



Kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten Policy

The Cottonwood School is committed to providing educational instruction to all students. The Executive Director or designee shall ensure that the Charter School provides a non-discriminatory and equal enrollment process for students of Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten age, in compliance with current state requirements.

The purpose of The Cottonwood School Governing Board approving this Kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten Policy is to accomplish the following:

1. Establish the Enrollment in Kindergarten
 2. Establish the Enrollment for Transitional Kindergarten Eligible Students
 3. Establish Enrollment in Transitional Kindergarten
 4. Outline Adherence to All Non-Discrimination Laws
1. **Enrollment in Kindergarten:** Pursuant to EC 48000(a), a child is eligible for kindergarten if the child will have their fifth birthday by September 1.
 2. **Enrollment in Kindergarten for Transitional Kindergarten Eligible Students:** Pursuant to EC 48000(b), A child having attained the age of five years at any time during the school year with the approval of the parent or guardian, may be admitted to kindergarten subject to the following conditions:
 - The governing board determines that the admittance is in the best interests of the child. Determination will be based on standard criteria set by school administration and is based on standardized guidelines for academic and developmental readiness for kindergarten. Staff determination of grade level placement will be made based on multiple measures including grade level appropriate formal assessments and student observations.
 - The parent or guardian is given information regarding the advantages and disadvantages and any other explanatory information about the effect of this early admittance.
 3. **Enrollment in Transitional Kindergarten:** Pursuant to EC 48000(c)(3)(B)(i), Transitional Kindergarten is the first year of a two-year kindergarten program that uses a modified kindergarten curriculum that is age and developmentally appropriate.

For the 2020-21 school year only, students that are siblings of currently enrolled students must be five years old between September 2nd and February 28 to qualify for transitional kindergarten, subject to the conditions identified below. For the 2020-21 school year, all other

students must be five years old between September 2nd and December 2nd to qualify for transitional kindergarten, subject to the conditions identified below. For the 2021-22 school year and beyond, all students must be five years old between September 2nd and December 2nd to qualify for transitional kindergarten, subject to the following conditions:

- The governing board determines that the admittance is in the best interests of the child. Determination will be based on standard criteria set by school administration and is based on standardized guidelines for academic and developmental readiness for transitional kindergarten. Staff determination of grade level placement will be made based on multiple measures including grade level appropriate formal assessments and student observations.
- The parent or guardian is given information regarding the advantages and disadvantages and any other explanatory information about the effect of this early admittance.

4. Adherence to All Non-Discrimination Laws: This policy adheres to all non-discrimination laws and is subject to the same enrollment processes as all otherwise qualified students. Enrollment into the charter school will be consistent with all other enrollment guidelines. In the event that a parent or guardian disagrees with the enrollment or grade level placement recommendations of staff, they may appeal the decision in accordance with the school's complaint procedures.