

# OSPI Early Learning AWSP/WASA Conference June 26, 2023

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## Vision

*All students prepared for post-secondary pathways, careers, and civic engagement.*

## Mission

Transform K–12 education to a system that is centered on **closing opportunity gaps** and is characterized by high expectations for all students and educators. We achieve this by developing **equity-based policies and supports** that empower educators, families, and communities.

## Values

- Ensuring Equity
- Collaboration and Service
- Achieving Excellence through Continuous Improvement
- Focus on the Whole Child



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*All Washington students will have universal access to pre-K by 2030.*



## Equitable Access to Strong Foundations

Increase student access to and participation in high-quality early learning and elementary by amplifying and building on inclusive, asset-based policies and practices.

### Initial Objectives:

- Universal access to pre-K
- New K–3 literacy focus
- Universal access to dual language learning by elementary



# Transition to Kindergarten



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# Transition to Kindergarten

## **House Bill 1550**

- States that the intent of the legislature is to continue and rename Transitional Kindergarten as the Transition to Kindergarten program.
- Directs OSPI to administer the Transition to Kindergarten program and specifies that initial rules must be adopted in time for the 2023-24 school year and permanent rules be adopted by the beginning of the 2024-25 school year.
- Rulemaking timeline outlined in [Bulletin no. 036-23](#)

# TK Planning Resources



## TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN ADMINISTRATORS' BEST PRACTICES WORKBOOK

2022



## Washington State Full-Day Kindergarten Guide



January 2016  
Version 2.2

## Transitional Kindergarten FAQs

Transitional Kindergarten (TK) is a kindergarten program for children, not yet age five, who do not have access to high-quality early learning experiences prior to kindergarten and have been deemed by a school district, through a screening process and/or other instrument(s), to be in need of additional preparation to be successful in kindergarten the following year. Districts may select to offer TK programs, but they are not required.

Outlined is a list of frequently asked questions (FAQ) regarding the TK program. (This document has bookmarks to help you navigate through the questions. To access the bookmarks, please download and open the document, and then click on the image shown here – on the left of your Adobe screen.)



### Frequently Asked Questions

#### What are the reasons school districts implement Transitional Kindergarten (TK)? Why TK?

In partnership with community-based early learning programs, districts offer Transitional Kindergarten to provide early intervention for children with complex intersectional needs. Inclusive Transitional Kindergarten may provide a placement option for children with disabilities and children whose families do not qualify for Head Start, ECEAP or child care subsidy.

#### What is the TK policy?

Under RCW 28A.225.160, it is the general policy of the state that the common schools shall be open to the admission of all persons who are five years of age and less than 21 years who reside in a school district. As established in WAC 392-335-025, a child must be five years of age as of midnight August 31 of the year of entry to be entitled to enter kindergarten. School districts are authorized to adopt uniform entry qualifications for kindergarten, including birth date requirements. OSPI rules at WAC 392-335-025 further provide that school districts may adopt policies that provide for individual exceptions to the district's uniform entry qualifications.

Under the rule, such policies must provide for a screening process or instrument that measures the ability or the need, or both, of an individual student to succeed in earlier entry.

WAC 392-335-025 provides school districts with the opportunity to evaluate children who are 1) not age five by August 31 to be considered for kindergarten enrollment and 2) not age five by August 31 to determine need for Transitional Kindergarten.





## For more information about Transition to Kindergarten visit:

<https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/support-programs/early-learning-washington-state/transition-kindergarten>



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# Superintendent Panel

Exploring Innovative Approaches to  
Serve our Youngest Learners



# TK & Early Learning Best Practices

**Kristi Dominguez**, Superintendent of Ferndale School District

**Peter Finch**, Superintendent of West Valley School District

**Scott Mauk**, Superintendent of Chimacum School District





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