

TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN

The District will 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. (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.

Eligibility

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

Parents/guardians of eligible children shall 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 a child's parents/guardians, 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. Requests can be made by parents/guardians by submitting an Intent to Register Form. Requests will be considered only when TK numbers are confirmed for the following school year. A priority system will be established based on an unbiased random lottery to be conducted. Parents/guardians will be notified if openings occur and placement is possible. Consideration will be given to requests provided:

1. Sufficient openings exist for TK eligible students to enroll during the school year.
2. The Superintendent or designee determines that it is in the child's best interest along with assessment data that support this decision.
3. If the child has a current IEP, before enrollment is confirmed an IEP meeting will need to be held to discuss placement options and recommendations for TK placement.
4. A child's fifth birthday is on or after June 1; priority will be given to the child whose birthday is closest to September 1st.

TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN (continued)

5. The parent/guardian of a kindergarten eligible child who is enrolled in TK must agree to sign a Kindergarten Continuance Form upon entrance to TK verifying that he/she agrees to have the child continue in kindergarten the following year.

The district will not admit into the TK program a child whose fifth birthday is after December 2 but recommends enrollment in the district's Early Childhood Preschool Programs.

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)

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 related to language and literacy, mathematics, physical development, health, visual and performing arts, science, history-social science, English language development, and social-emotional development.

The District's annual instructional minutes offered to TK students are the same as the number of instructional minutes offered to kindergarten students.

The District will provide a separate and unique experience for TK students in classrooms that are specifically designated for TK.

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.

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. (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.

Continuation to Kindergarten

Students who complete the TK program that are TK age eligible, shall 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 entrance. Parents/guardians requesting

Instruction

BP 6170.1(b)

TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN (continued)

their child be advanced to first grade must enroll in kindergarten and comply with the Promotion/Acceleration/Retention Board policy.

A student shall not attend more than two years in a combination of TK and kindergarten. (Education Code 46300)

Assessment

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

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

8973 *Extended-day kindergarten*

37202 *School calendar; equivalency of instructional minutes*

44258.9 *Assignment monitoring by county superintendent of schools*

46111 *Kindergarten, hours of attendance*

46114-46119 *Minimum school day, kindergarten*

46300 *Computation of ADA, 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*

Policy
adopted: September 14, 2016

CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
San Juan Capistrano, California