

Universal PreKindergarten (UPK) is the expansion of the state's mixed delivery system to meet the early education needs of 3- and 4-year-old children and their families, including Transitional Kindergarten which will be available for free to all 4-year olds by 2025-2026.

UPK is an essential part of transforming California's schools and giving every student in California a great start.



UPK is an important part of a statewide effort to provide whole child support for children and families and transform California's schools to be more community-focused and equitable. UPK implementation will look different across California's many regions. Partnerships with local tribal nations and community groups are necessary to build successful UPK programs.

What's included in UPK:



Expansion of access to UPK programs for all 4-year-olds and more 3-year-olds



Funding to support more districts and schools to work closely with teachers, students, families, and community partners to reduce barriers and increase access to services



Additional supports for UPK educators and leaders to increase early childhood knowledge and expertise across systems



Increase to Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation reimbursement for California State Preschool Program and other subsidized preschool providers, and expansion of supports for inclusion of more children with disabilities in UPK programs



Access to two free meals each school day for all public education students in TK-12 regardless of income status



New expanded learning opportunities available during the summer and before and after school, building on existing programs

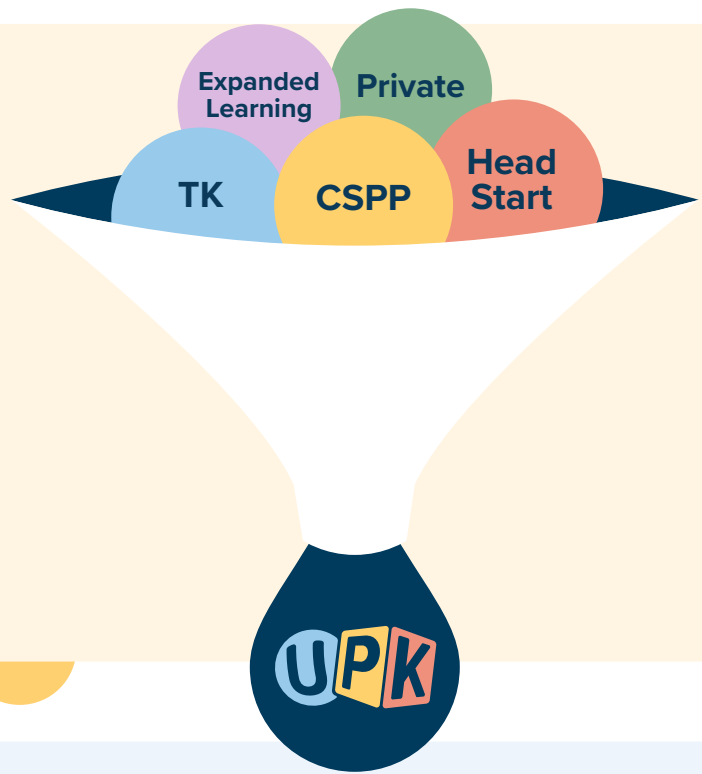


Guidance for partnering with Tribal Governments, integrating Indigenous expertise, and engaging Indigenous community members in UPK implementation

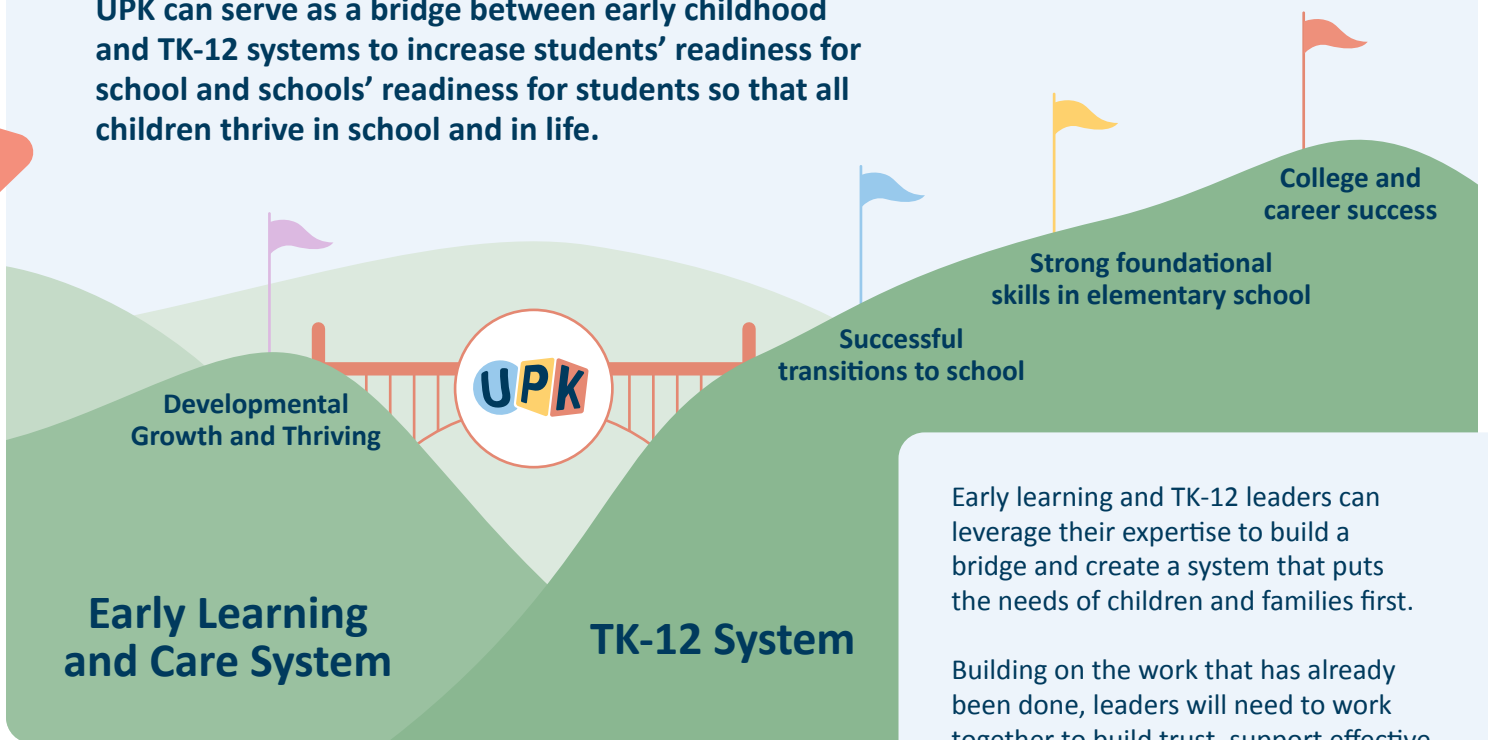


Additional supports for more bilingual UPK programs, including tribal language revitalization programs, and expansion of anti-bias training on confronting hate, bigotry, and racism

UPK brings together transitional kindergarten (TK) and all existing state preschools and federal early education (including California State Preschools (CSPP) and Head Start), private child care, and expanded learning opportunities including before and after school programs into the same system.



UPK can serve as a bridge between early childhood and TK-12 systems to increase students' readiness for school and schools' readiness for students so that all children thrive in school and in life.



Early learning and TK-12 leaders can leverage their expertise to build a bridge and create a system that puts the needs of children and families first.

Building on the work that has already been done, leaders will need to work together to build trust, support effective transitions, engage and empower families, expand and support diverse and effective workforce pipeline, and align programs to meet child and family needs.

Find resources and materials here:
adobe.ly/3SvwAYR

LEARN MORE