Since the 2012-2013 school year, school districts throughout California have been required to offer a Transitional Kindergarten (TK) for students who would previously have been eligible for kindergarten enrollment, but who will no longer be eligible due to changes in the kindergarten admission criteria enacted in accordance with the Kindergarten Readiness Act of 2010.

Below you will find answers to some of the most frequently asked questions regarding this program.

1. **What is the Kindergarten Readiness Act of 2010?**
   Senate Bill (SB) 1381 amended California Education Code to change the required birthday for admission to kindergarten and first grade and established a TK program beginning in the 2012–2013 school year.

2. **What is the minimum age for admission to kindergarten in California?**
   A child shall be admitted to a kindergarten maintained by the school district at the beginning of a school year, or at a later time in the same year, if the child will have his or her fifth birthday on or before one of the following dates (EC 48000[a]):
   - For the 2010–11 school year the date is December 2
   - For the 2011–12 school year the date is December 2
   - For the 2012–13 school year the date is November 1
   - For the 2013–14 school year the date is October 1
   - For the 2014–15 school year and each school year thereafter the date is September 1

3. **What is TK?**
   A TK is the first year of a two-year kindergarten program that uses a modified kindergarten curriculum that is age and developmentally appropriate. Pursuant to law, a child is eligible for TK if he or she will have his or her fifth birthday between:
   - For the 2012–13 school year November 2 and December 2
   - For the 2013–14 school year October 2 and December 2
   - For the 2014–15 school year and each school year thereafter September 2 and December 2

4. **Will transitional kindergarten continue after 2014?**
   Yes.

5. **Must children attend TK or kindergarten?**
   Parents and guardians are currently not required to enroll children in TK or kindergarten (EC Section 48200). Children whose birthdays fall within the window of TK eligibility are only eligible to enroll in the TK program.

6. **Is a district required to offer transitional kindergarten and kindergarten programs?**
   Each elementary or unified school district must offer transitional kindergarten and kindergarten classes for all children eligible to attend.

7. **Is there a parental permission form to continue a child from TK into kindergarten?**
   Children enrolled in TK do not need a signed parental permission form to continue in kindergarten. The second year of TK is a traditional kindergarten setting.

8. **Will there be a TK class offered at my child’s home school?**
   Due to the limited number of students eligible for TK, it is possible that your child’s school might not offer a TK class. In this case, your child will be enrolled in the closest school where the program is available. District transportation will be available for students who are enrolled in TK at a site other than their home school.

9. **What are the hours of the TK classes?**
   TK classes operate on the same full-day schedule as the traditional kindergarten classes. Classes are held from 8:30am-2:30pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday and from 8:30am-2:00pm on Wednesdays.

10. **What options will my child have in the second year of TK?**
    The second year of TK is identical to the traditional kindergarten program. Children who have participated in TK will have the option of remaining at the site where they were enrolled for TK if that site is not their home school or they can choose to return to their home school in the second year.