

**TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN**

The Governing Board desires to offer a high-quality transitional kindergarten (TK) program for eligible children who do not yet meet the minimum age criterion for kindergarten. The TK program shall assist students in developing the academic, social, and emotional skills they need to succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

The district's TK program shall be the first year of a two-year kindergarten program. (Education Code 48000)

The Board encourages ongoing collaboration among district preschool staff, other preschool providers, elementary teachers, administrators, and parents/guardians in the development, implementation, and evaluation of the district's TK program.

*(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)*

*(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)*

**Eligibility**

The district's TK program shall admit children as follows (Education Code 48000):

1. For the 2021-22 school year, children whose fifth birthday is between September 2 through December 2
2. For the 2022-23 school year, children whose fifth birthday is between September 2 and February 2
3. For the 2023-24 school year, children whose fifth birthday is between September 2 and April 2
4. For the 2024-25 school year, children whose fifth birthday is between September 2 and June 2
5. For the 2025-26 school year, and in each school year thereafter, children who turn four by September 1

A child's eligibility for TK enrollment shall not impact family eligibility for a preschool or childcare program. (Education Code 48000).

Parents/guardians of eligible children shall be notified of the availability of the TK program and age, residency, immunization, and any other enrollment requirements. Enrollment in the TK program shall be voluntary.

*(cf. 5111 - Admission)*

*(cf. 5111.1 - District Residency)*

*(cf. 5141.22 - Infectious Diseases)*

*(cf. 5141.3 - Health Examinations)*

*(cf. 5141.31 - Immunizations)*

*(cf. 5141.32 - Health Screening for School Entry)*

**TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN** (continued)

Upon request of a child's parents/guardians, the district may, on a case-by-case basis after the Superintendent or designee determines that it is in the child's best interest, admit into the district's TK program a child whose fifth birthday is on or before September 1 and who is therefore eligible for kindergarten.

At any time during the school year, the district may admit into the TK program a child whose fifth birthday is after the date specified for admittance for the applicable year as described above, provided that the Superintendent or designee recommends that enrollment in a TK program is in the child's best interest and the child's parents/guardians approve. Prior to such enrollment, the child's parents/guardians shall be provided information regarding the advantages and disadvantages and any other explanatory information about the effect of early admittance. (Education Code 48000)

**Curriculum and Instruction**

The district's TK program shall be based on a modified kindergarten curriculum that is age and developmentally appropriate. (Education Code 48000)

*(cf. 6141 - Curriculum Development and Evaluation)*

*(cf. 6161.1 - Selection and Evaluation of Instructional Materials)*

The program shall be aligned with the preschool learning foundations and preschool curriculum frameworks developed by the California Department of Education (CDE). It shall be designed to facilitate students' development in essential skills related to language and literacy, mathematics, physical development, health, visual and performing arts, science, history-social science, English language development, and social-emotional development.

*(cf. 5148.3 - Preschool/Early Childhood Education)*

*(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)*

*(cf. 6174 - Education for English Learners)*

The Board shall establish the length of the school day in the district's TK program, which shall be at least three hours but no more than four hours long except for TK students enrolled in expanded learning opportunity programs provided by the district pursuant to Education Code 46120. If the

**TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN** (continued)

district has adopted an extended-day kindergarten, the length of the school day for the TK program may be different than the length of the school day for the kindergarten program either at the same or different school sites. The Superintendent or designee shall annually report to CDE as to whether the district's TK programs are offered full day, part day, or both. (Education Code 8973, 37202, 46111, 46115, 46117, 48003).

*(cf. 6111 - School Calendar)*

*(cf. 6112 - School Day)*

TK students may be placed in the same classrooms as kindergarten students when necessary, provided that the instructional program is differentiated to meet student needs.

TK students may be placed in a classroom commingled with 4-year-old students from a California State Preschool Program as long as the classroom does not include students enrolled in TK for a second year or students enrolled in a regular kindergarten. (Education Code 8235, 48000)

**Staffing**

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that teachers assigned to teach in TK classes possess a teaching credential or permit from the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) that authorizes such instruction.

