

## **AB 22: Universal Transitional Kindergarten Toolkit #UniversalTK4All**

### **AB 22 Background:**

AB 22 will extend universal access to full-day transitional kindergarten (TK) programs to all 4-year-olds statewide at no cost to families. By ensuring that each child in California has access to a year of high-quality Pre-K, this bill sets students up for success in kindergarten and beyond. Specifically, AB 22:

- Builds upon the state's landmark TK program to phase in full-day, universal pre-kindergarten by providing a year of TK for all 4-year-olds.
- Implements TK quality improvements to address the social-emotional and early academic development of California's youngest learners.
- Lowers staff to student ratios to enable educators to meaningfully interact with each child.
- Creates a standard curriculum that bridges the gap between preschool and kindergarten.
- Adds capacity to serve more 3-year-olds in the California State Preschool Program (CSPP) and Head Start, as well as infants and toddlers thanks to companion legislation (SB 50).
- Maintains the parent's ability to choose whether their 4-year-old remains in CSPP or Head Start, or enrolls in TK.

This bill gives families an additional option to ensure their children enter kindergarten with the maturity, confidence, and skills they need to excel.

This legislation is part of a [2021 early childhood education \(ECE\) Legislative package](#), which aligns with recommendations in the Governor's [Master Plan for Early Learning and Care](#) and the Governor's [January Budget Proposal](#).

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### **Sponsors:**

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## How can our partners and allies help?

1. **Tell your legislator to help families by supporting AB 22 to expand Universal Transitional Kindergarten to all 4-year-olds.** Find your legislator here: [http://www.legislature.ca.gov/your\\_legislator.html](http://www.legislature.ca.gov/your_legislator.html)
2. **Thank Assemblymember Kevin McCarty for authoring this critically important legislation on Facebook and Twitter (@AsmKevinMcCarty):**
  - a. Thank you, @AsmKevinMcCarty for authoring #AB22 to extend universal access to full-day transitional kindergarten (TK) programs to all 4-year-olds statewide at no cost to families! #UniversalTK4All
  - b. .@AsmKevinMcCarty understands the need for access to high-quality child care and education! That's why he joined early child care advocates **[Insert Sponsor Social Media Handles]** to create #AB22 to set families up for success in kindergarten and beyond. #UniversalTK4All



3. **Encourage others to support on Facebook and Twitter with the hashtag #UniversalTK4All:**

Please join me in supporting #UniversalTK4All legislation #AB22 by @AsmKevinMcCarty to help ensure that each child in #California has access to high-quality Pre-K!

Please join me in supporting #AB22 by @AsmKevinMcCarty to give parents an additional option to ensure their children enter kindergarten with the confidence and skills they need to excel! #UniversalTK4All

#AB22 will expand access to Universal Transitional Kindergarten to all 4-year-olds, setting students up for success in kindergarten and beyond. YES on AB 22! #CALeg #UniversalTK4All

#AB22 gives parents the choice of a quality Early Learning experience to help set their children on a path to thrive in school and life. YES on AB 22! #CALeg #UniversalTK4All

YES on #AB22 to give parents access to high-quality #EarlyLearning that helps ensure their children enter kindergarten with the maturity, confidence, and skills they need to excel! #CALeg #UniversalTK4All

Many parents lack access to high-quality Pre-K programs, and too many #California children enter kindergarten unprepared for school and never catch up. YES on #AB22 to expand access to high-quality child care and education! #CALeg #UniversalTK4All

Research shows access to high-quality #EarlyLearning opportunities improves children's social-emotional development, school readiness, and long-term academic achievement. That's why I support #AB22 to expand Universal Transitional Kindergarten to all 4-year-olds. #UniversalTK4All



[Download all social media graphics here.](#)

#### 4. Highlight Key Talking Points:

- AB 22 gives parents an additional option to ensure their children enter kindergarten with the maturity, confidence, and skills they need to excel.
- Quality Early Learning experiences during the earliest years help set children on a path to thrive in school and life while supporting working parents.
- The need for quality child care has been driven home for all of us by this pandemic. Unfortunately, some of our most vulnerable children have been left behind because parents simply don't have access to the child care they need – and this legislation aims to fix that, during times of crisis and beyond.

- AB 22 (McCarty) will help California achieve universal access to a high-quality, full-day pre-kindergarten experience for all four-year-olds statewide at no cost to families. It will also protect, strengthen, and improve our system of care for our younger children and their families, as well as for providers.
- Too many parents lack access to affordable childcare and high-quality Early Learning programs, and too many California children enter kindergarten unprepared for school and never catch up.