

# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

## *Transitional Kindergarten*



- “Early admittance” TK classroom: 20 students; 1:10 adult-to-student ratio under [Education Code](#)

All TK classrooms must maintain ratios by having an Elementary Teacher and an Early Childhood Education (ECE) Teacher.

### **Early Childhood Education Teachers**

An ECE Teacher is defined in the [job description](#) as someone who holds a Child Development Permit and works in a TK classroom. ECE Teachers are different from aides, PIFs, and Preschool Teachers.

### **2 TYPES OF TK CLASSROOMS**

Starting in 2023-24, SDUSD has two types of TK classrooms:

1. “Standard” classroom, which enrolls students who have their fifth birthday between:
  - a. Sept. 2 and April 2 for 2023-24
  - b. Sept. 2 and June 2 for 2024-25
2. “Early enrollment” classroom, which enrolls students who have fourth birthday between June 3 and Sept. 1 (inclusive)

If a classroom has just one early enrollment student, it must meet the early enrollment classroom requirements.

### **CLASS SIZE & RATIO**

- “Standard” TK classroom: 24 students under the [union contract](#); 1:12 adult-to-student ratio under [Education Code](#)

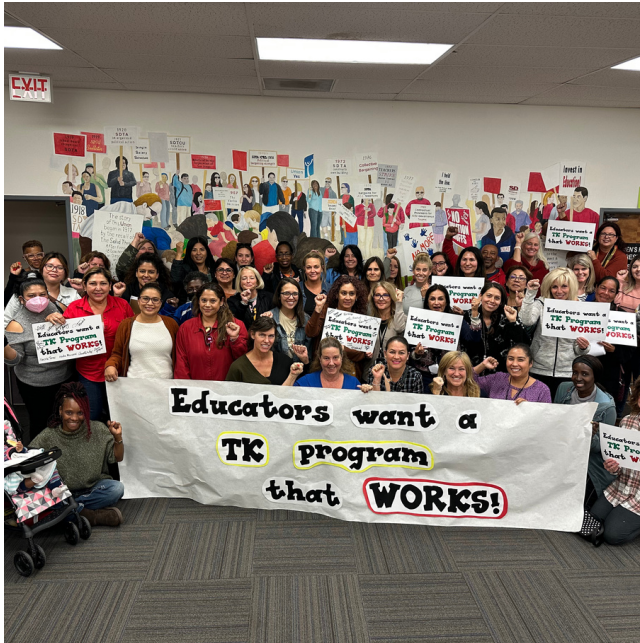
### **PREPARATION TIME**

All TK-3 teachers are entitled to the same amount of preparation time. TK teachers have the right to take their prep time together.

If a TK teacher is required to supervise students during their prep time, that’s a violation of the union contract and can and should be grieved. Good solutions to the grievance might include any of the following: “don’t do it again,” make-up prep time for both TK teachers, pay for the teacher who lost prep time, or other ideas you come up with. Talk to your co-teacher and site union rep about a grievance.

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### QUALIFICATIONS FOR ELEMENTARY TEACHERS TO TEACH TK

California Education Code sets qualifications to teach TK. It says that, by August 1, 2025, a credentialed teacher (not ECE Teachers, who are permitted) must meet one of these 3 criteria:

1. Have at least 24 units in early childhood education, child development, or both, or
2. Have professional experience in a classroom setting with preschool age children that is comparable to 24 units, or
3. Have a child development permit or early childhood education specialist credential.

No SDEA member can be required to become qualified to teach TK.

### SDUSD delays, ignores bargaining on “comparable experience”

Regarding #2, SDEA members have the right to bargain over what experience is comparable to 24 units instead of SDUSD deciding themselves. SDEA members have been bargaining over this since April 2023, but SDUSD has been delaying. SDEA’s last proposal was made on October 19, 2023, but SDUSD has ignored it. No teacher can qualify to teach TK under #2 unless and until SDUSD reaches an agreement with SDEA members.

### TRAINING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In the Memorandum of Understanding on TK, SDUSD “acknowledges that a healthy and effective team teaching relationship requires training.” That’s why the MOU says SDUSD has to provide training on team teaching.

Within 5 workdays of being newly assigned to TK, SDUSD has to provide 8-12 hours of mandatory training to the new teacher and their co-teacher. This training can take place only during work hours. The topics of the training must include: team teaching and legal requirements of the TK classroom. For recorded training, a live Q&A must be provided.

SOURCES: [SDEA Contract](#), Sections 8.6.4, 13.2.1; [Memorandum of Understanding on Commingled TK, November 9, 2021](#); [Education Code sections 48000\(c\), \(g\) and 48000.15](#)