Policy 6170.1: Transitional Kindergarten **Status:** ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 10/01/2015 | **Last Revised Date:** 12/01/2023 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 12/01/2023

The Governing Board 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 TK program shall assist students in developing the academic, social, and emotional skills needed 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 the development, implementation, and evaluation of the district's TK program.

Eligibility

The district's TK program shall admit children as follows: (Education Code 48000):

1. For the 2023-24 school year, children whose fifth birthday is between September 2 and April 2

2. For the 2024-25 school year, children whose fifth birthday is between September 2 and June 2

3. 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, including, but not limited to, a Head Start program, a childcare center serving children through an alternative payment program, a general childcare and development program, a California State Preschool Program (CSPP), a migrant childcare and development program, childcare and development services for children with special needs, or a program serving children through a CalWORKs Stage 1, Stage 2, or Stage 3 program. (Education Code 48000)

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

On a case-by-case basis, a child whose fifth birthday is on or before September 1 may be admitted into the district's TK program upon request of a child's parents/guardians, if the Superintendent or designee, determines that it is in the child's best interest.

At any time during the school year, the district may admit into the TK program a child whose fifth birthday is after the date specified for admittance for the applicable year as described above, provided that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent or designee, the Board determines 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)

Additionally, the district may enroll an early enrollment child in TK whose fourth birthday is between June 3 and September 1, inclusive, preceding the school year during which they are enrolled in TK. The Superintendent or designee shall maintain any classroom that includes an early enrollment child with a classroom enrollment that does not exceed 20 students and an adult-to-student ratio of at least one adult to every 10 students. Additionally, if an early enrollment child is enrolled in TK, the district shall concurrently offer enrollment to the child in the district's CSPP, subject to available space. (Education Code 48000.15)

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 (CDE). It shall be designed to facilitate students' development in essential knowledge and 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 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, including recess but excluding noon intermission, except for TK students enrolled in expanded learning opportunity programs provided by the district pursuant to Education Code 46120. If the district has adopted an extended-day kindergarten, the length of the school day for the TK program may be different than the length of the school day for the kindergarten program either at the same or different school sites. 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 8973, 37202, 46111, 46115, 46117, 48003)

The Superintendent or designee shall collaborate with parents/guardians and relevant community groups, in accordance with the plan developed for how all children in the attendance area of the district will have access to full-day learning programs the year before kindergarten that meet the needs of parents/guardians, including through partnerships with the district's expanded learning offerings, the After School Education and Safety Program, CSPP, Head Start programs, and other community-based early learning and care programs.

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 commingled in the same classroom with four-year-old students from a CSPP program as long as the commingled program meets all of the requirements of each program as well as the following requirements: (Education Code 8207, 48000):

1. The classroom does not include students enrolled in TK for a second year or students enrolled in a regular kindergarten

2. An early childhood environment rating scale, as specified in 5 CCR 18281, is completed for the classroom

3. All children enrolled for 10 or more hours per week are evaluated using the Desired Results Developmental Profile, as specified in 5 CCR 18272

4. The classroom is taught by a teacher that holds a credential issued by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) in accordance with Education Code 44065 and 44256

5. The classroom is in compliance with the adult-child ratio specified in Education Code 8241

6. Contractors of the district report the services, revenues, and expenditures for children in the preschool program in accordance with 5 CCR 18068 except for contractors of the TK program

The district shall maintain an average TK class enrollment of not more than 24 students for each school site, not including students who are continuously enrolled in and meet the minimum day requirement for independent study for more than 14 school days in a school year. (Education Code 48000)

Staffing

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that teachers assigned to teach in TK classes possess a teaching credential or permit from CTC that authorizes such instruction.

A credentialed teacher who is first assigned to a TK class after July 1, 2015, shall, by August 1, 2025, have at least 24 units in early childhood education and/or child development, comparable professional experience in a preschool setting, and/or a child development teacher permit or an early childhood specialist credential issued by CTC. (Education Code 48000)

The Superintendent or designee may provide professional development as needed to ensure that TK teachers are knowledgeable about the 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 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 2025-26 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 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 kindergarten or a combination of TK and kindergarten. (Education Code 46300)

Assessment

The Superintendent or designee may develop or identify appropriate formal and/or informal assessments of TK students' development and progress. The Superintendent or designee shall monitor and regularly report to the Board regarding program implementation, the progress of students in meeting related academic standards, and student preparedness for future education.

