

## Kindergarten Readiness Act of 2010 Senate Bill 1381



# Program Design

## Preparing Children to Succeed

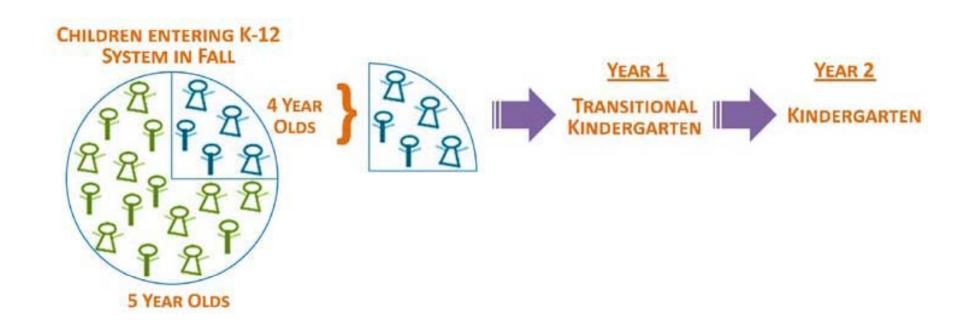
The Kindergarten Readiness Act, a historic reform to kindergarten education, gives California an unparalleled opportunity to ensure that children are better prepared to succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

- The legislation creates transitional kindergarten (TK), the first year of a two year kindergarten experience for those students who are born between September and December.
- SB 1381 changes the kindergarten entry date from Dec. 2 to Sept. 1, so children enter kindergarten at age 5.
- The legislation will phase in the new age requirement by moving the cutoff date one month a year for three years, beginning in Fall 2012.

## What does a Transitional Kindergarten Program look like?

- It is voluntary.
- Does not replicate preschool nor kindergarten; it is a hybrid.
- Provides a developmentally appropriate program that addresses the children's language, literacy, and pre-math skills with an emphasis on social and emotional development.
- Financially supported by current CDE funding since identified students would have qualified for the current kindergarten program. Minimal start up expenses to augment classrooms.

## What is Transitional Kindergarten?





### **Benefits**

- Year of kindergarten readiness provides strong, early start to help children read proficiently in third grade—critical milestone predicts whether a student will graduate from high school
- Research shows that beginning kindergarten at an older age:
  - Improves social, emotional, academic development
  - Boosts test scores
  - Increases likelihood of attending college and earning higher wages
  - TK will save state money from reduced rates of grade retention and special education placement

## **Districts Implementing TK**

School districts across California have already been implementing a similar reform.

#### Los Angeles Unified:

- Pilot program: "Transition Kindergarten"
- 36 elementary school sites 11,000 children when fully adopted

#### Sacramento City Unified:

- Pilot program: "Early Kinder"
- 3 classrooms this fall

#### Kingsburg Elementary Charter School District

- Pilot program: "Transitional Kindergarten"
- Includes focused instruction and hands-on activities to develop skills and concepts at students' own pace

## **Districts Implementing TK**

#### Torrance Unified:

- "Preppy K" began 20 years ago
- 144 students
- Students have same teacher for Preppy K and K

#### Soquel Union Elementary:

- Pilot program: "Junior Kindergarten"
- Shares playground with school's preschool and students interact with kindergarteners
- Additional programs in Palo Alto, Anaheim, Huntington Beach, Los Alamitos and Long Beach



## Transitional Kindergarten

- 2009-10: Transitional Kindergarten program successfully piloted by Washington Elementary in Kingsburg.
- 2009-11: Created a steering committee of twenty members to guide the process for developing and implementing the program.
- 2010-11: Creating a professional learning community for the 32 elementary school districts.
- March 3, 2011: Hosting a Transitional Kindergarten Summit for Parents, ECE Providers, Kindergarten Teachers, and School Administrators
- April 9, 2011: Hosting Parent/Provider Conference which will include opportunities to learn about Transitional Kindergarten

## Communication

- Target shareholder groups
  - Parents
  - Early Care & Education Community
  - School Administrators
  - Kindergarten teachers
  - General public

## Preparing for Successful Implementation

- Support and encourage "early adopters"
- Develop model TK programs and best practices including:
  - Program design options
  - Professional development
  - Curriculum
- Identify and develop supports for successful local implementation (funding, technical assistance, etc.)



## **Computing ADA**

- Pupils who are participating in transitional kindergarten are included in computing the average daily attendance of the school district in accordance with specified requirements.
- Pupil to attend a minimum of 145 minutes per day to receive ADA.
- California law mandates that districts offer transitional kindergarten.

## Requirements for CDE

- CDE approved Continuance Form signed by parent/guardian held on file.
- To be completed AFTER one year of Transitional Kindergarten.
- Signed form allows student to complete the second year of kindergarten.

## Accepting Younger Children into Transitional Kindergarten

- The governing board on a case-by-case basis, may admit a child who has attained the age of five years at any time during the school year with the approval of the parent/guardian.
- ADA funding reimbursed AFTER the child's fifth birthday.

#### Must meet two conditions:

- The governing board determines that the admittance is in the best interests of the child.
- The parent/guardian is given information regarding the advantages and disadvantages and any other explanatory information about the effect of this early admittance.



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Questions?

For more information, visit www.fcoe.org/transitionalkindergarten