

TK Number of Instructional Minutes

California *Education Code (EC)*, Section 37202 requires that all students at a given grade level in a district receive "an equal length" of instructional time. Transitional K should be the same length as traditional K classes in the district. The minimum length of instructional time that must be offered to constitute a school day is 180 minutes. "The maximum school day in kindergarten is four hours (EC 46110)".

EXCEPTION: However, extended-day kindergarten classes that are operated as part of an early primary program (pursuant to *EC 8970-8974*) may exceed the four-hour maximum instructional day otherwise applicable to them (pursuant to *EC 46111*). Traditional Ks that are part of early primary programs can be as long as the rest of the primary program, but do not need to be. (An early primary program "is one serving mixed grades, including the possibility of state preschool. Same-age students or any combination of state preschool or child development program, kindergarten, first, second, or third grade students who are provided integrated, experiential, and developmentally appropriate instruction." See definition and info from CDE here: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gs/em/extendaykinder.asp>)

Therefore, transitional kindergarten students must receive an equal length of instructional time as traditional kindergarten students, not including extended-day kindergarten classes that are operated as part of an early primary program.