

Transitional Kindergarten

Transitional Kindergarten is intended to be a transition into kindergarten. TK is intended to provide programming that meets the varying educational needs of learners who would benefit from the gift of a year to mature developmentally, socially, and emotionally. The development of physical abilities, patience, and the ability to focus can change greatly with age, and transitional kindergarten provides a student the opportunity for that growth. Students in transitional kindergarten will move on to kindergarten the following year. There are many factors that should be considered when placing a student in transitional kindergarten. Parents who believe their child may not be ready for the rigors of kindergarten usually make their decision based on these factors.

Factors to consider: (usually two or more)

- Social skills-child has not been exposed to many settings in which the child plays independently with other children, child struggles to communicate needs, child may not share toys, child hits, or may get aggressive or have tantrums when frustrated as they are unable to regulate their emotions
- Emotional needs- child is shy or worried when away from parent, child cries easily, child has meltdowns, child struggles to communicate feelings
- Developmental factors- child is smaller than peers, child has a late summer or fall birthday, child may have been born premature or had health concerns, child has been behind on developmental growth charts, child has not been exposed to an academic or school-based environment. Students who will turn five years old between June 1-December 1 could be candidates.
- School experience- child has not attended preschool/has limited academic experience
- Academic tasks- child has difficulty sustaining their attention to follow through a designated task

Our Transitional Kindergarten program is designed to provide children many opportunities to manipulate materials, explore and discover ideas, interact with others, and develop at their own unique rate. This program fosters the development of a positive self-image and enhances children's growth toward their individual potential. Transitional Kindergarten will be taught at a pace and intensity that is dependent on individual readiness. Each Transitional Kindergarten class will have its own unique feel and pace due to the needs of the individual students enrolled. We strive to help all children become risk-takers, problem-solvers, and decision-makers. Our ultimate goal is for children to gain an understanding of the world around them and become committed, caring, responsible, lifelong learners.

Transitional Kindergarten is a child-based program that gives the enrolled students a smaller classroom environment to be better prepared for kindergarten and future educational successes.

Curriculum

Transitional Kindergarten offers an adjusted kindergarten curriculum. The teaching and learning in the class will involve a mixture of activities that meet the developmental needs of the students. Teachers will adapt the activities and/or pace as needed to meet the needs of the learners.

Emphasis is placed on the following curricular areas:

- Language and literacy development
- Handwriting
- Math
- Science
- Social studies
- Technology and computers
- Social-emotional learning experiences
- Physical skills (large and small motor)
- Visual arts
- Dramatic play

Due to the fact that children grow and mature at different rates, grade placement after Transitional Kindergarten may vary from student to student. Students who successfully complete transitional kindergarten are typically placed in kindergarten. However, first grade may be an option the following year if our academic and social/emotional data indicates a high level of readiness. This placement decision would be based on data and involve a collaborative decision by the parent, teacher, and school principal.

STAFF

Transitional Kindergarten classrooms are designed and taught by experienced certified teachers who have an early childhood specialty endorsement.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What Special Education services are available to children in Transitional Kindergarten?

All Special Education services, in accordance with the student's IEP, will be made available.

Is Transitional Kindergarten a tuition-based program?

No, Transitional Kindergarten is a K-12 state-funded program. It is considered to be a kindergarten program.

Can my child attend Transitional Kindergarten even if I live out of the district?

Yes, please enroll your child as a School of Choice student.

Does Clawson Public Schools provide transportation to Developmental Kindergarten?

No, parents must provide daily transportation to and from school.

Where will my child go to school following their year in Transitional Kindergarten?

At the completion of Transitional Kindergarten program, students will attend kindergarten.

Is childcare available before and after school?

Clawson Public Schools offers before and after-school child care programs. Programs are available in every elementary building. For registration, call 248-655-4421. Early registration is advised, as childcare programs fill quickly.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

If you have additional questions or wish further information, please contact:

Bianca Sines, Principal
248-655-4914 or 248-655-3803