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Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Chris Reykdal, Superintendent

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(X) Informational

BULLETIN NO. 054-24 ELEMENTARY, EARLY LEARNING, AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS

TO: Educational Service District Superintendents
School District Superintendents
School District Business Managers
School District Teaching and Learning Directors
School District Early Learning Directors
School Building Principals

FROM: Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Chapter 392-425 WAC Transition to Kindergarten (TK) Permanent Rules
and TK Minimum Standards and Requirements

CONTACT: Samantha Bowen, Executive Director of Early Learning
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PURPOSE/BACKGROUND

In alignment with [Second Substitute House Bill 1550](#), passed by the Washington State Legislature in 2023, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) adopted rules and published guidance concerning implementation of Transition to Kindergarten (TK) programs. The rule revisions provide for program administration, allocation of state funding, and minimum standards and requirements for TK programs. In addition, technical changes to apportionment sections have been incorporated.

OSPI filed CR-103P to establish the TK program for the 2024–25 school year. This bulletin is intended to provide information about [Chapter 392-425 WAC](#) and TK Minimum Standards and Requirements for local education agencies (LEAs) implementing a TK program. All guidance and supporting resources are available on the [OSPI TK website](#).

SUMMARY OF THE PERMANENT RULES

The permanent rules are effective July 29, 2024, and establish minimum standards and requirements for LEAs in implementing and administering TK programs for the 2024–25 school year and beyond. The permanent rules are posted on the [OSPI TK website](#), and include:

- **Purpose and Authority**
Authorizes OSPI to establish rules related to TK.
- **Eligible LEAs**
Clarifies the LEAs authorized to implement a TK program.
- **Notification of Intent to Offer a TK Program**
Any LEA intending to implement a TK program must notify OSPI no later than June 1 before the school year begins.
- **Early Learning Coordination**
LEAs must conduct a local needs assessment before beginning or expanding a TK program that considers the existing availability and affordability of local and local tribal early learning providers.
- **Staff Qualifications**
TK teachers must hold a valid teaching certificate; experience in early childhood education is recommended.
- **Student Eligibility**
Clarifies the criteria for TK eligibility and establishes parameters for priority and enrollment policies. TK is a program for children who are at least 4 years old by August 31; and have been determined, through a screening process to need additional preparation to be successful in kindergarten the following year.
- **Minimum Instructional Requirements**
TK programs must be offered during the school year and as an all-day program. LEAs may allow a child to participate in a transition to kindergarten program as a part-time student (partial day).
- **Assessment**
Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS) must be administered at the beginning of the program. Additionally, the WaKIDS whole-child assessment must be administered at least one more time during the school year.
- **Adherence to Guidelines**
LEAs are required to adhere to minimum standards and requirements established by OSPI, related to best practices for site readiness of facilities, developmentally appropriate curricula, and professional development opportunities. TK Minimum Standards and Requirements are available on the [OSPI TK website](#).

INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

For questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Samantha Bowen, Executive Director of Early Learning, at 360-725-6161 or email samantha.bowen@k12.wa.us. The OSPI TTY number is 360-664-3631.

This bulletin is also available on the [Bulletins](#) page of the OSPI website.

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