

ARE YOUR PLAYGROUNDS READY FOR TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS?

Playgrounds designated for 2–5-year-olds or 5–12-year-olds are designed to meet the needs of the child as they grow and develop. A structure designed for a 2–5-year-old is appropriate for Transitional Kindergarten students as they may not have the physical ability to utilize a 5–12-year-old structure safely. Below are guidelines and differences between the two age-appropriate structures. *Age range of structure is determined by the manufacture.*

Equipment not appropriate for children in the 2–5-year range:

- Free standing arch climbers
- Log rolls
- Sliding poles
- Track rides
- Seesaws (unless equipped with a spring centering device)
- Rung ladders, climbing nets, arch climbers, or tire climbers used as the **sole** access to equipment.
- Flexible access components must allow the 2–5-year-old user to bring both feet to same level before ascending to next level.

Equipment not appropriate for any school playground:

- Unsecured, stand-alone play equipment (i.e., plastic playhouses, slides, dome climbers)
- Unsecured basketball hoops meant for residential use are not allowed on campuses.
- Trampolines
- Climbing ropes not secured at both ends.

Transitional Kindergarten Play Areas – Accessibility

All play areas for both age 2-5 and 5-12 must meet the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and California Building Code (CBC) accessibility building standards. This includes an accessible route from the outside leading to the play box, an accessible transition into the play box, a transfer platform on composite equipment, and an appropriate number of accessible ground level play components.

Ensure ground play components intended to meet accessibility requirements provide:

- Min 60" clear width path to the play element
- Min 30" x 48" clear floor space immediately adjacent to the element
- Min 80" vertical clearance (not installed completely under platforms, bridges, climbers, etc.)
- No changes in level greater than 1/4-inch vertical or 1/2-inch beveled on path to play elements including at transition into the play box
- Age 5-12: Max 40" recommended/max 48" allowable reach range to highest operable play parts
- Age 2-5: Max 36-40" recommended/max 48" allowable reach range

* See following page for specific measurements on various components for play structures.

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Below are examples of specific measurements for 2–5-year-old and 5–12-year-old designed playground structures. **Not all may be listed*

	2-5 years	5- 12 years
Stairway handrail height <i>Measured vertical distance between the edge of the step and the top surface of the handrail</i>	Between 22" and 26"	Between 22" and 38"
Maximum difference in height between stepped platforms. <i>If the height between platforms exceeds this number for the specified age group, an access component must be installed.</i>	12"	18"
Platform Guardrails needed on Elevated Surfaces above protective surface:	More than 20" but not over 30"	More than 30" but not over 48"
Platform Guardrails: Top rail minimum height Lower rail max height	29" 23"	38" 28"
Platform Barriers needed on Elevated Surfaces above protective surface:	More than 30"	More than 48"
Platform Barriers: Minimum height	29"	38"
3D Climbing nets: interior fall height	18"	20"
Horizontal ladders and overhead rings: Maximum space between rungs	12" (must be parallel and evenly spaced)	15"
Horizontal ladders and overhead rings: Maximum height from grasping device to surface material	60"	84"
Horizontal ladders and overhead rings: maximum height of the take-off/landing platform above surface material	18"	36"
Balance beam height	12"	16"
Stepping forms: maximum height without hand support	20"	30"
Stepping forms: maximum distance between each stepping form (measured edge to edge)	12"	18"
Spiral slides	One turn (360 degrees)	N/A
Slide exit height: From the top of exit slide to the top of protective surfacing	For slides less than 48" high: max of 11"	For slides greater than 48" high: 7"-15"
Merry-Go-Rounds: maximum height above surfacing material for standing/sitting	14"	18"
Spring Rockers: seat height <i>*ASTM allows max 28" height but in order to be an accessible ground component it would need to be max 24".</i>	14" to 28" above surface material	N/A