

Downey Unified School District

STUDENTS

TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN

BP 2130.1

The Board of Education desires to offer a high-quality transitional kindergarten program for eligible children who do not yet meet the minimum age criterion for kindergarten. The program shall assist children in developing the academic, social, and emotional skills they need to succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

The District's transitional kindergarten shall be the first year of a two-year kindergarten program. (Education Code 48000)

The Board encourages ongoing collaboration among preschool providers, elementary teachers, administrators, and parents/guardians in program development, implementation, and evaluation.

Eligibility

The district's transitional kindergarten program shall admit children whose fifth birthday lies between

1. November 2 and December 2 in the 2012-13 school year
2. October 2 and December 2 in the 2013-14 school year
3. September 2 and December 2 in the 2014-15 school year and each school year thereafter

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

Curriculum and Instruction

The District's transitional kindergarten program shall be based on a modified kindergarten curriculum that is age and developmentally appropriate.

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent or designee, the Board shall approve academic standards for transitional kindergarten that bridge preschool learning foundations and kindergarten standards. Such standards shall be designed to facilitate students' development in essential skills which may include, as appropriate, language and literacy, mathematics, physical development, the arts, science, social sciences, English language development, and social-emotional development.

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STUDENTS

TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN - continued

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Curriculum and Instruction - continued

The number of instructional minutes offered in transitional kindergarten shall be the same as that required for the district's kindergarten program.

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

Staffing

Teachers assigned to teach in transitional kindergarten classes shall possess a teaching credential or permit that authorizes instruction at the kindergarten grade level.

The Superintendent or designee may provide professional development, as needed, to ensure that transitional kindergarten teachers are knowledgeable about District standards and effective instructional methods for teaching young children.

Continuation to Kindergarten

Students who complete the transitional kindergarten 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 parental permission form for kindergarten attendance.

A student shall not attend more than two years in a combination of transitional kindergarten and kindergarten. (Education Code 46300)

Program Evaluation

The Superintendent or designee shall develop or identify appropriate assessments of transitional kindergarten students' development and progress. He/she shall monitor and regularly report to the Board regarding program implementation and the progress of students in meeting related academic standards.

Adopted: 5/8/12