

Questions from the UPK/UTK Informational Meeting 4/6/22

UPK/UTK Programmatic Questions

- 1. Will State Pre-K ratios stay the same?**

The California Department of Education's (CDE) guidance on ratios has not changed.

- 2. I have students that are age eligible for TK and CSPP, will the parent be allowed to decide the child's placement? (The school told her they would decide based on their priority list or space)**

It is a parent's choice of whether their child attends CSPP(income eligible children) or TK.

- 3. I work for a center-based program at a school district, how will/is my program going to change?**

This would be a question to ask your State Preschool program Director as those decisions are made internally for each program.

- 4. I noticed the slideshow said "if funding allows," what is this in reference to...qualifications, credentials, ratios, class size?**

The "if funding allows" is in reference to lowering the ratios to 1:10 in 2023-2024.

- 5. How will ratios be verified?**

Districts will be expected to maintain ratio requirements. At this point in time there has been no information on a ratio verification system.

- 6. Will the programs be half or full day?**

That is a district level decision.

- 7. Will the ratios change for FCCs?**

No, Community Care Licensing's guidelines on ratios have not changed.

- 8. Will 4 year olds have to be fully potty trained to be accepted in the district or will the district provide potty training to parents?**

*Per CDE's FAQ page: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gs/em/kinderfaq.asp#funding>
Local education agencies (LEAs) must offer TK and kindergarten classes for all age-eligible children to attend. How to address the needs of a non-toilet-trained age-eligible TK students are a local school district decision. If the child has an individualized education program (IEP), accommodations should be addressed in the IEP meeting.*

- 9. Will districts start enrolling 3 year-olds?**

For CSPP programs, 3 year olds are eligible. For TK, 3 year olds are not eligible.

- 10. How will the funding affect FCCs?**

The current funding to support UPK/UTK is for Local Education Agencies (school districts).

- 11. How many TK classes will be opening in schools?**

That is a district decision based on the number of TK children enrolled at each school district.

- 12. For FCCs, how will it work if they serve 0-5 year olds and the older ones are in school. How will the funding for 4 year olds affect FCCs if they are in school?**

FCC providers will not be paid for children who are enrolled in a TK program.

- 13. Is UTK all day or like preschool (3 hours a day)?**

That is a district level decision.

- 14. Will there be nap time offered?**

That is a district level decision.

- 15. Financially, how will this transition affect FCCs if all the children are taken away (going to school), who run preschool in their homes?**

It is a parent's choice what type of early learning program their child will attend (CSPP, Head Start, FCC/FFN, private centers (CBO's) Community based organizations or TK), based on the individual needs of the child and family (needs of working parents).

- 16. The adult/child ratio for Universal Pre-kindergarten, will reduce overtime like the adult/child ratio for Universal Transition Kindergarten?**

Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) is a term to define any type of early learning program (CSPP, Head Start, FCC/FFN, private centers (CBO's) Community based organizations or TK) that happens BEFORE Kindergarten.

Universal Transition Kindergarten (UTK) is a term for Universal Transitional Kindergarten- all age eligible students (based on the birthday requirement) can attend TK (if the parent chooses that option).

The TK ratios are 1/12 for 2022-23, and may be reduced to 1/10 in 2023-24 & and beyond - if funding allows (based on legislation for funding).

- 17. If a parent doesn't choose to go to district's TK program - Can the districts use the ELOP funds to pay or sub-contract with Early learning providers (FCC/FFN's) and other CBO's?**

This question has been submitted to the California Department of Education (CDE).

- 18. Confused on how the 4 year old birthday keeps backing up to April- Will that allow the child to start kindergarten at 4.5 years?**

No, the child must be 5 years old by September 1st in order to start kindergarten. See [TK expansion Timeline & birthday eligibility](#) for TK birthday eligibility requirements.

- 19. Will every school site have a preschool and TK on campuses?**

Not all school districts have or are required to have a preschool classroom on their campus. TK is required for every school district, but does not have to be on every school site. The number of TK classrooms is determined by the number of TK students enrolled.

- 20. What is the difference between TK and preschool for those school districts that have both?**

Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) is a term to define any type of early learning program (CSPP, Head Start, FCC/FFN, private centers (CBO's) Community based organizations or TK) that happens BEFORE Kindergarten.

Universal Transition Kindergarten (UTK) is a term for Universal Transitional Kindergarten- all age eligible students (based on the birthday requirement) can attend TK (if the parent chooses that option).

