PURPOSE: The purpose of this policy is to offer a high-quality transitional kindergarten program for eligible children who do not yet meet the minimum age for kindergarten. (Education Code 48000).

POSITION: The Board of Education desires to assist children in developing the academic, social, and emotional skills they need to succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

1. Children are eligible for kindergarten enrollment if they have their fifth birthday on or before November 1, 2012 for the 2012-13 school year, October 1, 2013 for the 2013-14 school year, and September 1, 2014 for the 2014-15 school year and beyond.

2. Children whose admission to kindergarten would be delayed because of the age requirements are offered a transitional kindergarten program beginning with the 2012-13 school year.

3. For purposes of this policy, “transitional kindergarten” refers to the first year of a two-year kindergarten program offered by the District. The program uses a modified kindergarten curriculum that is age and developmentally appropriate.

4. This program is not mandatory. Parents/Guardians are not required to enroll their children in kindergarten or transitional kindergarten. Compulsory full-time education is not required until a child turns six years old. However, the District desires to offer an instructionally appropriate program to eligible students who voluntarily wish to enroll in Transitional Kindergarten.

5. Upon registration, parents/guardians shall be notified of the availability of this program and the age, residency, and any other enrollment requirements.

6. The District's transitional kindergarten program shall admit children whose fifth birthday lies between:

   - November 2 and December 2 in the 2012-13 school year;
   - October 2 and December 2 in the 2013-14 school year; and
   - September 2 and December 2 in the 2014-15 school year and each school year thereafter.
7. Transitional kindergarten students may be placed in the same classrooms as kindergarten students when necessary, provided that the instructional program is differentiated to meet student needs.

8. Teachers assigned to teach in transitional kindergarten classes shall possess a teaching credential or permit that authorizes instruction at the kindergarten grade level.

9. The Board encourages ongoing collaboration among District preschool staff, other preschool providers, elementary teachers, administrators, and parents/guardians in program development, implementation, and evaluation.

10. The Superintendent or designee may provide professional development as needed to ensure that transitional kindergarten teachers are knowledgeable about District standards and effective instructional methods for teaching young children.

11. Students who complete the transitional kindergarten 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 parental permission form for kindergarten attendance.

12. A student shall not attend more than two years in a combination of transitional kindergarten and kindergarten.

13. The number of instructional minutes offered in transitional kindergarten shall be the same as that required for the District's kindergarten program.

14. The Superintendent or designee shall develop or identify appropriate assessments of transitional kindergarten 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 Sections**

- 8973 Extended-day kindergarten
- 44258.9 Assignment monitoring by county office of education
- 46111 Kindergarten, hours of attendance 46114-46119 Minimum school day, kindergarten
- 46300 Computation of average daily attendance, inclusion of kindergarten and transitional kindergarten
- 48000 Minimum age of admission (kindergarten)
- 48002 Evidence of minimum age required to enter kindergarten or first grade
- 48200 Compulsory education, starting at age six
- 60605.8 Academic Content Standards Commission, development of Common Core Standards
Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS
Transitional Kindergarten, Issue Brief, July 2011

CALIFORNIA COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS EDUCATIONAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS
Transitional Kindergarten FAQs
Prekindergarten Learning Development Guidelines, 2000
First Class: A Guide for Early Primary Education, 1999

COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING PUBLICATIONS
11-08 Transitional Kindergarten Assignments, Credential Information Alert, August 25, 2011

WEB SITES
CSBA: http://www.csba.org
California County Superintendents Educational Services Association: http://www.ccsesa.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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