

Developments in Childcare and Other Early Learning Programs: Transition to Kindergarten and Developmental Preschool

Senate Ways and Means Committee

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Transition to Kindergarten

TK Program Overview

Transition to Kindergarten (TK) is a legislatively established and authorized program for children who are at least 4-years-old by August 31 and have been identified through a screening process to be in need of additional preparation to be successful kindergarten students in the following school year. (*Established through HB 1550, 2023*)

OSPI's Role:

- **Adopt rules** for the administration of, the allocation of state funding, and minimum standards and requirements for the program.
- **Develop a process** for conducting site visits of any school district, charter school, or state-tribal education compact school operating a transition to kindergarten program and provide feedback.
- In collaboration with the department of children, youth, and families (DCYF), **develop statewide coordinated eligibility, recruitment, enrollment, and selection best practices** and provide technical assistance to those implementing a transition to kindergarten program to support connections with local early learning providers.

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RCW 28A.225.160

- Schools shall be open to the admission of all persons who are five years of age and less than 21 years residing in that school district.
- Except as otherwise provided by law or rules adopted by OSPI, ***“districts may establish uniform entry qualifications, including but not limited to birthdate requirements, for admission to kindergarten and first grade programs of the common schools. Such rules may provide for individualized exceptions based upon the ability, or the need, or both, of an individual student.”***

TK Enrollment

- Prior to 2023-24 TK students were counted as part of Kindergarten enrollment.
- Data prior to those years is an estimate based on taking headcount enrollment data for our student information system and calculating a proxy for student FTE.

| School Year | AAFTE |
|-------------|-------|
| 2019-20 | 418 |
| 2020-21 | 510 |
| 2021-22 | 2,062 |
| 2022-23 | 3,955 |
| 2023-24 | 5,217 |
| 2024-25 | 6,814 |