- 21. Will children who need IEP go to TK or will they go to already developed SED Preschool?**

This is based on each child's (IEP) Individual Education Plan. Every IEP is individualized to best meet the child's needs and goals in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE).

- 22. Will TK be establishing IEP's or will it wait till Kinder?**

IEP's are based on the individual child's eligibility for Special Education services. If a child meets the eligibility factors for an IEP, then the school district of residence is required to serve them, beginning at 3 years old.

- 23. Are TK's going to have their own space?**

Yes, they have facility requirements. The room must be 1350 square feet, the same as a kindergarten classroom.

- 24. How is this supposed to work if everyone is hurting for teachers yet the ratio is lower?**

CDE has prioritized teacher recruitment and professional development.

- 25. Will this change the scope of work for family resource centers?**

No, family resource centers will still be able to offer early learning programs to support families.

- 26. How will this impact existing preschool centers? What would the age groups be changed to since sites will lose four-year-old children?**

All centers will be able to serve the age range their license allows.

- 27. Will this impact the viability of the support planned for the economic downturn that is predicted?**

Further clarification needed.

- 28. If it's free for elementary level is there a stipend that parents can apply for, for reimbursement?**

TK through the school district is free. We have not received any guidance from CDE about stipends for parents.

- 29. Who will monitor the implementation?**

The California Department of Education is monitoring the implementation of TK.

- 30. Another person who has worked in Montessori for many years is preparing to start her own private school, and was curious if she would have to follow all the guidelines for TK that will be required by LEAs.**

No, private center based care and CSPP center based care will continue to follow regulations that are currently in place.

- 31. Will there be stipends for family childcare home providers if they participate in UPK?**

Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) is a term to define any type of early learning program (CSPP, Head Start, FCC/FFN, private centers (CBO's) Community based organizations or TK) that happens BEFORE Kindergarten. Family child care is a part of a mixed delivery system under the UPK umbrella. We have not received guidance on stipends.

- 32. If losing four-year-old children at family childcare. Will the state implement the age groups? Can currently only have two infants (24 months and under).**

Family Child Care will continue to serve children at the ages listed on their license. Parents have a choice in the *type of early learning program they send their child to BEFORE Kindergarten e.g. CSPP, Head Start, FCC/FFN, private centers, Community based organizations (CBO's) or TK.*

- 33. Parents who choose public care. Will they have the choice to come back if they are more comfortable with their original care provider? Will centers be allowed to accept children back?**

Yes, parents can choose the early learning setting they feel is best for their child. Centers are able to enroll children according to their own policies and procedures.

- 34. Is this going to be all day? half day? what about after school programs?**

That is a district level decision.

- 35. Are there any standards for districts?**

Yes school districts follow Content standards that were designed to encourage the highest achievement of every student, by defining the knowledge, concepts, and skills that students should acquire at each grade level. TK grade level is expected to align with the CA Preschool Learning Foundations & Curriculum Frameworks.

UPK/UTK Teaching/Credentialing

- 1. Will private sites' qualifications change? Will the teaching staff need 24 units?**

No, at this time there have been no changes to the teacher qualifications listed in Title 22.

- 2. I have a Bachelor's Degree, am I going to need to become a credentialed teacher to teach a CSPP classroom?**

No, at this time there have been no changes to the teacher qualifications listed in Title 5.

- 3. Starting TK in 23/24 school year teacher requirements? How many ECE units and years of ECE experience? What requirements do you need to become a TK teacher?**

from: CDE FAQ's page: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gs/em/kinderfaq.asp#instructional>

*“Credential requirements for TK teachers are the same as those currently required of kindergarten teachers—a Multiple Subject Credential. Additionally, TK teachers must meet **one of the following by August 1, 2023**: (1) at least **24 units in early childhood education or child development, or both**; (2) **professional experience in a classroom setting with preschool-aged children that a local educational agency (LEA) deems comparable to 24 units**; or (3) **a Child Development Teacher Permit issued from the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC)**. Please see California Education Code (EC) Section 48000(g)(4) for more information”.*

- 4. Can child development units overlap between a provider's bachelor's degree and or teaching credential for a Universal Transition Kindergarten teacher?**

You can use Child development units from Community college or a 4 year University.

- 5. Do child development teachers with a degree need a teaching credentials to become a Universal Transition Kindergarten teacher or will they get grandfathered into the position?**

To teach TK you need a Bachelor's degree and a multiple subject teaching credential, plus 24 units of ECE by August 1, 2023.

