

Transitional Kindergarten (TK)

Purpose:

Transitional Kindergarten aims to help children who may be younger or less mature for the traditional kindergarten curriculum. TK provides a bridge between pre-kindergarten and kindergarten, allowing children to develop at their own pace.

Our fun and educational program is designed for young 5's (late summer birthdays) to be more successful in future academic years by providing an additional year to develop socially and emotionally. Students will build important academic skills and receive additional exposure to important concepts. TK allows children to continue developing school readiness skills in a classroom setting that is designed to be more social, using play and exploration, in addition to traditional classroom instruction.

Program Overview:

- Students who are enrolled in TK will be enrolled in a kindergarten classroom for the following school year.
- Full day (7:45 am-2:45 pm)
- A more play-based approach
- Start year with PreK curriculum and then gradually transition to Kindergarten curriculum by December
- Stations - each station has one "Must Do", then the other choices are more play-based
- Free-choice time: teacher facilitates the play
- A paraprofessional will also be in the classroom to help with learning
- 25-minute rest time, staff does not wake them up if they fall asleep
- Slow start to the school year- focus only on building connections and a sense of safety at school

Target students: low academics, need SEL focus, late birthday, inadequate school social skills. If a student is struggling after starting Kindergarten or moves in late, they may be considered based on the same criteria. TK is not designed for students who exhibit extreme behavior concerns. It is designed to assist students with low SEL skills due to maturity or lack of exposure to SEL skills needed for kindergarten.

- To qualify:
 - Year 1 (2025-2026 school year)
 - Late summer birthday
 - Low Academic Data (letter, number ID, counting to 20)
 - Teacher recommendations
 - ISEL Kindergarten Screener- below in all areas
 - Year 2 (2026-2027 school year)
 - Late summer birthday

- Low Academic Data (letter, number ID, counting to 20)
- Teacher recommendations
- ISEL Kindergarten Screener-below in all areas
- DIAL Screening- reassessed in February- below in all areas

Teacher: 1 current Kindergarten class converted to a Transitional Kindergarten class- cap at 15 with one paraprofessional

Focus: less transitions, less academic demands, put students in a position to be ready for kindergarten the following school year.

- Independence skills
- SEL
- Problem solving
- Emotional Regulation
- Utilize the current Kindergarten curriculum and adapt to be more play based and slower pace
- Parent communication daily
- Data collected updated daily

The goal of TK: Students will enter kindergarten with skills that are above their classmates, prompting these students to be class leaders. They will be equipped with the social and emotional skills to rise to the academic rigor in Kindergarten at Washington School.