



Kindergarten Transitions: The top 20 questions families need to know the answer to before their kids start a new school year

1. When, how, and why to register their child for kindergarten.
2. Start and end times for school.
3. Availability and cost of before and after care.
4. Bus rules for pick-up and drop off of Kindergarten aged children.
5. What events prior to school can children attend?
6. What is the daily schedule for Kindergarten students?
7. Availability of snacks for Kindergarten students.
8. Procedures for communicating special needs (like food allergies) to school personnel.
9. Communication plan between teachers and families (when, what format, how often, expected interaction).
10. Rules and expectations for families visit the school and/or participate in special events.
11. Clear expectations for the format of home communication (special apps, paper, email, etc.).
12. Regularity of assessments (report cards, progress reports, etc.).
13. Expectations for kindergarten participation in testing and what role the scores have in addressing needs of all children.
14. What learning will look like in the classroom.
15. How often and when parents and teachers will formally meet and/or communicate.
16. How to access any required technology device information (including take home, stay at school expectations and costs/capacity for financial support).
17. List of sites that will necessitate parent/family subscription, login, or account creation.
18. Communication plan for parents to address concerns (who to contact first, who to contact next).
19. Overview of current initiatives that are shaping the school (technology, social emotional learning, etc.).
20. Guidance for children with special needs and how those transitions will occur by the team that includes the family as a true partner.

The Early Learning Alliance Network is a non-profit organization that supports communities, families, and educators of children ages 0-8. The following are highlights of what families need to know about the transition to Kindergarten. These



highlights have been curated from focus groups, interviews, questions submitted by families, and surveys.