



Transitional Kindergarten

A strong start for young learners.



Harlan Community Mission Statement:

HCSD will produce lifelong learners and productive citizens.

Transitional Kindergarten offers families the opportunity for their child to further develop maturity, confidence, and academic skills necessary for success in Kindergarten.

Transitional Kindergarten benefits students by improving reading and mathematics skills as well as their abilities to regulate emotions. Students with developed social, emotional, and behavioral skills are more likely to achieve greater academic success throughout their education. The Kindergarten Common Core Standards the state requires in a traditional Kindergarten year reduces the time allowed to positively develop social, emotional and behavioral skills. Therefore, Transitional Kindergarten provides opportunities for students to further develop these skills prior to entering a traditional Kindergarten environment.

Frequently asked questions...

How is this program different from Preschool?

Transitional Kindergarten is part of the Harlan Community School District and located at the Harlan Community Primary School. TK is focused on the Kindergarten Common Core Standards. It builds off of self-regulation and play-based learning from preschool. Along with encouraging inquiry and exploration, Transitional Kindergarten has more independent, interactive activities that incorporate Kindergarten content standards to provide students the experiences to enter the following year with confidence,

How is Transitional Kindergarten different from Kindergarten?

Traditional Kindergarten provides experiences to help students master Kindergarten academic standards by using different resources. The Transitional Kindergarten environment includes more opportunities for social and emotional development through intentional social and emotional teaching. The Kindergarten Common Core Standards are modified in a Transitional Kindergarten classroom to meet the academic and social-emotional needs of younger children.

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Where and when will Transitional Kindergarten be offered?

Students will attend Transitional Kindergarten daily, Monday through Friday, 8:05 a.m. to 11:05 a.m., following the Harlan Community School District calendar. Students in Transitional Kindergarten will have a similar daily schedule to Kindergarten; including music, P.E., library, art and guidance. Lunch is not served for TK students.

Is Transportation provided?

Students can ride the school bus in the morning, just as other students in the district. Harlan Community provides transportation to Country Kids Care and Time for Tots following the 11:00 a.m. dismissal.

What are the requirements for entering Transitional Kindergarten?

Harlan Community School offers Transitional Kindergarten as an option for children who are 5 years old on or before September 15. Students enrolling in Transitional Kindergarten must meet all of the criteria of students entering Kindergarten including proper certification of birth, immunization record, and a physical exam. Students entering into Transitional Kindergarten do not need to have preschool experience to attend.

What grade will children enter after completing Transitional Kindergarten?

Typically, after a year of Transitional Kindergarten your child will go to Kindergarten.

When considering if Transitional Kindergarten vs. Kindergarten is right for my child ask yourself and/or your child's 4-year-old teacher:

- Does my child have a late May, June, July, August or early September birthday?
- Does my child have preschool experience?
- Does my child show interest in learning letters and numbers?
- Can my child sit attentively and engage in conversations about books?
- Can my child hold and write with a pencil and cut with a scissors?
- Can my child keep his or her hands to himself?
- Can my child be respectful to adults and peers?

How will students be selected for this program?

We are here to help you as you make this decision, but ultimately, you know your student better than anyone. Placement is based on various factors including: age & maturity, social-emotional skills, academic skills, parent recommendation, & teacher recommendation. If your child is new to Harlan Community we will complete a screener on your child to help find the best placement.

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Transitional Kindergarten Referral Process

At Harlan Community, we strive to place children in the environment that focuses on the whole child. While some students are ready for the transition from Preschool to Kindergarten, others benefit from an extra year of school before entering the Kindergarten classroom.

At HCSD, we have a fantastic team of educators that come together to put extra focus on each student and how we can best fit their needs. We use a points system to recommend the very best fit for your child. There are several factors that we use to look at the whole child.

As we near our final conferences and enrollment time, teachers and administrators come together to talk about each student in our Preschool classrooms. We create a document to share with each other using our points system. Students are then placed in order by how many points they have received. Students at the top of our list will receive the first referrals and so on. If as a team we think your child would be a good candidate for our TK classroom we will talk to you about this at conference time. Ultimately, parents know their child best, so they will make the final decision based on our recommendation.

Below is the points system that we use to consider a Transitional Kindergarten referral...

1 Point - Birthday

If they are young--- birthday in Late May, June, July, August, or early September

1 Point - Parent Request

When signing up at enrollment time parents have the option then to choose TK or mark as undecided until after conferences. Parents also have the option to call in later to request TK.

1 Point - Preschool or Kindergarten Assessment Scores/Teacher Recommendation

Students currently in our Harlan CSD Preschool program who have not met classroom benchmarks. Students who have not attended Preschool at Harlan Community will be screened if the parent requests TK placement. or Administrators to determine what the best fit would be for them.

1 Point - Social and/or Emotional Concerns

How do they get along with others (parents, teachers and peers), are they able to regulate their emotions and behavior, are they able to think of resolutions to conflict, are they able to participate in social conversations and cooperative play with their peers, are they shy? Are they able to use the bathroom on their own without adult support?

1 Point - Task Requests and Completion

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Is the student able to be given directions to complete a task and are they able to complete this independently or with little help? Is the student able to complete a task with multiple Step directions?

If you have any questions we are happy to help! Our goal is for every student in our district to be successful. We work hard to establish students with confidence in their academic journey while promising guaranteed learning for every student.

A day in the life of a Transitional Kindergarten student.

- The TK school day starts at 8:05 a.m. and ends at 11:15 a.m.
- Students may choose to eat breakfast at school, but must be able to do it independently.

TK Daily Schedule	
Arrival	Subject
8:05 – 8:30 a.m.	Students have structured play/social activities
8:30-8:45 a.m.	Morning greeting, calendar time, movement, morning math
8:45-9:30 a.m.	Whole group literacy lesson – beginning reading skills, listening skills, comprehension
9:30-9:45 a.m.	Handwriting
9:45-10:05 a.m.	Recess
10:05-10:15 a.m.	Snack and Read Aloud
10:15-10:35 a.m.	Small Centers – math, literacy, sensory, collaborative work, teacher center
10:35-11:00 a.m.	Math – Number sense
11:05 a.m.	Dismissal

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Harlan Community Elementary School

2105 Durant Street
Harlan, Iowa 51537



Transitional Kindergarten/Kindergarten Requirements

- Birth Certificate: Please submit for verification of age. If it was already given for Preschool enrollment, it is not necessary to be provided again.
- Immunization Record
- Physical: Must be completed by a physician and be done prior to entering TK/K in the fall.
- Certificate of Vision Screening: Iowa law requires that all TK/K students have a minimum of one vision screening. ALL STUDENTS THAT ATTENDED HARLAN COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL THAT HAD THEIR VISION TESTED THROUGH THE LYONS CLUB DOES MEET THIS REQUIREMENT.
- Certificate of Dental Screening: Iowa law requires that any child who is entering TK/K, or is an out-of-state transfer student, must provide the school with proof of a dental check-up.

Please feel free to contact us at 712-755-5903, if you have any further questions regarding our Transitional Kindergarten program. We look forward to a great year of learning!

How can I learn more?

Mr. Jeff Moser, Principal

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