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Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Chris Reykdal, Superintendent

k12.wa.us

August 4, 2023

() Action Required
(X) Informational

BULLETIN NO. 049-23 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) Emergency Rules

CONTACT: Samantha Bowen, Executive Director of Early Learning
samantha.bowen@k12.wa.us, 360-725-6161

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) filed [CR-103E](#) to establish the Transition to Kindergarten (TK) program for the 2023–24 school year, as directed by [SHB 1550](#), passed by the Washington State Legislature in 2023. OSPI will also conduct permanent rulemaking concerning TK programs. The permanent rules are anticipated to be effective by the 2024–25 school year.

This bulletin is intended to provide information about Chapter 392-425 WAC and guidance for local education agencies (LEAs) implementing a TK program. Additional guiding documents will be posted to the OSPI website.

SUMMARY OF THE EMERGENCY RULES

The emergency rules were effective August 1, 2023, and establish expectations and requirements for LEAs in implementing and administering TK programs for the 2023–24 school year. The emergency rules are posted on the [OSPI 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 during the 2023–24 school year.

- **Notification of Intent to Offer a TK Program**

Any local education agency intending to offer TK during the 2023–24 school year must notify OSPI by completing the [2023–24 TK Assessment Profile](#) located on the OSPI website.

- **Early Learning Coordination**

All LEAs offering a TK program must make a best effort to coordinate with local child care and early learning providers. Resources and guidance for coordinated recruitment and enrollment are located on the OSPI website.

- **Staff Qualifications**

TK teachers must hold a valid teaching certificate; endorsement in early childhood education is strongly 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 31st; and have been determined, through a screening process and tool, to need additional preparation to be successful in kindergarten the following year. Restricts LEAs from charging tuition for enrollment in a TK program.

- **Minimum Instructional Requirements**

TK programs must be offered during the school year and as an all-day program. Families may choose to enroll a student for a partial day.

- **Assessment**

All three components of the Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS) must be administered at the beginning of the program. It is recommended that the WaKIDS Whole-child Assessment be administered one more time prior to the end of the school year.

INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

For questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Samantha Bowen, Executive Director of Early Learning, at samantha.bowen@k12.wa.us or 360-725-6161. 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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Deputy Superintendent

Jon R. Mishra, Ed.D.

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Assistant Superintendent
Elementary, Early Learning, and Federal Programs

Samantha Bowen
Executive Director
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