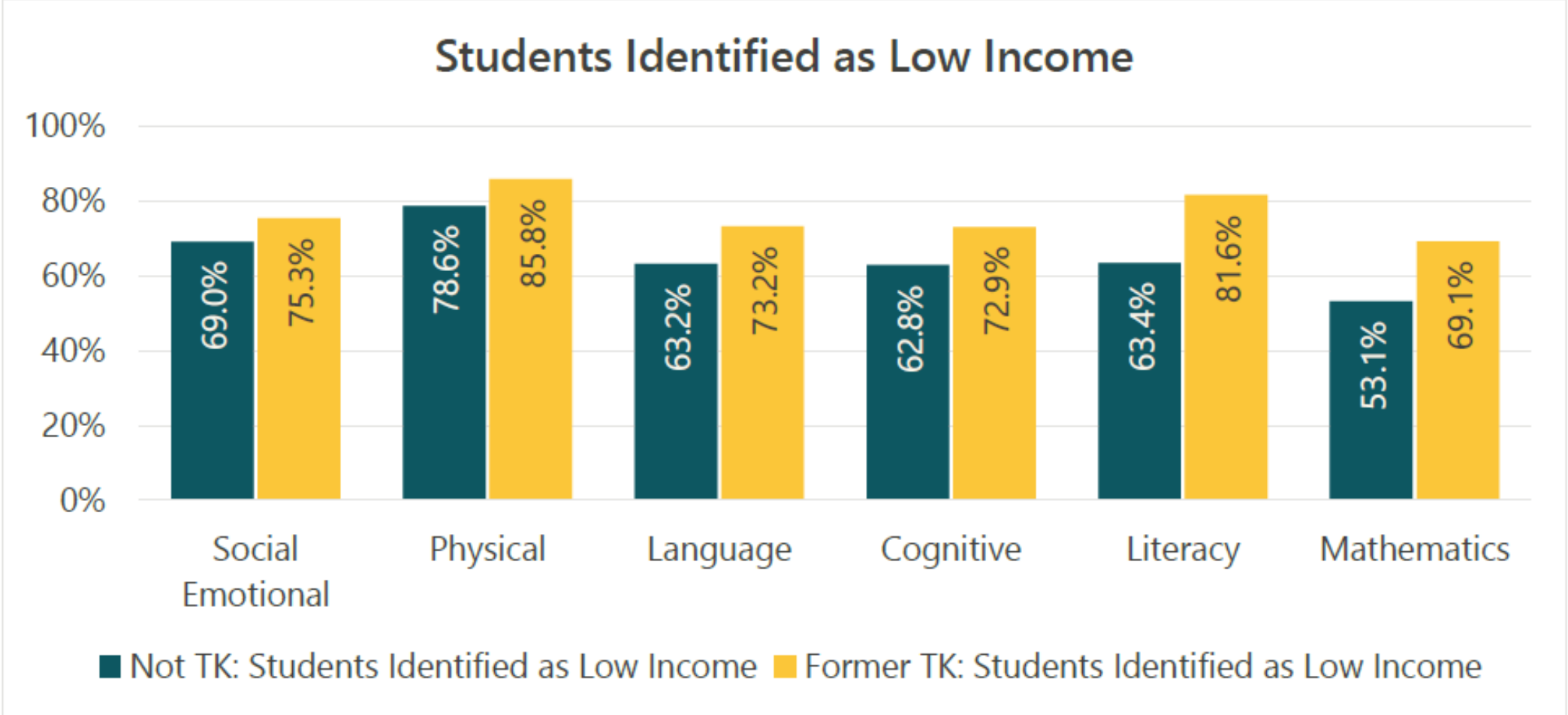
TK Funding

- Funded through the prototypical school funding formula based on student caseload
- TK is not considered basic education.
- Funds allocated for TK must be spent on TK.
- Revenues are coded to program 09 – Transition to Kindergarten.
- Expenditures are coded to program 09 and sub fund 01 – enrichment.
- Funded with Federal COVID relief funds by direction of the legislature for most of the 2023-24 school year.
- Current state funding levels in the FY25 budget assume a student caseload that is less than actual, leaving a funding deficit.

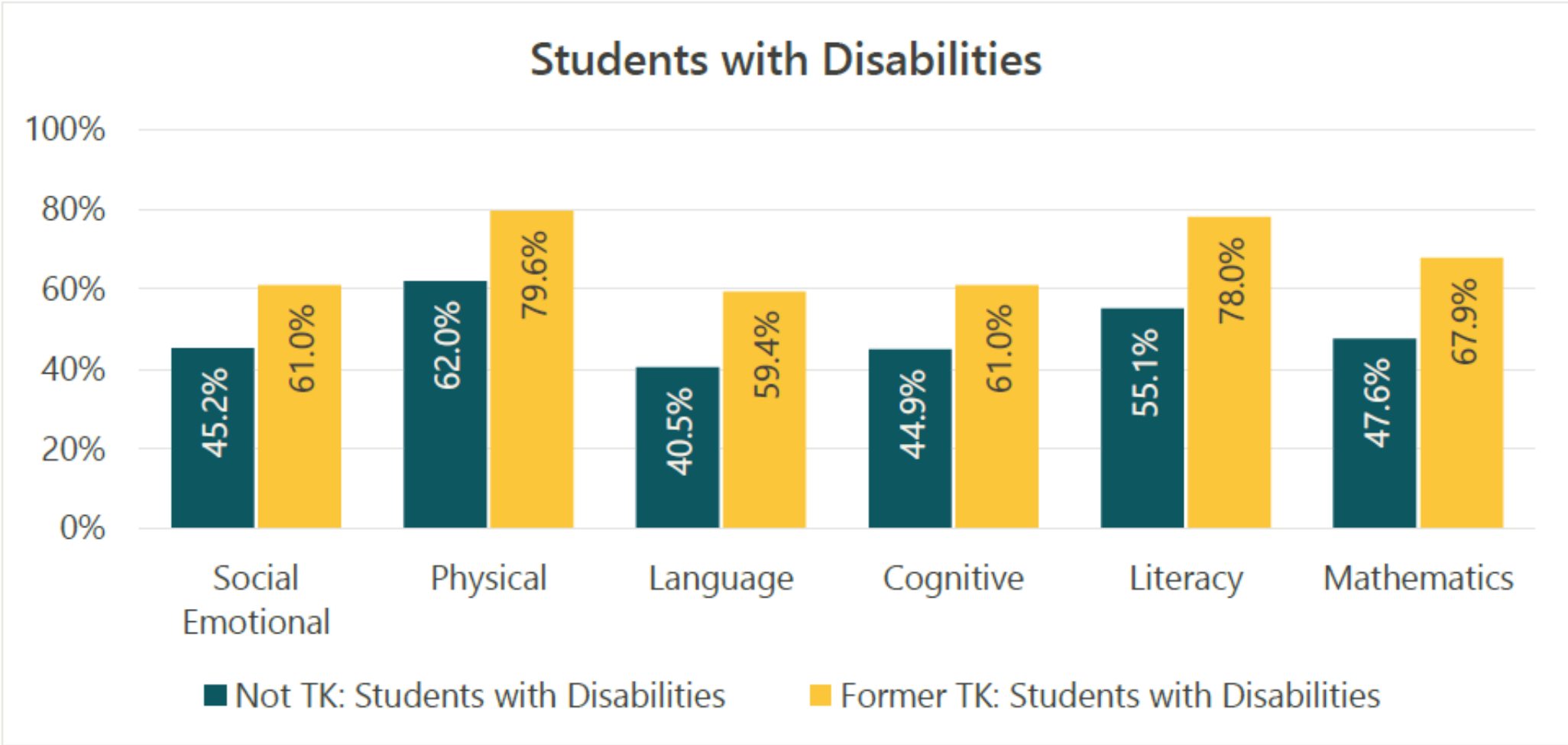
| School Year | AAFTE | State Appropriation |
|-------------|-------|---|
| 2019-20 | 418 | FY 20 \$3,836,000 |
| 2020-21 | 510 | FY 21 \$4,793,000 |
| 2021-22 | 2,062 | FY 22 \$19,394,000 |
| 2022-23 | 3,955 | FY 23 \$39,938,000 |
| 2023-24 | 5,217 | FY 24 \$6,870,000 Federal \$41,848,000 |
| 2024-25 | 6,814 | FY 25 \$69,959,000 |

