

TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN

The Monterey County Board of Education (County Board) desires to offer a high-quality Transitional Kindergarten (TK) program for eligible children who do not yet meet the minimum age criterion for kindergarten. The TK program would assist students in developing the academic, social, and emotional skills needed to succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

The Monterey County Office of Education's (MCOE) TK program would be the first year of a two-year kindergarten program. [Education Code (EC) 48000]

The County Board encourages ongoing collaboration among MCOE preschool staff, other preschool providers, elementary teachers, administrators, and parents/guardians in the development, implementation, and evaluation of MCOE's TK program.

(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)
(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)

Eligibility

By law, MCOE's TK program shall admit children whose fifth birthday is from September 2 through December 2. [EC 48000]

Parents/guardians of eligible children shall be notified of the availability of the TK program and of the age, residency, immunization, and any other enrollment requirements. Enrollment in the TK program would be voluntary.

(cf. 5111 - Admission)
(cf. 5111.1 - District Residency)
(cf. 5141.22 - Infectious Diseases)
(cf. 5141.3 - Health Examinations)
(cf. 5141.31 - Immunizations)
(cf. 5141.32 - Health Screening for School Entry)

On a case-by-case basis, a child whose fifth birthday is on or before September 1 may be admitted into MCOE's TK program upon request of a child's parents/guardians, if the appropriate MCOE staff determines that it is in the child's best interest.

At any time during the school year, MCOE may admit into the TK program a child whose fifth birthday is after December 2 of that same school year, provided that the appropriate MCOE staff recommends that enrollment in a TK program is in the child's best interest and the child's parents/guardians approve. Prior to such enrollment, the child's parents/guardians will be provided information regarding the advantages and disadvantages and any other explanatory information about the effect of early admittance. [EC 48000]

Curriculum and Instruction

MCOE's TK program shall be based on a modified kindergarten curriculum that is age and developmentally appropriate. [EC 48000]

(cf. 6141 - Curriculum Development and Evaluation)

(cf. 6161.1 - Selection and Evaluation of Instructional Materials)

The program would be aligned with the preschool learning foundations and preschool curriculum frameworks developed by the California Department of Education (CDE). It would be designed to facilitate students' development in essential knowledge and skills related to language and literacy, mathematics, physical development, health, visual and performing arts, science, history-social science, English language development, and social-emotional development.

(cf. 5148.3 - Preschool/Early Childhood Education)

(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)

(cf. 6174 - Education for English Learners)

The County Board shall establish the length of the school day in MCOE's TK program, which shall be at least three hours but no more than four hours long. If MCOE has adopted an extended-day kindergarten, the length of the school day for the TK program may be different than the length of the school day for the kindergarten program either at the same or different school sites. The Monterey County Superintendent of Schools (County Superintendent) or designee shall annually report to CDE as to whether MCOE's TK programs are offered full day, part day, or both. [EC 8973, 37202, 46111, 46115, 46117, 48003]

(cf. 6111 - School Calendar)

(cf. 6112 - School Day)

TK students may be placed in the same classrooms as kindergarten students when necessary, provided that the instructional program is differentiated to meet student needs.

TK students may be commingled in the same classroom with four-year-old students from a California State Preschool Program (CSPP) as long as all of the requirements of each program are met and the classroom does not include students enrolled in TK for a second year or students enrolled in a regular kindergarten. [EC 8235, 48000]

(cf. 5148.3 - Preschool/Early Childhood Education)

Staffing

In accordance with all applicable laws, teachers assigned to teach in TK classes shall

possess a teaching credential or permit from the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) that authorizes such instruction.

(cf. 4112.2 - Certification)

A credentialed teacher who is first assigned to a TK class after July 1, 2015, shall, by August 1, 2021, have at least 24 units in early childhood education and/or child development, comparable experience in a preschool setting, and/or a child development teacher permit issued by CTC. [EC 48000]

To ensure that TK teachers are knowledgeable about the standards and effective instructional methods for teaching young children, appropriate professional development and trainings will be provided.

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

Continuation to Kindergarten

Students who complete the TK program shall be eligible to continue in kindergarten the following school year. Parents/guardians of such students shall not be required to submit a signed Kindergarten Continuance Form for kindergarten attendance.

However, whenever children who would otherwise be age-eligible for kindergarten are enrolled in TK, parents/guardians must submit a signed Kindergarten Continuance Form near the end of the TK year consenting to the child's enrollment in kindergarten the following year.

A student shall not attend more than two years in a combination of TK and kindergarten. [EC 46300]

(cf. 5123 - Promotion/Acceleration/Retention)

Assessment

In keeping with best practices, appropriate formal and/or informal assessments of TK students' development and progress will be given so that when appropriate, reports may be presented to the County Board regarding program implementation, the progress of students in meeting related academic standards, and student preparedness for future education.

(cf. 0500 - Accountability)

(cf. 6162.5 - Student Assessment)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

8235	<i>California State Preschool Program</i>
8970-8974	<i>Early primary programs; extended-day kindergarten</i>
37202	<i>School calendar; equivalency of instructional minutes</i>
44258.9	<i>Assignment monitoring by county superintendent of schools</i>
46111	<i>Kindergarten, hours of attendance</i>
46114-46119	<i>Minimum school day, kindergarten</i>
46300	<i>Computation of ADA, inclusion of kindergarten and transitional kindergarten</i>
48000	<i>Age of admission, kindergarten and transitional kindergarten</i>
48002	<i>Evidence of minimum age required to enter kindergarten or first grade</i>
48003	<i>Kindergarten annual report</i>
48200	<i>Compulsory education, starting at age six</i>

Adopted: 8/11/21