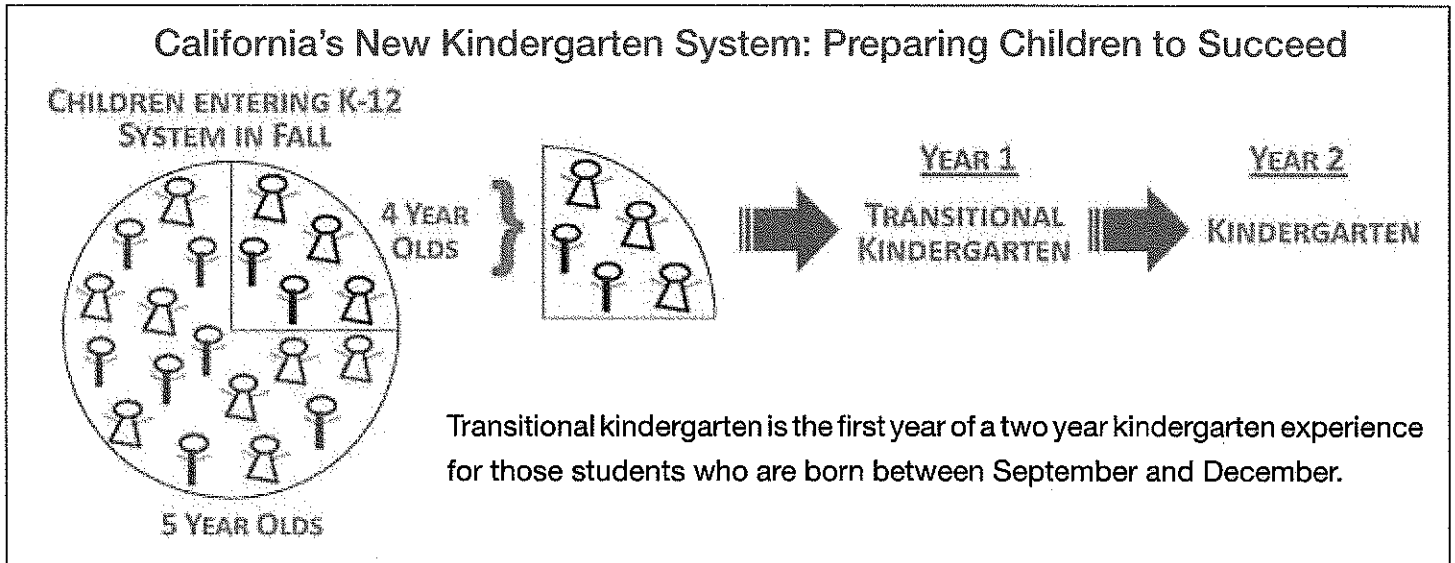


Transitional Kindergarten: Preparing California's Children to Succeed in Kindergarten



The Kindergarten Readiness Act, a historic reform to kindergarten education, gives California an unparalleled opportunity to ensure that 120,000 more children each year are better prepared to succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

- The legislation creates transitional kindergarten, the first year of a two-year kindergarten experience for those students who are born between September and December.
- SB 1381 changes the kindergarten entry date from Dec. 2 to Sept. 1, so children enter kindergarten at age 5.
- The legislation¹ will phase in the new age requirement by moving the cutoff date one month a year for three years, beginning in 2012.



What is Transitional Kindergarten?

- Transitional kindergarten programs will offer children developmentally appropriate curriculum that is aligned with kindergarten standards. Classes would be taught by credentialed teachers from the K-12 system.
- About 120,000 children – including 49,000 English language learners and 74,000 who attend Title I schools – will benefit from this reform.
- Existing funding for these children with fall birthdays will be redirected to transitional kindergarten and will employ existing teachers and classroom facilities.
- Parents now have an additional option to ensure their children enter kindergarten with the maturity and skills they need to excel.
- Transitional kindergarten is voluntary – a child born after Sept. 1 may still be admitted to kindergarten on a case-by-case basis if the parent or guardian applies for early admission and the school district agrees it would be in the best interest of the child.

For more information, visit www.preschoolcalifornia.org/SB1381



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