



CREDENTIAL INFORMATION ALERT

DATE: August 25, 2011

NUMBER: 11-08

SUBJECT: **Transitional Kindergarten Assignments**

Summary:

The Legislature adopted the *Kindergarten Readiness Act* in 2010 in an effort to provide more age-appropriate services as the entry age for kindergarten is moved to September 1 over the next several years. Senate Bill (SB) 1381 (Chap. 705, Stats. 2010) amended Education Code (EC) sections 46300, 48000, and 48010 to change the required birth date for admission to kindergarten and established a transitional kindergarten program beginning in the 2012–2013 school year. The bill also changed the required birth date for admission to first grade. This Credential Information Alert (CIA) is limited to addressing the appropriate credentials and teaching permits for serving in transitional kindergarten assignments.

Key Provisions and Important Dates:

According to the amended EC sections, transitional kindergarten is the first year of a two-year kindergarten program that uses a developmentally and age appropriate modified kindergarten curriculum. SB 1381 requires that students entering kindergarten be at least five years old by November 1 for the 2012-2013 school year; by October 1 for the 2013-2014 school year; and by September 1 for the 2014-15 school year and each year thereafter.

EC section 48000(c) provides information on students that are eligible for transitional kindergarten. According to statute, a child is eligible for transitional kindergarten if the student will have his or her fifth birthday between November 2 and December 2 beginning in the 2012-2013 school year; between October 2 and December 2 beginning the 2013-2014 school year; and between September 2 and December 2 beginning the 2014-2015 school year and each year thereafter.

The California Department of Education (CDE) is the agency with authority over these sections of statute and additional information is available through their website as noted in the References section. According to the referenced *Transitional Kindergarten Frequently Asked Questions*, each elementary or unified school district must offer transitional kindergarten and kindergarten classes for all children eligible to attend.



Transitional kindergarten classrooms, as defined in EC section 48000(d), are appropriately staffed by the holder of a teaching credential or permit that authorizes general education instruction in a self-contained classroom for the grade level of Kindergarten. Transitional kindergarten classrooms as defined in statute are not preschool classrooms or child development programs; therefore, holders of Children's Center Instructional or Child Development Permits including those with the school-age emphasis will not be authorized to teach transitional kindergarten. Employing agencies should distinguish between those transitional preschool programs intended to support kindergarten readiness from the transitional kindergarten classrooms mandated and delineated in statute.

Credentials that authorize instruction in transitional kindergarten classrooms are provided below.

General:

Kindergarten-Primary (grades K-3)
Elementary (grades K-8)

Standard:

Early Childhood (grades preschool-3)
Elementary (grades K-9)

Ryan/SB 2042:

Multiple Subject (grades preschool, K-12 and adults)
Multiple Subject University Intern (grades preschool, K-12 and adults)
Multiple Subject District Intern (grades K-8)
Specialist Instruction Credential in Early Childhood Education

A Multiple Subject General Education Limited Assignment Permit (GELAP), Multiple Subject Short-Term Staff Permit (STSP) or Multiple Subject Provisional Internship Permit (PIP) authorizes the same service as a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential.

Students identified as English learners in a transitional kindergarten classroom must have the same level of services as those in kindergarten. Therefore, students identified as English learners that require instruction in English Language Development (ELD) or Specially Designed Academic Instruction in English (SDAIE) services must have a teacher authorized to provide the appropriate English learner instructional services indicated.

It is important to note that transitional kindergarten assignments as defined in statute are subject to assignment monitoring and reporting by the county offices of education under the provisions of EC §44258.9. The Commission's Administrator's Assignment Manual will be updated to include information on transitional kindergarten assignments.



Source:

EC sections 46300, 48000, and 48010

References:

Transitional Kindergarten Frequently Asked Questions (California Department of Education)

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gs/em/kinderfaq.asp#E1>

Kindergarten in California (California Department of Education)

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gs/em/kinderinfo.asp>

Contact Information:

For questions regarding transitional kindergarten programs or implementation:

California Department of Education at 1-916-323-4629, or by email at MAutry@cde.ca.gov.

For questions regarding appropriate assignment and authorization:

Commission's Assignment Unit at 1-916-322-5038 (voicemail line), or by email at cawassignments@ctc.ca.gov.