- 6. A current preschool teacher at an LEA is asking if her Master's Degree in ECE would qualify her to teach TK (which she would have the 24 unit portion, but not the multiple subject credential).**

“Credential requirements for TK teachers are the same as those currently required of kindergarten teachers—a Multiple Subject Credential plus 24 units of ECE or equivalent experience.

- 7. Will FCCs be required to have additional training or be credentialed since they serve different ages. If so, would there be grants provided for FCCs to go back to school?**

No, there have been no changes to the education qualifications listed in Title 22 for family child care providers.

- 8. Would FCCs be financially supported to go to school? Is there funding for child care providers to obtain educational units to become Universal Transition Kindergarten teachers? It was also asked if there will be financial supports and/or grants to help PreK teachers and staff return to school to get the courses needed to become a TK teacher. With 100 million in the budget to bring up qualifications for TK teachers, will any of this budget be offered outside of districts to bring up the education of FCC, Private Center teachers, CSPP teachers?**

More guidance will be provided on this topic in the coming months.

- 9. If a licensed family child care provider has six child development units can the provider get paid to tutor children in Universal Pre-Kindergarten or Universal Transition Kindergarten?**

Currently, there is no CDE guidance on funding for private tutoring.

- 10. Another person asked if the new P-3 credential that CTC is creating will be a requirement for programs such as CSPP and family child care homes.**

The qualifications for CSPP teachers and FCC providers have not changed. The P-3 credential has not been implemented and is still in the early stages of discussion and gathering input from the field.

- 11. Would family care providers need to have the same credentials to have four-year-old children enrolled? (e.g., 24-required units).**

No, there have been no changes to the education qualifications listed in Title 22 for family child care providers.

UPK/UTK Curriculum Questions

1. Will TK/K implement DRDP?

That is a district decision. CDE does not mandate any assessment for TK.

2. Will they offer dual-language programs in TK?

That is a district decision.

3. How will they make curriculum age-appropriate in a school setting? More play, or required to be in their seats? (Wouldn't mind collaborating to ensure children are school-ready.) Will the environment be age-appropriate?

The guidance from CDE recommends following developmentally informed, age appropriate, play-based, hands on early learning experiences. Classroom environment is a key component in these best practices.

4. What kind of curriculum is implemented for TK? Is it going to change or career curriculum?

While no state curriculum is mandated, pursuant to EC 48000(f), TK programs are intended to be aligned to the [California Preschool Learning Foundations](#) developed by the CDE.

5. Can we keep the current curriculum? For example, some are play-based; would this require change? (Group thought 'no' and each district will establish the guidelines.)

There are no standardized curriculum mandated by CDE for any preschool programs. The choice of curriculum is an individual program/district decision.

6. Will faith-based programs be required to comply with a standardized curriculum?

No, there are no standardized curriculum mandated by CDE for any preschool programs. The choice of curriculum is an individual program decision.

4-6-22 LPC meeting

UPK UTK Questions from ECE Providers

Concerns Expressed During the Meeting:

- Staffing-many of their staff will try to move on to be credentialed teachers, leaving a gap in ECE programs.
- I went to school for 5 years in early childhood education. I'm sad to hear this. I just can't go back to school. I have a family and responsibilities.
- I can never go to a credential program with a full-time job
- So, by 2025 all 4-year-olds are eligible for TK and we won't be serving 4-year-olds.
- If it's a parent's choice- How many parents will choose free (TK programs) over paying for child care (FCC)? How many parents will choose a 4- 6 hour program (TK) over 3 hour/1/2 day programs?
- CSPP & TK requirements are very different. CSPP- more enrollment paperwork & income eligibility requirements- even for returning parents
- There were concerns that preschools would only be serving age 3 children, since parents of age 4 and 5 children would send them to TK.
- Why are they making this change? Why disrupt a system that was working?
- Are school districts prepared to make this transition?
- What's going to happen if all the 4s go to PreK. Financially what's going to happen to existing PreK programs?
- Can someone just provide more direction for our local school districts? Districts are just scrambling. Putting together programs that don't have the best interest of children or the workload of the TK teachers.

Support Needs Expressed During the Meeting:

- provide grants or scholarships to complete schooling?
- To provide additional guidance/curriculum related to the correct educational path to becoming a Universal Transition Kindergarten teacher?
- support/help for FCC to provide more academic curriculum/materials to stay up with TK/Kinder? (games/items- learning through play)