

Frequently Asked Questions about Transitional Kindergarten



Our Situation

In accordance with the Kindergarten Readiness Act of 2010, SFUSD will alter the Kindergarten entry age for the 2012-13 school year. Children who turn 5 years old on or before November 1st will be admitted into Kindergarten. In response to the Governor's 2012-13 budget proposal, SFUSD will not provide Transitional Kindergarten to children whose birthdays fall between November 2nd and December 2nd if no funding is available.

What is Transitional Kindergarten?

Transitional Kindergarten is the first year of a two-year kindergarten experience for young students. Taught by credentialed teachers, Transitional Kindergarten offers children developmentally and age appropriate curriculum, aligned with Kindergarten standards.

Why is SFUSD not offering Transitional Kindergarten?

The Governor's 2012-13 budget proposal eliminates funding for Transitional Kindergarten. SFUSD cannot fund Transitional Kindergarten if not supported by the state. At this point, SFUSD is proceeding with the assumption there will be insufficient funding for Transitional Kindergarten in 2012-13.

My child turns 5 years old between November 2nd and December 2nd. Now what should I do?

Parents must make alternate arrangements for their child for the 2012-13 school year. Parents should do one or more of the following:

- a) Keep their child in his/her current preschool program OR
- b) Enroll their child in a private or community based preschool program OR
- c) Enroll in SFUSD Early Education Schools*. Call (415) 750-8500 for assistance. SFUSD offers a variety of early education programs to meet the needs of children and families, including full-day, part-day, subsidized and tuition-based programs. There may be a waiting list for tuition-based programs. Subsidized families will need to meet eligibility and need criteria.

If I enroll in SFUSD Early Education Schools (EES), will my child have priority?

Priority for subsidized programs is based on the California Department of Education's funding terms and conditions. Children at risk of abuse or neglect have the first priority; priority then goes to the lowest income families. Tuition-based enrollment is offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

What if the Governor's budget proposal is not approved by the legislature?

SFUSD will only offer Transitional Kindergarten if it is state mandated and funded. If mandated and funded, Transitional Kindergarten will be offered at 2 sites: John McLaren (Visitation Valley) and Leola M. Havard (Bayview area) Early Education Schools.

Why only McLaren EES and Havard EES?

These two sites have the physical space for a Transitional Kindergarten program.

Should I enroll my child in Transitional Kindergarten, just in case Transitional Kindergarten turns out to be mandated?

Parents may still choose to enroll their child in Transitional Kindergarten by submitting an enrollment packet to the SFUSD Education Placement Center, even past the January 27th deadline. Parents who enroll in Transitional Kindergarten will only be able to select John McLaren or Leola Havard. The Education Placement Center is located at 555 Franklin, room 100, (415) 241-6085.

Will there be Transitional Kindergarten in the future?

Transitional Kindergarten in SFUSD is dependent on future budgets and mandates. SFUSD will stay abreast of new legislation and continue to provide updates.

How can I, as a parent, stay updated with Transitional Kindergarten?

In addition to the SFUSD website, www.sfusd.edu, parents can visit Preschool California's website for information on Transitional Kindergarten, www.preschoolcalifornia.org.

I have more questions, who can I talk to?

Contact the SFUSD Early Education Department at (415) 750-8500.

*SFUSD Early Education Schools include preschool, pre-k, special education, and after school programs.