

GRAVENSTEIN UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Policy **Transitional Kindergarten**

BP 6170.1

Instruction

***Note: The following policy is for use by districts that maintain kindergarten and may be revised to reflect district practice. Education Code 48000 provides that children are eligible for kindergarten enrollment if they have their fifth birthday on or before September 1 in that school year; see AR 5111 - Admission. Pursuant to Education Code 48000, any child whose birthday is between September 2 and December 2 must be offered a transitional kindergarten (TK) program. ***

***Note: Education Code 48000 defines TK as the first year of a two-year kindergarten program that uses a modified kindergarten curriculum that is age and developmentally appropriate. Many of the requirements applicable to kindergarten (e.g., class size, minimum school day, facilities) are also applicable to TK. The district will receive average daily attendance (ADA) for students in a TK program that meets the requirements specified in Education Code 48000. ***

***Note: For guidance on implementing TK programs, see the Transitional Kindergarten Implementation Guide: A Resource for California Public School District Administrators and Teachers, published by the California Department of Education (CDE). ***

The Governing Board desires to 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.

(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)
(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)

Eligibility

***Note: Pursuant to Education Code 48200, each person between the ages of 6 and 18 years is subject to compulsory full-time education, unless otherwise exempted by law. Thus, parents/guardians are not required to enroll children in TK or kindergarten but, if they do so, are subject to the age criteria specified below. ***

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

***Note: The CDE's "Transitional Kindergarten FAQs" clarify that children are required to have documentation of required immunizations or a valid exemption prior to admission to TK. For information about required immunizations and exemptions, see BP/AR 5141.31 - Immunizations. ***

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.

(cf. 5111 - Admission)

(cf. 5111.1 - District Residency)

(cf. 5141.22 - Infectious Diseases)

(cf. 5141.3 - Health Examinations)

(cf. 5141.31 - Immunizations)

(cf. 5141.32 - Health Screening for School Entry)

***Note: The following paragraph is optional. If the district chooses to allow kindergarten-eligible children to enroll in the TK program, CDE recommends that the district establish criteria to determine selection requirements. The parent/guardian of a kindergarten-eligible child who is enrolled in TK must, at the end of the year, sign a Kindergarten Continuance Form verifying that he/she agrees to have the child continue in kindergarten the following year; see section "Continuation in Kindergarten" below. ***

Upon request of a child's parents/guardians, the district may, on a case-by-case basis after the Superintendent or designee determines that it is in the child's best interest, 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.

***Note: The following paragraph is optional. Pursuant to Education Code 48000, as amended by AB 104 (Ch. 13, Statutes of 2015), the district may, at its discretion, determine whether to allow admittance of children whose fifth birthday is after December 2. Such students may be admitted at any time during the school year, including at the beginning of the year. ***

The district may, at any time during the school year, admit into the TK program a child whose fifth birthday is after December 2 of that same school year, provided that the Superintendent or designee recommends that enrollment in a TK program is in the child's best interest. Prior to such enrollment, the child's parents/guardians shall be provided information regarding the advantages and disadvantages and any other explanatory information about the effect of early admittance. (Education Code 48000)

The District requires that children be toilet trained prior to enrollment in the regular TK or Kindergarten classroom.

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)

(cf. 6141 - Curriculum Development and Evaluation)

(cf. 6161.1 - Selection and Evaluation of Instructional Materials)

***Note: As amended by SB 858 (Ch. 32, Statutes of 2014), Education Code 48000 states the Legislature's intent that the TK curriculum be aligned to the California Preschool Learning Foundations developed by the CDE. These standards address essential skills in the subject areas listed below. The standards and companion preschool curriculum frameworks are available on CDE's web site. ***

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.

