


INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE
Los Angeles Unified School District
Office of the Deputy Superintendent of Instruction

TO: Elementary School Principals

DATE: May 9, 2012

FROM: Jaime R. Aquino, Ph. D. 
Deputy Superintendent of Instruction

SUBJECT: TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN

On September 30, 2010, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed SB 1381 changing the kindergarten entry date from December 2 to September 1. This change will be phased in one month at a time over 3 years beginning in the 2012-13 school year. The bill also creates an ongoing transitional kindergarten (TK) program for students impacted by the change of the kindergarten entry date. Transitional kindergarten is the first year of a two year kindergarten program. In the second year, TK students will attend traditional kindergarten.

Students shall be admitted to TK based on the timeline below:

- In the 2012-13 school year, a child who will have his/her fifth birthday between November 2 and December 2 shall be admitted to a transitional kindergarten program.
- In the 2013-14 school year, a child who will have his/her fifth birthday between October 2 and December 2 shall be admitted to a transitional kindergarten program.
- In the 2014-15 school year and each school year thereafter, a child who will have his/her fifth birthday between September 2 and December 2 shall be admitted to a transitional kindergarten program.

To comply with SB 1381, LAUSD will continue the implementation of the TK program in the existing 104 schools and expand to all schools that offer kindergarten at their sites. Schools may create a TK/Kindergarten combination class if there are not enough children of TK age enrolled in the TK class. Children who meet the age eligibility for kindergarten (5 years of age by November 1 in 2012-13) may be enrolled in the TK program upon parent request if space is available at the school. For these students, a California Department of Education Kindergarten Continuance Form must be signed by the parent and filed in the student's cum folder in order for the District to receive ADA. Specific instructions will be included in the upcoming Transitional Kindergarten Reference Guide.

The TK program follows the requirements of SB 1381 in providing a modified kindergarten curriculum that is age and developmentally appropriate. The TK curriculum is based on the Common Core State Standards for kindergarten. Emphasis is placed on developing oral language skills and providing integrated experiences in language and literacy, social/emotional development, science, social sciences, and the arts. Training will be provided for TK teachers on curriculum, assessment, classroom environment, and scheduling.

To organize the TK program at your school, determine which kindergarten class will be the TK class and assign the appropriate teacher. If you do not have enough students to fill the TK class, create a TK/K combination class. E-CAST is closed and enrollment numbers will not be adjusted. However, as the new school year begins and students enroll requests for additional teachers may be made by contacting your HR Specialist.

In order to facilitate communication with parents, community members, and staff, a Transitional Kindergarten brochure in English and Spanish is attached. Please inform school staff about this new program so that they can assist in providing information to parents. Contact Early Childhood Education if brochures in other languages are needed.

A Transitional Kindergarten Reference Guide is being developed to provide direction to schools on the implementation of TK. For additional assistance, please contact Nora Armenta, Ruth Yoon, or Janis Shinmei, Early Childhood Education at 213-241-4713.

Attachments

c: Gerardo Loera
Local District Superintendents
Nora Armenta
Administrators of Instruction
Principal Leaders