

Students

Admission

Age of Admittance to Kindergarten and First Grade

***Note: Pursuant to Education Code 48200, a parent/guardian's obligation to enroll his/her child in school begins with the child's eligibility to be enrolled in first grade once he/she has his/her sixth birthday, as specified in Education Code 48010. However, a district that offers kindergarten is obligated to enroll a child in kindergarten at the beginning of the school year in which the child will have his/her fifth birthday, if his/her birthday is on or before September 1, pursuant to Education Code 48000. ***

At the beginning of each school year, the Superintendent or designee shall enroll any otherwise eligible child who will have his/her fifth or sixth birthday on or before September 1 of that year into kindergarten or first grade, as applicable. (Education Code 48000, 48010)

***Note: Pursuant to Education Code 48000, a district that offers kindergarten must, each year, offer transitional kindergarten (TK) to children who will have their fifth birthday between September 2 and December 2. See BP 6170.1 - Transitional Kindergarten for details of the program. ***

Any child who will have his/her fifth birthday from September 2 through December 2 of the school year shall be offered a transitional kindergarten (TK) program in accordance with law and Board policy. (Education Code 48000)

(cf. 5123 - Promotion/Acceleration/Retention)

(cf. 6170.1 - Transitional Kindergarten)

***Note: The following paragraph is optional. Education Code 48000 authorizes the district, at its discretion, to allow enrollment into kindergarten during the school year on a case-by-case basis, under the conditions described below. According to the "Transitional Kindergarten FAQs" issued by the California Department of Education (CDE), enrollment into TK during the school year is also permitted on a case-by-case basis and under the same conditions. CDE information on "Kindergarten in California," available on its web site, cautions that any district utilizing this option must ensure that the child has turned age five or else may jeopardize its apportionments as auditors may impose fiscal sanctions. The CDE also cautions that the district may risk being challenged by parents/guardians if it bases early admission on test results, maturity of the child, or preschool records. The district might consider establishing a process for parents/guardians to challenge denial of early entry. ***

On a case-by-case basis, a child who will turn five years old in a given school year may be enrolled in kindergarten or TK at any time during that school year with the approval of the child's parent/guardian, provided that: (Education Code 48000)

***Note: Education Code 48000 requires the Governing Board to make a determination that the admittance is in the best interests of the child. ***

1. The Governing Board determines that the admittance is in the best interests of the child.
2. The parent/guardian is given information regarding the advantages and disadvantages and any

other explanatory information about the effect of this early admittance.

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

***Note: The following optional paragraph may be revised to reflect district practice. ***

The Superintendent or designee shall make a recommendation to the Board regarding whether a child should be granted early entry to kindergarten. In doing so, the Superintendent or designee shall consider various factors including the availability of classroom space and any negotiated maximum class size.

(cf. 6151 - Class Size)

(cf. 7111 - Evaluating Existing Buildings)

Documentation of Age/Grade

Prior to the admission of a child to kindergarten or first grade, the parent/guardian shall present proof of the child's age. (Education Code 48002)

***Note: Education Code 48002 specifies that the method of proof of age, when admitting children to grades K-1, may include any appropriate means prescribed by the Board. The following items reflect examples in Education Code 48002 and may be revised to reflect district practice. ***

Evidence of the child's age may include: (Education Code 48002)

1. A certified copy of a birth certificate or a statement by the local registrar or county recorder certifying the date of birth
2. A duly attested baptism certificate
3. A passport

When none of the foregoing is obtainable, the parent/guardian may provide any other appropriate means of proving the age of the child. (Education Code 48002)

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