Comparison of Transitional Kindergarten (TK) vs

Anna Bing Arnold Children's Center Pre-K Program

	Public Schools	Anna Bing Arnold C.C.
Age for TK/Pre K	5th birthday between September 2nd and December 2nd	Age 3 until entrance into Kindergarten
Teacher /Child Ratios	1:33 33 maximum, 31 average group size	1:7 21 maximum group size
Length of time	2 year program	2 year program
Continuity of group and staff	The decision to "loop" a teacher with their students from the transitional kindergarten to the kindergarten year would be a local decision.	Children stay with consistent teaching team and same children for up to 2 years
Standards used for planning curriculum	Local Education Agencies will make the decision of what standards or learning foundations are to be part of the local course of study. For guidance in creating a transitional kindergarten course, local education agencies may look at California's Preschool Learning Foundations, California Preschool Curriculum Frameworks, California Academic Content Standards, and the **Common Core State Standards** for English Language Art and Mathematics.	The Center follows standards for Preschool Education as required by the CA Dept. of Education California's Preschool Learning Foundations, California Preschool Curriculum Frameworks, *Desired Results* 2015 assessment used is aligned with the **Common Core State Standards**; Accredited Curriculum: National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) for "Best Practice"
Teacher Credentials	Teaching credential for primary school (CA Commission on Teacher Credentialing)	Child Development Master Teacher Permit (CA Commission on Teacher Credentialing)
Length of day	Part-day or Full Day	Part day or full day
TK Requirement	Since school is mandatory for six year old students, parents and guardians must enroll their children in school once they reach the age of six. TK is not required in the state of CA.	Until ready to enter Kindergarten
Environment	Elementary School Site with equipment/materials appropriate for school age children	Preschool site with developmentally appropriate equipment/materials designed specifically for early childhood best practice (NAEYC & ECERS)

Transitional Kindergarten (TK) CA Department of Education
FAQ s

1. **What is the Kindergarten Readiness Act of 2010?**
   Senate Bill (SB) 1381 (Chapter 705, Statues of 2010) amended California Education Code (*EC*) (Section 46300, 48000, and 48010) to change the required birthday for admission to kindergarten and first grade and established a transitional kindergarten program beginning in the 2012–2013 school year.
2. **What is the minimum age for admittance to kindergarten in California?**
   A child shall be admitted to a kindergarten maintained by the school district at the beginning of a school year, or at a later time in the same year if the child will have his or her fifth birthday on or before one of the following dates (*EC* 48000[a]):

   - For the 2013-14 school year the date is October
   - For the 2014-15 school year and each school year thereafter the date is September 1.

3. **What is transitional kindergarten?**
   A transitional kindergarten is the first year of a two-year kindergarten program that uses a modified kindergarten curriculum that is age and developmentally appropriate. Pursuant to law, *EC* 48000[c], a child is eligible for transitional kindergarten if a child will have his or her fifth birthday between:

   - For the 2013-14 school year October 2 and December 2 *(Inclusive)*
   - For the 2014-15 school year and each school year thereafter September 2 and December 2. *(Inclusive)*

4. **Will transitional kindergarten continue after 2014?**
   Yes.

5. **Must children attend transitional kindergarten or kindergarten?**
   Since school is mandatory for six year old students, parents and guardians must enroll their children in school once they reach the age of six (*EC* Section 48200). Depending on a child's birthdate, it is a local decision (with parental input) whether the six year old student will be enrolled in kindergarten or first grade.

6. **What is the curriculum for transitional kindergarten?**
   California law (*EC* 48000) defines transitional kindergarten as "the first year of a two-year kindergarten program that uses a modified kindergarten curriculum that is age and developmentally appropriate." While no state curriculum is mandated, local education agencies must modify the local course of study in order to provide age and developmentally appropriate curriculum for transitional kindergarten.

7. **Will transitional kindergarten have the same statutory class size limits as regular kindergarten (33 maximum/31 average)? What about Class Size Reduction for transitional kindergarten?**
   The same requirements that apply to kindergarten also apply to transitional kindergarten.

8. **Does the transitional kindergarten teacher need a teaching credential?**
   The teacher must be properly credentialed as is currently required of kindergarten teachers

9. **Can a transitional kindergarten teacher "loop" with his/her students to kindergarten?**
   The decision to "loop" a teacher with their students from the transitional kindergarten to the kindergarten year would be a local decision.

10. **Must children attend transitional kindergarten or kindergarten?**
    Since school is mandatory for six year old students, parents and guardians must enroll their children in school once they reach the age of six (*EC* Section 48200). Depending on a child's birthdate, it is a local decision (with parental input) whether the six year old student will be enrolled in kindergarten or first grade.

11. **Can transitional kindergarten and kindergarten students be enrolled in the same classroom?**
    Although the intent of the law is to provide separate and unique experiences for transitional kindergarten and kindergarten students, districts have flexibility to determine how best to meet the curricular needs of each child.

http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gs/em/kinderfaq.asp