

Senate Bill 1381

The Kindergarten Readiness Act of 2010

Background

- California is one of just four states (along with Connecticut Michigan and Vermont) with a cut-off date later than December 1st. In most states, children must turn five by September 1st in order to start kindergarten.
- Research indicates that beginning kindergarten at an older age improves children's social and academic development.

Section 3.(a) – Ed Code 48000
Section 4.(a) – Ed Code 48010

The bill changes the required birthday for admission to kindergarten and first grade

- December 2nd of the 2011-12 school year
- November 1st of the 2012-13 school year
- October 1st of the 2013-14 school year
- September 1st of the 2014-15 school year and each year thereafter

Transitional Kindergarten

The bill will “require a child whose admission to a traditional kindergarten is delayed to be admitted to a transitional kindergarten program.”

Section 5

"...pupils participating in transitional kindergarten are to be included in computing the average daily attendance of a school district for purposes of calculating school district apportionments..."

Section 2.(a) Ed Code 46300

"In computing average daily attendance...[pupils] shall be...under the immediate supervision and control of an employee of the district or county office who possesses a valid certification document..."

Section 2. (g)(2)
Ed Code 46300

"A school district may not include, for apportionment purposes, the attendance of any pupil for more than two years in kindergarten or for more than two years in a combination of transitional kindergarten and kindergarten."

Section 3.(d)(e)
Ed Code 48000

"A transitional kindergarten shall not be construed as a new program or higher level of service."

"...'transitional kindergarten' means the first year of a two-year kindergarten program that uses a modified kindergarten curriculum that is age and developmentally appropriate."

Group Discussion

What is the current level of planning for transitional kindergarten in your district?

- Gather information, initiating discussions and planning or piloting implementation

Group Discussion

What are some initial ideas and thoughts regarding your district's plan for transitional kindergarten

- Ideas about strengthening connections preschool and kindergarten, to develop a high-quality transitional kindergarten program

Group Discussion

What resources and technical assistance does your district need to implement a high quality program?

Next Steps

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 651-4011
Fax (916) 323-4529

E-MAIL
Senator.Simitian@sen.ca.gov

WEBSITE
<http://www.sen.ca.gov/simitian>

California State Senate



SENATOR
S. JOSEPH SIMITIAN
ELEVENTH SENATE DISTRICT

DISTRICT OFFICE
160 Town & Country Village
Palo Alto, CA 94301
(650) 688-6384
Fax (650) 688-6370

SATELLITE OFFICE
701 Ocean Street, Room 318A
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 425-0401
Fax (831) 425-5124

Fact Sheet: Senate Bill 1381 (Simitian) *Kindergarten Entry Age*

SB 1381: Summary

This bill changes the kindergarten entry-age in California from five years old by December 2nd to five years old by September 1st.

For those "young fives" (i.e., children turning five from September 2 – December 2) whose kindergarten is delayed, the bill creates a transitional kindergarten.

The new age requirement would be phased-in over three years beginning in the 2012-13 school year.

The \$700 million in annual cost savings resulting from having fewer children in kindergarten remains within Proposition 98 to provide an age and developmentally appropriate transitional kindergarten program for those children whose entry to kindergarten would be delayed.

A child born after September 1st may still be admitted to kindergarten on a case-by-case basis, if the parent or guardian applies for early admission and the school district agrees that it would be in the best interest of the child.

Need for the Bill

California is one of just four states (along with Connecticut, Michigan and Vermont) with a cut-off date later than December 1st. In most states, children must turn five by September 1st in order to start kindergarten. California allows children as young as four years and nine months to start kindergarten as long as the child turns five by December 2nd.

Research indicates that beginning kindergarten at an older age improves children's social and academic development. A 2005 study by the Rand Corporation found a "significant boost" to test scores, especially for children from low-income families.

Based on these benefits, California's non-partisan Legislative Analyst's Office, the California Performance Review, and the Governor's Committee on Education Excellence have each called for an earlier kindergarten cut-off date.

In the Analysis of the 2010-11 Proposed Budget the Legislative Analyst recommends that the Legislature take action this year to change the kindergarten cut-off date to September 1st.

The LAO notes:

- California's kindergarten start date is one of the latest in the nation;
- Beginning school at an older age would benefit children's academic performance and social development;
- Children who are older when they start kindergarten tend to perform better on standardized tests; and
- Research suggests changing the kindergarten start date may lead to positive student outcomes, including less chance of grade retention and higher earnings as an adult.

The LAO estimates that changing the kindergarten cut-off date could lead to budget savings of approximately \$700 million from revenue limits and categorical programs by having 100,000 fewer (the number of children with birthdays between Sept. 1st and Dec. 2nd) kindergarteners in school. The cumulative savings over 13 years would reach \$9.1 billion as a smaller kindergarten cohort transitions through the K-12 system.

SB 1381 redirects these savings to provide transitional kindergarten to children born after September 1st and on or before December 2nd. Transitional kindergarten means the first year of a two year kindergarten program that uses a modified kindergarten curriculum that is age and developmentally appropriate.

Transitional kindergarten will improve the pre-first-grade preparation for those fall-birthday children who would otherwise be the youngest in their class. This is especially important for low-income and English language learner children, who often receive less academic preparation. Transitional kindergarten will provide a two-year preparation for first grade while reducing the likelihood of retention after a year of traditional kindergarten.

Staff Contact: Cory Jasperson; (916) 651-4011 or cory.jasperson@sen.ca.gov

Updated – 20Jul2010