

# Transitional Kindergarten (TK) vs Kindergarten

What are the benefits of an all-day Transitional Kindergarten Program (TK) / Kindergarten program? Based upon national research, all-day programs provide the following benefits:

- Increased teacher - student interaction
- Increased time for students to meet state curriculum requirements
- Increased achievement in literacy and language development
- Increased achievement in math
- More relaxed pace for students
- Increased opportunities for parental involvement
- Provided more opportunities for enrichment
- Increased early-intervention opportunities
- Improved transition into the next grade level
- Reduced the need for at-risk programs
- Reduced grade retentions

Will my child be given a screener to help in the decision of TK or Kindergarten? **Yes**, our District offers a screening process to appropriately place students in either TK or Kindergarten program prior to the start of the school year. Parent/Guardians may also request TK placement for their child. Please advise the school staff of this request during Kindergarten Round-Up.

If my child attends an all-day TK Program, will they attend the all-day Kindergarten Program the following year? **Yes**, the goal of the program is to prepare for a successful Kindergarten experience.

What is the best way to prepare my child for all-day TK Program? There are a variety of preschool opportunities in our area such as Great Start Readiness Program, Head Start and Early Childhood Special Education Programs.

What is the difference between TK Program/ Kindergarten Program? Both all-day programs will offer students the "**gift of time**" to develop socially, emotionally, and academically before entering the next grade level. There will be a more relaxed classroom atmosphere, a less-rushed pace, increased socialization and play, and more enrichment opportunities. In addition, an all-day program offers increased time to address individual student needs.

Will my child eat lunch at school? **Yes**, students may either bring a lunch or use the school food service program.

Will my child have specials such as music, STEAM and physical education? **Yes**, students will attend all special classes.

Will there still be center-focused learning? **Yes**, research indicates this is an essential component of early education.

Will my child have recess opportunities? **Yes**, they will have increased time to socialize with their peers in a less-structured setting.

Will my child have rest opportunities? **Yes**, teachers will be sensitive to the student's need for rest in an all-day setting.

What will transportation look like for my child? Transportation to and from school will look the same according to District guidelines. TK through 12th grade students will be bused together on the District buses.

