

Irvine Unified School District



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Irvine Unified School District

Transitional Kindergarten ~ A Year of Discovery A Two-Year Kindergarten Program

2015-2016



For children turning 5 on or between
September 2 and December 2, 2015

For more information:
[http://www.iusd.org/education_services/
transitional-kindergarten/](http://www.iusd.org/education_services/transitional-kindergarten/)

QUESTIONS PARENTS OFTEN ASK:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Kindergarten Readiness Act of 2010 is recent legislation that changes the kindergarten entry date from Dec. 2 to Sept. 1 so children begin kindergarten at age five. The rollback will be implemented over a three-year period, rolling back one month per year beginning in 2012-2013 until in 2014-2015 and thereafter; the date will be September 1.

- 2012-2013 Nov. 1
- 2013-2014 Oct. 1
- 2014 -2015 Sept. 1

The Kindergarten Readiness Act of 2010 also creates a Transitional Kindergarten (TK) program for those students who miss the cutoff and who are born on or between:

- 2012-2013 Nov. 2 – Dec. 2
- 2013-2014 Oct. 2 - Dec. 2
- 2014 -2015 Sept. 2 - Dec. 2

WHAT IS A TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN (TK) CLASS?

TK is the first year of a two-year developmental kindergarten program servicing children who turn five between September 2 and December 2, 2015. It is designed to build a solid foundation for success in school for “young” five year olds. The program is funded by the Kindergarten Readiness Act of 2010 that changes the kindergarten entry age in 2014-2015 to Sept. 1.

WHAT IS A DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAM?

The TK curricular program is a hybrid between kindergarten standards and preschool standards, taught by credentialed Irvine Unified School District (IUSD) teachers. It promotes each child’s progress in all three areas of growth: physical, intellectual, and social-emotional. Much care is given to providing a rich, stimulating environment in which active learning is the hallmark where each child develops and practices the physical and social-emotional skills that naturally accompany the child’s intellectual growth. IUSD TK classrooms will use a thematic, embedded curriculum incorporating developmentally appropriate practices, play, music and art. The TK program offers the young child an additional year to grow and learn in an environment that supports differences in growth and maturity rates.

The goals of the program are to develop each child’s:

- Confidence in his/her learning ability
- Excitement for learning and for the opportunities presented at school
- Positive relationships with peers

These are the vital building blocks that lead to success in learning.

HOW CAN MY CHILD PARTICIPATE AND ENROLL IN THE IUSD TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM?

IUSD students who turn five on or between Sept. 2 and Dec. 2, 2015 are eligible to enroll for TK classes. Students turning 5 on or before Sept. 1, 2015 will be eligible for Kindergarten. Those turning 5 after Dec. 2, 2015 are not eligible to enroll for the 2015-16 school year. TK classes will be located regionally at several IUSD schools. Parents will transport their child to and from the designated school. The following year, students will register for kindergarten at their neighborhood school. Transitional Kindergarten is a voluntary program at no cost to parents.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TK AND TRADITIONAL KINDERGARTEN?

- Transitional kindergarten is a hybrid program **blending the California Preschool Foundations and kindergarten Common Core Standards**.
- Traditional kindergarten is based on **kindergarten standards** with high expectations of **mastery**. TK is a hybrid program and would not expect mastery of kindergarten standards.

HOW WILL THE TK CLASS HELP MY CHILD?

The TK program assists children:

- Develop a positive self image.
- Establish productive social and working relationships with their peers through cooperative play situations.
- Develop self-direction and assume responsibility for themselves and their environments.
- Develop vocabulary, listening, speaking and memory skills, and the ability to follow directions.
- Develop large and small muscle skills.
- Develop overall readiness and enthusiasm for learning.