

Transitional Kindergarten FAQ's – CUSD

1. What is the Kindergarten Readiness Act of 2010?

Senate Bill (SB) 1381 (Chapter 705, Statutes of 2010) amended California Education Code (EC) (Section 46300, 48000, and 48010) to change the required birthday for admission to kindergarten and first grade and established a transitional kindergarten program beginning in the 2012–2013 school year.

2. What is the minimum age for admittance to kindergarten in California? For the 2013-14 school year the date is October.

For the 2014-15 school year and each school year thereafter the date is September 1.

3. 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:

For the 2013-14 school year October 2 and December 2.

For the 2014-15 school year and each school year thereafter September 2 and December 2.

4. Will transitional kindergarten continue after 2014? Yes.

5. Is CUSD required to offer transitional kindergarten?

Yes. Each elementary or unified school district must offer transitional kindergarten classes for all children eligible to attend. There are nine sites where TK will be offered. Although CUSD does have to make a space available for TK it is not required to give parents their preferred site.

6. Are transitional kindergarten students required to complete the entire two-year program?

Yes. Children that attend transitional kindergarten would continue on to kindergarten the following year.

7. Is transitional kindergarten considered preschool?

No. Transitional kindergarten is the first year of a two-year kindergarten program.

8. How does the transitional kindergarten schedule differ from kindergarten?

It does not differ from kindergarten it is the same.

9. How long is the transitional kindergarten day?

Pursuant to law (EC 48000), a transitional kindergarten shall not be construed as a new program or higher level of service. By statute, the maximum school day in kindergarten is four hours (EC 46110). Transitional Kindergarten follows the same schedule as Kindergarten.

10. Are standards available for transitional kindergarten?

Transitional kindergarten standards are combined standards using the [California's Preschool Learning Foundations](#), [California Preschool Curriculum Frameworks](#), [California Academic Content Standards](#), and the [Common Core State Standards for English Language Art and Mathematics](#).

11. 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, local education agencies must modify the local course of study in order to provide age and developmentally appropriate curriculum for transitional kindergarten. For Capistrano Unified School District, the combined standards will be the basis on which the curriculum is taught while using the curriculum resource “Big Day” by Scholastics which aligns with the standards documents.

12. **How are children placed in a TK classroom?**

Parents would fill out an intent to register form from the CUSD website and submit it to the Early Childhood Programs Department. Children would be placed based upon availability based upon the closed TK site. Parents would be given a letter for placement to take to the assigned site for registration.

13. **What are the William’s requirements for students in transitional kindergarten?**

While instructional materials must be provided to all pupils, the governing board of a school district determines standards-aligned instructional materials and how those materials are to be modified and age-appropriate for transitional kindergarten. *EC 60119* states “sufficient textbooks or instructional materials’ means that each pupil, including English learners, has a standards-aligned textbook, instructional materials, or both, to use in class and to take home. This paragraph does not require two sets of textbooks or instructional materials for each pupil. The materials may be in a digital format as long as each pupil, at a minimum, has and can access the same materials in the class and to take home, as all other pupils in the same class or course in the district and has the ability to use and access them at home.”

14. **Can students who are age eligible for kindergarten attend transitional kindergarten?**

Although this is a local decision, Capistrano Unified Trustees have determined that children who fall out of the age range set for transitional kindergarten may not attend TK.

15. **What is the teacher-student ratio for transitional kindergarten?**

This is a local district decision and will most likely be impacted by budget and contract agreements.

16. **Does the transitional kindergarten teacher need a teaching credential?**

The teacher must be properly credentialed.