*(cf. 4112.2 - Certification)*

A credentialed teacher who is first assigned to a TK class after July 1, 2015, shall, by August 1, 2023, have at least 24 units in early childhood education and/or child development, professional experience (comparable to the 24 units of education) in a classroom setting with preschool age children, and/or a child development teacher permit issued by CTC. (Education Code 48000)

Any teacher who is or was assigned to teach TK, or a combination of kindergarten and TK, **on or before July 1, 2015**, is "grandfathered in" to teach TK without having to meet the additional unit requirement for TK teachers set forth in Education Code section 48000(g).

The district has defined as comparable experience as follows:

Teachers may meet qualifications using established rubric criteria, as outlined in Exhibit 6170.1, based on but not limited to, years of experience, child development units, evidence of completed Early Childhood Professional Development, and other additional criteria.

## **TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN (continued)**

The Superintendent or designee may provide professional development as needed to ensure that TK teachers are knowledgeable about the standards and effective instructional methods for teaching young children.

*(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)*

### **Continuation to Kindergarten**

Students who complete the TK program shall be eligible to continue in kindergarten the following school year. Parents/guardians of such students shall not be required to submit a signed Kindergarten Continuance Form for kindergarten attendance.

However, whenever children who would otherwise be age-eligible for kindergarten are enrolled in TK, the Superintendent or designee shall obtain a Kindergarten Continuance Form signed by the parent/guardian near the end of the TK year consenting to the child's enrollment in kindergarten the following year.

A student shall not attend more than two years in a combination of TK and kindergarten. (Education Code 46300)

*(cf. 5123 - Promotion/Acceleration/Retention)*

### **Assessment**

The Superintendent or designee may develop or identify appropriate formal and/or informal assessments of TK students' development and progress. He/she shall monitor and regularly report to the Board regarding program implementation and the progress of students in meeting related academic standards.

*(cf. 0500 - Accountability)*

*(cf. 6162.5 - Student Assessment)*

*Legal Reference: (see next page)*

**TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN** (continued)

*Legal Reference:*

*EDUCATION CODE*

8235 *California State Preschool Program*

8973 *Extended-day kindergarten*

37202 *School calendar; equivalency of instructional minutes*

44258.9 *Assignment monitoring by county superintendent of schools*

46111 *Kindergarten, hours of attendance*

46114-46119 *Minimum school day, kindergarten*

46300 *Computation of ADA, inclusion of kindergarten and transitional kindergarten*

48000 *Age of admission, kindergarten and transitional kindergarten*

48002 *Evidence of minimum age required to enter kindergarten or first grade*

48003 *Kindergarten annual report*

48200 *Compulsory education, starting at age six*

*Management Resources:*

*CSBA PUBLICATIONS*

*What Boards of Education Can Do About Kindergarten Readiness, Governance Brief, May 2016*

*CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS*

*Transitional Kindergarten FAQs*

*Desired Results Developmental Profile, 2015*

*Transitional Kindergarten Implementation Guide: A Resource for California Public School District Administrators and Teachers, 2013*

*California Preschool Curriculum Framework, Vol. 3, 2013*

*California Preschool Learning Foundations, Vol. 3, 2012*

*California Preschool Curriculum Framework, Vol. 2, 2011*

*California Preschool Learning Foundations, Vol. 2, 2010*

*California Preschool Curriculum Framework, Vol. 1, 2010*

*California Preschool Learning Foundations, Vol. 1, 2008*

*WEB SITES*

*CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>*

*California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>*

*California Kindergarten Association: <http://www.ckanet.org>*

*Commission on Teacher Credentialing: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov>*

*Transitional Kindergarten California: <http://www.tkcalifornia.org>*

Policy

adopted: August 14, 2012

revised: October 27, 2015

revised: June 21, 2016

revised: June 26, 2018

revised: March 26, 2019

revised: May 25, 2021

revised: May 24, 2022

revised: March 28, 2023

**VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Visalia, California

**TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN**

**Transitional Kindergarten (TK)  
Visalia Unified School District Teacher Qualification Guidance  
Form**

A credentialed teacher who was assigned to a Transitional Kindergarten classroom **after** July 1, 2015 needs to meet one of the following criteria by August 1, 2023:

Education Code section 48000(g) requires credentialed teachers who are first assigned to a TK classroom after July 1, 2015 to have one of the following by August 1, 2023:

- At least 24 units in early childhood education, or childhood development, or both
- Professional experience in a classroom setting with preschool age children comparable to the 24 units of education described in bullet 1 (comparability determined by the local employing agency)
- Child Development Teacher Permit issued by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing

Note, any teacher who is or was assigned to teach TK, or a combination of kindergarten and TK, **on or before July 1, 2015**, is "grandfathered in" to teach TK without having to meet the additional unit requirement for TK teachers set forth in Education Code section 48000(g).

