



GLENDALE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Transitional Kindergarten

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. When may my child enroll in Kindergarten?

A new law was recently passed in California to change the age when children can begin Kindergarten. Under the new law, children must turn 5 years old on or before September 1 to enroll in Kindergarten. As of the 2014-15 school year, and each year thereafter, the Kindergarten entry cut-off is September 1. The law also created a Transitional Kindergarten so that children who are affected by this change will have an opportunity to attend school to be better prepared for Kindergarten.

2. What is Transitional Kindergarten (TK)?

Transitional Kindergarten is the first year of a two-year Kindergarten program that uses a modified Kindergarten curriculum that is age and developmentally appropriate. It is a bridge between preschool and Kindergarten. A child is eligible for TK if they have their fifth birthday between September 2 and February 2 (inclusive) and each school year thereafter.

3. What are the benefits of TK?

Transitional Kindergarten offers an additional year of school to younger students. TK provides children with an opportunity to learn in an enriching and academically challenging environment that nurtures their growth. Research shows that children who attend Kindergarten readiness programs, like Transitional Kindergarten, are more likely to do well in school and attend college.

4. How is TK different than preschool?

The standards, curriculum, and teaching requirements in TK are different from preschool. TK is part of the TK-12 public education system and is aligned with the Kindergarten standards. TK builds on the skills children may have learned in preschool to ensure they begin Kindergarten with confidence.

5. How is TK different than traditional Kindergarten?

The curriculum in TK is modified to meet the academic, social and emotional needs of younger children. The TK environment includes more opportunities for social-emotional, language development and communication through dramatic play, small group instruction, and intentional teaching through hands-on activities.

6. What is the curriculum for TK and is it standards-based?

Using a unique specialized curriculum based on the CA Preschool Foundations and Kindergarten State Standards, TK teachers help children develop social skills through activities that build confidence and communication skills. They expose children to reading and math in an exciting, interactive way by using educational games to teach children about words and sentences and help them understand mathematical concepts like counting and patterns. The social, emotional and academic skills children learn in TK help them to succeed in Kindergarten, become leaders in the classroom and confidently navigate the school day routine.

7. How long is the TK day?

The hours of the TK program match those of the Kindergarten where the TK program is located.

8. Is TK mandatory for children with birthdays between September 2 and February 2?

Transitional Kindergarten enrollment is voluntary. School is only mandatory once a child reaches the age of six.

9. Is attendance in TK the same as in grades Kindergarten through 6th?

Regular attendance is required, similar to all other elementary grades.

10. Will my child receive a report card?

Children in TK will receive a report card at the second and third trimesters.

11. What is the class size for TK?

Class sizes in TK will mirror those in Kindergarten.

12. Does the TK teacher need a teaching credential?

All teachers, including TK teachers, are required to have a California Multiple Subject teaching credential.

13. Will TK provide support for children who do not speak English?

English learners in TK will have the same level of service as those in Kindergarten.

14. Can students who are age eligible for Kindergarten attend TK?

If space allows, on a case-by-case basis, children born between August 1 and September 1 may request enrollment in the TK program.

15. Can my child enroll in first grade upon completion of the TK?

Transitional Kindergarten is the first year of a two-year Kindergarten program. A child who participates in TK must complete the second year of the program in Kindergarten before attending first grade.

16. Do all GUSD schools have TK programs?

Since TK is not available at all elementary schools, enroll your child in your school of residence and Student Support Services will contact you regarding placement in the TK program.

17. Can I choose the school where my child will attend TK?

Your child will be placed at the closest available TK site to his/her school of residence. Requests for alternate sites will be reviewed, space permitting.

18. Is my child able to stay at the TK school to attend Kindergarten?

Once students complete the Transitional Kindergarten program, they will return to their school of residence for Kindergarten.

19. Can my child be retained in TK?

Children in TK will not be retained.

20. How will TK affect students in special education?

The same services are offered to Transitional Kindergarteners with individualized Education Plans (IEPs) as they currently offer to children in Kindergarten.

21. What are childcare/extended day opportunities for my child?

Your child has the same access to childcare/extended day opportunities as all other students at the school site. Please contact EEELP for information at (818) 247-0775.

22. Can my child attend the Glendale Unified School District TK Program if I don't live in the district boundaries?

Enrollment is determined by availability of space. Parents may apply for an Inter-District permit if space is available. However, we advise parents to enroll their children in their school of residence until their permit is approved.

23. Is there a dual language TK program?

Spanish dual immersion TK is available at Muir Elementary School. Go to gusdmagnetandflag.com to apply.

24. Can my child attend a TK program at a magnet school site?

The TK program will not be offered at magnet school sites.

For more information, contact Student Support Services at 818-241-3111, ext. 1237.