

Irvine Unified School District



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Irvine Unified School District

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



For children turning 5 on or between
September 2nd and December 2nd

For more information:

<https://iusd.org/about/iusd-enrollment/transitional-kindergarten>

QUESTIONS PARENTS OFTEN ASK:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In 2010, California Legislation passed The Kindergarten Readiness Act, a bill changing the cut-off date for Kindergarten entry from December 2nd to September 1st. This change occurred in a three year phase in process beginning November, 2012. The cutoff date in CA now aligns with the majority of the states in the country. Also included in this CA bill is the mandate for districts to offer a Transitional Kindergarten (TK) program for students who are affected by the change. The TK grade level is for IUSD students who will turn 5 between September 2 and December 2. Students whose birthday is on or before September 1st will begin kindergarten.

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 2nd and December 2nd. 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 changed the kindergarten entry age in 2014-2015 to Sept. 1.

TK – 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 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.

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.

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

IUSD students who turn five on or between Sept. 2nd and Dec. 2nd are eligible to enroll for TK classes. Students turning 5 on or before Sept. 1st will be eligible for Kindergarten. Those turning 5 after Dec. 2nd are not eligible to enroll for the upcoming school year. TK classes will be located regionally at several IUSD schools.

The enrollment process for TK students begins in March. You must complete the online enrollment forms and take the paperwork with the required residency verification documents to your assigned neighborhood school. Upon completion of enrollment, if your assigned neighborhood school site does not offer TK, you will be designated to the closest site that does offer TK. Parents will transport their child to and from the designated school. The following year, students will register for kindergarten at their assigned neighborhood school. Transitional Kindergarten is a voluntary program at no cost to parents.

Please consult the IUSD website under *Enrollment* for additional information.