

---

# Transitional Kindergarten: Preparing Our Youngest Students to Succeed in Kindergarten

---

Washington School  
Kingsburg Elementary Charter School District  
Mrs. Shirley Esau, Principal and Director of  
Categorical Programs

# Inspiration – the youngest kindergarten students and a pioneering teacher



---

# Kingsburg

- Kingsburg -12,000 people, located between Fresno and Visalia.
- Kingsburg Elementary Charter School District serves all the students in Kingsburg – kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade.
  - Largest Charter District in California
  - ADA – 2500+
  - Demographics: 57% Hispanic, 35% Caucasian, 3% Asian, remaining 5% African American, Native American, and Filipino.
- High student achievement – District API = 816

---

# Kingsburg Elementary Charter School District

- Washington School – preschool & kindergarten: Title 1 Schoolwide
  - Early Intervention preschool ( 30 students)
  - State preschool (90 students)
  - Transitional kindergarten (25 students)
  - Kindergarten (243 students).
- Roosevelt School - first grade
- Lincoln School – second and third grades
- Reagan Elementary – fourth, fifth, & sixth grades
- Rafer Johnson Junior High – seventh & eighth grades
- Central Valley Home School – K-8 grades
- Island Community Day School – 4-8 grades

---

# Kindergarten Readiness Act of 2010: SB 1381

- SB 1381 changes the kindergarten entry date from Dec. 2 to Sept. 1, so children enter kindergarten at age 5.
  - The legislation will phase in the new age requirement by moving the cutoff date one month a year for three years, beginning in 2012.
  - The legislation creates transitional kindergarten, the first year of a two-year kindergarten experience for those students who are born between September and December.
-

---

# Inspiration

Each year there are some parents that are not sure their child is ready for kindergarten, some have had preschool and are still not ready.



---

# Kingsburg's First Steps

- Larry Powell, Superintendent of Schools for Fresno County met with local superintendents in spring of 2010.
- Dr. Mark Ford, Kingsburg Elementary Charter School District, asked if Washington School would be interested in piloting a transitional kindergarten.

---

# What is Transitional kindergarten?

- Transitional kindergarten programs will offer children developmentally appropriate curriculum that is aligned with kindergarten standards. Classes will be taught by credentialed teachers from the K-12 system.
- About 120,000 children in California – including 49,000 English language learners and 74,000 who attend Title I schools – are projected to benefit from this reform.
- Existing funding for children with fall birthdays will be redirected to transitional kindergarten
- Parents will now have an additional option to ensure their children enter kindergarten with the maturity and skills they need to excel.
- Transitional kindergarten is voluntary – a child born after Sept. 1 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 it would be in the best interest of the child.

Source: Preschool California

---

---

# Differences between Traditional and Transitional kindergarten

- Transitional kindergarten is a program blending preschool and kindergarten standards with high expectations based on the preschool foundations making a bridge to success in kindergarten and beyond by having the gift of time.
- Traditional kindergarten is based on kindergarten standards with high expectations of mastery.

---

# Kingsburg's Action Plan – 2009-11

- Preschool Articulation and Transition Plan with all public and private preschools. (2 year project completed 2009-10)
- Pre-K assessment designed and given by preschools ( 2010-11)
- Registration was completed via preschools (2010-11)
  
- Partnership with FCOE, and Packard Foundation (2010-11)
- Funding: Packard Grant, ARRA funds, Title 1(2010-11)
  
- Recruit a current highly qualified KES kindergarten teacher with a child development background and high expectations to start the transitional kindergarten class. (2010-11)

---

## Action Plan 2010-11

- As registrations came in for kindergarten, selected students with Sept.1 - Dec. 2 birthdays.
- 51 students fell in this category. Resources to start one class with 25 students.
- Mailed parents informational about Transitional kindergarten and a registration request.
- Sub-groups in Transitional kindergarten class include: 3 Special Needs students, 6 English Language Learners, and 15 Socio-Economic Disadvantaged students.

