

## Transitional Kindergarten

The Piedmont Unified School District offers both a *Traditional Kindergarten* and *Transitional Kindergarten* program. 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 by September 1 to enroll in Traditional 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. **Students whose fifth birthday falls between September 2nd and December 2nd are eligible for the TK Program and attend one year of TK followed by a year of Kindergarten.**

### The TK Program

The Transitional Kindergarten program facilitates oral language development, pre-literacy skills, early math skills, large and small motor development, social and emotional learning, and self-regulation skills that form the foundation for learning and being successful in school. The program integrates across subject areas. Students participate in whole group and small group activities and have ample opportunities for indoor and outdoor play.

### Registration

Registration information can be found at:

<http://www.piedmont.k12.ca.us/district-info/enrollment/>

## 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 should be able to use the bathroom independently. Students will learn to care for their own and classroom belongings and to clean up after themselves. Students are expected to follow class and school rules, which promote respect, sharing, cooperation, and caring about and getting along with others. Children learn 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 there are lots of opportunities to use real objects and to move during the school day.

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

Vocal music and the visual arts are taught by the TK teacher. Students do not go to PE classes but they play outside daily with balls, sand tables, a play structure and other materials. Students also dance and play movement and dramatic games indoors.

*Which elementary school site houses the TK program?*

It is currently housed at Havens in Room 101 and includes students who will be attending any of the three PUSD elementary schools.

*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 Minimates and Schoolmates program, which is run by the Piedmont Recreation Department.

*What will students be learning during the day?*

The school day encompasses language arts, math, social science and science, visual arts, vocal music and fine and large motor activities. Social and emotional learning and time for play are also an important part of the day. TK is the first year of a two-year kindergarten program that builds a solid learning foundation by providing developmentally appropriate curriculum. This includes letter recognition, making sense of sounds, expressing oneself by drawing/dictating/writing, counting, manipulating real objects to solve problems, patterns, number sense, numerical recognition, and spatial problem solving. Along with exploring materials and building skills, students have opportunities to pursue individual and small group projects.

*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 in a transitional or traditional kindergarten class based on their age and birthdate. Therefore, students who are not five by September 1 may not enter traditional kindergarten.