Transitional kindergarten was established in September 2010 for children who will turn five between September 2nd and December 2nd. Some of the frequently asked questions about transitional kindergarten are listed below.

1. **How is transitional kindergarten different from pre-kindergarten?**
   Transitional kindergarten is part of the K-12 public education system. The standards, curriculum and teaching requirements in transitional kindergarten are aligned with California Preschool Foundations. Transitional kindergarten builds on the skills children may have learned in Pre-kindergarten. If a child attends PK, but falls under the birth months of September 2nd and December 2nd, they will need to attend transitional kindergarten first, before they enter Kindergarten.

2. **How is transitional kindergarten different from traditional kindergarten?**
   Although the curriculum in transitional kindergarten will be based on the pre-school foundations and kindergarten standards, it will be modified to meet the academic, social and emotional needs of younger children. The transitional kindergarten environment will include more opportunities for social-emotional and language development, communication 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 beginning kindergarten at an older age improves children’s social and academic development and provides a significant increase in academic performance. Transitional kindergarten also 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 because transitional kindergarten 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, transitional kindergarten 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 years old during the first few months of the school year.
6. Will children in transitional kindergarten be 19 years old when they graduate from high school?
No. Students will be 18 years old when they graduate and will turn 19 years old several months after graduation.

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, transitional kindergarten is free and open to all age-eligible children.

8. How will this affect children in special education?
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 student.

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 https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gs/em/kinderfaq.asp#admission

For Further Information, Contact:

Early Learning Department
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