## Fall birth date data 2010-11- placement by parent request

Transitional K	Traditional K
Dec. 1	Dec. 1
Nov. 7	Nov. 7
Oct. 6	Oct. 15
Sept. 7	Sept. 7

## Pre-K Assessment given to all entering kindergarten Students

	Average Scores	Transitional	Traditional
Upper Case Letters		41.30%	62.83%
Sounds		28.95%	49.13%
Numbers 1-10		73.68%	90.00%
Shapes		77.63%	86.67%
Colors		85.26%	89.33%

# Dynamic Indicators of Basic Literacy Skills Next Benchmark 1 All Students Sept. 2010

Transitional K (22)	% of students	Traditional K (243)	% of students
	First Sound Fluency		First Sound Fluency
Intensive	55%		21%
Strategic	0%		8%
Core - Benchmark	45%		70%

# Dynamic Indicators of Basic Literacy Skills Next Benchmark 1 Sept. 2010 Fall Birth Dates

Transitional K	% of Students Fall Birth Dates	Traditional K	% of Students Fall Birth Dates
	First Sound Fluency		First Sound Fluency
Intensive	72%		14%
Strategic	0%		7%
Core - Benchmark	28%		79%

---

# Placement Criteria

- Birth date: Priority to Sept-Dec.
- Pre-K Assessment
- DIBLES to confirm placement and provide guide to interventions

Conclusion based on data:

The correct students are in the Transitional kindergarten class. They need the gift of time to master the standards and have a bridge to future success academically, socially, and developmentally.

# Curriculum differences between Traditional and Transitional kindergarten at Washington School, Kingsburg

	Transitional kindergarten	Traditional kindergarten
<b>Curriculum</b>		
<b>English Language Arts</b>	Leveled readers, PALS, Rode to the Code, Stepping Stones to Literacy, dramatic play	Houghton Mifflin Reading California Medallion Edition, PALS, leveled readers
<b>Mathematics</b>	Mountain Math, Touch Math, Activities that Integrate Math and Science (A.I.M.S.), PALS	California HSP Math , PALS
<b>English Language Development</b>	Alpha Chants and Avenues – Hampton Brown, SIOP and SDAIE strategies	Avenues – Hampton Brown SIOP and SDAIE strategies
<b>Social Studies, Science, Music, Art, P.E.</b>	Integrated themes, AIMS, choral music, rhythmic instruments, thematic art,	Integrated Themes,
<b>Parent Engagement</b>	Parent workshops, volunteers, transition meetings, parent conferences	Parent workshops, volunteers, parent conferences
<b>Assessments - ELA</b>	DIBELS, Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills, Pre-K assessment, Children's Progress Academic Assessment, Evan More Assessment Task for ELA	DIBELS, DRA2, District Benchmarks, Common Formative Assessments, Pre-K assessment
<b>Assessments - Math</b>	Math - Evan More Assessment Task for Math, Children's Progress Academic Assessment,	Benchmarks, Common Formative Assessments
<b>English Language Development Assessments</b>	CELDT, ELD portfolio	CELDT, ELD Portfolio

---

# Challenges

- Selecting curriculum, blending preschool foundations and standards with kindergarten standards to make a developmentally appropriate program. Choosing the kindergarten standards that were essential to be mastered in TK.
- Not taking students away from private Pre-K programs in town in this pilot year.
- Communicating clearly to the community how SB 1381 provides for Transitional kindergarten and its benefits for students.

---

# Successes

- Selecting a qualified teacher willing to be a pioneer with high expectations, but mindful of child development pedagogy.
- Parent support, involvement, approval, and advocacy.
- Students achieving socially, physically, cognitively and excited about attending school.
- A growing waiting list of students for entry to program.

---

# Success – The gift of time SB 1381



*“Today’s kindergarten classroom is a much different place than most of us experienced. We’re placing real academic demands on our kids, and the youngest are struggling to keep up. The evidence shows that giving these younger kindergarteners an extra year can make a big difference in their long-term success.”*

- Senator Joe Simitian (D-Palo Alto)

---

# Kingsburg Elementary Charter School District Website

- [www.kingsburg-elem.k12.ca.us](http://www.kingsburg-elem.k12.ca.us)
  - Washington School
- Email: [sesau@kingsburg-elem.k12.ca.us](mailto:sesau@kingsburg-elem.k12.ca.us)
- Phone: (559) 897-2955