

Frequently Asked Questions About Transitional Kindergarten

Will Transitional Kindergarten be mandatory for children with birthdays between September and December?

Just like kindergarten, Transitional Kindergarten enrollment will be voluntary.

How is Transitional Kindergarten different from preschool?

The standards, curriculum and teaching requirements in Transitional Kindergarten will be different from preschool. Transitional Kindergarten will be part of the K-12 public education system and it will be based on the kindergarten standards. It will build on the skills children may have learned in preschool to ensure they will be able to begin kindergarten with confidence.

How is *Transitional Kindergarten* different from *traditional* kindergarten?

Although the curriculum in Transitional Kindergarten will be based on the kindergarten standards, it will be modified to meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of younger children. The Transitional Kindergarten environment will include more opportunities for social-emotional, language development and communication through dramatic play; small group instruction; and intentional teaching through hands-on activities.

Will Transitional Kindergarten provide support for children who do not speak English?

English learners in Transitional Kindergarten will have the same level of services as those in kindergarten.

Will Transitional Kindergarten be free or will I have to qualify based on income?

Transitional Kindergarten will be free and open to all age-eligible children.

What kinds of qualifications will Transitional Kindergarten teachers have?

Transitional Kindergarten teachers will be required to have a teaching credential, just like kindergarten teachers.

How old will Transitional Kindergarteners be when they begin first grade?

Transitional Kindergarteners will typically be 6 years old when they start first grade and turn 7 years old during the first few months of the school year.

Will children in Transitional Kindergarten be 19 years old when they graduate from high school?

No, they will be 18 years old when they graduate and will turn 19 years old several months after graduation.

How will this affect children in special education?

Districts will be required to offer the same services to transitional kindergarteners with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) as they currently offer to children in kindergarten.

What grade will children go into after Transitional Kindergarten?

Transitional Kindergarten is the first year of a two-year kindergarten experience. Most children will go on to kindergarten after completing Transitional Kindergarten, however some children may move to first grade if the school and the family agree that they are ready.

Where will Transitional Kindergarten be offered?

Transitional Kindergarten will be offered at several San Jose Unified elementary schools located throughout the district. We will attempt to place all eligible SJUSD students at one of our sites that offer a TK program. However, due to the eligible number of students and available classroom space, not all SJUSD elementary sites will offer a TK program.

What curriculum will Transitional Kindergarten use?

Uses unique, specialized curriculum that is based on the kindergarten standards and is designed to support young 5 year olds.

Is Transitional Kindergarten offered part day or full day?

Transitional Kindergarten is offered as a full day program.

Transitional Kindergarten serves as a **bridge between preschool and kindergarten**, giving children more time for **hands-on, interactive learning**.

Beginning December 1, 2011, call the numbers below for an appointment.

Enrollment for kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten starts February 6, 2012

Burnett Information & Enrollment Center *Appointments: (408) 535-6412*

110 East Hedding Street
San Jose, CA 95112

SJUSD Information & Enrollment Center *Appointments: (408) 535-6436*

820 Steinbeck Drive
San Jose, CA 95136