



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?

CHILDREN ENTERING K-12
SYSTEM IN FALL



5 YEAR OLDS

4 YEAR
OLDS



YEAR 1
TRANSITIONAL
KINDERGARTEN



YEAR 2
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