

PYUSD Preppy K (Transitional Kindergarten) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is Preppy K?

Preppy K provides one year of developmental curriculum prior to a student's entrance into regular kindergarten. It provides the "gift of time" and allows for an extra year of social-emotional, intellectual, and physical growth prior to kindergarten.

2. Why was Preppy K implemented?

Transitional Kindergarten (Preppy K) is authorized by Senate Bill 1381 that amended the date for admission to kindergarten. The age was phased in over several years. Transitional Kindergarten serves as a bridge between preschool and kindergarten and ensures that developmentally younger children are ready for kindergarten and beyond.

3. What are the criteria for entering Preppy K?

- *Date of birth*
- *Submission of Preppy K application*
- *Signed Continuance Form for Year 2 (only for students with birth dates before September 1st)*
- *Upon request for students whose birth date is before September 1st, maturational assessment covering:*
 - *Expressive/Receptive Language*
 - *Social/Emotional Development*
 - *Small/Gross Motor Development*
 - *Academic Skills*
- *IEP Recommendations, if applicable*

4. Who teaches the transitional kindergarten classes?

Preppy K classes are taught by credentialed PYUSD teachers. They have a background in early childhood education and have specifically applied to teach a Preppy K class.

5. Where will my child attend traditional kindergarten after the Preppy K year?

Students will attend their home school of residence for their traditional kindergarten year.

6. How do I register my student for Preppy K?

Preppy K registration takes place at the same time as Kindergarten registration. Parents may register for Preppy K at their home school with the exception of Golden and Linda Vista students. Golden students may enroll at Brookhaven Elementary School. Linda Vista students may enroll at Mabel Paine Elementary. Students will return to their school of residence for their kindergarten year.

7. When does my child's birthdate need to be to qualify for Preppy K?

Parents may complete a Preppy K application if their child turns five between September 2 and March 31. Please complete an application and turn it in to the school site. If you reside out of district, you will need to be released by your home school district and then contact our district Student Services department for a transfer approval (if space is available). Applications are not given priority based on the dates/times they are received.

8. What if my student starts Preppy K and I then decide I want him/her to attend the traditional kindergarten.

Students with birth dates between September 2nd and March 31st are only eligible to enroll in Preppy K. For students with birth dates before September 2nd, the change in placement process begins with the Preppy K teacher and principal at the school of attendance. A school team consisting of the teacher, principal, and parent(s) would meet to determine the appropriate placement for the child.

9. **I did not know about the Preppy K program and my student is enrolled in a traditional class. How can I get him/her into a Preppy K class at this time?**
The change in placement process begins with the kindergarten teacher and principal at the school of attendance. Preppy K placement will depend upon space availability and the results of a maturational assessment.
10. **If my child is old enough to start school, why would I want to wait?**
While a birth date determines when a child can legally start school, it does not guarantee that he/she is ready for the demands. Children mature at different times. Being “ready for school” requires much more than academic knowledge. Social, emotional, and physical readiness are equally, if not more important, than achievement skills.
11. **Is there something wrong with my child if he/she is developmentally young?**
Absolutely not! Some children are just young. In every other way they are normal, healthy, and very bright children. A year of Preppy K will give your child an additional year to grow and mature to be ready for the rigor of the traditional school program.
12. **My child is very bright. Won’t that make a difference?**
Intelligence is only one part of school success. While some children may seem advanced on one or another aspect of their development, such as language skills or the ability to read, this alone is not a good indicator of overall readiness. Social, emotional, and physical, as well as intellectual readiness, are necessary for a child to succeed and be happy in school. Preppy K teachers will provide many differentiated learning tasks to meet the needs of each of their students.
13. **My child went to preschool. Doesn’t that make him/her ready for kindergarten?**
A quality preschool program provides the experiences and opportunities that are appropriate for that age and stage of development, but these experiences do not set a timetable for development.
14. **Won’t my child be bored in school if he does not start the year he turns five?**
Boredom is actually a behavior that is unusual for young children as they are naturally curious and motivated to learn. Both the traditional and transitional kindergarten programs focus on differentiation to meet the needs of all students.
15. **If a student is currently in a Preppy K class, do they still need to register for kindergarten?**
Yes. Parents of Preppy K students need to register for kindergarten at their home school of residence. These students will not need to complete all of the items in the kindergarten packet as they are already registered. All student records will be sent to the home school so there is no need for families to again provide immunization, birth certificate, or attendance verification.
16. **Can a student attending Preppy K at a school different from the home school continue at the same school for traditional kindergarten?**
No. All students are expected to attend their home school of residence for kindergarten regardless of where they attended Preppy K. The only exception to this would be if a family was approved for a Choice Transfer through the district Student Services office.
17. **How does the requirement for 5-year old immunizations work with Transitional Kindergarten?**
The same rules regarding immunizations apply to Preppy K students as to traditional kindergarten students.
18. **How will Preppy K students moving up to kindergarten receive the required form?** *Secretaries at the kindergarten school will provide these forms.*

19. **What is the earliest birth date a child can have and still attend a Preppy K class?**
There is no specific date. However, students with summer birthdays (June, July, and August) may attend Preppy K with parent consent. If a parent is concerned that their child is not ready for a traditional kindergarten they may request a maturational assessment given by the district. The results of this assessment will help guide the appropriate placement of the student.
21. **Are Preppy K students eligible for district child care?**
Yes, students may enroll in district child care based on space availability.
22. **I live in another district and would like to attend a PYLUSD Preppy K class. Is this possible?**
Families must go to their home district of residence and get released from the home district. That form is then to be taken to the PYLUSD Student Services office. Once approved, and on a space available basis, the student may then attend Preppy K in PYLUSD.
23. **My child was approved for a choice transfer. Now, I have decided to enroll him in a Preppy K class instead of a kindergarten class. Do I need to get a new choice transfer the following year?**
No. Once a choice transfer is approved, that school becomes the official school of residence. After attending Preppy K, your student would enroll in the approved school of choice. There is no requirement to do any additional transfer requests.
24. **My child attended a private preschool and is ready for kindergarten. However, their birth date is after the kindergarten cut-off date.**
Your child must turn 5 on or before September 1st of the current year in order to enter kindergarten in the upcoming school year.