

California Transitional Kindergarten/California State Preschool Program (CTKS) Coursework and Professional Development Reimbursement Program Timeline

Budget Act of 2014 / Senate Bill 876 declared:

Any credentialed teacher assigned to teach Transitional Kindergarten (TK), or a combination class of kindergarten and TK, after July 1, 2015, will have until August 1, 2020, to obtain 24 units in early childhood education or child development or both unless the LEA determines that the teacher has professional experience in a classroom setting with preschool-age children that is comparable to the 24 units of education or a child development permit issued by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing. These new requirements pertain to both school districts as well as charter schools. Any TK teacher who is or was assigned to teach TK, or a combination class of kindergarten and TK, before July 1, 2015 is "grandfathered in" to teach TK without having to meet additional requirements.

March 2015:

Funds are released to Local Planning Councils (LPCs) for the distribution of educational and professional development* reimbursements to TK and California State Preschool Program (CSPP) teachers. In Kern County, the funds will be disbursed through the Early Childhood Council of Kern under the auspice of the Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office.

April 2015:

Reimbursement applications are released by the Early Childhood Council of Kern.

TK Teacher application submission deadlines:

May 8, 2015

January 8, 2016

May 6, 2016

January 6, 2017

May 5, 2017

Reimbursements will be processed until funds are expended

CSPP Teacher application submission deadlines:

May 29, 2015

January 29, 2016

May 27, 2016

January 27, 2017

May 26, 2017

Reimbursements will be processed until funds are expended

June 30, 2017:

Funds are to be fully expended

*Reimbursements can be provided for coursework and professional development training completed between July 1, 2014 and May 20, 2017. Courses must be taken through an accredited college/university (online and/or face-to-face).

Applications and more information can be obtained from the Early Childhood Council of Kern: 661/861-5274 or on the website at www.earlychildhoodkern.org

Coursework in early childhood education and/or child development (partial listing):

Cut and paste link into your browser

- Bakersfield College – <https://www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/child-dev>
- Cerro Coso Community College – <https://www.cerrocoso.edu/programs/early-childhood-education-transfer>
- Porterville College – <https://www.portervillecollege.edu/node/67>
- Taft College – http://web.taftcollege.edu/tcwp/departments/?page_id=26
- California State University, Bakersfield – http://www.csub.edu/sse/teacher_education/index.html
- Fresno Pacific University – <http://fresno.leadpages.net/ece/>
- University of La Verne – <http://laverne.edu/education/files/2011/05/Transitional-Kindergarten.pdf>

Organizations providing professional development opportunities (partial listing):

Cut and paste link into your browser

- California Early Childhood Online - <http://www.caearlychildhoodonline.org/>
- California Preschool Instructional Network/KCSOS - <http://cpin.us/regions/08>
- Community Connection for Child Care – <http://kern.org/cccc/quality-child-care-training-opportunities/>
- Early Childhood Council of Kern - <http://wwwstatic.kern.org/gems/eccouncil/PGCalendar714to615.pdf>
- Kern Association for the Education of Young Children - <https://sites.google.com/site/kernaeyc/home>
- TK California - <http://www.tkcalifornia.org/learn-with-us/professional-development.html>

California Transitional Kindergarten Stipend (CTKS) Coursework and Professional Development Reimbursement Guidelines/Procedures

Program Overview and Legislation Requirements

Pursuant to the Budget Act of 2014, and pursuant to EC48000(g), after July 1, 2015, new Transitional Kindergarten (TK) teachers are required to have at least one credential by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC); and by August 2020 have one of the following: 1) 24 units in early childhood education or child development or both; 2) professional experience in a classroom setting with preschool-age children that is comparable to the 24 units of education (as determined by the LEA); or 3) a child development permit issued by the CTC. These new requirements pertain to both school districts as well as charter schools.

Any TK teacher who is or was assigned to teach TK, or a combination class of kindergarten and TK, before July 1, 2015 is "grandfathered in" to teach TK without having to meet additional requirements. However, any credentialed teacher assigned to teach TK, or a combination class of kindergarten and TK, after July 1, 2015, will have until August 1, 2020, to meet the above-mentioned education requirements.

In addition to addressing teacher requirements, EC 48000(f) states: "It is the intent of the Legislature that transitional kindergarten curriculum be aligned to the California Preschool Learning Foundations developed by the department."

Senate Bill 876 allocates funds for purposes of professional development and educational reimbursements to be administered by the Local Planning Council for teachers in TK and teachers in the California State Preschool Program (CSPP).

