

What is Transitional Kindergarten (TK)?

The Transitional Kindergarten (TK) program is for children who are not yet ready for the demands of a kindergarten classroom. Children may not be ready for kindergarten for many reasons, like age, development, social skills, and/or academic skills. Teachers will give students a solid foundation of early literacy and math skills within a language rich environment, while also strengthening social skills. Children will learn to work together with peers, build endurance for challenging activities, and develop a joy for learning. The goal of TK is to bridge the path between current learning experiences and success in kindergarten by teaching kindergarten content at a pace and style that meets students where they are developmentally. Students who finish the TK classroom will then move into a kindergarten classroom resulting in 2 years of kindergarten.

Student placement in TK will be determined by eligibility criteria. Such factors may include a child's age, maturity level, social interaction skills, academic knowledge, previous school experience, etc... For students who qualify, the program is free for all and transportation will be provided for district resident students. This program will last a full school day and follow the same school calendar for days, start times, and end times as all students in the elementary building.

There is a screening process during Kindergarten Round-Up in April for all students. The program is designed for students who will turn 5 between May 1 and December 1. Students who turn 5 before May 1 will also be considered based on screening results. The TK program is limited to 15-18 students. Placement preference will be given to district residents, children of employees and School of Choice siblings students. New School of Choice students will be considered if spots are available.

Parents who were unable to attend Kindergarten Round-Up with their student will need to contact the Elementary Principal, Ms. Anderson, at anderson@whiteford.k12.mi.us or 734-856-1443 Ext.104 to set up a screening time for their child. We will begin contacting parents of students who meet the criteria for Transitional Kindergarten after May 1 to seek interest in enrolling in the Transitional Kindergarten program. Please contact Ms. Anderson if you have any questions about the program.

How is a Transitional Kindergarten classroom different from a regular kindergarten classroom?

Transitional Kindergarten	Kindergarten
2 years of Kindergarten	1 year of Kindergarten
Slower pace for content	Rigorous pace and expectations as set by the state of Michigan
More purposeful play and hands-on activities	Less opportunities for purposeful play and hands-on activities
Will have exposure to kindergarten content standards	Expected to have mastery of kindergarten content standards by end of school year
More class-wide instruction on social and social-emotional skills	Class-wide expectations and routines to address social and social-emotional skills with small group instruction as needed