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Transitional Kindergarten Length of Day

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1. The minimum length of instructional time for transitional kindergarten [*and kindergarten*] that must be offered to constitute a school day is 180 minutes (3 hours) (*California Education Code Section sections 46117 and 46201*). Recess time may be counted as part of the instructional minutes, at the districts' discretion, if teacher supervision occurs.
2. The maximum school day in kindergarten [*and transitional kindergarten*] is four hours (*California Education Code Section 46110*).
3. All students at a given grade level in a district must receive an "equal length" of instructional time (*California Education Code Section 37202*). (*Note: Transitional Kindergarten is the same grade level as Kindergarten.*)
4. An exception to the four hour maximum allows schools that have adopted an early primary program (extended-day kindergarten - EDK) to exceed four hours (*California Education Code Section 8973*). To adopt an early primary program (extended-day kindergarten) at a particular school, the School Board should adopt a policy establishing an "early primary program" with an extended day kindergarten, not to exceed the length of the primary school day (*California Education Code Section 8973*). In this case, some of the schools in a district may still have shorter kindergarten days.
5. If some kindergarten classes in a district operate shorter hours and some operate longer hours as an EDK, the transitional kindergarten class length may be equal to either one (*Carrie Roberts, CDE*).
6. If a school wishes to offer a shorter program for transitional kindergarten than its kindergarten day, it may request a waiver from CDE (*Carrie Roberts, CDE*).