

Instruction

TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN

BP 6170.1

The Governing Board desires to offer a high-quality transitional kindergarten (TK) program and expanded transitional kindergarten (Expanded TK) for eligible children who do not yet meet the minimum age criterion for kindergarten. The TK and Expanded TK programs shall assist students in developing the academic, social, and emotional skills they need to succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

PUSD SPECIFIC:

Expanded Transition Kindergarten (Expanded TK)

Expanded TK prepares more four-year-olds for kindergarten. Specifically, it discusses ways in which school districts can make use of state funding for TK to support school readiness for children whose fifth birthday falls after the TK eligibility window (birthdays between September 2 and December 2), under newly approved statutory language.

A compelling body of evidence, compiled by respected experts over decades, confirms that high quality early learning can substantially improve children's readiness to succeed in K-12, setting them on a path to college and careers. In addition to providing the California State Preschool Program, Head Start, and TK for four-year-olds, some districts have used an additional option to support school readiness, namely Expanded TK.

Expanded TK is available as funding allows.

Placement can ONLY be arranged through the Office of Permits and Records.

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 the development, implementation, and evaluation of the district's TK and Expanded TK programs.

(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)

(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)

Eligibility

The district's TK program shall admit children whose fifth birthday is from

Instruction

TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN

BP 6170.1

September 2 through December 2. (Education Code 48000)

Parents/guardians of eligible children shall be notified of the availability of the TK or Expanded TK program and the age, residency, immunization, and any other enrollment requirements. Enrollment in the TK or Expanded TK program shall be voluntary.

(cf. 5111 - Admission)
(cf. 5111.1 - District Residency)
(cf. 5141.22 - Infectious Diseases)
(cf. 5141.3 - Health Examinations)
(cf. 5141.31 - Immunizations)
(cf. 5141.32 - Health Screening for School Entry)

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.

At any time during the school year, and as funding allows, the district may admit into the TK program a child whose fifth birthday is after December 2 of that same school year, provided that the Superintendent or designee recommends that enrollment in a TK program is in the child's best interest and the child's parents/guardians approve. 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. (Education Code 48000)

PUSD SPECIFIC:

Please note: To enroll an age-eligible child in Expanded Transitional Kindergarten or Transitional Kindergarten, please visit the district's Office of Enrollment, Permits & Student Records website page.

- Expanded Transitional Kindergarten enrollment takes place at the Office of Enrollment, Permits & Student Records on an annual basis
- Transitional Kindergarten enrollment takes place at an assigned school determined by the student's residency within district boundaries

Instruction

TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN

BP 6170.1

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)

(cf. 6141 - Curriculum Development and Evaluation)

(cf. 6161.1 - Selection and Evaluation of Instructional Materials)

The program shall be aligned with the preschool learning foundations and preschool curriculum frameworks developed by the California Department of Education (CDE). 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.

(cf. 5148.3 - Preschool/Early Childhood Education)

(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)

(cf. 6174 - Education for English Learners)

The Board shall establish the length(s) of the school day in the district's TK and Expanded TK programs. TK and Expanded TK programs may be maintained for different lengths of time either at the same or different school sites, as long as the school day is at least three hours but no more than four hours. The Superintendent or designee shall annually report to CDE as to whether the district's TK programs are offered full day, part day, or both. (Education Code 37202, 46111, 46115, 46117, 48003)

(cf. 6111 - School Calendar)

(cf. 6112 - School Day)

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.

TK students may be placed in a classroom commingled with 4-year-old students from a California State Preschool Program as long as the classroom does not include students enrolled in TK for a second year or students enrolled in a regular kindergarten. (Education Code 8235, 48000)

Instruction

TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN

BP 6170.1

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.

(cf. 4112.2 - Certification)

A credentialed teacher who is first assigned to a TK class after July 1, 2015, shall, by August 1, 2020, 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 CTC. (Education Code 48000)

The Superintendent or designee may provide professional development as needed to ensure that TK and Expanded TK teachers are knowledgeable about the standards and effective instructional methods for teaching young children.

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

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 Kindergarten Continuance 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)

(cf. 5123 - Promotion/Acceleration/Retention)

Assessment

The Superintendent or designee may develop or identify appropriate formal

Instruction

TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN

BP 6170.1

and/or informal 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.

(cf. 0500 - Accountability)
(cf. 6162.5 - Student Assessment)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

8235 - California State Preschool Program

8973 - Extended-day kindergarten

37202 - School calendar; equivalency of instructional minutes

44258.9 - Assignment monitoring by county superintendent of schools

46111 - Kindergarten, hours of attendance

46114-46119 - Minimum school day, kindergarten

46300 - Computation of ADA, inclusion of kindergarten and transitional kindergarten

48000 - Age of admission, kindergarten and transitional kindergarten

48002 - Evidence of minimum age required to enter kindergarten or first grade

48003 - Kindergarten annual report

48200 - Compulsory education, starting at age six

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

What Boards of Education Can Do About Kindergarten Readiness, Governance
Brief, May 2016

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Transitional Kindergarten FAQs

Desired Results Developmental Profile, 2015

Transitional Kindergarten Implementation Guide: A Resource for California Public
School District Administrators and Teachers, 2013

California Preschool Curriculum Framework, Vol. 3, 2013

California Preschool Learning Foundations, Vol. 3, 2012

California Preschool Curriculum Framework, Vol. 2, 2011

California Preschool Learning Foundations, Vol. 2, 2010

California Preschool Curriculum Framework, Vol. 1, 2010

California Preschool Learning Foundations, Vol. 1, 2008

WEB SITES

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

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

California Kindergarten Association: <http://www.ckanet.org>

Instruction

TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN

BP 6170.1

*Commission on Teacher Credentialing: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov>
Transitional Kindergarten California: <http://www.tkcalifornia.org>*

Policy

Adopted: March 27, 2012

Revised: 7/30/15; 12/17/15; 1/25/18; 8/1/19

PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Pasadena, California