



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **What is the minimum age for admittance to kindergarten in California?**

A child shall be admitted to a kindergarten maintained by the school district at the beginning of a school year, or at a later time in the same year if the child will have his or her fifth birthday on or before September 1st (EC 48000[a]).

2. **What is transitional kindergarten?**

A transitional kindergarten is the first year of a two-year kindergarten program that uses a modified kindergarten curriculum that is age and developmentally appropriate. Pursuant to law, (EC 48000[c]), a child is eligible for transitional kindergarten if a child will have his or her fifth birthday between September 2 and December 2.

3. **What is the difference between our current Preppie Kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten Programs?**

The Preppie Program is a two-year, locally developed Kindergarten program. **Preppie students meet the age requirements for the regular Kindergarten program,** but are enrolled when school staff and the parents mutually agree that child would benefit from a modified kindergarten curriculum that is more developmentally appropriate. The program is offered at schools that have Transitional Kindergarten classes. Enrollment is based on space availability.

Transitional kindergarten is required by the state in response to the passage of SB 1381. Students eligible for transitional Kindergarten do not meet the age requirements for regular kindergarten (see #'s 1 & 2 above). The transitional and Preppie programs share a modified, developmentally appropriate curriculum.

4. **Can transitional kindergarten and kindergarten students be enrolled in the same classroom?**

Although the intent of the law is to provide separate and unique experiences for transitional kindergarten and kindergarten students, districts have flexibility to determine how best to meet the curricular needs of each child. In Fallbrook, this means that we may combine transitional kindergarten and regular kindergarten in the same classroom, as a combo class.

5. **Will transitional kindergarten continue to be offered after this year?**

Yes.

6. **Must children attend transitional kindergarten or kindergarten?**
Parents and guardians are currently not required to enroll children in transitional kindergarten or kindergarten (EC Section 48200).
7. **Is a district required to offer transitional kindergarten and kindergarten programs?**
Each elementary or unified school district may offer transitional kindergarten and must offer kindergarten classes for all children eligible to attend.
8. **How many minutes does a transitional kindergarten program have to offer?**
The minimum length of instructional time that must be offered to constitute a school day is 180 minutes. (*Education Code sections 46117 and 46201*). The Kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten instructional schedule in FUESD is a full day program.
9. **What is the curriculum for transitional kindergarten?**
California law (EC 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.” While no state curriculum is mandated, our district provides age and developmentally appropriate curriculum for transitional kindergarten.
10. **How will the needs of English learners be addressed in transitional kindergarten?**
Our district will continue to provide a Home Language Survey to be completed by the parent or guardian which will aid the school in determining whether or not the student should be administered the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC). Students who are English learners in transitional kindergarten will have the same level of services as those in kindergarten.
11. **Will transitional kindergarten have the same statutory class size limits as regular kindergarten? What about Class Size Reduction for transitional kindergarten?**
The same Grade Span Reduction requirements that apply to kindergarten also apply to transitional kindergarten. Current class averages are approximately 25:1.
12. **Does the transitional kindergarten teacher need a teaching credential?**
The teacher must be properly credentialed as is currently required of kindergarten teachers, and must have early childhood development experience.
13. **Are students in transitional kindergarten also subject to the kindergarten immunization requirements?**
Yes. They are required to have documentation of required immunizations.