Policy Reference Disclaimer:
These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State	Description
5 CCR 18000-18308	Early Learning and Care Programs
5 CCR 80067	Professional Clear Early Childhood Education Specialist Instruction Credential
Ed. Code 17375	California Preschool, Transitional Kindergarten, and Full-Day Kindergarten Facilities Grant Program
Ed. Code 33050	Waiver authority and exceptions
Ed. Code 37202	Equal time in all schools
Ed. Code 44065	Issuance of and functions requiring credentials
Ed. Code 44256	Authorization for teaching credentials
Ed. Code 44258.9	County superintendent review of teacher assignment
Ed. Code 44300	Emergency permits
Ed. Code 46111	Kindergarten; hours of attendance
Ed. Code 46114-46119	Minimum school day; kindergarten
Ed. Code 46120	Expanded learning opportunities
Ed. Code 46300	Method of computing average daily attendance
Ed. Code 48000	Minimum age of admission for kindergarten; transitional kindergarten
Ed. Code 48000.15	Early enrollment in transitional kindergarten
Ed. Code 48002	Evidence of minimum age required to enter kindergarten or first grade
Ed. Code 48003	Kindergarten annual report
Ed. Code 48010	Minimum age of admission to first grade
Ed. Code 48011	Promotion/retention following one year of kindergarten
Ed. Code 48200	Compulsory attendance
Ed. Code 8203.3	Development of pre-kindergarten learning development guidelines
Ed. Code 8207	California State Preschool Program administration
Ed. Code 8241	Staffing ratios for center-based program
Ed. Code 8281.5	California Prekindergarten Planning and Implementation Grant

	Program
Ed. Code 8970-8974	Early primary program, including extended-day kindergarten

Management Resources	**Description**
CA Commission on Teacher Credentialing Publication	Proposed Amendments to Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations Pertaining to the PK-3 Childhood Education Specialist Credential, Coded Correspondence 23-02, February 10, 2023
California Department of Education Publication	Universal Prekindergarten FAQs
California Department of Education Publication	Transitional Kindergarten FAQs
California Department of Education Publication	Desired Results Developmental Profile: A Developmental Continuum from Early Infancy up to Kindergarten Entry, 2015
California Department of Education Publication	California Preschool Curriculum Framework, Vol. 1, 2010
California Department of Education Publication	California Preschool Curriculum Framework, Vol. 2, 2011
California Department of Education Publication	California Preschool Curriculum Framework, Vol. 3, 2013
California Department of Education Publication	California Preschool Learning Foundations, Vol. 1, 2008
California Department of Education Publication	California Preschool Learning Foundations, Vol. 2, 2010
California Department of Education Publication	California Preschool Learning Foundations, Vol. 3, 2012
CSBA Publication	Advancing Universal Transitional Kindergarten, April 2022
CSBA Publication	The Importance of Early Childhood Education Programs, September 2019
Website	California Department of Education, Universal PreKindergarten, California's Great Start
Website	California Office of Administrative Law
Website	CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services
Website	Transitional Kindergarten California
Website	California Kindergarten Association
Website	Commission on Teacher Credentialing
Website	CSBA
Website	California Department of Education

Cross References

Code	**Description**
0500	Accountability
1220	Citizen Advisory Committees
1220	Citizen Advisory Committees
4112.2	Certification
4112.2	Certification

4131	Staff Development
5111	Admission
5111	Admission
5111.1	District Residency
5111.1	District Residency
5123	Promotion/Acceleration/Retention
5123	Promotion/Acceleration/Retention
5141.22	Infectious Diseases
5141.22	Infectious Diseases
5141.3	Health Examinations
5141.3	Health Examinations
5141.31	Immunizations
5141.31	Immunizations
5141.32	Health Screening For School Entry
5145.6	Parent/Guardian Notifications
5145.6-E(1)	Parent/Guardian Notifications
5148.2	Before/After School Programs
5148.2	Before/After School Programs
5148.3	Preschool/Early Childhood Education
5148.3	Preschool/Early Childhood Education
6011	Academic Standards
6020	Parent Involvement
6020	Parent Involvement
6111	School Calendar
6112	School Day
6112	School Day
6141	Curriculum Development And Evaluation
6141	Curriculum Development And Evaluation
6151	Class Size
6161.1	Selection And Evaluation Of Instructional Materials
6161.1	Selection And Evaluation Of Instructional Materials
6161.1-E(1)	Selection And Evaluation Of Instructional Materials
6162.5	Student Assessment
6174	Education For English Learners
6174	Education For English Learners