

**Department:** County Human Services      **Program Contact:** Peggy Samolinski  
**Program Offer Type:** Existing Operating Program      **Program Offer Stage:** As Proposed  
**Related Programs:**  
**Program Characteristics:**

**Executive Summary**

The Early Kindergarten Transition (EKT) program prepares entering kindergarteners and their parents so that they successfully transition into the school setting and attend school regularly, improving their educational success by ensuring a strong start. EKT recognizes that parents are children's first teachers and services are reflective of and responsive to cultural values and norms. EKT is a three-week summer program to engage entering kindergarteners, who have had little to no preschool experience, and their parents/caregivers.

**Program Summary**

**ISSUE:** In Multnomah County, 54% of kindergartners enter elementary school unprepared to be successful as defined by familiarity with classroom and school routines and behaviors, socio-emotional skills and family engagement in school.

**PROGRAM GOAL:**

The program goals are to increase parental involvement in their children's learning, children's attendance in kindergarten, and children's success in school. EKT accomplishes this through increasing familiarity with school routines and staff; developing socio-emotional skills in children and promoting family-school relationships. Research shows a strong correlation between successful kindergarten transition and overall success in elementary school. The impact of this is experienced by the child, their parent/caregiver, the kindergarten teacher and other students in the class. EKT evaluation suggests a positive impact on kindergarten attendance for EKT participants as well. Children who had no early childhood education experience were 1.5 times as likely as those who attended the EKT to be chronically absent during kindergarten.

**PROGRAM ACTIVITY:**

EKT is a school-based summer program with two core components: 1. Class time for children in kindergarten classrooms that are led by a kindergarten teacher and 2. Family engagement activities that include a facilitated parent/caregiver group and other activities intended to promote positive family-school including follow-up with participating families after the start of the school year. The program specifically focuses on recruiting children of color and English Language Learners who have not had prior preschool experience so that they will be successful in school.

EKT is a partnership with Early Learning Multnomah across six school districts, SUN Community School Lead Agencies, Portland State University (PSU), the SUN Service System and Multnomah County Library to support successful transition into kindergarten. Research by PSU has fostered a continuous improvement approach to both study the program elements during its implementation and make adjustments to the program model in the subsequent year to be more effective. The program supports the department strategies in providing support early to the most vulnerable children and families to ensure a strong start that will help them be successful in school in the long term.

**Performance Measures**

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY16 Actual	FY17 Purchased	FY17 Estimate	FY18 Offer
Output	Number of children who participate in summer Early Kindergarten Transition.	785	820	820	820
Outcome	Percent of parents who report comfort with activities they can engage in at home to support their child in school.	98%	90%	90%	90%

**Performance Measures Descriptions**

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2017	2017	2018	2018
Personnel	\$98,296	\$0	\$103,139	\$0
Contractual Services	\$211,728	\$312,524	\$216,487	\$105,535
Materials & Supplies	\$12,957	\$0	\$11,989	\$0
Internal Services	\$11,255	\$0	\$13,435	\$0
<b>Total GF/non-GF</b>	<b>\$334,236</b>	<b>\$312,524</b>	<b>\$345,050</b>	<b>\$105,535</b>
<b>Program Total:</b>	<b>\$646,760</b>		<b>\$450,585</b>	
<b>Program FTE</b>	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$221,250	\$0	\$105,535
Other / Miscellaneous	\$0	\$91,274	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$312,524</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$105,535</b>

Explanation of Revenues

\$75,535 - Portland Public Schools based on current year award; \$30,000 - Early Kindergarten Transition SVP based on award.

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2017: 25152 Early Kindergarten Transition Program

Program reduced by \$0.2M due to reductions in the Kindergarten Innovation Grant (\$0.1M) and in Portland Public School revenue (\$0.1M)