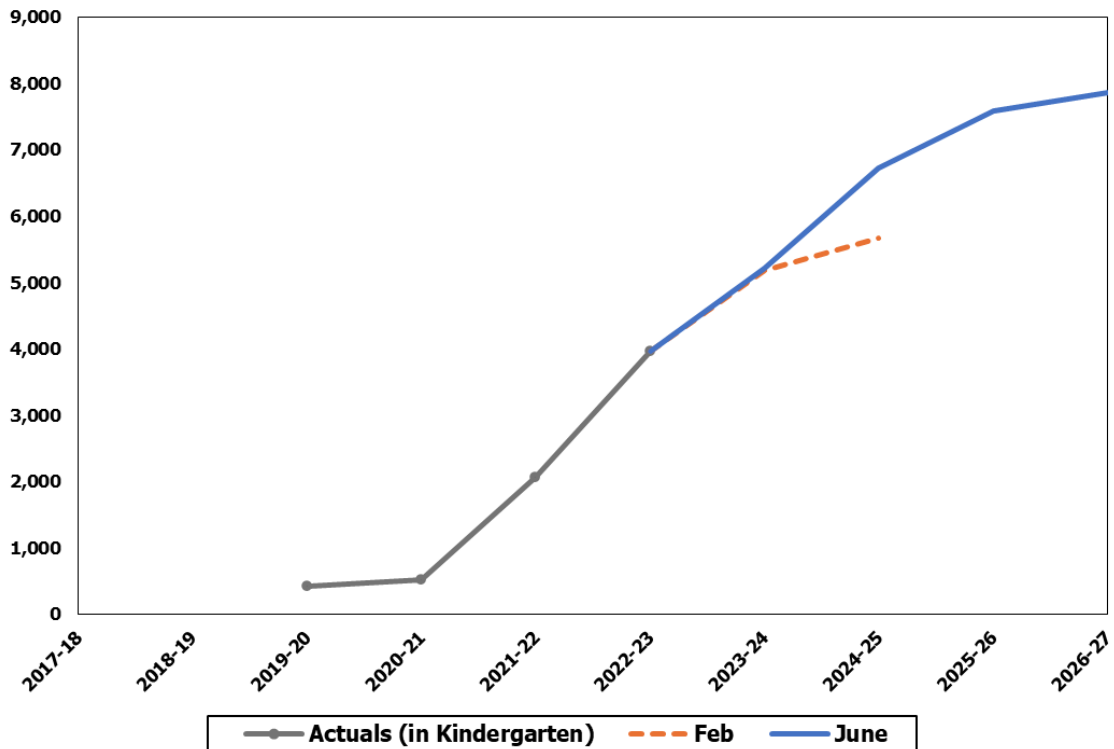


Transition to Kindergarten Annual Average FTE



Transition to Kindergarten (TK) was codified under HB 1550 during the 2023 session. Under the new law, 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. Note the historical actuals in the chart above are transitional kindergarten students reported in kindergarten.

Forecast Comparisons (Academic Year Averages)

Academic Year	Feb-24 Forecast	Jun-24 Forecast	Feb to Jun Difference	Percent Difference
2023-24	5,176	5,217	41	0.8%
2024-25	5,665	6,727	1,062	18.7%
2025-26	-	7,581	-	-
2026-27	-	7,860	-	-

The June 2024 forecast is, on average, 552 students or 10.2 percent higher than the February forecast for the 2023-25 Biennium.

Tracking the Current Forecast

Month	Feb-24			Percent
	Forecast	Actual	Variance	Variance
Jan-24	5,336	5,338	2	0.0%
Feb-24	5,682	5,741	59	1.0%
Mar-24	5,682	5,749	68	1.2%
Apr-24	5,682	5,764	82	1.4%

Actuals are tracking, on average, 53 cases or 0.9 percent above the February forecast.

Academic Year Caseload Change

	Academic Year	Caseload	Change from Prior Year	Percent Change
Actuals	2017-18			
	2018-19			
	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%
Forecast	2023-24	5,217	1,262	31.9%
	2024-25	6,727	1,510	28.9%
	2025-26	7,581	854	12.7%
	2026-27	7,860	279	3.7%

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.

As of the 2023-24 school year, TK is offered in 144 school districts and 288 schools in Washington. Based on a review of district plans and enrollment information posted on their websites this spring, it is estimated that an additional 17 districts and 83 schools will offer TK next year. 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 its offerings, including districts in King and Pierce County. TK is expected to have strong growth during the 2023-25 Biennium with tapered growth in the 2025-27 Biennium.

Risks to the Forecast

Risks to the forecast are high. This caseload has significant variation depending on the month of the school year the district starts their program, which could cause swings in the annual averaging. It is also an emerging program, and more districts could opt in or out going forward.

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