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| <p>Bridges Charter School</p>  | <p>Board Policy-</p> <p>Transitional Kindergarten</p> | |
| <p>Policy Number:</p> <p>BP6170.1</p> | <p>Adopted:</p> <p>06/17/2024</p> | <p>Revised:</p> |

The Governing Board at Bridges Charter School desires to offer a high-quality transitional kindergarten (TK) program for eligible children who do not yet meet the minimum age criterion for kindergarten. The TK program shall assist students in developing the academic, social, and emotional skills they need to succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

The district's TK program shall be the first year of a two-year kindergarten program. (Education Code 48000)

The Board encourages ongoing collaboration among district preschool staff, other preschool providers, elementary teachers, administrators, and parents/guardians in the development, implementation, and evaluation of the school's TK program.

Eligibility

The TK program shall admit children as follows (Education Code 48000):

1. For the 2021-22 school year, children whose fifth birthday is between September 2 through December 2.
2. For the 2022-23 school year, children whose fifth birthday is between September 2 and February 2.
3. For the 2023-24 school year, children whose fifth birthday is between September 2 and April 2.
4. For the 2024-25 school year, children whose fifth birthday is between September 2 and June 2.
5. For the 2025-26 school year, and in each school year thereafter, children who turn four by September 1.

A child's eligibility for TK enrollment shall not impact family eligibility for a preschool or childcare program. (Education Code 48000).

Parents/guardians of eligible children shall be notified of the availability of the TK program and age, residency, immunization, and any other enrollment requirements. Enrollment in the TK program shall be voluntary.

TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN

Upon request of a child's parents/guardians, the district may, on a case-by-case basis after the Director or designee determines that it is in the child's best interest, admit into the TK program a child whose fifth birthday is on or before September 1 and who is therefore eligible for kindergarten.

At any time during the school year, the charter school may admit into the TK program a child whose fifth birthday is after the date specified for admittance for the applicable year as described above, provided that the Director or designee recommends that enrollment in a TK program is in the child's best interest and the child's parents/guardians approve. Prior to such enrollment, the child's parents/guardians shall be provided information regarding the advantages and disadvantages and any other explanatory information about the effect of early admittance. (Education Code 48000)

Curriculum and Instruction

The TK program shall be based on a modified kindergarten curriculum that is age and developmentally appropriate. (Education Code 48000)

The program shall be aligned with the preschool learning foundations and preschool curriculum frameworks developed by the California Department of Education (CDE). It shall be designed to facilitate students' development in essential skills related to language and literacy, mathematics, physical development, health, visual and performing arts, science, history-social science, English language development, and social-emotional development.

The Board shall establish the length of the school day in the district's TK program, which shall be at least three hours but no more than four hours long except for TK students enrolled in expanded learning opportunity programs provided by the district pursuant to Education Code 46120. If the

Instructional Time

The length of the school day for the TK program may be different than the length of the school day for the kindergarten program. The Superintendent or designee shall annually report to CDE as to whether the district's TK programs are offered full day, part day, or both. (Education Code 8973, 37202, 46111, 46115, 46117, 48003).

TK students may be placed in the same classrooms as kindergarten students when necessary, provided that the instructional program is differentiated to meet student needs.

Staffing

The Director or designee shall ensure that teachers assigned to teach in TK classes possess a teaching credential or permit from the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) that authorizes such instruction.

A credentialed teacher who is first assigned to a TK class after July 1, 2015, shall, by August 1, 2023, have at least 24 units in early childhood education and/or child development, professional experience (comparable to the 24 units of education) in a classroom setting with preschool age children, and/or a child development teacher permit issued by CTC. (Education Code 48000)

Bridges has defined as comparable experience as follows:

Teachers may meet qualifications using established rubric criteria, as outlined in AR 6170.1, based on but not limited to, years of experience, child development units, evidence of completed Early Childhood Professional Development, and other additional criteria.

Any teacher who is or was assigned to teach TK, or a combination of kindergarten and TK, **on or before July 1, 2015**, is "grandfathered in" to teach TK without having to meet the additional unit requirement for TK teachers set forth in Education Code section 48000(g).

The Director or designee may provide professional development as needed to ensure that TK teachers are knowledgeable about the standards and effective instructional methods for teaching young children.

Continuation to Kindergarten

Students who complete the TK program shall be eligible to continue in kindergarten the following school year. Parents/guardians of such students shall not be required to submit a signed Kindergarten Continuance Form for kindergarten attendance.

However, whenever children who would otherwise be age-eligible for kindergarten are enrolled in TK, the Director or designee shall obtain a Kindergarten Continuance Form signed by the parent/guardian near the end of the TK year consenting to the child's enrollment in kindergarten the following year.

A student shall not attend more than two years in a combination of TK and kindergarten.
(Education Code 46300)

Assessment

The Director or designee may develop or identify appropriate formal and/or informal assessments of TK students' development and progress. He/she shall monitor and regularly report to the Board regarding program implementation and the progress of students in meeting related academic standards.

Legal Reference: EDUCATION CODE

8235 California State Preschool Program

8973 Extended-day kindergarten

37202 School calendar; equivalency of instructional minutes

44258.9 Assignment monitoring by county superintendent of schools

46111 Kindergarten, hours of attendance

46114-46119 Minimum school day, kindergarten

46300 Computation of ADA, inclusion of kindergarten and transitional kindergarten 48000 Age of admission, kindergarten and transitional kindergarten

48002 Evidence of minimum age required to enter kindergarten or first grade

48003 Kindergarten annual report

48200 Compulsory education, starting at age six

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

What Boards of Education Can Do About Kindergarten Readiness, Governance Brief, May 2016

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Transitional Kindergarten FAQs

Desired Results Developmental Profile, 2015

Transitional Kindergarten Implementation Guide: A Resource for California Public School District Administrators and Teachers, 2013

California Preschool Curriculum Framework, Vol. 3, 2013

California Preschool Learning Foundations, Vol. 3, 2012

California Preschool Curriculum Framework, Vol. 2, 2011 California Preschool Learning Foundations, Vol. 2, 2010 California Preschool Curriculum Framework, Vol. 1, 2010 California Preschool Learning Foundations, Vol. 1, 2008 WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov> California Kindergarten Association:

<http://www.ckanet.org> Commission on Teacher Credentialing: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov> Transitional

Kindergarten California: <http://www.tkcalifornia.org>

