



Parent Principles on Transitional Kindergarten

Because the existing child care system should be strong for a new early learning program to be implemented:

We ask that the Legislature make a serious commitment to reinvest in the existing child care system the \$1 billion in funding cuts since 2008 that left 110,000 children from accessing services.

Because the transitional kindergarten (TK) system would serve all Californians, which includes great diversity in geography, culture, language, and needs, the system should offer choices as diverse as our population:

We ask that families have choices as to where their children attend TK including schools, centers, or family child care homes and support children's cultural, linguistic, and special needs.

We ask that teachers be trained in special needs detection and that ratios reflect the inclusion of children with special needs in TK classroom.

We ask that there is an intentional plan to recruit and train teachers/providers of color that reflect the population and our cultural diversity as CA's 0-5 year olds became a majority children of color in 2013.

Because we recognize that children are the sons and daughters of parents working different schedules to meet their families' economic needs, the TK system must offer flexibility and choice in the programs and acknowledge the real needs of full-time working parents:

We ask that TK programs are offered in a full- day/full-year context, recognizing the need for flexibility due to different working parents' schedules.

We ask that the Department of Education contract with existing child care centers and homes to provide TK so children do not move from location to location throughout the day.

We ask in areas where there are not full day options, that incentives are made available to family child care providers and licensed-exempt providers who can transport children between child care and TK.

Because parents acknowledge that experience is also critical to providing a quality, early learning experience:

We ask that an assessment tool is developed to determine if a child care provider with at least five years of experience and a commitment to continuous training each year could be considered eligible to provide TK.

Because the social and emotional development of children is the building block to future academic success:

We ask that a play based TK curriculum be adopted to foster cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development which builds positive self-esteem and a lifelong love for learning,

Because parents' best know and represent the diverse needs of California's children, transitional kindergarten success is dependent on parent involvement:

We ask that parents play a respected role in the planning, implementation and evaluation process of transitional kindergarten.