



## SB 1075 (Gonzalez) Expanding Transitional Kindergarten Access

### SUMMARY

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Senate Bill SB1075 would increase access to early childhood education by permitting school districts and charter schools to expand enrollment in Transitional Kindergarten programs to include children who turn 5 in July and August of the upcoming school year.

### EXISTING LAW

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In 2010, California began raising the age cut-off for children's admission to kindergarten. To provide necessary child care and education for those children who were no longer kindergarten-eligible, the state conjointly created a Transitional Kindergarten (TK) program for younger students.

Starting in the 2015-16 school year, districts and charter schools were given the authority to enroll children in TK programs if the child turns 5 after December 2<sup>nd</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>, the end of the school year. However, children in a TK program who turn 5 after December 2<sup>nd</sup> are not counted for the average daily attendance until they turn five years old.

### BACKGROUND/PROBLEM

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#### *Importance of Early Education*

Access to early education improves both high school and college graduation rates<sup>i</sup>, and investments of one dollar in early education in California can result in \$2-4 of benefits<sup>ii</sup>.

#### *Status of Early Education in California*

Despite the importance of early education, access to early education programs is limited. Only half of

California low-income preschool-aged children are served in State Preschool or Head Start, and only one-quarter of all children are eligible for the current transitional kindergarten program<sup>iii</sup>.

Under existing law, children who turn 5 in July or August of the upcoming school year are not allowed to enroll in TK, which could represent approximately one sixth of the nearly half a million 4 year olds<sup>iv</sup> in California.

### SOLUTION

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SB 1075 will amend state law to permit TK programs to enroll students who will turn 5 in July and August prior to the upcoming school year. This amendment will expand student access to early education. Because admitting these students will be at the discretion of school districts, and because school districts themselves fund TK students who turn 5 in July and August, this amendment will not place undue burden on school districts or affect the general fund.

### SUPPORT

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LAUSD (sponsor)

### CONTACT

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Brynn Cook (916) 651-4033  
brynn.cook@sen.ca.gov

<sup>i</sup> McCoy et al 2017. doi: 10.3102/0013189X17737739

<sup>ii</sup> [https://www.rand.org/pubs/research\\_briefs/RB9118.html](https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/RB9118.html)

<sup>iii</sup> AB47 2017 Analysis ID: 273921

<sup>iv</sup> <https://www.ppic.org/publication/public-preschools-in-california/>