

Transitional Kindergarten Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q. What is Transitional Kindergarten (TK)?

A. The Kindergarten Readiness Act was passed in 2010. It changed the birthday cut off date for eligibility to begin kindergarten. Students that are affected by that change of birthday cut off date are eligible to attend Transitional Kindergarten for one year. Then the following year the student would attend regular kindergarten.

Q. What is the birthday cut off date for regular kindergarten now?

A. The Kindergarten Readiness Act moved the birthday cut off date from December 2 to September 1, one month at a time during the 2012-13 through the 2014-15 school years. Specifically for:

- 2011-12 school year, no change, birthday cut off remains December 2
- 2012-13, changes to November 1
- 2013-14, changes to October 1
- 2014-15, changes to September 1 and remains September 1

Q. Is my child eligible to attend TK?

A. A child is eligible for transitional kindergarten if a child will have his or her fifth birthday on or between:

- 2012-13 school year, November 2 and December 2
- 2013-14, October 2 and December 2
- 2014-15, and each school year thereafter September 2 and December 2.

Q. Is TK mandatory?

A. No, TK nor kindergarten is a mandatory grade.

Q. How do I enroll my child in TK?

A. You enroll just like any other grade level at the Family Welcome Enrollment Center. You will attend Kindergarten Round Up at your home school where they will provide you more information about TK and your school in general.

Q. Does it cost anything to enroll my child in TK?

A. No, there is no cost for students to attend the TK class.

Q. Will TK be offered at all elementary schools?

A. TK will be offered at several school sites. Locations will depend on enrollment numbers.

Q. Will the District provide transportation if TK is not at my home school?

A. No. Transportation is the responsibility of the parent/guardian or caregiver.

Q. Is TK taught by a credentialed teacher?

A. Yes, TK teachers are fully credentialed just like all kindergarten through 5th grade teachers.

Q. How big will the class be?

A. Class size will be the same as other K-3 classes. Currently they are staffed at 27-1.

Q. What curriculum will be used?

A. Because T.U.S.D. has had a Preppy or Pre-kindergarten program for many years, there is already an established curriculum in place. The curriculum is aligned with the Common Core State Standards that are age and developmentally appropriate. Emphasis is on positive social, emotional, and motor skill development.

Q. Can my child who is age appropriate for regular kindergarten, go to TK instead?

A. No. They must attend kindergarten.

Q. Can my child who is age appropriate for TK go to regular kindergarten instead?

A. It is not likely. They would have to go through an assessment process to determine if that is the best placement for them like other students who are skipping a grade. This would only occur after the school year begins and the child turns 5 years old. Overall it is rare that children at any age are promoted to the next grade level.

Q. After attending the TK program what grade will my student attend the follow year?

A. The TK Program is the first year of a two year Kindergarten experience. After completing a year of the TK Program, a student would then attend a traditional kindergarten program at their home school. The TK program is designed for students who may benefit from an extra year of learning before entering a traditional kindergarten class.