

Transitional Kindergarten

Implementation and
Background for Travis
Unified School District



Overview of SB 1381

- SB 1381 (Simitian, Chapter 705, Statutes of 2010) - Kindergarten Readiness Act of 2010. Signed into Law by Governor Schwarzenegger in Sept, 2010
 - What did SB 1381 do?
 - **Created Transitional Kindergarten (TK)** to better prepare California's children for success in kindergarten and beyond
 - **Changed Kindergarten entry date from Dec. 2nd to Sept. 1st** thus creating the first year of a two year kindergarten experience for students born between those dates

Overview of SB 1381

- Changes the entry age of kindergarten (5 years old) & for first grade (6 years old)
- Establishes Transitional Kindergarten for all age-eligible children
- TK is voluntary for children who are age eligible
- TK is mandatory for districts to offer to their eligible students

What is “Transitional Kindergarten”?

- SB 1381 prescribes that Transitional Kindergarten programs consist of a “modified Kindergarten curriculum” that is age and developmentally appropriate
- It is the first year of a two year Kindergarten program
- It is not “Pre-School”
- It is not “Daycare”

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What is Transitional Kindergarten?

TK is the first year of a two year Kindergarten experience for students born between September 2nd and December 2nd

When fully implemented, 120,000 more children in California will receive an additional year of preparation to boost K-12 Success



SB 1381 establishes a 2-year kindergarten program:

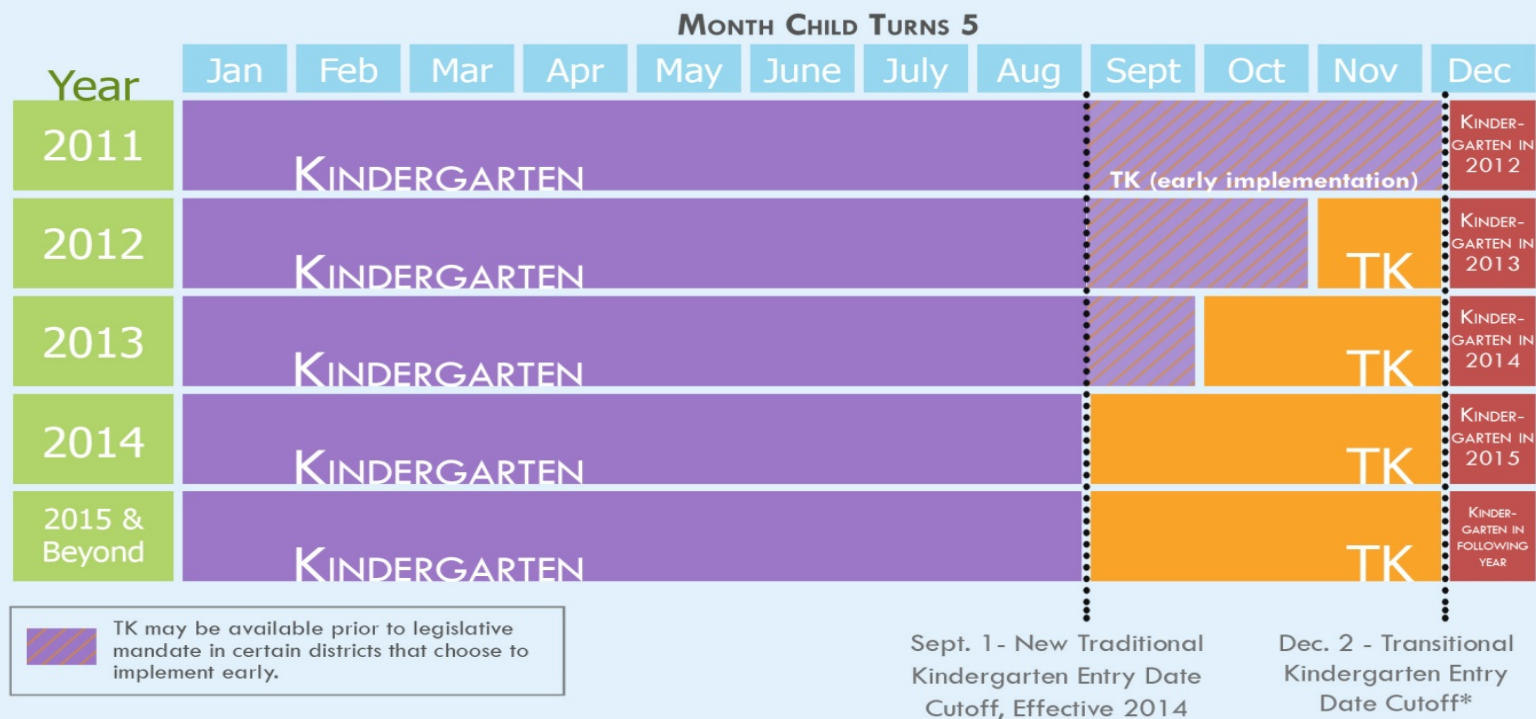
- Transitional Kindergarten is part of a new two-year Kindergarten program for children whose Kindergarten entrance age requirement has changed for those children with an age 5 birthday between:
- November 2 and December 2 for the 2012-13 school year;
- October 2 and December 2 for the 2013-14 school year;
- September 2 and December 2 for the 2014-15 and each year thereafter



Transitional Kindergarten is the *law*: California's “Kindergarten Readiness Act”

WHAT IS REQUIRED OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS UNDER THE KINDERGARTEN READINESS ACT?

