

Transitional Kindergarten



Coronado Unified School District 2012-13

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who will be admitted to Transitional Kindergarten for SY 2012-13?

All children who will have their 5th birthday between November 2-December 2, 2012 (inclusive) **must** be admitted to Coronado Unified School District's Transitional Kindergarten for the 2012-13 school year. This is a new grade in the state of California, providing a two-year kindergarten experience that will use a modified kindergarten curriculum that is age and developmentally appropriate and prepare students for the *traditional* kindergarten curriculum. This is based on a new CA law which phases back the admission date for traditional kindergarten and provides a two-year transitional kindergarten experience for the youngest five year olds. See #2 below.

Parents of students whose child's fifth birthday falls on or before November 1, will be able to **opt in** to Transitional Kindergarten if they so choose. See # 3 below.

2. I have heard the age for kindergarten and first grade admission has changed. Is this true?

Yes, the Kindergarten Readiness Act (SB 1381), which was passed in 2010, gradually raises the age for admission into grades K-1 over the next three years by moving back the admission date, as follows:

Kindergarten: A child shall be admitted to the traditional kindergarten of an elementary school during the first month of a school year if the child will have his or her fifth birthday on or before one of the following dates:

- November 1 of the 2012–13 school year
- October 1 of the 2013–14 school year
- September 1 of the 2014–15 school year and each school year thereafter

First grade: A child shall be admitted to the first grade of an elementary school during the first month of a school year if the child will have his or her sixth birthday on or before one of the following dates:

- November 1 of the 2012–13 school year
- October 1 of the 2013–14 school year
- September 1 of the 2014–15 school year and each school year thereafter

3. My child's fifth birthday falls on or before November 1 and I feel my child would benefit from this two-year kindergarten experience. Will I be able to enroll my child in Transitional Kindergarten?

Yes. Parents of children who turn five on or before November 1 may opt for *Early Admission to Transitional Kindergarten* by completing a required form indicating agreement to a **two-year** kindergarten program. Both Silver Strand Elementary and the Early Childhood Development Center of Village School (ECDC) will have Transitional Kindergarten.

4. Will it be offered at Silver Strand and Village (ECDC) Elementary Schools? What will the TK program be like?

We are planning to offer TK at both Silver Strand Elementary and the Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC) of Village Elementary. Location and classroom composition will depend on enrollment.

Transitional Kindergarten (TK) will provide the early foundations for school success for those children turning 5 years old early in the school year, typically from September through December. The first year of a two-year kindergarten experience, Transitional Kindergarten provides a connection between preschool and traditional kindergarten. For those "young fives", the program creates a bridge between early learning and kindergarten. The program uses a modified kindergarten curriculum that is age and developmentally appropriate and completely aligns with the instructional program in preschool-grade 12. It will include all components of the traditional kindergarten curriculum, including computer lab, visual and performing arts, science lab, physical education, and library. Services provided to students in K-12 are also provided to Transitional Kindergarten

such as special education and English Learner services. The TK staff includes trained credentialed teachers who are early childhood specialists and understand the unique needs of our youngest kindergarten students.

5. Will the daily schedule be the same CUSD's full day traditional kindergarten?

The TK daily schedule will be different than our full day traditional kindergarten. Transitional Kindergarten students will attend school daily during the morning only during the fall trimester. During the winter trimester, half of the TK students will attend a full day of school on Monday and Tuesday, while the rest of the week they will attend for the morning only. The other half of the class will attend a full day of school on Thursday and Friday and attend morning only for Monday-Wed. All CUSD elementary students attend a minimum day on Wednesday. TK students will attend a full day of school for the spring trimester in preparation for full day traditional kindergarten. CUSD's Child Care Program will be available before and after the TK school day for those families needing this service. Please contact the CUSD Child Care office for more information at 522-8940 ext. 6085. Please also contact each school for specific school hours.

6. I am still not sure if this is the right thing to do for my child. What should I do?

If your child attended preschool, information from your child's preschool teacher should assist in making a decision. Also, for the first time, CUSD is offering a voluntary before school kindergarten assessment opportunity for incoming Transitional Kindergarten and traditional kindergarten students on August 15-17, 2012 at each school. CUSD is inviting parents to bring kindergarten eligible students to be assessed on readiness skills before school begins. Students will be assessed by a credentialed teacher for approximately 30 minutes. Parents and school administration may need to confer in order to ensure the child's appropriate placement.

7. That sounds great, but we won't be able to attend a before-school assessment appointment? What should we do?

If a child is not able to be assessed before school starts, please contact the school principal for assistance with placement if you are unsure whether to place your child in TK or traditional kindergarten. See below for contact information.

8. When do I learn about the results of my child's before school assessment?

Both the results of the before school assessment and other assessments given after school starts will be shared with parents during a 30 minute conference between parents and the child's assigned teacher. Individual student assessment results will be shared with parents, beginning the very important parent-teacher relationship and establishing the beginnings of a personalized education plan for each kindergarten student. These conferences will be scheduled for an afternoon during the first three weeks of school, August 27-September 14, 2012. TK and traditional kindergarten students will attend a minimum school day from August 23, 2012 through Friday, September 14, 2012 (ECDC: 8:20am-11:50am; Silver Strand: 8:15am-11:45am). Kindergarten students will start their full day schedule on Monday, September 17, 2012 (ECDC: 8:20am-2:25pm; Silver Strand: 8:15am-2:20pm).

9. I have pre-registered my child. When will my child's before-school assessment occur? How will I learn of the date, time, and location?

Pre-registered parents have been mailed a postcard indicating how to arrange for this voluntary assessment appointment. Not every child may be available for these assessments, but we feel that we will be able to test most students. New Student Registration is scheduled at both elementary schools for August 9-10, 2012 (Silver Strand 7:30-3:00pm; Village 8-11am and 1-3pm).

10. When will parents and students be notified as to which teacher a student is assigned?

TK and Kindergarten Orientation will be held on August 22, 2012, the day before school commences for the 2012-13 school year at 10:30am at both Silver Strand School and the ECDC. Parents and their children will learn of their child's class placement at that time.

For more information regarding Transitional Kindergarten and traditional kindergarten, please contact your child's school:

CG8/7/12

<p>Village Elementary School and Early Childhood Development Center</p>	<p>522-8915 522-8923</p>	<p>Whitney DeSantis, Principal Tom Bevilacqua, Assistant Principal</p>
<p>Silver Strand Elementary</p>	<p>522-8934</p>	<p>Bill Cass, Principal Tom Bevilacqua, Assistant Principal</p>
<p>www.coronadousd.net</p>		