



OPUSD Transitional Kindergarten Program

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- **Who goes to Transitional Kindergarten (TK)?**
 - In accordance with the state of California, children are eligible for TK if they turn 4 on or before September 1. Students who turn 5 on or before September 1 will attend Kindergarten.
- **Is this just the first year of Kindergarten?**
 - No, under the new California State Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK), TK is the stage between preschool for three-year-olds and Kindergarten. It is intended to provide all children with a year of quality early learning. The TK program will contain many components found in a traditional preschool program as well as some found in early Kindergarten.
- **How long is TK?**
 - TK is a one-year program. At the end of TK, students transition to Kindergarten.
- **Will my child move to Kindergarten immediately when they turn five?**
 - Students will not move to Kindergarten immediately upon turning five. Students will finish the TK school year and then matriculate to Kindergarten the following school year.
- **What if I keep my child in preschool, private TK, or private Kindergarten rather than sending them to TK/K in OPUSD?**
 - Neither Transitional Kindergarten nor Kindergarten are compulsory in California. Therefore, if your child does not attend school or attends TK and/or Kindergarten in a private school, they will be placed in the grade for which they are age-eligible when they enter the OPUSD (e.g., if they turned 5 prior to September 1 of the previous school year, they will be placed in first grade).
- **Where is the program located?**
 - TK classrooms are located at each of our elementary school sites.
- **Is there a fee for the program?**
 - No, there is no fee. TK is part of the public school system.
- **What are the TK hours?**
 - TK hours are 8:15-12:15.

- **What is the adult-to-child ratio?**
 - The state of California requires a 1:10 adult/child ratio, with a maximum class size of 24. Each classroom will have a TK teacher and an instructional assistant(s).
- **Who teaches the TK class?**
 - TK teachers are teachers credentialed by the state of California with a Bachelor's degree, a Teaching Credential, and either ECE Units, classes in early childhood education, or experience in teaching children in this age group. TK teachers must have specific credentials or authorizations to teach in a TK classroom. OPUSD's TK teachers have many years of collective experience teaching this age/grade level.
- **Are the attendance requirements in Transitional Kindergarten the same as in grades K – 5?**
 - Yes, regular attendance is required at all grade levels.
- **Are students in Transitional Kindergarten required to meet Kindergarten immunization requirements?**
 - All children are required to provide proof of immunizations before admission to Transitional Kindergarten.
- **Will TK students mix with older students at the school?**
 - For the most part, TK students will stay within the TK-Kindergarten area of the school site. TK students play on the TK/Kindergarten playground.
- **How will TK students be supervised at school outside of the 8:15 - 12:15 school day?**
 - Parents may access the before-and-after school program (Club Oak Park) for early drop-off and late pick-up.
 - Students who are not attending Club Oak Park may arrive no earlier than 7:45 a.m. Students are supervised by campus supervisors in the play yard before school. After school. Students are dismissed directly to their parent/guardian/caregiver or to Club Oak Park. Students are not supervised in the yard after school.
- **Are there bathrooms in or near the classroom? If they are not located in the classroom, how will my student get to and from the bathroom safely?**
 - TK classrooms differ; some have bathrooms in the classroom, while others have bathrooms nearby. Classroom aides will accompany students to the restrooms if they are located outside of the classroom.

- **What if my child is not yet toilet-trained?**
 - If your child is not yet toilet-trained, please contact your school site so that accommodations can be made.
 - Staff will provide reminders regarding the toileting routine (flushing, handwashing, wiping); staff does not assist with wiping.
 - Staff can assist with clothing; it is recommended that students are sent in clothing that helps them to be as independent as possible (elastic waist, velcro shoes, etc.).
 - Students may be sent to the health office for assistance in extenuating circumstances (e.g., toileting accident).
 - Summer is a great time to practice these skills at home to help your child feel successful come August.
- **Can TK students attend extended care?**
 - TK students may attend our before and after school program - www.opusd.org/cluboakpark.
- **Do TK students nap at school?**
 - TK students do not nap at school. There will be a quiet time for children built into the daily schedule. In addition, the release time of 12:15 should allow for an afternoon nap at home if needed.
- **When do TK students eat at school?**
 - A designated snack time is built into the schedule every day at the same time.
 - Snacks can be brought from home.
 - Snacks are also available from the cafeteria at no charge.
 - TK students do not eat lunch at school, unless they attend Club Oak Park.
- **What are the drop-off and pick-up procedures?**
 - Each elementary site has a slightly different dropoff procedure; parents will receive more information from their child's school/teacher.
- **How much will my child play in TK?**
 - In addition to a play-based learning environment, TK students have a 20-minute recess every day. Teachers may opt for more outdoor time with their class.
- **Will there be opportunities for me to volunteer in the classroom?**
 - Various volunteer opportunities are available. Your child's teacher will provide information regarding volunteering in the classroom, including campus volunteering requirements.

- **How will students be assessed, and how often will progress be shared?**
 - Students will be assessed by their classroom teacher.
 - Progress reports will be provided three times per year.
 - Parent/teacher conferences will be held 1-2 times per year.

- **In addition to progress reports, how do parents receive updates on their children?**
 - While some families may be accustomed to daily reports provided by daycare or preschool (what the child ate, toilet use, etc.), TK students do not receive daily reports. If you have questions or concerns, please email your child's teacher.

- **How does your TK program support English Language Learners?**
 - Students with a primary language other than English will be assessed using the state-mandated English Language Proficiency Assessment for California (ELPAC) at the beginning of the school year to determine their level of English proficiency.
 - Students whose ELPAC results indicate that they are English Learners (Multilingual Learners) will receive designated and integrated ELD services during the school day.

- **How are students supported in regard to social/emotional and behavioral development?**
 - School staff focuses on positive behavior support. Teachers establish rules and routines and positively reinforce students when they demonstrate positive behaviors.
 - TK students will participate in classroom lessons/activities taught by the school counselor and can also access the counselor for additional support. School counselors support friendship-building, conflict resolution, and other important social/emotional developmental skills.

- **What if I have concerns about my child?**
 - If you have concerns about your child, please contact their classroom teacher. There are many resources available at school to help. Your child's teacher can help access these resources.

- **Will my child be in a class with kids who are much younger or older than they are?**
 - Students who attend TK are four-turning-five. Similar to other elementary grades, students may range in age by about one year.
 - In OPUSD, TK students/classrooms are not mixed or combined with preschool or Kindergarten students at this time.