Note: FY 20 through FY 23 are estimated.

TK Outcomes



TK Outcomes



Recent Changes

- 2SHB 1550 (2023): *Relating to assisting eligible children in need of additional preparation to be successful in kindergarten by replacing transitional kindergarten with a legislatively established and authorized transition to kindergarten program*
- Transition to Kindergarten: Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Chapter 392-425 (Updated June 2024)
- Transition to Kindergarten: Minimum Standards and Requirements (Published 2024)



Developmental Preschool (Pre-K)

Developmental Pre-K Overview

Developmental Pre-K is not a program

School districts are required to offer a continuum of alternative placement options for students with disabilities, ages 3–22, including for preschool [see WAC [392-172A-02055](#)].

This requirement exists regardless of child program or placement.

In 2024:

- 33% of 3-5yos with disabilities were enrolled and served in a regular early childhood program;
- 41% were in a developmental preschool program (some sort of special education classroom);
- 0% were served in the home;
- 3.5% were enrolled in a regular early childhood program but served somewhere else; and
- 1.8% were served in service provider location.

Developmental Pre-K Overview

OSPI's role:

As the state educational agency (SEA), OSPI is responsible for the implementation of federal and state special education requirements for children with disabilities between the ages of 3–22.

This includes children with disabilities between the ages of 3–5 enrolled in preschool and receiving special education services.

