

## **Universal Transitional Kindergarten (UTK) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

### **Q: What is UTK?**

A: Universal Transitional Kindergarten, or UTK, is an expansion of the age-eligibility for the previous TK age window. It is the new grade level preceding Kindergarten.

### **Q: Who can attend UTK?**

A: UTK will be available to children turning 4 by September 1.

### **Q: When is UTK pre-enrollment?**

A: Pre-enrollment will take place between May 2 and May 20, 2022.

### **Q: Can I pre-enroll online?**

A: Yes, there will be an online pre-enrollment tool available beginning May 2, 2022.

### **Q: Can I pre-enroll in person?**

A: Yes, if you need support with the pre-enrollment process, you may visit your neighborhood school or the NSEO office for support.

### **Q: Why is it called “pre-enrollment”?**

A: Seats in UTK will be limited at each site. Pre-enrollment ensures that your child’s information is in the system, and if there is insufficient space at your neighborhood school, the district will work to offer your child enrollment at the nearest school with space available.

### **Q: What will I need to provide for pre-enrollment for UTK?**

A: You will need to provide a birth certificate and verification of residency, such as a current mortgage statement, lease or rental agreement, utility statement, or military housing order with the parent’s name and address printed on it.

### **Q: What are the class sizes for UTK?**

A: UTK classes are capped at 24. The adult to student ratio is 1:12.

### **Q: Is there a prioritization of the UTK pre-enrollees?**

A: Yes, pre-enrollees will be prioritized first by residency, and next by date of birth.

### **Q: Is my child guaranteed enrollment in our school of residence?**

A: Enrollment in the school of residence is not guaranteed. Most elementary schools will open the 2022-23 school year with one UTK classroom capped at 24. Some schools will have 2 classrooms, and one school will have 3.

### **Q: What if my child doesn’t get a seat at my neighborhood school?**

A: If a pre-enrollee is on the overflow list for a school, the District will identify a seat at the nearest school site with space available.

### **Q: Can I apply for Choice into a school for UTK?**

A: While parents may apply for Choice into UTK, because priority is applied to residents first, we anticipate that Choice seats will be limited. However, if the school does not enroll to capacity (24 per classroom), then extra seats may be offered to Choice pupils.

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### **Q: I do not live within the boundaries of SDUSD. Can I pre-enroll my child into UTK?**

A: Because priority must be offered to residents first, out-of-district families will not be pre-enrolled into UTK for this baseline year. If after the school year commences, there are excess seats available, they may be offered to out-of-district pupils via Choice and the Interdistrict Attendance Permit process.

### **Q: I am an employee of SDUSD. Will my child receive any priority into UTK?**

A: If after all residents are pre-enrolled, there are excess seats available, they may be offered to children of site employees who reside in the boundaries of SDUSD, in birthdate order.

### **Q: I am an employee of SDUSD, but I do not live in the district boundaries. Can my child be pre-enrolled in UTK?**

A: If after all residents are pre-enrolled, and all overflow residents have been accommodated in a school, there are still excess seats available, they may be offered to children of site employees who reside outside of the boundaries of SDUSD, in birthdate order.

### **Q: I am an employee of SDUSD, but I do not work at a site that is offering UTK. Can my child be enrolled in UTK?**

A: If you reside in the boundaries of SDUSD, you may pre-enroll your child in your neighborhood school. If you do not reside in the boundaries of SDUSD, you may submit a Choice application for your child for UTK, and if after all residents have been offered enrollment, there are seats available, your child may be offered enrollment. You will also be required to submit an approved Interdistrict Attendance Permit from your district of residence.

### **Q: Can I enroll my 5 year old in UTK if I feel that it is in his/her best interest?**

A: Five year olds are age-eligible to enroll in Kindergarten and therefore will not be offered enrollment in UTK. If parents feel that their child would benefit from it, they may request a Kindergarten Continuance, which means that their child will have 2 years of Kindergarten.