Funds are intended to provide reimbursement for credentialed TK teachers to complete at least 24 units in early childhood education or childhood development or a combination of both (first priority). Reimbursements can also be made to TK teachers for costs related to attending early childhood/child development workshops/seminars/conferences. The second priority shall be for reimbursement to CSPP teachers for costs related to obtaining professional development or credit bearing coursework in early childhood education, child development or both.

Reimbursement of claims will be made semi-annually upon submission of required documentation until the funds are expended. It is anticipated that the availability of funds will expire on or before June 30, 2017. Due to the limited availability of funds, the program cannot guarantee that every claim will be reimbursed. Claims will be honored as funding allows.

Reimbursement Cycle and Eligibility Requirements

- TK Teachers must be currently under contract with a Kern County school district or charter school as a Transitional Kindergarten Teacher.
- California State Preschool Program Teachers must be employed in Kern County and be working directly with children for at least fifteen (15) hours per week for at least nine (9) of the past twelve (12) months.
- CSPP teachers must be at the level of Associate Teacher or higher.
- Reimbursement submission deadlines are as follows:

TK Teachers

May 8, 2015

January 8, 2016

May 6, 2016

January 6, 2017

May 5, 2017

CSPP Teachers

May 29, 2015

January 29, 2016

May 27, 2016

January 27, 2017

May 26, 2017

- Tuition Reimbursement shall not exceed 100% of the price of, or payment for, the instruction. No other fees are reimbursable under this fund.
- Reimbursable costs must be incurred during the grant period (July 2014 to May 2017). Funds cannot be used for prior or future year expenditures.
- Books, fees and/or tuition that are paid by another source such as financial aid, will not be eligible for reimbursement through this program.
- CSPP teachers may apply to both the CTKS as well as the Early Care and Education Retention Project.
- Reimbursement will only be made to individuals, not agencies or school districts
- Courses/professional development must be completed during the specified time frame
- A W-9 and Early Education and Support Division (EESD) Confidential Profile form must be completed prior to payment being made.
- Substitute teachers are not eligible to apply.
- All forms and documentation must be submitted to the Early Childhood Council of Kern CTKS Program.

Reimbursement for Coursework

- Reimbursements shall not exceed 100% of the actual expenses incurred by TK/CSPP teachers upon the completion of Early Childhood or Child Development courses
- Only those courses that are listed as Child Development or Early Childhood Education will be accepted. General education courses will not be reimbursed.
- Applicants must submit a pre-application

- Reimbursements will be made for actual educational expenses to include tuition, books and cost of official transcripts

- Courses must be completed with a grade of "C" or better

- If enrolled in a multi-semester course, the CTKS will only provide reimbursement for the portion completed at the end each application cycle.

- Courses not completed by May 20, 2017 will not be reimbursed.

- Upper division as well as lower division coursework will be accepted

- Courses may be face-to-face or online from an accredited college/university

- Applicants must adhere to the following:
 - Submit each class course syllabus with assigned book title(s)
 - Submit transcripts verifying the accredited college, the course name, number of units and proof of the receipt of a grade of "C" or better
 - Tuition receipts
 - Book receipts
 - Submit a completed, signed and dated CTKS Course Authorization Approval form for Tuition Reimbursement
 - W-9 form
 - EEDS Confidential Profile form

- Original receipts must be submitted with reimbursement application. Handwritten/personal receipts will not be accepted.

- Books purchased without receipt will be reimbursed at a flat rate of \$25 per book.

- Computer generated transcripts will be accepted if the college/university name, applicant's name, course name, term and grade are included on the printout.

Reimbursement for Professional Development

- Reimbursements shall not exceed 100% of actual registration fees related to attending professional development workshops/conferences/seminars.
- Reimbursable expenses can include registration costs, continuing Education Units in early childhood education.

- Workshop content must be specifically related to child development/early childhood education.

- Professional growth hours must have been completed during non-paid time.

- No travel costs, per diem, etc. will be provided

- Applicants must adhere to the following:
 - Submit a completed, signed and dated CTKS Tuition/Professional Development Reimbursement Application
 - Submit a completed, signed and dated CTKS Tuition Reimbursement Approval Form
 - Submit original certificate(s) of professional growth indicating the title of the professional development activity, date, number of hours and sponsoring entity
 - Registration receipts
 - W-9 form
 - EEDS Confidential Profile form

To obtain an application, or for more information including available courses and professional development opportunities, please call the Early Childhood Council of Kern at 661/861-5274. Applications and resources can also be found on the Council's website at www.earlychildhoodkern.org