

Transitional Kindergarten

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 for eligible children. (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. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)

(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)

Eligibility

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

Parents/guardians of eligible children will 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.

Upon request of the child's parent/guardian, the district may admit into the district's TK program a child whose fifth birthday is on or before September 1 and who is therefore eligible for Kindergarten.

At any time during the school year, the district may admit into the TK program a child whose fifth birthday is after December 2 of the same school year, provided the child's parent/guardian approves. Prior to such enrollment, the child's parent/guardian shall be provided information regarding the advantages and disadvantages and any other explanatory information about the effect of early admittance. (Education Code 48000)

(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 TK 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)

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 which may include, as appropriate, language and literacy, mathematics, physical development, health, visual and performing arts, science, history-social science, 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)

The Board shall establish the length(s) of the school day in the district's TK program. TK programs may be maintained for different lengths of time at the same or different school sites, as long as the school day is at least three hours but not more than four hours. The Superintendent or designee shall annually report to the California Department of Education as to whether the district's TK programs are offered full day, part day, or both. (Education Code 37202, 46111, 46117, 48003)

(cf. 6111 - School Calendar)

(cf. 6112 - School Day)

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.

(cf. 4112.2 - Certification)

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.

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

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 a combination of TK and kindergarten.
(Education Code 46300)

(cf. 5123 - Promotion/Acceleration/Retention)

Assessment

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

(cf. 0500 - Accountability)

(cf. 6162.5 - Student Assessment)

Fresno Unified School District does not harass, intimidate, or discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, ancestry, age, creed, religion, political affiliation, gender, gender identity or expression or genetic information, mental or physical disability, sex, sexual orientation, parental or marital status, military veteran status, or any other basis protected by law or regulation, in its educational program(s) or employment.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

8973 Extended-day kindergarten

37202 School calendar; equivalency of instructional minutes

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 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:

WEB SITES

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

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

Policy FRESNO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
adopted: May 27, 2015 Fresno, California
revised: May 9, 2018