

CVUSD

Board Policy

BP 6170.1

Transitional Kindergarten

Instruction

***Note: The following policy is for use by districts that maintain kindergarten and may be revised to reflect district practice. Education Code 48000 provides that children are eligible for kindergarten enrollment if they have their fifth birthday on or before September 1 in that school year; see AR 5111 - Admission. Pursuant to Education Code 48000, any child whose birthday is between September 2 and December 2 must be offered a transitional kindergarten (TK) program. ***

***Note: Education Code 48000 defines TK as the first year of a two-year kindergarten program that uses a modified kindergarten curriculum that is age and developmentally appropriate. Many of the requirements applicable to kindergarten (e.g., class size, minimum school day, facilities) are also applicable to TK. The district will receive average daily attendance (ADA) for students in a TK program that meets the requirements specified in Education Code 48000. ***

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 program shall assist TK 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.

Eligibility

***Note: Pursuant to Education Code 48200, each person between the ages of 6 and 18 years is subject to compulsory full-time education, unless otherwise exempted by law. Thus, parents/guardians are not required to enroll children in TK or kindergarten but, if they do so, are subject to the age criteria specified below. ***

The district's TK program shall admit children whose fifth birthday is from July 1 through December 2. (Education Code 48000)

***Note: The CDE's "Transitional Kindergarten FAQs" clarify that children are required to have documentation of required immunizations or a valid exemption prior to admission to TK. For

information about required immunizations and exemptions, see BP/AR 5141.31 - Immunizations. ***

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.

***Note: The following paragraph is optional. If the district chooses to allow kindergarten-eligible children to enroll in the TK program, CDE recommends that the district establish criteria to determine selection requirements. The parent/guardian of a kindergarten-eligible child who is enrolled in TK must, at the end of the year, sign a Kindergarten Continuance Form verifying that he/she agrees to have the child continue in kindergarten the following year; see section "Continuation in Kindergarten" below. ***

Through the school choice process, the district may admit into the district's TK program a child whose fifth birthday is July 1 through September 1 and who is therefore eligible for kindergarten. A parent/guardian of a child with a fifth birthday from July 1 through September 1 will have the option of enrolling in TK or Kindergarten.

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 Board shall fix 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.

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, 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 the 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.

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.

***Note: Pursuant to Education Code 46300, the district may not include for ADA purposes the attendance of any student for more than two years in a combination of TK and kindergarten. ***

A student shall not attend more than two years in 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. 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

- 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
- 48200 Compulsory education, starting at age six

Management Resources:

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. 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>

Commission on Teacher Credentialing: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov>

Transitional Kindergarten California: <http://www.tkalifornia.org>

(11/11 4/15 1/16)