

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

**Executive Summary**

The Early Kindergarten Transition (EKT) program is a three week summer program to engage entering kindergartners who have had little to no preschool experience, and their parents/caregivers. Each dollar of county investment leverages up to \$3.00 of investments from school districts and other partners.

**Program Summary**

Research shows a strong correlation between successful kindergarten transition and overall success in elementary school. Locally we know that 54% of entering kindergartners enter elementary school not prepared to be successful. The transition into kindergarten can therefore be less than smooth. The impact of this is experienced by the child, their parent/caregiver, the kindergarten teacher and other students in the class.

The three-week Early Kindergarten Transition Program at SUN Community Schools offers children and their parent/caregiver the opportunity to learn about school routines, meet school staff, and build their comfort level with the elementary school setting. The program provides a kindergarten-like classroom experience for incoming students, taught by a kindergarten teacher at that school; the program specifically targets children of color and English Language Learners who have not had prior preschool experience. The aim is to develop social-emotional skills such as listening to directions, understanding routines, taking turns and developing familiarity with the school setting. Parent educators provide parent education for parents/caregivers to orient them to the school expectations, school routines and demonstrate ways parents can support their children at home, in order to be successful in school. Multnomah County Early Childhood librarians work with parents about how to read to their children, selecting appropriate books and how to connect with library resources.

Over each of the past four years the number of SUN Community School sites who offer EKT has grown, due largely to school district investment as they increasingly see the value of EKT for their incoming kindergartners and parents/caregivers. In Fiscal Year 2015 (summer 2014), 32 SUN Community Schools offered EKT; 638 children and 508 parents/caregivers participated. This program represents layering (or deepening) of social service supports using the SUN Community School platform. It is a partnership across the school districts, SUN CS Lead Agencies, Portland State University (PSU), the SUN Service System and Multnomah County Library to support successful transition into kindergarten. For FY16 Portland Public Schools is contracting through the SUN Service System for EKT with SUN Community Schools. 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. This practice has been utilized for each year of EKT's implementation.

**Performance Measures**

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY14 Actual	FY15 Purchased	FY15 Estimate	FY16 Offer
Output	Number of children who participate in summer Early Kindergarten Transition.	408	640	640	640
Outcome	Percent of parents who report comfort with activities they can engage in at home to support their child in school.	94%	90%	95%	90%

**Performance Measures Descriptions**

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2015	2015	2016	2016
Personnel	\$44,051	\$0	\$92,965	\$0
Contractual Services	\$124,000	\$0	\$126,728	\$173,500
Materials & Supplies	\$425	\$0	\$100	\$0
Internal Services	\$0	\$0	\$10,860	\$0
<b>Total GF/non-GF</b>	<b>\$168,476</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$230,653</b>	<b>\$173,500</b>
<b>Program Total:</b>	<b>\$168,476</b>		<b>\$404,153</b>	
<b>Program FTE</b>	0.50	0.00	1.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$173,500
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$173,500</b>

Explanation of Revenues

\$173,500 - Portland Public Schools

Significant Program Changes

**Last Year this program was:** FY 2015: 25152 Early Kindergarten Transition – Expand, sustain & deepen

Staffing increased by a .50FTE Program Specialist position transferred from PO #25145 - SUN Community Schools. Also, for FY16 Portland Public Schools is contracting for EKT through the SUN Service System Division, rather than contracting outside of the system, hence the new Proposed Other Funds for FY16. This will result in more consistency in practice and better alignment of funding.