional kindergarten eligible students requiring the supports of a Special Day program to access the general curriculum will be offered placement in a Primary Special Day Program.
7. This program is not mandatory. Parents/Guardians are not required to enroll their children in kindergarten or transitional kindergarten. Compulsory full-time education is not required until a child turns six years old. However, the District desires to offer an instructionally appropriate program to eligible students who voluntarily wish to enroll in Transitional Kindergarten.

8. Upon registration, parents/guardians shall be notified of the availability of this program and the age, residency, and any other enrollment requirements.
9. The District's transitional kindergarten program shall admit children whose fifth birthday falls between September 2 and December 2.
10. Transitional kindergarten students may be placed in the same classrooms as kindergarten students when necessary, provided that the instructional program is differentiated to meet student needs.
11. Teachers assigned to teach in transitional kindergarten classes shall possess a teaching credential or permit that authorizes instruction at the kindergarten grade level. Pursuant to EC 48000(g), a school district or charter school shall ensure that credentialed teachers who are first assigned to a TK classroom after July 1, 2015, have by August 1, 2020, one of the following:
 1. At least 24 units in early childhood education, or childhood development, or both.
 2. As determined by the ELA employing the teacher, professional experience in a classroom setting with preschool age children that is comparable to the 24 units of education described in bullet 1.
 3. A child development teacher permit issued by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC).
12. Any current credentialed teacher who is or was assigned to teach TK, or a combination class of kindergarten and TK, **on or before** July 1, 2015, is "grandfathered in" to teach TK without having to meet additional requirements. Any credentialed teacher assigned to teach TK, or a combination class of kindergarten and TK, **after** July 1, 2015, will have until August 1, 2020, to meet the above-mentioned requirements.
13. The Board encourages ongoing collaboration among District preschool staff, other preschool providers, elementary teachers, administrators, and parents/guardians in program development, implementation, and evaluation.
14. 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.
15. Students who complete the transitional kindergarten 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.
16. A student shall not attend more than two years in a combination of transitional kindergarten and kindergarten.
17. The number of instructional minutes offered in transitional kindergarten shall be the same as that required for the District's kindergarten program.
18. The Superintendent or designee shall develop or identify appropriate assessments of transitional kindergarten 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.

Legal Reference:

Education Code Sections

8973	Extended-day kindergarten
44258.9	Assignment monitoring by county office of education
4611	Kindergarten, hours of attendance 46114-46119 Minimum school day, kindergarten
46300	Computation of average daily attendance, inclusion of kindergarten and transitional kindergarten
48000	Minimum age of admission (kindergarten)
48002	Evidence of minimum age required to enter kindergarten or first grade
48200	Compulsory education, starting at age six
60605.8	Academic Content Standards Commission, development of Common Core Standards

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Transitional Kindergarten, Issue Brief, July 2011

CALIFORNIA COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS

Transitional Kindergarten (TK) Planning Guide: A Resource for Administrators of California Public School Districts, November 2011

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Transitional Kindergarten FAQs

California Preschool Curriculum Framework, Vol. 1, 2010

California Preschool Learning Foundations, Vol. 1, 2008

Prekindergarten Learning Development Guidelines, 2000

First Class: A Guide for Early Primary Education, 1999

COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING PUBLICATIONS

11-08 Transitional Kindergarten Assignments, Credential Information Alert, August 25, 2011

Websites:

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California County Superintendents Educational Services Association: <http://www.ccsesa.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>

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