

# WHITEFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Whiteford Agricultural School District  
6655 Consear Rd, Ottawa, Lake, MI 49267



## Transitional Kindergarten (TK) Information

### What is Transitional Kindergarten (TK)?

Transitional Kindergarten (TK) is designed for children who may not yet be ready for the demands of a traditional kindergarten classroom. This can be due to various factors such as age, developmental progress, social skills, or academic readiness. In TK, the teacher provides students with a strong foundation in early literacy and math skills, while also helping them develop essential social skills.

Students in TK learn to collaborate with their peers, build stamina for challenging activities, and foster a love for learning. TK bridges the gap between a child's current learning experiences and success in kindergarten. It does this by teaching kindergarten content at a pace and style that matches each child's developmental level. After completing the TK program, students will transition into a regular kindergarten classroom, resulting in two years of kindergarten experience.

### Eligibility and Placement

TK placement is based on criteria such as age, maturity, social skills, and prior school experience. The program is free for qualifying students, with transportation provided for district residents. TK follows the elementary school's full-day schedule and calendar.

Screening occurs during Kindergarten Round-Up in March. The program is designed for students turning five between May 1 and September 1. Those children turning five before May 1 or after September 1 may also be considered, but do not get priority. No students turning 5 after December 1 will be considered for TK or KG. TK is limited to 15-18 students. Placement priority is first given to district residents and children of employees. If openings remain, siblings of School of Choice students and new School of Choice applicants are considered.

### How is a Transitional Kindergarten classroom different from a regular kindergarten classroom?

| Transitional Kindergarten                                            | Kindergarten                                                                                                              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2 Years (1 TK, 1 Traditional Kindergarten)                           | 1 year of Kindergarten                                                                                                    |
| Slower pace for content while focusing on play and hands on learning | Rigorous pace and expectations as set by the state of Michigan                                                            |
| Will have exposure to kindergarten content standards                 | Expected to have mastery of kindergarten content standards by the end of the school year                                  |
| More class-wide instruction on social and social-emotional skills    | Class-wide expectations and routines to address social and social-emotional skills with small group instruction as needed |