



## 2023-24 Transitional Kindergarten Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is Transitional Kindergarten?**

Transitional Kindergarten (TK) serves as a bridge between preschool and kindergarten and is the first year of a two-year program that introduces a developmentally and age-appropriate modified kindergarten curriculum. TK prioritizes the child's language, literacy, and pre-math skills with a strong emphasis on social and emotional development utilizing the Preschool Learning Foundations.

### **Who can attend Transitional Kindergarten?**

With the rollout of California's Universal TK, children who turn 5 from September 2, 2023 through April 2, 2024 are eligible to enroll in TK for the 2023-24 school year.

### **Can I choose to have my child attend ECE Preschool instead of Transitional Kindergarten?**

Your child may attend either Preschool or Transitional Kindergarten if their birthdate is between September 2, 2018 and April 2, 2019. Parents have the right to choose the option that works best for your family.

### **My child turns 5 on April 3, 2024. Can an exception be made for my child to enroll in TK?**

No. Children must turn 5 on or before April 2, 2024 to attend TK. Your child may qualify for a preschool program. Please visit the SAUSD Early Childhood Education Program's website at <https://www.sausd.us/ece>. Assessments are not used to determine TK enrollment eligibility.

### **My child has a birthday that falls within the TK age-eligibility window. Can my child skip TK and enroll directly in kindergarten?**

No. We strictly adhere to the age eligibility requirements for a child to enroll in kindergarten. A child must turn 5 on or before September 1, 2023 to enroll in kindergarten for the 2023-24 school year.

### **What will the Transitional Kindergarten program look like for my child?**

The TK program is taught by credentialed teachers and runs 5 days a week for approximately 200 minutes per day, the same amount of minutes as a typical kindergarten day. TK offers a developmentally appropriate curriculum that allows students to explore, create, and learn through purposeful play based activities. Social emotional, fine motor, and academic skills are all integrated in this hands-on program to build a strong foundation for meeting the rigor of kindergarten the following year.

### **How is TK different from Kindergarten?**

TK is a bridge from Preschool to Kindergarten. It does not replace kindergarten. The program uses the California Preschool Learning Foundations to lay a solid educational foundation and prepare our youngest learners for future academic success.

### **When can I sign my child up for Transitional Kindergarten?**

The 2023-24 TK and Kindergarten round-up enrollment window runs from February 1st to February 28th; schools will continue enrolling students throughout the year. Registration packets are available at the school site.

### **Where do I enroll?**

Reach out to your neighborhood school to complete the enrollment process. If you are not aware of the name of the school, simply click on this [link](#) and enter your address, this will assist you to identify the school. If you prefer a school that is not in the neighborhood school, feel free to reach out to the Support Services Department - Enrollment Center at (714) 433-3481 to submit your request for a transfer.

### **Will there be space for everyone interested in Transitional Kindergarten?**

All students turning 5 between September 2, 2023 and April 2, 2024 are guaranteed a space in the Transitional Kindergarten Program for the 2023-24 school year. If the neighborhood school is at capacity the Enrollment Center office will provide you with other school(s) option(s).

### **Where will the Transitional Kindergarten classes be held?**

Although all elementary schools in SAUSD house a TK classroom, the number of TK classes at each school site for the 2023-24 school year has not been finalized.

### **Is TK mandatory?**

TK is not a mandatory grade. Families with students who turn 5 between September 2nd, 2023 and April 2nd, 2024 have the option to enroll in TK or keep their child in preschool.

**Do children in universal TK have to meet the same vaccination requirements as in regular kindergarten?**

Yes. Under California's kindergarten immunization requirements, even four year old children need their pre-kindergarten immunizations prior to the first day of TK.

**What happens after a year of Transitional Kindergarten?**

Transitional Kindergarten is intended to be the **first year of a two year** kindergarten program. Students will move to kindergarten the following year, will have a space reserved for them at their resident school, and will not have to re- enroll.

**After TK, can I have my child skip Kindergarten and go straight to 1st grade?**

No. SAUSD strongly believes in the importance of Kindergarten in setting the foundation for future achievement and academic, as well as social and emotional, success.

**My child is in SAUSD preschool, do I still need to complete a new student enrollment for TK?**

Yes. TK-12th grade is a separate enrollment from our preschool program.

**What if I have more questions?**

For more information you may call the Support Services Enrollment Center at (714) 433-3481. Additional information regarding Transitional Kindergarten can be found in Ed Code Section 48000.

**Additional Resource pertaining to ages and placements:**

**AGE ENROLLMENT CHART  
2023-2024**

**Minimum age requirement for Kindergarten:** a child will be admitted to kindergarten if the child's fifth birthday is on or before September 1 of that school year.

Children born between September 2, 2018 and April 2, 2019 will be placed in the **Transitional Kindergarten program**. SAUSD is unable to accommodate requests/petitions to accelerate placements that do not align with age requirements provided below.

<b>Birth Date Criteria</b>	<b>Grade Level</b>
Born on or after <b>4/3/2019</b>	Eligible for Preschool
Born between <b>9/2/2018 - 4/2/2019</b>	<b>Transitional Kindergarten (TK)</b>
Born between <b>9/2/2017 - 9/1/2018</b>	Kindergarten (K)

### **TK Eligibility by School Year and Birth Month**

#### *2022-23 School Year*

Students who turn 5 between Sept. 2, 2022 and Feb. 2, 2023 can enroll in TK for the 2022-2023 school year.

#### *2023-24 School Year*

Students who turn 5 between Sept. 2, 2023 and April 2, 2024 can enroll in TK for the 2023-2024 school year.

#### *2024-25 School Year*

Students who turn 5 between Sept. 2, 2024 and June 2, 2025 can enroll in TK for the 2024-2025 school year.

#### *2025-26 School Year*

Students who turn 4 by Sept. 1, 2025 can enroll in TK for the 2025- 2026 school year.