



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]). This applies to kindergarten programs only.

2. **What is transitional kindergarten?**

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 February 2.

3. **Is a district required to offer transitional kindergarten and kindergarten programs?**

Each elementary or unified school district must offer transitional kindergarten and kindergarten classes for all children eligible to attend.

4. **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). Parents may choose to continue in preschool.

5. **Can parents choose to enroll their transitional kindergarten (TK) eligible child into the CA State Preschool Program (CSPP) instead of transitional kindergarten (TK)?**

Transitional kindergarten (TK), like kindergarten enrollment, is not compulsory. Parents will continue to have the choice to remain at their current program provided that they meet eligibility requirements. The 2021–22 California State Budget explicitly retained choice for parents whose children are enrolled in the California State Preschool Program (CSPP).

6. **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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. 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. A TK class size cannot exceed 24.

11. 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 and training.

12. Are students in transitional kindergarten also subject to the kindergarten immunization requirements?

Yes. They are required to have documentation of required immunizations.