

Register for School by June 1: Why it Matters for Children?

Suggested Talking Points for staff of PCL-funded programs, created in consultation with Kindergarten Counts

Step 1: Use Multnomah County Kindergarten Counts “Information and Tool Sheet” for understanding the Register for School by June campaign and its importance, and for finding school districts’ registration information: www.multco.us/sun/register

Step 2: Determine whether families you work with: *have a child or know a child that will be 5 years old by September 1? Is that child registered to start school?* Refer to the talking points below, as needed, to help clarify with families why on-time registration matters and how it can make transition to kindergarten easier for them and their child.

Benefits of Registering by June (On time)	Challenges of Registering Late
<p style="text-align: center;">BENEFITS FOR FAMILIES</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CHALLENGES FOR FAMILIES</p>
<p>If a family/caregiver registers before June, they may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Have opportunities to meet the teacher and tour the school before school starts. ▪ Be invited to a kindergarten event at the school. ▪ Request an interpreter during the registration process. ▪ Learn about resources like immunization clinics, 211FamilyInfo, and SUN Schools programming and supports. ▪ Have time and support from their school to sign up for meals, bus transportation, and after school programming. ▪ Have an opportunity to meet other parents. 	<p>When family/caregiver registers late, they may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Not get the individual attention they need from the teacher, school secretary, or principal to learn about the school or share information about their child. ▪ Have to wait for their free/reduced price meal applications to be processed. ▪ Have to transport their child to school at the beginning of the year while the bus schedule gets rearranged. ▪ Feel confused or anxious about how to ask for help since they haven't met the teacher or school staff.
<p style="text-align: center;">BENEFITS FOR CHILDREN</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CHALLENGES FOR CHILDREN</p>
<p>If a child is registered before June:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ They may have an opportunity to participate in an early kindergarten program. ▪ The classroom is ready for the child—they have their own cubby, their materials are set up, and they feel welcome and like they are part of the class. ▪ The teacher is ready for the child; they can greet them by name, welcome them to the class, and start the year off right! 	<p>If a child is registered late:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ They may miss the first critical days of school. ▪ The classroom may be overcrowded for a few weeks while additional teachers are hired. ▪ They may miss meals or bus rides during those first weeks of school while paperwork gets processed ▪ They may miss some important community building/getting to know you/friendship activities. ▪ They may pick up on the stress of the family, the teacher, and the school and have a hard time focusing on learning.
<p style="text-align: center;">BENEFITS FOR SCHOOLS</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CHALLENGES FOR SCHOOLS</p>
<p>When families register on time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Schools know how many children and families to prepare for, how many teachers to hire, and which classrooms will be used. ▪ Teachers and school staff can meet with children and families before the year begins. ▪ Schools can help meet families’ needs early on and begin partnering for children’s success. 	<p>When families register late:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Schools can’t plan for the number of teachers, classroom arrangements, transportation needs. ▪ School staff become stressed and overwhelmed with having to make new arrangements for late registrations. ▪ School staff haven’t met with the family to learn how to best provide supports.