

Steven D. Herrington, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Nancy S. Brownell
Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Division



5340 Skylane Boulevard
Santa Rosa, CA 95403-8246
(707) 524-2600 ■ www.scoe.org

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Date: 1/12/12

To: Sonoma County Superintendents, C&I Assistant Superintendents, and Curriculum Council Members

RE: Transitional Kindergarten Update

In an effort to communicate information regarding Transitional Kindergarten as it becomes available, we received two clarifications that may be of interest to you.

CCSESA:

The Governor proposes to eliminate the new mandate to provide transitional kindergarten services to pupils who are no longer eligible for kindergarten due to the change in the birthdate admission deadline. However, the Administration has clarified that the same options would exist as under current law to offer a two-year kindergarten, as many districts have used to pilot TK or offer “prep” K in the past. Thus, it can be argued that the Governor’s proposal is really to make TK optional. In fact, Department of Finance staff have indicated that their intent in the budget proposal is to provide school districts the option to not implement the new TK program.

ACSA:

The mandate that every district provide Transitional Kindergarten is eliminated. The kindergarten start date will still be phased in over a three year period beginning with the 2012-13 school year (i.e. the kindergarten start for 2012-13 will be November 1, October 1 for 2013-14 and September 1 for 2014-15). The administration has noted that it is not the governor’s intention to deny kindergarten services to students born after the start date. The administration has pointed to current law that authorizes districts to serve “under-age children” and receive an apportionment for serving those students. This provision will remain in place under the Governor’s proposal. Districts can continue to serve students born after the Kindergarten start date and place them in a one or two-year Kindergarten program.

For those districts that choose to run a 2-year TK program, SCOE plans to purchase the software license for the “Desired Results Assessment” tools to better assist in determining students’ preparedness for Kindergarten.

If you have any additional questions, please contact:

Nancy S. Brownell, Assistant Superintendent, (707) 524-2786 or nbrownell@scoe.org