

UTK Vision and Coherence

In 2010 with the approval of the **Kindergarten Readiness Act, Transitional Kindergarten became available for 4 year olds who turned 5 between the dates of Sept. 2 to Dec. 2.** While this shift in legislation provided support for this identified group of students, it did not include public learning opportunities for our younger learners who no longer qualified for public preschool due to their age and who were not yet old enough to enroll in a Transitional Kindergarten or Kindergarten classroom.

Universal Transitional Kindergarten is scheduled to begin its' rollout in the fall of 2022 for some Local Educational Agencies. UTK envisions equitable access and programs for 4 year olds regardless of income.

Research shows that children are more successful in school and beyond if they are given a strong foundation in the earliest years of their lives. In addition, high quality teaching and learning programs can support brain development. The state of California is on the forefront of this change dedicating billions of dollars to plan and equip our school buildings with quality teachers and facilities in order to support our youngest learners in equitable ways. Thus, providing students with learning opportunities that will support and guide them as they enter successfully into the K-12 arena.

What is UTK? And P3?

Transitional Kindergarten (TK): The first year of a two-year kindergarten program that uses a modified kindergarten curriculum which is developmentally- and age-appropriate. ([EC 4800 \(d\) \(e\)](#))

Universal Transitional Kindergarten (UTK): Transitional kindergarten program available to all 4-year-old children statewide at no cost to families. A year of high-quality Pre-K sets students up for success in kindergarten and beyond. [Education Code \(EC\) 8281.5](#)

Universal PreKindergarten (UPK): The continuum of high-quality programs, including TK, state preschool, Head Start, general childcare, and community-based early learning and care providers, that can be layered and wrapped to create rich early learning opportunities for all children during the year before kindergarten, regardless of income.

Expanded Learning / Extended Care: Child care services provided in addition to the normal school day or school year operations. It provides full-day or full-year child care to meet the needs of working families whose children are enrolled in TK or kindergarten. A full day is defined as nine or more hours. A full year includes a minimum 30 days of programming in the summer.

Preschool through 3rd Grade (P-3): A continuum of learning that can be supported by intentional practices at the classroom, school, and leadership levels that align curricula, assessment, and professional learning opportunities to ensure instruction builds on the knowledge and skills that children acquire as they transition across grades and settings.

P-3 Alignment: Both horizontal and vertical alignment and coherence across grades and systems to improve coordination of policies and practices in preschool, across transitions to TK and kindergarten, and through 3rd grade and beyond. The CDE's P-3 alignment efforts stem from a belief that gaps in children's opportunities and learning outcomes demand system-level reform at the state, county, district, school, and community levels to disrupt inequities, address bias, and promote equitable opportunity. Successful P-3 alignment requires cross-sector work, joint

administrator and teacher professional learning opportunities, aligned instructional tools and learning environments, data-driven decision-making, engaged families, and continuity of pathways (CDE, 2021).

Plan for Implementation at TAS

AB 130 (which modifies EC Section 48000) outlines the required average ratio of adults to children in the transitional kindergarten classroom. **Each classroom must be taught by a teacher who holds a credential issued by the state Commission on Teacher Credentialing** (see Ed Code 44065 and 44256 for additional information). **Starting in the 2022-23 school year, the average ratio in the classroom is one adult per every 12 students.** In 2023-24, the average ratio is one adult per every 10 students contingent upon an appropriation of funds for this purpose. Additionally, school districts and charter schools must maintain **an average transitional kindergarten class enrollment of not more than 24 pupils per classroom for each school site.**

2021-22

Funding and Grants

- Pre-Kindergarten Planning and Implementation Grant (EC 8281.5)

2022-23

Student Phase-In (EC 48000)

- 5th birthday between Sept. 2 and Feb. 2

Teacher to Student Ratios (EC 48000)

- 1:12

Credentialing Requirements (EC 48000)

- Additional TK credentialing requirements in place by August 2023

2023-24

Student Phase-In

- 5th birthday between Sept. 2 and April 2

Teacher to Student Ratios

- 1:10 (contingent on funding)

2024-25

Student Phase-In

- 5th birthday between Sept. 2 and June 2

Teacher to Student Ratios

- 1:10 (contingent on funding)

2025-26

Student Phase-In

- 4th birthday by Sept. 1

Transitional Kindergarten

Transitional kindergarten (TK) is a special program designed for students who turn 5 in the fall – and are not quite old enough to enroll in traditional kindergarten. A child is eligible for TK if they have their 5th birthday between September 2 and December 2 (inclusive).

TK is designed as the first year of a two-year kindergarten program that uses a modified kindergarten curriculum that is age and developmentally appropriate. A child who completes one year in a TK program, may continue in a kindergarten program for one additional year. Each elementary or unified school district must offer TK classes for all children eligible to attend.