

Enrolling In Sierra Unified School District

To be eligible to register for **Kindergarten**, a child must reach five (5) years of age on or before September 1, of the current year.

Again this year, **Transitional Kindergarten** will be offered. If your child will turn 5 between the dates of September 2 and December 2, of the current year, you can enroll him or her in Transitional Kindergarten. The Transitional Kindergarten program is designed as an introduction to the Kindergarten curriculum for younger students and is a two-year program (Year I – Transitional Kindergarten and Year 2 – Kindergarten).

Paperwork needed to enroll students new to Sierra Unified

1. **A birth certificate or other birth record**, such as a baptismal certificate (must provide birth certificate within 30 days);
2. **Proof of Residency**: Documentation, such as a recent PG&E bill; propane, or garbage bill; current rental agreement; recent property tax payment receipt; recent pay check stub; or escrow papers that indicate a closing date within 45 days must be presented to verify your current address.
3. **Immunization Records**: Written evidence of up-to-date immunizations for: Polio, MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella), DTP (Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis), Hepatitis B series (3 shots over a 6-month period) and Varicella (Chickenpox).

Under a new law, SB 277, which came into effect January 1, 2016, immunization exemptions based on personal beliefs will no longer be an option for the vaccines that are currently required for entry into kindergarten (or transitional kindergarten) in California. For more information about SB 277, please see the Frequently Asked Questions available at: <http://www.shotsforschool.org/laws/sb277faq/>.

California law requires that your child have a dental checkup by May 31 of his or her first school year. Dental evaluations that have occurred within the 12 months before your child enters school also meet this requirement.

The Hepatitis B series (3 shots) are also required for children entering kindergarten. Effective July 1, 2001, all entering kindergarten children are required to receive the Chickenpox vaccine (varicella) or have documented proof (by a healthcare professional) that they have had the disease. **Any student registering in California schools from out of state, grades 1-12, without documentation of having had Chickenpox, will also need the varicella vaccine. Registrations will not be completed without proof of the above immunizations.**

New law changes immunization requirements

- Immunization Law SB 277 took effect Jan. 1, 2016 and now requires all students to be immunized at the entry grade-level points of kindergarten and seventh grade.
- Personal Belief Exemptions, or PBEs, will no longer be offered.
- A PBE previously filed for California enrolled students before 2016 will remain valid until the child reaches the next immunization checkpoint at kindergarten (including transitional kindergarten) or seventh grade. That means a PBE already on file will be valid for current elementary students through sixth grade and for current secondary students through high school.
- Homeschooling or independent study programs without classroom-based instructions are not subject to the immunization requirements.

More information about SB277 is available at the California Department of Public Health's website at www.shotsforschool.org.