

## Transitional Kindergarten (TK) in Fresno Unified School District Top 10 Frequently Asked Questions

Transitional Kindergarten gives young learners an opportunity to learn and grow in an environment to meet their academic and social needs. For the 2023-2024 school year, if a child turns 5 between September 2 and April 2, they qualify to attend Transitional Kindergarten. Some of the frequently asked questions about TK are listed below.

**1. How is transitional kindergarten different from preschool?**

Transitional kindergarten is part of the K-12 public education system. The standards, curriculum, and teaching requirements in TK are aligned with the California Preschool Foundations. TK builds on the skills children may have learned in preschool.

**2. How is transitional kindergarten different from traditional kindergarten?**

The transitional kindergarten environment will include more opportunities for social-emotional and language development, communication and learning through dramatic play, small group instruction, and intentional teaching through hands-on activities.

**3. What are the benefits of attending transitional kindergarten?**

Research shows that children who enroll in early learning classrooms high increased social and academic development. TK helps children build literacy and math skills and provides a foundation for social and emotional development.

- Children will be better prepared to succeed in kindergarten and beyond.
- Parents will have an additional option to help their children enter kindergarten with the maturity and skills needed to excel; and
- Schools will be able to do more for students because TK will help ensure children enter kindergarten more prepared to learn and succeed.

**4. What grade will children go into after transitional kindergarten?**

Transitional kindergarten is the first year of a two-year kindergarten experience. After year one, TK students progress into a traditional kindergarten classroom the following year.

**5. How old will transitional kindergarteners be when they begin first grade?**

Transitional kindergarteners will typically be 6 years old when they start first grade and turn 7 that school year.

**6. Will children in transitional kindergarten be 19 years old when they graduate high school?**

No. Students will be 18 years old when they graduate.

**7. Will transitional kindergarten be free, or will I have to qualify based on income?**

Since transitional kindergarten is part of the public education system, TK is free and open to all age-eligible children.

**8. How will children in special education be impacted?**

Districts will be required to offer the same services to transitional kindergarten students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) as they currently offer to children in traditional kindergarten.

**9. Will transitional kindergarten provide support for children who are English Language Learners?**

English Language Learners in transitional kindergarten will have the same level of services as those in traditional kindergarten.

**10. Where may I find more information regarding transitional kindergarten?**

Please contact your local elementary school. More information can also be found on the California Department of Education website:

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gs/em/kinderfaq.asp>