

Transitional Kindergarten

The Piedmont Unified School District offers both a traditional Kindergarten and a *Transitional Kindergarten Program* at the elementary level.

Senate Bill 1381 (also known as the Kindergarten Readiness Act) amended California Education Code to change the required birthday for admission to kindergarten and first grade.

Students must be five years old on or before September 1st to enroll in Kindergarten.

Senate Bill 1381 also created a Transitional Kindergarten (TK) for all public elementary schools. Transitional Kindergarten is the first year of a two-year kindergarten program.

TK Program Eligibility

Per Board Policy 5111, students whose fifth birthday falls between September 2nd and December 2nd are eligible for the TK Program only, and is for those students who will participate in kindergarten the following year.

Program

Curriculum in the Transitional Kindergarten program will facilitate oral language development, pre-literacy skills, early math skills, large and small motor skills, development and enhancement of appropriate social and emotional skills, and self-regulation skills that promote success in school. We anticipate offering a dedicated TK classroom. The number of enrollees will determine the final structure and location of the program.

Registration

If your child is eligible for Transitional Kindergarten, we encourage you to attend the elementary enrollment event in early March. An Elementary Principal will be able to answer questions you have about the program.

Information on the Enrollment Process can be found on the District website at <http://www.piedmont.k12.ca.us/district-info/enrollment/>

Please bring paper copies of relevant documents listed on the District website. Parents are required to bring original birth certificates of children to be registered to show proof of age. Children should not accompany parents for enrollment.

State law requires that parents/guardians submit an immunization record prior to kindergarten entry. Parents should come prepared with documented evidence showing complete dates that children have been adequately immunized. Parents must provide, at the time of enrollment, a grant deed and three additional proofs of residency. Parents renting/leasing must provide, at the time of enrollment, a lease AND a copy of the property owner's rental permit from the city, and three additional proofs of residency. For information on acceptable

proofs, please go to the District web site: www.piedmont.k12.ca.us/forms/board/5000.pdf – select Administrative Regulation 5111.1.

If you have questions regarding the Transitional Kindergarten Program or Kindergarten, please feel free to contact Anne Dolid at adolid@piedmont.k12.ca.us.

Transitional Kindergarten FAQs

What are the expectations for my TK student?

Students are expected to be able to sit for short periods of time, to listen to a story, participate in circle time, wait to be called on, pay attention when the teacher is talking, and work on an activity even when it is not a favorite.

Students will learn to care for their own and classroom belongings and to clean up after themselves.

Students are expected to follow class/school rules, which promote respect, cooperation, caring and getting along with others. Children learn safety and how to resolve differences by using their words.

My child needs to move around a lot, will that be problematic in the classroom?

There are many chances to move in the classroom and outside. TKs learn best by manipulating real objects and work time has lots of opportunities to use real objects.

Do TK students still have access to programs like PE and music?

Music is taught by the classroom teacher daily. Music reinforces the academic skills students are learning. Students go to library and are taught by the teacher librarian weekly. Physical Education is taught by a specialist three times per week.

Which elementary school site houses the TK program?

In the past it has been housed at Havens, however the site is determined annually based on tri-school kindergarten enrollment.

My child is coming from a full day program, what is available for students before and after school?

TK students are able to access the Schoolmates program, which is run by the Piedmont Recreation Department and is housed on each school site.

What will students be learning during the day?

The school day encompasses math, language arts, social science and science. Academic instruction is considered the first year of a two-year kindergarten program that builds a solid academic foundation by providing developmentally appropriate experiences. This includes letter recognition, making sense of sounds, expressing oneself by drawing/dictating/writing, counting, and manipulating real objects to solve problems, patterns, numerical recognition, and special relationships. When a child has already mastered these early literacy and mathematics skills the teachers works with the student to provide differentiated activities to meet the student's needs.

My child is ready for Kindergarten but is not age-eligible, can they skip TK?

While many students might seem ready for kindergarten, we are required by education code and Senate Bill 1381 to place them based on their age and birthdate. Therefore, students who are not 5 on September 1 may not enter kindergarten.

My child's 5th birthday is after December 2nd, can you make an exemption?

Per Piedmont Unified Board Policy 5111, only children whose 5th birthday is from September 2nd to December 2nd are eligible for Transitional Kindergarten.