

# Kindergarten Readiness Act of 2010

Transitional Kindergarten

# Overview of SB 1381

- Signed into law September, 2010
- Changes the kindergarten entry age from five years old by December 2<sup>nd</sup> to five years old by September 1<sup>st</sup>
- New age requirement is phased in over three years beginning in 2012-2013
- For “young fives” (those turning five from September 2 – December 2), the bill creates a Transitional Kindergarten

# New Kindergarten Entry Dates

2012-2013: November 1

2013-2014: October 1

2014-2015 September 1

# Need for the Bill

- California's kindergarten start date is one of the latest in the nation
- Research indicates that beginning kindergarten at a later age improves social and academic development
- Children who are older when they start kindergarten perform better on standardized tests
- Children who are older when they start kindergarten have lower retention rates

# Who is eligible for Transitional Kindergarten?

A child will be eligible for Transitional Kindergarten if they have their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday between:

- November 2 and December 2 for 2012-2013
- October 2 and December 2 for 2013-2014
- September 2 and December 2 for 2014-2015
  
- MDUSD plans call for an early implementation model

# What is Transitional Kindergarten?

- The first year of a two-year kindergarten program
- Designed to provide the youngest students with a readiness year that is developmentally appropriate
- Curriculum will be based upon modified kindergarten content standards and Preschool Learning Foundations

# Transitional vs. Traditional

- NOT a replication of kindergarten
- DOES include more opportunities for social, emotional and language development through:
  - Dramatic play
  - Small group instruction
  - Intentional teaching through hands on activities

# Desired Results. . . .

- Improved preparation for kindergarten and beyond
- Decreased chance of student retention in K and beyond
- Greater academic success, with higher earnings as adults



# How will this affect our system?



# Legal Requirements

- Districts must offer TK and K programs
- TK and K are voluntary for parents
- Teachers must be fully credentialed (same credential as for K teachers)
- Same number of minutes per day/days per year as for K
- Same EL/Special Ed requirements

# District Plans

- Tentative sites have been selected
- Kindergarten/Transitional Kindergarten registration begins February 7, 2012
- Next Steps: Staffing assignments, curriculum development, facilities preparation, materials and equipment decisions, professional development plans

# Current Challenges

- Governor Brown's proposed budget does not fund Transitional Kindergarten
- Trailer bill language indicates districts would not be required to offer TK
- It is unclear whether the legislature will adopt Governor Brown's proposal
- The kindergarten entry date change will remain in effect

# A Fiscal Dilemma

- Not enrolling November birthdays would result in a loss of ADA ~ 185 students x \$5,208 = \$964,480. Teacher savings = \$390,000. Net loss: \$573,295.
- Enrolling but taking ADA only from 5<sup>th</sup> birthday = loss of \$298,105 (no attendance for Sept/Oct)
- It is unclear when the legislature will take action on Governor Brown's proposal.