





Transitional Kindergarten

Report to the Governing Board
Cabrillo Unified School District
August 11, 2011


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Background

- California is one of just four states with a cut-off date later than December 1st
- In most states children must turn five by September 1st in order to start kindergarten
- California’s Kindergarten Standards are among the most rigorous in the nation
- Research indicates that beginning kindergarten at an older age improves children’s social and academic development


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Enter SB 1381-Simitian

- Bill changes the required birthday for admission to kindergarten and first grade
- Dec 2nd policy remains thru 2011-12
- Moves to:
 - November 1st of 2012-13 school year
 - October 1st of the 2013-14 school year
 - September 1st of 2014-15 school year and each year thereafter

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SB 1381

- Requires “a child whose admission to a traditional kindergarten is delayed to be admitted to a transitional kindergarten program”
- Transitional Kindergarten children included in calculation of ADA
- Voluntary for families

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SB 1381

- Child born between Sep. 1 and Dec. 2 can be admitted to regular kindergarten on case-by case basis, using existing District policies on promotion
- Child who is 5 years old, with birthday before September 1, may be admitted to Transitional K on a case by case basis according to existing District policies on retention

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The Bill, cont'd

- Staffed by certificated kindergarten teachers
- Children may only spend 2 years in TK – K
- “transitional kindergarten” means the first year of a two-year kindergarten program that uses a modified curriculum that is age and developmentally appropriate

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The Goal of Transitional K

- Provide the youngest kindergartners with the gift of time –
- A readiness year that is developmentally appropriate and will better prepare them for success in traditional kindergarten

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Intended to build a bridge between the preschool years....



and traditional Kindergarten...

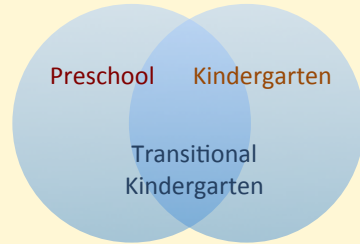


There are Some Long time TKs and Early Implementers

- Palo Alto USD
- Los Angeles USD – with over 30 classrooms
- Kingsburg Elementary in Fresno County



What does it look like?



California's Early Learning and Development System



Curriculum Design Themes

- Developmental approach/no time pressures
- Based on both California Preschool Learning Foundations and Kindergarten Standards
- Integrated, experiential, utilizing learning centers
- Strong emphasis on social emotional development
- Focus on a few essential readiness areas:
 - Language and communication
 - Math –number sense and problem solving
 - Physical – large and fine motor skills
- Family involvement



Planning Issues?

- Choosing teachers
- Selecting site(s)
- Informing families and community
- Funding model
- Choosing curriculum
- Professional development for teachers
- Assessment



Bottom Line?

It's a Kindergarten classroom

- Classroom and play yard? – Kindergarten classroom
- Class size? Kindergarten size
 - Of course best practice would seek smaller size
 - Use of volunteers can help
- Length of day? – requirement is 4 hrs or minutes/year
 - Districts may also use full-day Kindergarten model
 - Some early implementers begin with 4 hr day and move to full-day in January when children are accustomed to it



Flexibility Ideas

- Partner with State Preschool or Head Start if all TK requirements are met
- Use Title 1 or other funds to support
- Create a cluster/consortium from neighboring schools or districts
- Combo class with differentiated instruction
- Professional development provided county-wide



Flexibility Ideas

- If District too small to have a full class
- May use differentiated instruction (challenging)
- May include older 5's who District and families believe would benefit from Transitional K to make up full class size
 - would need to follow District policy for retention and have parent buy-in



Potential Additional Costs for Start-up and Beyond

- Professional development for teachers
- Assessment (at entrance, during and after)
- Materials and equipment for classrooms
- Curriculum
- Consideration of lower class size
- Kingsburg Elementary spent \$8,495 for start-up costs for curriculum and supplies
 - grant from Packard Foundation
 - also use Title I and Revenue limit ADA
 - one classroom, will move to 2 next year



Resources

- SMCOE TK Learning Circle and support
- Preschool Foundations and Frameworks
- Bridge document for Foundations and Kindergarten standards (both current and California Common Core Standards)
- Toolkit of template documents from other counties
- School Readiness Observation Tool (DRDP-SR)
- Bridges to Success Initiative



CUSD Implementation Timeline

- Jun – Aug 2011: Examine existing policies
Develop plan for Board approval
Determine need
- Aug - Dec 2011: Communications
School Board
Parents
Community preschools
- Sep - Oct 2011: Develop Vision
Standards
Determine Funding model
Site and classroom selection
Inform staff
Inform parents
- October 3rd San Mateo County Office of Education Transitional Kindergarten Forum
- Nov-Dec 2011: Assessments, Report card
Curriculum
Enrollment forms
- Jan– Mar 2012: Round-up/Enrollment/ Continuance verification
Staff selection
Professional development