



# OSPI Early Learning Updates

March 2021

# WaKIDS ADVISORY

What anti-bias, culturally responsive practices and strategies would improve family engagement before the start of the kindergarten, during the Family Connection meeting, and throughout the year?

- **Before:** Streamlined registration process in multiple languages, understand community demographics and background, partnering with CBOs
- **During:** Family dynamics, translators available, listen to family voices, teachers are trained with anti-biased family engagement
- **Throughout:** Welcome family participation with their culture and traditions, maintain communication that fits family's style and needs



# ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS

## PRE-K & TK

Washington state law ([28A.225.010](#)) requires children 8 years and older, and 17 and younger, to attend public school, with some exceptions noted. A child's age should be the primary determinant for placement in the 2021-22 school year. Preschool (PreK) and Transitional Kindergarten (TK) programs will have additional eligibility requirements, as will students qualifying for special education.

- **PreK:** Eligibility for enrollment in district-based PreK programs will vary by the source of funds used and may involve an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or coordinated effort with community-based PreK. Due to program requirements, many PreK programs are unable to enroll students who are age-eligible for kindergarten. For a listing of possible PreK funding sources see [Unlocking State and Federal Program Funds to Support Student Success](#). Beginning in 2020-21, all students enrolled in and receiving preschool education/services must be reported to CEDARS. If multiple funding sources are used, a unique record of each must be submitted, including students ages 3-5 with IEPs.
- **Transitional Kindergarten:** Schools may provide for a program of early entrance kindergarten for a child who is not yet age 5 by August 31<sup>st</sup>, with the adoption of regulations that provide for a screening process and/or instrument(s) which measure the ability or the need, or both or an individual student to succeed in earlier entry (WAC 392-335-025). Transitional Kindergarten enrollment must be coordinated in collaboration with, and not adversely impact community-based preschool programs, including Head Start, ECEAP (Early Childhood Education Assistance Program), tribally-led early learning programs and those operating in licensed child care centers and licensed family homes. Districts participate in coordinated outreach, referral and placement to assure best fit and appropriateness of services based on each child and family's need.



# ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS

## K-3rd GRADE

- **Kindergarten:** Except as otherwise noted above, a child must be five years of age as of midnight August 31 of the year of entry to be entitled to enter kindergarten ([WAC 392-335-010](#)). School districts may adopt regulations that provide for a screening process and/or instrument(s) which measure the ability or the need, or both of an individual student to succeed in earlier entry according to the option for exceptions to uniform entry qualification requirements (WAC 392-335-025).
- **1st Grade:** Except as otherwise noted below, a child must be six years of age as of midnight August 31 of the year of entry to enter 1st grade. Having attended kindergarten is not a requirement for first grade. If a child successfully completed a kindergarten program in a public or private school but will not be six years of age as of midnight August 31 of the year of entry, the school may choose to permit entry to the school program, provided that program standards substantially equaled or exceeded applicable basic education program requirements (RCW [28A.150.220](#) and WAC [180-16-220](#)) ([WAC 392-335-020](#)). School districts may adopt regulations that provide for a screening process and/or instrument(s) which measure the ability or the need, or both of an individual student to succeed in earlier entry according to the option for exceptions to uniform entry qualification requirements (WAC 392-335-025).
- **2nd – 3rd Grades:** [RCW 28A.225.010](#) Establishes that children eight years of age and under eighteen years of age shall attend the public school of the district in which the child resides.



# Family Meetings and School Days

- The Washington Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS) is a transition process that includes three components: Family Connection, Whole-child Assessment, and Early Learning Collaboration. Schools administering WaKIDS may use up to three school days for [Family Connection](#) meetings ([RCW 28A.150.220](#)).
- School districts choosing to meet with families at the beginning of the school year in grades other than kindergarten may count these days as school days if they seek a waiver for the purpose of conducting parent-teacher conferences. A district seeking a [waiver solely for the purpose of parent-teacher conference days](#) must have local school board of directors approval and must notify the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). A district seeking a waiver of more than five days must request the waiver through the regular [180-day School Year Waiver process](#).





# Transitional Kindergarten Mini-Grant, continued

## Currently Planned Timeline:

- Applications estimated to open in iGrants 3/22
- Applications due in iGrants 4/22
- Anticipated award notification 4/30

If you are interested in reviewing applications please let Gretchen know: [Gretchen.Stahrbreunig@k12.wa.us](mailto:Gretchen.Stahrbreunig@k12.wa.us)

