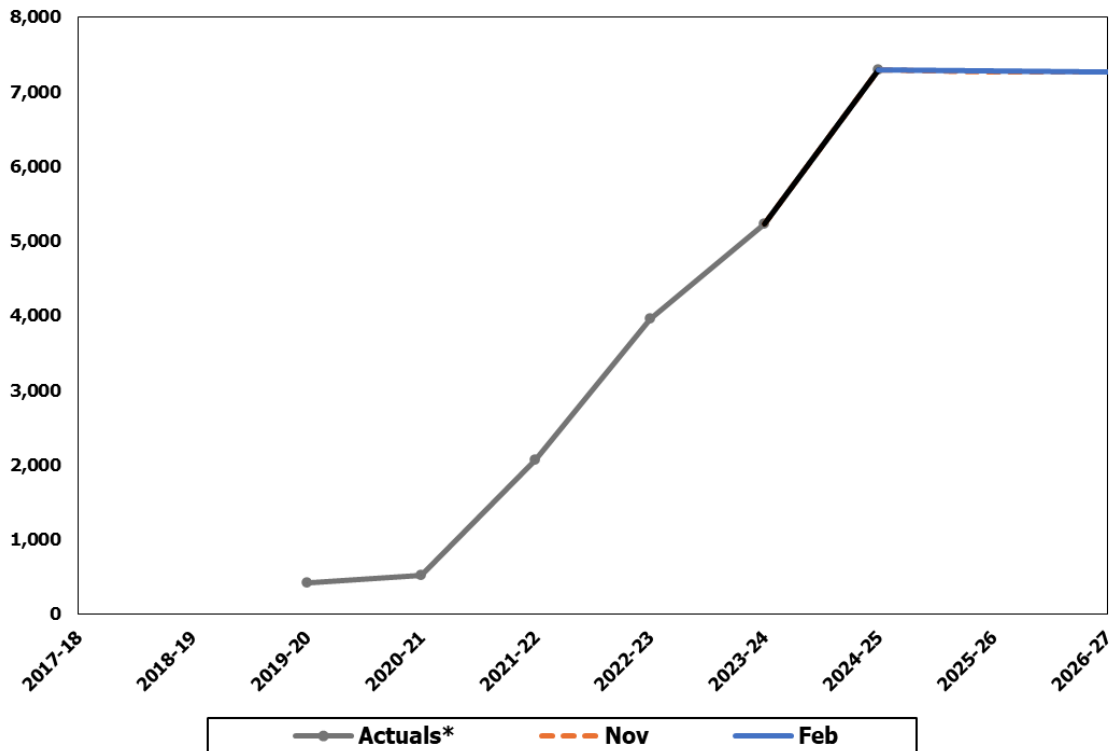


Transition to Kindergarten Annual Average FTE



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 include transitional kindergarten students reported in kindergarten for 2019-20 to 2022-23.

Forecast Comparisons (Academic Year Averages)

Academic Year	Nov-25 Forecast	Feb-26 Forecast	Nov to Feb Difference	Percent Difference
2026	7,266	7,266	0	0.0%
2027	7,266	7,266	0	0.0%

The February 2026 forecast is on par with the November forecast for the 2025-27 Biennium.

Tracking the Current Forecast

Month	Forecast	Actual	Variance	Variance
Nov-25	7,497	7,192	-305	-4.1%
Dec-25	7,613	7,219	-394	-5.2%
Jan-26	7,649	7,238	-410	-5.4%

Actuals are tracking, on average, 370 FTE or 4.9 percent below the November forecast. These are the reported totals for TK, not the number of FTEs funded in the budget bill. These do not include the seven districts that set their annual program start date for January and will report their enrollment in February. The caseload in February is expected to go from 7,238 to 7,710 with the additional districts and enrollment across the state.

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%
	2024-25	7,290	2,073	39.7%
Forecast	2025-26	7,266	-24	-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 and included in the official kindergarten apportionment count. The counts reported in the table above prior to 2023-24 come from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) longitudinal data system, which is separate from the apportionment enrollment counts, and was collected between 2019-20 to 2022-23.

In the 2023-24 school year, TK was reported separately from kindergarten. It was offered in 145 school districts in Washington, serving an annual average of 5,210 children. For the 2024-25 school year, 160 districts offered the program, serving an annual average of 7,288 children.

Under SB 5769, TK enrollment will be set at 7,266 for both years of the 2025-27 biennium.

Risks to the Forecast

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