Visalia Unified School District has determined \_\_\_\_\_  
qualifies to teach Transitional Kindergarten by meeting the following criteria:

\_\_\_\_\_Assigned to Transitional Kindergarten on or before July 15, 2015

\_\_\_\_\_Transcripts provide evidence of at least 24 early childhood education (ECE) and/or child development (CD) units earning a minimum of a C letter grade (attach transcripts)

\_\_\_\_\_Current child development teacher permit issued by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (attach permit)

\_\_\_\_\_Visalia Unified School District Local Option (verified by rubric attached)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
HRD Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN

### Visalia Unified School District Transitional Kindergarten (TK) Assessment of Qualifications and Experience

Education Code section 48000(g) requires credentialed teachers who are first assigned to a TK classroom after July 1, 2015 to have one of the following by August 1, 2023:

- At least 24 units in early childhood education, or childhood development, or both
- Professional experience in a classroom setting with preschool age children comparable to the 24 units of education described in bullet 1 (comparability determined by the local employing agency)
- Child Development Teacher Permit issued by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing

**Note, any teacher who is or was assigned to teach TK, or a combination of kindergarten and TK, on or before July 1, 2015, is "grandfathered in" to teach TK without having to meet the additional unit requirement for TK teachers set forth in Education Code section 48000(g).**

The district has defined number comparable experience as follows:

Teachers may meet qualifications using established rubric criteria based on but not limited to, years of experience, child development units, evidence of completed Early Childhood Professional Development, and other additional criteria.

**For the purpose of qualifying certificated staff to teach Transitional Kindergarten. . Teachers can meet the 5 points on the rubric by qualifying in multiple columns. (Example: A teacher may have taught for kindergarten for 3 years, which equal 3 points and has also completed the in-person training DRDP training, etc with VUSD, which equals 4 points, for a total of 7 points.**

Point worth	Years of Kindergarten (teaching)	Units in Child Development	Related Services	Taught TK in another district after 7/1/16	Additional Criteria	Points
5		24 units	A child development permit or higher		None	
4	Four or more	19-23 units	Taught in a TK program after 7/1/2015	Four or more years	Complete the three required VUSD Early Childhood Professional Learning in-person trainings or 3 required EC courses ( <b>DRDP, Preschool Learning Foundations, Powerful Play</b> ) via CECO plus 1 self-selected course ( <b>Trauma Informed Care, Social Emotional Wellness</b> )	
3	Three years	13-18 units	**See Kindergarten Column for point value	Three years	Self Select 3 of the 5 Early Childhood Professional Learning Courses via CECO ( <b>DRDP, Preschool Learning Foundations, Powerful Play, Trauma Informed Care, Social Emotional Wellness</b> )	
2	Two years	7-12 units	Taught first grade	Two years	Self Select 2 of the 5 EC Courses via CECO ( <b>DRDP, Preschool Learning Foundations, Powerful Play, Trauma Informed Care, Social Emotional Wellness</b> )	
1	One year	6 units	Taught second/third grade	One year	Attend District TK/K Early Childhood Professional Development or Self Select 1 of the 5 EC Course via CECO ( <b>DRDP, Preschool Learning Foundations, Powerful Play, Trauma Informed Care, Social Emotional Wellness</b> )	
<b>Must total 5 or more points to qualify for TK assignment.</b>						<b>Total Points</b>

**\*\*3 Required CECO Early Childhood Courses** -DRDP, Preschool Learning Foundations, Powerful Play **\*\*Self Selected Course-** Trauma Informed Care, Social Emotional Wellness

**ALL MODULES WITHIN EACH COURSE WILL NEED TO BE COMPLETED TO OBTAIN CREDIT**