



California Transitional Kindergarten Stipend Project (CTKS)

The 2014-15 California Budget Act determined that lead teachers placed in Transitional Kindergarten (TK) classrooms after July 1, 2015 must have a minimum of 24 Early Childhood Education (ECE) credits, or a Child Development Teacher Permit, or comparable professional experience. Additionally, after July 1, 2015 all TK classrooms would be required to align their curriculum to the CA Preschool Learning Foundations and Frameworks. While current TK teachers are "grandfathered in," any TK teachers hired after July 1, 2015, will have 5 years to meet the above requirements.

The 2014-15 Budget Education Act allotted \$15 million for Local Planning Councils (LPC) to support these teacher educational requirements. This one-time funding allocation makes it possible for TK teachers to receive reimbursement for educational costs linked to the new educational requirements for TK educators. Local Planning Councils are charged with disbursing funding through a local model that meets the needs of TK teachers across school districts within the county.

The LPC and CCCOE disseminated an online survey to TK administrators and TK teachers earlier in March. Survey results will inform the development of Contra Costa County's Transitional Kindergarten Stipend Project (CTKS). Application and program information will be released to districts the first week of May 2015.

For additional information about new TK curriculum and TK teacher educational requirements visit the California Department of Education Frequently Asked Questions page at:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gs/em/kinderfaq.asp#newtkrequire>

For more information about the new TK Stipend Projects contact Ruth Fernandez, Manager, Educational Services 925-942-3413 or rfernandez@cccoe.k12.ca.us

New TK Teacher Requirements

1. [Do TK teachers need to have a teaching credential?](#)

Yes, in California, TK teachers need to have a teaching credential, just like Kindergarten teachers. Credentials that authorize instruction in TK programs are provided below:

General:

Kindergarten-Primary (grades K-3)

Elementary (grades K-8)

Standard:

Early Childhood (grades preschool-3)

Elementary (grades K-9)

Ryan/SB 2042:

Multiple Subject (grades preschool, K-12 and adults)

Multiple Subject University Intern (grades preschool, K-12 and adults)

Multiple Subject District Intern (grades K-8)

Specialist Instruction Credential in Early Childhood Education

A Multiple Subject General Education Limited Assignment Permit (GELAP), Multiple Subject Short-Term Staff Permit (STSP) or Multiple Subject Provisional Internship Permit (PIP) authorizes the same service as a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential.

2. [What is the impact of Senate Bill 876 \(Statutes 2014, Chapter 687\) – EC 48000\(g\) – on TK Requirements?](#)

SB 876 added additional requirements for TK teachers. Pursuant to EC 48000(g), a school district or charter school shall ensure that credentialed teachers who are first assigned to a TK classroom after July 1, 2015, have, by August 1, 2020, one of the following:


1. At least 24 units in early childhood education, or childhood development, or both.
2. As determined by the LEA employing the teacher, professional experience in a classroom setting with preschool age children that is comparable to the 24 units of education described in bullet 1.
3. A child development teacher permit issued by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC).

Any current credentialed teacher who is or was assigned to teach TK, or a combination class of kindergarten and TK, **on or before** July 1, 2015, is “grandfathered in” to teach TK without having to meet

additional requirements. Any credentialed teacher assigned to teach TK, or a combination class of kindergarten and TK, **after** July 1, 2015, will have until August 1, 2020, to meet the above-mentioned education requirements.

In addition to addressing teacher requirements, *EC 48000(f)* states: “It is the intent of the Legislature that transitional kindergarten curriculum be aligned to the California Preschool Learning Foundations developed by the department.”

3. [What specific courses must teachers take in order to meet the 24-unit requirement? Do the courses need to have Early Childhood Development \(ECD\) prefixes? Also, can the courses be graduate and/or undergraduate units?](#)

Any teacher who is assigned to teach TK on or after July 1, 2015, will have until August 1, 2020, to meet the education requirements stated in *EC 48000(g)* (see requirements in Question 2). The CDE will not create an approved course list for 24 units in early childhood education, or childhood development, or both. As of the date of last review of this CDE Web page, any early childhood education or child development graduate or undergraduate units are appropriate. A candidate must have earned a “C” grade or above in each non-remedial course to be accepted. “Non-remedial” coursework is applicable toward an associate of arts degree or higher at a regionally accredited institution of higher education primarily related to children ages five years or younger. The CDE recommends reviewing the [Child Development Permits leaflet](#)  (PDF) from CTC and contacting the CTC to determine if there are questions.

Local planning councils (LPCs), county offices of education (COE), and the Child Development Training Consortium (CDTC) can be resources regarding what classes are available in your community and online. (See [contact information](#) at the bottom of this Web page.)

4. [Who will monitor a teacher’s progress to ensure the new TK teacher requirements are being met? How should LEAs document and keep records for teachers assigned to teach TK after July 1, 2015? Will CDE have forms employers need to fill out to certify the teachers’ qualifications?](#)

LEAs are responsible for ensuring that TK teachers meet statutory requirements (*EC 44258.3*). The LEA of the credentialed teacher will follow the local process for personnel record keeping and will ensure the new TK teacher requirements are being met. The CDE will not provide forms for LEAs to complete regarding the verification of experience and education.

5. [How can I find out more information about the TK professional development stipends appropriated as Item 6110-196-0001 of the Budget Act of 2014 \(*EC 8278.3*\)?](#)

For further information regarding TK professional development stipends, please contact your Local Planning Council (LPC). (See [contact information](#) at the bottom of the Web page.)