

Kindergarten COUNTS

Why Kindergarten Counts?

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School-based kindergarten transition practices are associated with improved academic achievement for low income children and increased parent-initiated involvement, but **those who can benefit the most from transition practices are least likely to receive them.**¹

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28% of kindergarten students were chronically absent in 2010-11 across the six largest school districts in Multnomah County. Recent data for Oregon schools show that there is a clear and consistent relationship between early attendance and later achievement.²

The transition to kindergarten is a critical opportunity for schools and community to come together to support success in school for all children right from the start because *Kindergarten COUNTS.*

What is Kindergarten Counts?

Kindergarten Counts is a community wide campaign in Multnomah County bringing together early childhood and school partners to promote successful kindergarten transitions in SUN Community Schools for children and their families through supporting:

- **Early kindergarten registrations** to ensure families are connected to their school and receive the support and information they need.
- **Summer opportunities** to engage parents and promote social and emotional school readiness skills and summer learning for children.
- **Good attendance in kindergarten** through data informed early outreach, parent engagement, and attendance incentives.



Kindergarten Counts is coordinated through the Linkage Project, an initiative of the SUN Service System Division of Multnomah County Department of County Human Services that fosters early support and successful transitions in SUN Community Schools.

- **Early kindergarten registrations** to ensure families are connected to their school and receive the support and information they need.
 - **Register for School by June Campaign:** Outreach campaign with partners to encourage and support parents to register their child for school by June.
- **Summer opportunities** to engage parents and promote social and emotional school readiness skills and summer learning for children.
 - **Early Kindergarten Transition Programs:** Support and expand these programs across SUN Community Schools. Engage early childhood partners for outreach and staffing of program components.
 - **Offer Multiple Opportunities:** Support other less intensive ways to reach families at schools: one time events, summer playgroups, story times, reading clubs, etc.
- **Good attendance in kindergarten** through data informed early outreach, parent engagement, and attendance incentives.
 - **Kindergarten Attendance Campaign:** Outreach campaign with partners to talk to parents about attendance and provide tips and resources that will support parents to get their children to school.
 - **Technical Assistance for Schools and Head Start:** Support schools and Head Start with developing and implementing attendance strategies.



For more information:
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Kindergarten Counts is inspired by **Ninth Grade Counts**, an initiative of All Hands Raised that connects youth in Multnomah County with “the support they need to enter high school on the right track.”

1. Shulting, A.B., Malone, P.S., & Dodge, K.A. (2005). The Effect of School-Based Kindergarten Transition Policies and Practices on Child Academic Outcomes. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2757260/pdf/nihms-143120.pdf>
2. Attendance Works, The Children’s Institute, The Chalkboard Project & ECONorthwest. Chronic Absence in Oregon. Feb 2012. <http://www.attendanceworks.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/oregon.pptx>