

## New California Law Changes Kindergarten Start Date

A new California law, the Kindergarten Readiness Act of 2010, has gone into effect and it changes the age for starting kindergarten. While changing the law may seem small, it can mean a big difference during those early years when children are rapidly growing and developing. In 2012, children will need to be 5 on or before November 1, 2012 to be eligible to enroll in kindergarten. The law phases in the new age requirement by moving the cutoff date up one month per year for three years, beginning in the fall of 2012.

To enroll in kindergarten, students must be 5 years old on or by:

- November 1, 2012 for the 2012–2013 school year
- October 1, 2013 for the 2013–2014 school year
- September 1, 2014 for the 2014–2015 school year

For the 2012–2013 school year, parents of students turning 5 between November 2 and December 2, 2012 will be able to register their children for a **Transitional Kindergarten**. This program will be the first year of a two-year kindergarten experience. After completing Transitional Kindergarten children will attend a traditional kindergarten in their home schools. The program is free and open to all children who are age-appropriate.

The Evergreen School District **Transitional Kindergarten** will be taught by credentialed teachers and is intended to give young learners a head start and provide them the opportunity to learn and grow in an environment that is tailored to meet their needs. The curriculum will provide lessons and experiences that will build social, emotional, and leadership qualities for the “young 5s” and give them the academic skills needed to be successful when they enter kindergarten and for years beyond. It is a wonderful gift of time to mature and gain confidence.

**A Transitional Kindergarten Parent Information Night will be held on February 15, 2012 at Montgomery School at 6:30 P.M. Parents having children who turn five years old between November 2 and December 2, 2012 are encouraged to attend this meeting to learn more about the program.**

Registration information will be available at all elementary school sites in February.

Please check the Evergreen School District website for periodic updates and information regarding Transitional Kindergarten at <http://evergreen.ccsct.com/>.