

CSBA Sample Board Policy

Instruction

BP 6170.1(a)

TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN

Note: The following **optional** policy is for use by districts that maintain kindergarten and may be revised to reflect district practice. Education Code 48000, as amended by the Kindergarten Readiness Act of 2010 (SB 1381, Ch. 705, Statutes of 2010), gradually raises the age for admission into kindergarten over a four-year period. Children are eligible for kindergarten enrollment if they have their fifth birthday on or before December 2 in 2011-12, November 1 in 2012-13, October 1 in 2013-14, and September 1 in 2014-15 and beyond; see AR 5111 - Admission. Pursuant to Education Code 48000, children whose admission would be delayed because of the new age requirements must be offered a transitional kindergarten program beginning in the 2012-13 school year.

Education Code 48000 defines "transitional kindergarten" as the first year of a two-year kindergarten program that uses a modified kindergarten curriculum that is age and developmentally appropriate. Education Code 48000 also specifies that transitional kindergarten shall not be construed as a new program or higher level of service; therefore, many of the requirements applicable to kindergarten (e.g., class size, minimum school day, facilities, teacher certification) are also applicable to transitional kindergarten. The district shall receive state apportionments for students in a transitional kindergarten program who meet the program requirements specified in Education Code 48000.

A district could choose to accelerate implementation of the program prior to the dates specified in law, thus allowing all children whose fifth birthday will be between September 1 and December 2 to enroll in transitional kindergarten prior to 2014-15 at a date determined by the Governing Board. However, according to the California Department of Education (CDE), if a parent/guardian requests that his/her kindergarten-eligible child be admitted to kindergarten instead of transitional kindergarten, the district would need to honor that request because of the phase-in stipulated in law. Furthermore, whenever kindergarten-eligible children are enrolled in transitional kindergarten, the district must obtain a continuance form signed by the parent/guardian consenting to the child's enrollment in kindergarten the following year. The continuance form is necessary in order to receive kindergarten apportionments for those children since they would otherwise be age-eligible for first grade. The CDE recommends that approval for a student to continue in kindergarten not be given until near the end of the year of transitional kindergarten, since permission obtained unreasonably far in advance could be found invalid.

The Governing Board desires to offer a high-quality transitional kindergarten program for eligible children who do not yet meet the minimum age criterion for kindergarten. The program shall 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)

The Board encourages ongoing collaboration among district preschool staff, other preschool providers, elementary teachers, administrators, and parents/guardians in program development, implementation, and evaluation.

(cf. 0420 - School Plans/Site Councils)

(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)

(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)

TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN (continued)

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 transitional kindergarten or kindergarten but, if they do so, are subject to the age criteria specified below.

On a case-by-case basis, Education Code 48000 authorizes early entrance into kindergarten for children who reach age 5 later than the date specified below, provided the parent/guardian approves, the district determines it is in the child's best interests, and the district has provided the parent/guardian with information on the advantages and disadvantages of early admittance; see AR 5111 - Admission.

The district's transitional kindergarten program shall admit children whose fifth birthday lies between: (Education Code 48000)

1. November 2 and December 2 in the 2012-13 school year
2. October 2 and December 2 in the 2013-14 school year
3. September 2 and December 2 in the 2014-15 school year and each school year thereafter

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

(cf. 5111 - Admission)

(cf. 5111.1 - District Residency)

(cf. 5111.12 - Residency Based on Parent/Guardian Employment)

(cf. 5111.13 - Residency for Homeless Children)

(cf. 5141.22 - Infectious Diseases)

(cf. 5141.3 - Health Examinations)

(cf. 5141.31 - Immunizations)

(cf. 5141.32 - Health Screening for School Entry)

Curriculum and Instruction

The district's transitional kindergarten 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)

Note: In designing a modified kindergarten curriculum for purposes of transitional kindergarten, the district may refer to state model content standards for core subjects at the kindergarten level, Common Core

TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN (continued)

Standards adopted pursuant to Education Code 60605.8, and state "preschool learning foundations"; see BP 6011 - Academic Standards.

Upon recommendation by the Superintendent or designee, the Board shall approve academic 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.

(cf. 5148.3 - *Preschool/Early Childhood Education*)
 (cf. 6011 - *Academic Standards*)
 (cf. 6174 - *Education for English Language Learners*)

Note: The following **optional** paragraph should be revised to reflect district practice. Pursuant to Education Code 46111 and 46117, at the kindergarten level the minimum school day is 180 minutes and the maximum school day is four hours (240 minutes), unless the district has adopted an extended-day kindergarten pursuant to Education Code 8973. The CDE advises that the district's annual instructional minutes for kindergarten, as reflected in its annual audit, is the number of instructional minutes that should be offered to transitional kindergarten students; also see AR 6112 - School Day.

The number of instructional minutes offered in transitional kindergarten shall be the same as that required for the district's kindergarten program.

(cf. 6111 - *School Calendar*)
 (cf. 6112 - *School Day*)

Note: The following **optional** paragraph may be revised to reflect district practice. According to the CDE's "Transitional Kindergarten FAQs," it is the intent of the law to provide separate and unique experiences for transitional kindergarten and kindergarten students. However, districts have flexibility to determine how best to meet the curricular needs of each child and whether transitional kindergarten and kindergarten students may be enrolled in the same classrooms.

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.

Staffing

Note: The Commission on Teacher Credentialing, in its Credential Information Alert on "Transitional Kindergarten Assignments," clarifies that a transitional kindergarten classroom is appropriately staffed by any holder of a multiple subjects teaching credential. A holder of a child development permit is not authorized to teach transitional kindergarten since the definition of transitional kindergarten in Education Code 48000, as amended by SB 1381 (Ch. 705, Statutes of 2010), clarifies that transitional kindergarten classrooms are not preschool classrooms or child development programs.

TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN (continued)

Transitional kindergarten assignments are subject to assignment monitoring and reporting by county offices of education in accordance with Education Code 44258.9.

Teachers assigned to teach in transitional kindergarten classes shall possess a teaching credential or permit that authorizes instruction at the kindergarten grade level.

(cf. 4112.2 - Certification)

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.

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

Continuation to Kindergarten

Note: The following **optional** paragraph is consistent with guidance in the CDE's "Transitional Kindergarten FAQs."

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.

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

A student shall not attend more than two years in a combination of transitional kindergarten and kindergarten. (Education Code 46300)

(cf. 5123 - Promotion/Acceleration/Retention)

Program Evaluation

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.

(cf. 0500 - Accountability)

(cf. 6162.5 - Student Assessment)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

- 8973 *Extended-day kindergarten*
- 44258.9 *Assignment monitoring by county office of education*
- 46111 *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

WEB SITES

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>