### **Q: I already have a child/children enrolled in my school of residence. Why can't you guarantee that their younger sibling will be enrolled in UTK?**

A: If your school of residence does not have sufficient space to accommodate your younger child in UTK, the District will make every effort to offer a seat in the next closest school with space available. We recognize that having children at multiple schools is challenging for parents, as currently, many families have children attending multiple schools ranging from preschool, elementary, middle school, and finally - high school.

### **Q: Will UTK be combined with Kindergarten at any schools?**

A: The legislation guiding the implementation of UTK prohibits the creation of "combo classes" such as a UTK/K class.

### **Q: My child is enrolled in an Early Learning program at a school that is not my school of residence. Do I still have to pre-enroll into UTK? Will my child automatically be enrolled in the current school?**

A: You must pre-enroll your child at your school of residence. If you are hoping to enroll in your current school that is not your school of residence, you should **still** pre-enroll at the school of residence, and also apply for Choice for your preferred school. There is never an automatic articulation to the next grade level if the child has not been accepted via Choice. Enrollment in the Early Learning program is not via Choice.

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### **Q: My child has an IEP. Do I need to pre-enroll in UTK?**

A: Yes, all pupils must be pre-enrolled in the school of residence, including those with IEPs.

### **Q: My child is age appropriate for UTK and has an IEP that requires a separate setting. What are my options for UTK?**

A: Parents of children with IEPs that require a separate setting should also apply for UTK in the school of residence as the first step. There will be 3 options for families of UTK-aged pupils requiring a separate setting:

1. Request to remain in the ECSE Separate Setting program.
2. Pre-enrollment in school of residence and placement in moderate-severe separate setting classroom assigned to the cluster.
3. Request placement in full-day pilot programs for UTK-aged pupils requiring a separate setting, available at select school sites (Rowan, Sherman, Chollas-Mead, Ericson, and Hawthorne).

### **Q: My child's IEP assessment is being conducted at our school of residence. Do I still need to pre-enroll in UTK?**

A: Yes, the assessment process is separate from enrollment, and does not guarantee your child will be offered enrollment in the school. Please pre-enroll your child in your school of residence.

### **Q: I don't think my child is ready for a full day of school. Are there other options for 4 year olds besides UTK?**

A: Yes, our Early Learning Part-Day programs will continue to be available at 17 school sites around the district. Children born between 12/2/2017 and 12/1/2018 are age-eligible for 4-Year-Old Early Learning. These are 3-hour programs available in the AM and PM. There is also a 6-hour full-day preschool program located at Central Elementary. The application process will commence in June 2022. It is an income-eligibility-based program.

### **Q: Will there be transportation offered for UTK?**

A: Transportation in SDUSD is limited. Pupils enrolled in a dedicated Magnet school may be offered transportation, as well as those with IEPs that identify transportation as a related service. Transportation is not offered to a school of Choice. Overflow pupils offered enrollment in a non-resident school will not be offered transportation.

### **Q: Are UTK children eligible for PrimeTime?**

A: Yes, UTKs may enroll in PrimeTime. Please visit the Extended Learning Office's PrimeTime page for more information, available at this link: <https://sites.google.com/sandi.net/2021-22-primetime-program/home>.

### **Q: Do UTKs have to be potty-trained?**

A: We strongly urge parents to ensure that their child is potty-trained before enrolling in UTK. A student study team may be convened to develop a plan to support a child who is not fully potty-trained, and parents will be included in the development and implementation of the plan.

### **Q: Will my UTK-aged child automatically move into Kindergarten at the same school?**

A: If your UTK-aged child is enrolled in the school of residence, he/she will automatically be enrolled the following year into Kindergarten at the same school. If your child is placed as an overflow pupil into a different school (not your neighborhood school) and you wish for them to remain at that school for kindergarten, then you will need to apply for Choice to remain at that

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school the following year. A priority will be given to your child's application if submitted during the priority application window. If your child is enrolled into UTK via the Choice process, you will not be required to reapply for the following year.

**Q: Do site principals have any control over which students are enrolled in their school?**

A: The enrollment rosters will be monitored and reviewed by Neighborhood Schools and Enrollment Options staff and pre-enrollees will be ranked by date of birth and offers of enrollment will be made by the individual school sites. School principals will not be able to make adjustments to the UTK rosters.

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