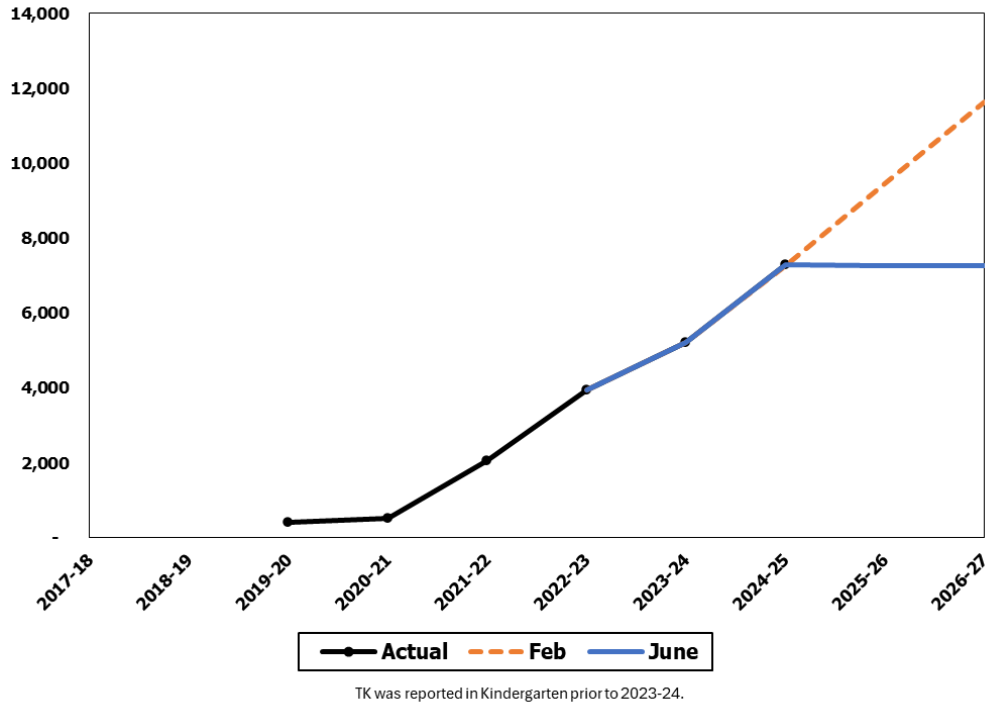


Transition to Kindergarten Annual Average FTE



Transition to Kindergarten (TK) was codified under HB 1550 during the 2023 session (Chapter 420, Laws of 2023). As of the 2023-24 school year, TK students are reported separately as TK enrollment, rather than part of the kindergarten count. Under HB 1550, the goal of the TK program is to assist eligible children in need of additional preparation to be successful kindergarten students in the following school year. SB 5769 (Chapter 342, Laws of 2025) limits TK enrollment to the average annual full-time equivalent children specified in the omnibus appropriations act. Note: the historical actuals in the chart above are transitional kindergarten students reported in kindergarten.

Forecast Comparisons (Academic Year Averages)

Academic Year	Feb-25 Forecast	Jun-25 Forecast	Feb to Jun Difference	Percent Difference
2024-25	7,266	7,291	25	0.3%
2025-26	9,451	7,266	-2,185	-23.1%
2026-27	11,636	7,266	-4,370	-37.6%

Compared to February, the June 2025 forecast is 25 FTE or 0.3 percent higher for academic year 2024-25 and, on average, 3,278 FTE or 31.1 percent lower for the 2025-27 Biennium. The main reason is due to passage of SB 5769, which limits the annual FTE to the amount set in the budget bill, which is 7,266 for both years of the 2025-27 biennium.

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Tracking the Current Forecast

	Feb-25 Forecast	Actual	Variance	Percent Variance
Feb-25	7,711	7,765	54	0.7%
Mar-25	7,711	7,779	68	0.9%
Apr-25	7,711	7,779	69	0.9%
May-25	7,711	7,758	47	0.6%

Actuals are tracking, on average, 6 FTE or 0.1 percent above the February forecast, which is on par.

Academic Year Caseload Change

	Academic Year	Caseload	Change from Prior Year	Percent Change
Actual	2019-20	418		
	2020-21	510	92	22.0%
	2021-22	2,062	1,552	304.3%
	2022-23	3,955	1,893	91.8%
	2023-24	5,217	1,262	31.9%
Forecast	2024-25	7,291	2,074	39.8%
	2025-26	7,266	-25	-0.3%
	2026-27	7,266	0	0.0%

Up through the 2022-23 school year, TK was a program offered by some school districts and charter schools. Students enrolled in TK have been counted in the official kindergarten count. The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) had not tracked TK students separately in their official apportionment enrollment counts. The counts reported in the table above prior to 2023-24 come from the OSPI longitudinal data system, which is separate from the apportionment enrollment counts, and the information has only been available since the 2019-20 school year. In the 2023-24 school year, TK was offered in 145 school districts in Washington, serving an annual average of 5,210 children. For the 2024-25 school year, 160 districts are offering the program, serving an annual average of 7,291 children. Under SB 5769, TK enrollment will be set at 7,266 for both years of the 2025-27 biennium.

Initially, the program was more likely to be offered in smaller school districts and rural communities. That is changing as some of the state's larger districts are starting to offer TK or expand their offerings, including districts in King and Pierce Counties.

Risks to the Forecast

Risks to the forecast are low. Under SB 5769, enrollment levels will be set by the Legislature.