

San Gabriel Unified School District Transitional Kindergarten

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the minimum age for admittance to kindergarten in California?

A child shall be admitted to a kindergarten maintained by the school district at the beginning of a school year or at a later time in the same year if the child will have his or her fifth birthday on or before September 1. This applies to kindergarten programs only.

2. Can children who turn five years old after December 2 start TK at the beginning of the school year?

A child is eligible for TK if the child will have his or her fifth birthday between September 2 and December 2. However, a school district **may**, at any time during a school year admit a child to a TK program who will have his or her fifth birthday after December 2 but during that same school year, with the approval of the parent or guardian, if the governing board of the school district determines that the admittance is in the best interests of the child and the parent or guardian is given information regarding the advantages and disadvantages and any other explanatory information about the effect of this early admittance.

3. Do children have to attend TK or kindergarten?

No. Since school is mandatory for six-year-old students, parents and guardians must enroll their children in school once they reach the age of six.

4. What are the benefits of TK?

Transitional Kindergarten offers an additional year of school to younger students. TK provides children with an opportunity to learn in an enriching and academically challenging environment that nurtures their growth. Research shows that children who attend Kindergarten readiness programs, like Transitional Kindergarten, are more likely to do well in school and attend college.

5. How is TK different than preschool?

The standards, curriculum, and teaching requirements in TK are different from preschool. TK will be part of the K-12 public education system and aligned with the Kindergarten standards. TK builds on the skills children may have learned in preschool to ensure they begin Kindergarten with confidence.

6. How is TK different than traditional Kindergarten?

The curriculum in TK is modified to meet the academic, social and emotional needs of younger children. The TK environment includes more opportunities for social-emotional, language development and communication through dramatic play, small group instruction, and intentional teaching through hands-on activities.

7. Is attendance in TK the same as in grades Kindergarten through 5th?

Regular attendance is required, similar to all other elementary grades.

8. Will my child receive a report card?

Children in TK will receive a report card 3 times a year.

9. How long is the TK day?

The hours of the TK program match those of the Kindergarten where the TK program is located.

10. What is the curriculum for TK and is it standards-based?

Using a unique specialized curriculum based on the Kindergarten standards, TK teachers help children develop social skills through activities that build confidence and communication skills. They expose children to reading and math in an exciting, interactive way by using educational games to teach children about words and sentences and help them understand mathematical concepts like counting and patterns.

The social, emotional and academic skills children learn in TK help them to succeed in Kindergarten, become leaders in the classroom and confidently navigate the school day routine.

11. Does the TK teacher need a teaching credential?

All teachers, including TK teachers, are required to have a California Multiple Subject teaching credential.

12. Will TK provide support for children who do not speak English?

English learners in TK will have the same level of service as those in Kindergarten.

13. Can my child enroll in first grade upon completion of the TK?

Transitional Kindergarten is the first year of a two-year Kindergarten program. A child who participates in TK must complete the second year of the program in Kindergarten before attending first grade.

14. What is the class size for TK?

Class sizes in TK will mirror those in Kindergarten.

15. Where will TK classes be located?

The TK class will be located at Roosevelt Elementary School. Once a student successfully completes the transitional kindergarten program, they will enroll in the kindergarten of their school of residence.

16. If my child attends Kindergarten at a private school, can he/she enter 1st grade the following year?

This will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

17. Can my child be retained in TK?

Children in TK will not be retained.

18. How will TK affect students in special education?

The same services are offered to Transitional Kindergarteners with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) as are currently offered to children in Kindergarten.

19. What are childcare/extended day opportunities for my child?

Your child has the same access to childcare/extended day opportunities as all other students at the school site.

20. Can my child attend the San Gabriel Unified School District TK Program if I don't live in the district boundaries?

Parents may apply for a permit and may be admitted if space is available.

21. Should students who are four years old receive their pre-kindergarten booster vaccines?

Yes. Under California's kindergarten immunization requirements, even four-year old children need their pre-kindergarten immunizations prior to the first day of TK where they could potentially be exposed to vaccine preventable diseases.

22. Are students in TK also subject to the kindergarten immunization requirements?

Yes. They are required to have documentation of required immunization or a valid exemption prior to admission to TK.

23. Are student in TK required to meet kindergarten immunization requirements before the first year or second year of the program?

Students are required to meet kindergarten immunization requirements before admission to the first year of the TK program.

**If you would like more information regarding the program, please contact:
Student Support Services at (626) 451-5482**