The Kindergarten Readiness Act mandates that school districts implement transitional kindergarten by this schedule, but districts may opt for earlier implementation.



* Dec. 2 continues to be the cutoff date for Average Daily Attendance (ADA) funding.

When is a Child “Age Ready” for Kindergarten?

A child must be five years old by:

November 1 for the 2012 -13 school year

October 1 for the 2013-14 school year

September 1 for the 2014 -15 school year

and for every year thereafter

Transitional K Benefits

- Children will be better prepared to succeed in kindergarten and beyond
- Provides the youngest Kindergarteners with a readiness year that is developmentally appropriate
- TK gives parents an additional option to help their children enter Kindergarten with the maturity and skills needed to excel
- Schools will be able to do more with what they have as TK will help ensure children enter Kindergarten better prepared to learn



Transitional K Benefits

- A year of Kindergarten readiness provides a strong, early start to help children read proficiently by third grade—a critical milestone which research shows predicts whether a student will graduate from high school
- Research shows that beginning Kindergarten at an older age:
 - Improves social, emotional, academic development
 - Boosts academic achievement and test scores
 - Increases likelihood of attending college and earning higher wages
- TK will save state money from reduced rates of grade retention and special education placement



How Will the Transitional Kindergarten Program be Funded?

- Children participating in the Transitional Kindergarten program are included in the district revenue limit (e.g., ADA based upon general purpose funding)
- TK may also be supported by categorical programs for which a participating district is eligible, such as K-3 class size reduction, Title 1, Economic Impact Aid
- *Simply stated....a Transitional Kindergarten student is treated as any other K-12 student*

Facilities and Transportation

- ✓ TK must be offered by a district for all age-eligible children, but is not required to be located at each elementary school
- ✓ Facilities—same requirements as for kindergarten
- ✓ District provided transportation is not mandatory

What is to be Taught in a TK Program?

Transitional Kindergarten is expected to be ...

- ✓ Different from preschool and the second year of Kindergarten
- ✓ A modified Kindergarten curriculum that is developmentally and age appropriate
- ✓ *Based on CA Preschool Learning Foundations, CA Common Core State Standards, and CA Content Standards for Kindergarten*
 - ✓ Social-emotional Development
 - ✓ Language Arts
 - ✓ Mathematics
 - ✓ Science
 - ✓ History/Social Science
 - ✓ Physical Education
 - ✓ Visual and Performing Arts

TK Curriculum and Instruction

- Teachers must be properly credentialed as is currently required of Kindergarten teachers
- Curriculum must be age and developmentally appropriate and aligned with kindergarten standards
- Some districts already have programs in place
- Districts and counties who are building new programs are looking at the California Preschool Learning Foundations, California Academic Content Standards, and the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Math

TK Curriculum and Instruction

Enhances Experiential Curriculum

- Organized around big ideas/themes
- Use of enhances learning centers
- Standards based

Oral Language Strategies

- Explicit activities that promote oral language goals with focus on high priority vocabulary words

Traditional Kindergarten Transitional Kindergarten

**Decoding
and
Language/Communication**

**Language/Communication
and
*Decoding***

Next steps for 2012 implementation of a TUSD Transitional Kindergarten Program:

- Public outreach and education through print media, TUSD website, notices @ each TUSD School, and Inclusion in each school's newsletters & bulletins.
- Develop estimates of potential enrollment/ADA for 2012 and meet with Ed Services, Finance, & Facilities to discuss staffing/housing needs developed from that initial data.
- Informational meeting opportunities at TUSD elementary schools.
- Student Applications made available by March of 2012.
- Determine location(s) of TK programs.
- Staff the program.
- Provide In-service to TK and possibly K staff.
- Establish parent/student/teacher orientations for TK prior to school year starts.

TUSD Timelines for TK Implementation

- **12/6 and 12/7/11:** Met with central office cabinet and all site principals to review, discuss, and outline implications and to survey needs.
- **12/13/11** Board Presentation and overview.
- **December 2012:** Press release, website announcement and information available for the Travis Community regarding the TK Program.
- **January 2012:** Establish opportunities for meeting with TUSD kindergarten teachers , administrators, and other staff to create an ongoing “stake holder’s group” for planning and refining the Travis Unified TK program.
- **February 2012:** Continue toward defining and preparing for the physical , logistical and HR needs of TK Implementation.
- **March 2012:** make TK applications available to the public.
- **Spring and/or Summer 2012:** Provide additional in-service as-needed for TK staff.
- **August 2012:** TK Students begin school.



Transitional Kindergarten Resources

- California Department of Education
 - www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gs/em/kinderfaq.asp
- Preschool California
 - www.TKcalifornia.org
- California Kindergarten Association
 - www.ckanet.org
- Travis Unified School District
 - www.travususd.k12.ca.us