

What is Transitional Kindergarten?

Transitional kindergarten is a bridge between preschool and kindergarten. It gives young learners a head start and provides them with an opportunity to learn and grow in an environment that is tailored to meet their academic and social needs. Transitional Kindergarten is...

- Intended for students who will turn five between September 2 and December 2.
- The first year of a two year Kindergarten program.
- An instructional program which uses a modified kindergarten curriculum that is age and developmentally appropriate (Education Code 48000(c)(3)).

As mandated by Senate Bill 1381, Transitional Kindergarten will be provided during the 2014-2015 school year to VUSD students who turn five years old within the dates of September 2, 2014 – December 2, 2014.

This program will provide children with an enriched foundational early childhood education experience to prepare them for success in traditional Kindergarten.



Who is eligible for Transitional Kindergarten?

In our district, transitional kindergarten will be offered to children turning 5 years old between September 2 and December 2. This change gives them an opportunity to develop the social and academic skills and the confidence that will help them succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

VUSD Transitional Kindergarten

- **Location(s):** Transitional Kindergarten programs are offered at ten elementary school sites in VUSD: Foothill Oak, Temple Heights, Monte Vista, Breeze Hill, Maryland, Grapevine, Mission Meadows, Beaumont, Bobier, and Empresa.
- **Registration Process:** Parents may register at their home school. Families will be contacted regarding Transitional Kindergarten program placement. Placement will be based on the date and time of registration.
- **Length of school day:** The program follows the full-day model. Check with your child's home school site for bell schedule.
- **Learning environment:** Transitional Kindergarten students will learn by working with the teacher in small and large groups and have opportunities for independent exploration.
- **Curriculum and learning:** TK is based on the California Kindergarten standards with focused instruction in literacy and numeracy along with emphasis on self-regulation and social engagement.

Why Transitional Kindergarten?

Starting school is a very exciting time for children and their families! It begins a new chapter in their lives and sets the tone for children's future. But California's kindergarten standards and curriculum have changed over the years, and many of the skills children were once taught in first grade are now expected in kindergarten. This can make the transition into kindergarten difficult for some children, and the youngest children entering the kindergarten classroom often struggle to adjust.



The Transitional Kindergarten program will prepare students for the social and academic expectations of a traditional kindergarten the following year. It truly gives children the gift of time. This program acts as a bridge between a flexible environment and the more structured academic setting of kindergarten.

Will Transitional Kindergarten be the best option?

Since birth, you've watched your child grow and develop. You've noted your child's height and weight and kept track of when he/she crawled, stood, walked, and spoke those first words. We know that every child develops at his/her own pace.

Think about your child in the areas of language, social, cognitive, and motor skills development and consider what program will best meet his/her needs.

Their time in transitional kindergarten could be a great first step to helping them to succeed in kindergarten, become leaders in the classroom and confidently navigate the school day routine.

You know your child best and will ultimately decide if Transitional Kindergarten makes sense for your child.



Transitional Kindergarten



A Strong Start for Young Learners



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