— **Federal:** [42 U.S.C. 1400](#) (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)

— **State:** [RCW 28A.155.090](#), [WAC 392-172A-01080](#)

Statewide Developmental Preschool Data, Disaggregated by Race/Ethnicity

| Children Ages 3-5 Enrolled in Developmental Preschool | American Indian/Alaskan Native | Asian | Black/African American | Hispanic/Latino of any race(s) | Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander | Two or More Races | White | Statewide Total for Developmental Preschool | Statewide Total for All Preschool Special Education |
|---|--------------------------------|-------|------------------------|--------------------------------|--|-------------------|-------|---|---|
| 2023-24 | 34 | 489 | 385 | 1,502 | 65 | 481 | 2,133 | 5,089 | 12,426 |
| 2022-23 | 21 | 419 | 331 | 1,280 | 45 | 468 | 2,120 | 4,684 | 10,822 |
| 2021-22 | 37 | 442 | 309 | 1,217 | 38 | 424 | 2,259 | 4,726 | 9,656 |
| 2020-21 | 38 | 431 | 315 | 1,521 | 47 | 517 | 2,561 | 5,430 | 10,150 |

Source: OSPI. [Federal Least Restrictive Environment \(LRE\) and Child Count Data Collection Summaries.](#)

Federal Special Education Funding Formula

Federal IDEA Part B funds include:

- Section 611 for eligible students aged 3–22.
- Section 619 for eligible students aged 3–5.



IDEA Part B Sections 611 & 619 allocations to LEAs are based on three distribution factors:

- A BASE amount is allocated based on 75% of FY1999's federal grant (IDEA requirement);
- 85% of remaining funds are allocated based on relative POPULATION of children aged 3–21.
- 15% of remaining funds are allocated based on POVERTY in which the previous year's October Free and Reduced School Lunch rates are used.

State Special Education Pre-K Funding

State Special Education Funds

Funding is calculated by taking the annual average headcount of students ages 3–5 who have not enrolled in kindergarten who are eligible for and receiving special education, multiplied by the district's BEA, multiplied by 1.2.

Example:

Your district has 10 students, ages 3–5 not enrolled in kindergarten, and eligible for special education services.

A district's Basic Education Allocation is **\$5,022.90**
Your district receives **\$60,274.80**

$$10 \text{ students} * \$5,022.90 * 1.2 = \$60,274.80$$

| School Year | State Special Education Funding |
|-------------|---------------------------------|
| 2020-21 | \$124,801,000 |
| 2021-22 | \$125,023,000 |
| 2022-23 | \$149,628,000 |
| 2023-24 | \$177,296,000 |
| 2024-25 | \$177,857,000 |

Funds represent the state special education allocation for students ages 3-5 not in kindergarten, as allocated through the special education multiplier.

Recent Changes

- Chapter 392-172A WAC, Rules for the Provision of Special Education Services, was last updated in 2021.
- Revisions included updated language for preschool special education services, including Least Restrictive Environment.



Questions & How to Reach Us:

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Federal Special Education Funding Example: 611 Funds (3-22 year olds)

Sample district: Total enrollment – 2,500 3-22 year olds. Serving 460 students in K-12 special education.

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| OSPI Total Award | \$275,000,000 |
| Administrative Set Aside (2%) | \$5,500,000 |
| State Set Aside (11%) | \$30,250,000 |
| Remaining Balance to Districts | \$239,250,000 |
| Total State Enrollment (3-22 year olds) | 1,100,000 |
| Total State Poverty Enrollment | 75,000 |
| Sample District Enrollment | 2,500 |
| Sample District Poverty Enrollment | 825 |
| Apply the Formula Grant = Base allocation (\$115,000) plus calculation for total enrollment (\$377,000) and poverty enrollment (\$66,500) | \$558,500 |

Federal Special Education Funding Example: 619 Funds (3-5 year olds not in kindergarten)

Sample district: Total enrollment – 55 3-5 year olds not in kindergarten. Serving 35 in Pre-K special education.

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| OSPI Total Award | \$9,100,000 |
| Administrative Set Aside (2%) | \$182,000 |
| State Set Aside (11%) | \$1,000,100 |
| Remaining Balance to Districts | \$7,917,900 |
| Total State Enrollment (3-5 year olds not in kindergarten) | 24,500 |
| Total State Poverty Enrollment | 2,700 |
| Sample District Enrollment (3-5 year olds not in kindergarten) | 55 |
| Sample District Poverty Enrollment | 11 |
| Apply the Formula Grant = Base allocation (\$3,250) plus calculation for total enrollment (\$5,750) and poverty enrollment (\$1,000) | \$10,000 |