

On September 30, 2010, the California State Legislature enacted Senate Bill 1381, which changed the date by which a child must turn five years old to enter kindergarten. The law also created the opportunity for students who do not meet the new start-date requirements to enroll in a transitional kindergarten – defined as a program that uses a modified, age-and developmentally appropriate kindergarten curriculum and allows students to attend a structured, high quality school-readiness program.

Currently, a child must turn five on or before December 2 to be admitted to kindergarten. In the 2012-13 school year, the date changes to November 1, and in 2014-15 to October 1. In 2015-16 and every year thereafter, the child must turn five on or before September 1 to be admitted to kindergarten. The Transitional Kindergarten, the first of a two-year kindergarten experience for those students born between September and December, gives young learners the gift of time to help them develop the social, emotional and academic skills they need to excel.

Merced City School District will join other districts throughout the state in offering the Transitional Kindergarten program. Transitional Kindergarten will be offered to all students born between September 1 and December 2, beginning in the 2012-2013 school year. Specific program information will be reflected on the District website as it becomes available.

