



Senate Bill (SB) 1381 (Chapter 705, Statutes of 2010) amended California Education Code (Section 46300, 48000, and 48010) to change the required birthday for admission to kindergarten. Under this new law, children must turn 5 years old on or before September 1 to enroll in kindergarten. Previously, children could be enrolled in kindergarten if they turned 5 years old by December 2. While this change of a few months may seem small, it can mean a big difference during these early years when children are rapidly growing and developing. The law also created transitional kindergarten, so the children who will be affected by this change – **those with birthdays between September and December** – will have an opportunity to continue building their skills and abilities. Their time in transitional kindergarten will help them to succeed in kindergarten, become leaders in the classroom and confidently navigate the school day routine.

Why is Transitional Kindergarten Good for Kids?

Transitional kindergarten 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. Parents all over California recognize the benefits of transitional kindergarten, and many parents have already been enrolling their children in similar programs, public and private, for years. Offering transitional kindergarten will help all of our kids get the best start possible, with curriculum that is designed just for them.

Summary of Transitional Kindergarten

Students with birthdates between Sept. 2 and Dec. 2 will be enrolled in a Transitional K class. This program provides the “gift of time” and children learn at a more individualized pace and are enrolled in Kindergarten the following year. At the end of the year, your child will be physically, intellectually, socially, and emotionally ready for regular Kindergarten. Transitional K students will be excited to learn without the usual academic pressure.



What Happens in a Transitional Kindergarten Classroom?

- A Transitional Kindergarten program gives children a sense of worth and develops confidence in each child’s learning abilities.
- The program provides excitement for learning and various learning/social opportunities in shorter whole group and small group sessions.
- The program provides learning centers and “play” centers that provide time to apply academic and social skills by incorporating songs and movement sessions to develop small and large muscle skills.
- The program develops self-direction and self-responsibility.
- Children learn about the classroom and school environment and how to act appropriately, yet independently.
- Children learn problem-solving skills and learn to make proper decisions in social and academic situations.
- The program focuses on vocabulary development, listening, and memory skills.
- Oral language skills are developed with an emphasis on sharing and story retelling in whole and small group discussions.



Transitional Kindergarten

A strong start for young learners

**Lake Tahoe Unified School District
Early Childhood Learning Center**



**Tahoe Valley Elementary School
943 Tahoe Island Drive
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150**





LTUSD Transitional Kindergarten at the Early Childhood Learning Center (ECLC)

What is Transitional Kindergarten?

Transitional kindergarten is a bridge between preschool and kindergarten for children turning 5 years old between September 2 and December 2. It gives young learners a head start and provides them with an opportunity to learn and grow in an environment that is tailored to meet their academic and social needs.

Transitional kindergarten: for children who turn 5 between September 2 and December 2

- Is part of the public school system and is free for families
- Uses a unique, specialized curriculum that is based on the kindergarten standards and is designed to support young 5 year olds
- Is taught by credentialed teachers with extra training to teach young kindergarteners

Starting school is a very exciting time for children and their families! It begins a new chapter in their lives and sets the tone for children's future. But California's kindergarten standards and curriculum have changed over the years, and many of the skills children were once taught in first grade are now expected in kindergarten. This can make the transition into kindergarten difficult for some children, and the youngest children entering the kindergarten classroom often struggle to adjust.

The good news is that California recently passed a law to create transitional kindergarten, giving children an opportunity to learn in a hands-on, interactive way that supports their development, while still maintaining the rigor and high standards of kindergarten.

In LTUSD and throughout the state, transitional kindergarten will be offered to children turning 5 years old between September 2 and December 2 to give them an opportunity develop the social and academic skills and the confidence that will help them succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

How Can I Learn More?

To learn more about transitional kindergarten and for answers to some frequently asked questions, visit

www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gs/em/kinderfaq.asp

- The program serves all eligible students in the Lake Tahoe Unified School District and is located at Tahoe Valley Elementary School.
- After completion of one year at the ECLC, children attend one of the four elementary schools for kindergarten.
- Tahoe Valley is a "themed school" with an emphasis on Visual and Performing Arts, which includes weekly choral and dance classes (TK-5). TK students are provided multiple opportunities to perform before a live audience throughout the year.
- Principal, Christina Grubbs, a National Board Certified Teacher for Early Childhood Generalist ages 3-8, coordinates the planning and implementation of the TK curriculum. Mrs. Grubbs has written and created TK learning modules for the State of California and implemented best TK practices for districts around the state.
- Tahoe Valley received \$500,000 in upgrades, including painting and carpeting, an additional playground, and reconfiguration of the parking lot and drop-off lane in the summer of 2014.
- The school day is from 9:00 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. and a fee-based extended day program is available from 1:15 p. m to 3:20 p.m.

"Transitional kindergarten gives the gift of time to children who are smart and capable but need another year to grow."

- Transitional Kindergarten Teacher

**PLEASE CALL TAHOE VALLEY
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR AN
APPOINTMENT TO PRE-REGISTER**

(530) 543-2350

Registration for eligible transitional kindergarten students is being held May 4, 2015 through May 8, 2015.