



Transitional Kindergarten Program Los Alamitos Unified School District

As many of you may already be aware, the California Kindergarten Readiness Act was signed into law back in 2010. Under the new law, children must turn 5 years old on or before September 1 to enroll in a regular kindergarten (RK) program. For those “young fives” (children turning five between September 2nd and December 2nd) districts have created a transitional kindergarten (TK) program to build a bridge between early learning and regular kindergarten. TK is defined as “the first year of a two-year kindergarten program that uses a modified kindergarten curriculum that is age and developmentally appropriate” (*Education Code Section 48000[d]*). School districts are required to begin phasing in TK in the 2012-13 school year. The new dates for students to participate in a RK program are listed below. Please note that students who have fall birthdates after the dates below will only be allowed to enroll in transitional kindergarten. Students with a birth date after December 2nd should contact the district to discuss the limited options available, space permitting.

For the 2012–13 school year the date is November 1

For the 2013–14 school year the date is October 1

For the 2014–15 school year and each school year thereafter the date is September 1.

In Los Alamitos Unified, we have been able to offer a Developmental Kindergarten program for the last several years. This program was created to provide parents and students with options regarding their child’s education. With the shift to TK, we will no longer be offering developmental kindergarten (DK). Instead, we will offer a Transitional Kindergarten for students who turn 5 years of age between November 2, 2012 and December 1, 2012 and a regular kindergarten program for all other students. **Please note that students who turn 5 years old in late spring or summer may also opt to enroll in the TK program, similar to the District’s former DK timeline.**

What can I expect from a TK program?

TK is a modified kindergarten preparation program. It will introduce many of the skills needed for success to our younger students who will enter kindergarten the following year. In TK, teachers help children develop skills through activities that build confidence and communication. They also expose children to reading and math in exciting, interactive ways by using educational games to teach children about words and sentences and help them understand mathematical concepts like counting and patterns.

Quick Facts

TK is a new two-year program: Transitional Kindergarten (TK) is year one and traditional kindergarten is year two.

- The TK curriculum directly connects to and supports the regular kindergarten curriculum.
- TK teachers support math, literacy, and language development.
- TK teachers help students develop social and communication skills.
- Students benefit from academic and enrichment activities like art and drama.
- TK teachers are fully credentialed.