(cf. 5148.3 - Preschool/Early Childhood Education)

(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)

(cf. 6174 - Education for English Language Learners)

***Note: The following optional paragraph may be revised to reflect district practice. Education Code 37202 requires that all elementary schools in the district be maintained for an equal length of time during the school year. In its "Transitional Kindergarten FAQs," the CDE has interpreted this to mean that the district's annual instructional minutes offered to TK students should be the same as the number of instructional minutes offered to kindergarten students, as reflected in its annual audit. Pursuant to Education Code 46111 and 46117, at

the kindergarten level the minimum school day is three hours (180 minutes) and the maximum school day is four hours (240 minutes), unless the district has adopted an extended-day kindergarten pursuant to Education Code 8973. However, pursuant to Education Code 46119, if the district has fewer than 40 kindergarten students, it may apply to the Superintendent of Public Instruction to maintain two kindergarten classes of 150 minutes each, taught on the same day by the same teacher. Also see AR 6112 - School Day. ***

The Board shall fix the length of the school day in the district's TK program, which shall be at least three hours but no more than four hours.

(cf. 6111 - School Calendar)

(cf. 6112 - School Day)

***Note: The following optional paragraph may be revised to reflect district practice. According to the CDE's "Transitional Kindergarten FAQs," it is the intent of the law to provide separate and unique experiences for TK and kindergarten students. However, districts have flexibility to determine how best to meet the curricular needs of each child and whether TK and kindergarten students may be enrolled in the same classrooms. ***

TK students may be placed in the same classrooms as kindergarten students when necessary, provided that the instructional program is differentiated to meet student needs.

Staffing

***Note: To be qualified to teach a TK class, the teacher must possess an appropriate multiple subjects or early child education credential issued by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) authorizing instruction in TK. As amended by SB 876 (Ch. 687, Statutes of 2014), Education Code 48000 establishes additional requirements for credentialed teachers who are first assigned to a TK class after July 1, 2015, as provided below.

TK assignments are subject to assignment monitoring and reporting by the County Superintendent of Schools in accordance with Education Code 44258.9.

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.

(cf. 4112.2 - Certification)

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, comparable experience in a preschool setting, and/or a child development teacher permit issued by the CTC. (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.

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

Continuation to Kindergarten

***Note: The following section is consistent with guidance in the CDE's "Transitional Kindergarten FAQs." ***

Students who complete the TK program shall be eligible to 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 attendance.

***Note: The following optional paragraph is for use by districts that allow kindergarten-eligible children to enroll in TK; see section "Eligibility" above. When such students are subsequently enrolled in kindergarten, the district is required to obtain a signed Kindergarten Continuance Form in order to receive kindergarten ADA for those children since they would otherwise be age-eligible for first grade. CDE recommends that approval for a student to continue in kindergarten not be sought until near the end of the year of TK, since permission obtained unreasonably far in advance could be found invalid. ***

However, whenever children who would otherwise be age-eligible for kindergarten are enrolled in TK, the Superintendent or designee shall obtain a Kindergarten Continuance Form signed by the parent/guardian near the end of the TK year consenting to the child's enrollment in kindergarten the following year.

***Note: Pursuant to Education Code 46300, the district may not include for ADA purposes the attendance of any student for more than two years in a combination of TK and kindergarten. ***

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

(cf. 5123 - Promotion/Acceleration/Retention)

Assessment

***Note: The following section may be revised to reflect district practice. One assessment resource for TK students is the CDE's Desired Results Developmental Profile, which is designed to assess the developmental progression of all children from early infancy to kindergarten entry. ***

The Superintendent or designee may 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.

(cf. 0500 - Accountability)
(cf. 6162.5 - Student Assessment)

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

Management Resources:

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Transitional Kindergarten FAQs

Desired Results Developmental Profile, 2015

Transitional Kindergarten Implementation Guide: A Resource for California Public School District Administrators and Teachers, 2013

California Preschool Curriculum Framework, Vol. 1, 2010

California Preschool Learning Foundations, Vol. 1, 2008

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

California Kindergarten Association: <http://www.ckanet.org>

Commission on Teacher Credentialing: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov>

Transitional Kindergarten California: <http://www.tkcalifornia.org>

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