REGISTER FOR KINDERGARTEN TODAY! FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) is collaborating with partners across the state to broadcast the importance of early registration for kindergarten families. To support these efforts, ODE has created a Register for Kindergarten Today! toolkit with print-ready banners, yard signs, stickers, and flyers translated into the eight supported languages.

These materials supplement conversations with families about early registration during the pre-kindergarten year. Below are talking points to share with families:

When families register for school in the spring, they have opportunities to connect with their school community and:

- share information about their child before the first day of school
- participate in summer transitioning into kindergarten programs
- sign-up for school meals, bus transportation, and before and after-school programs
- meet other families during school events and start the year off right!

How to register for kindergarten:

Children are eligible for kindergarten if turning five years old on or before September 1st. Registration opens in the spring; the specific date varies, so please check with the school's front office staff. Here are the steps:

- ☐ STEP 1: Call the school for the best date and time to pick up a registration packet and if online registration is available. If needed, the family may be able to request an interpreter when picking up the registration packet. Keep in mind that the registration start dates for districts are different across Oregon.
- STEP 2: To complete the registration process, families will be asked to share proof of the child's age (such as a birth certificate), proof of address (such as a utility bill), and immunization records. It is ideal to bring these documents to the school when picking up the registration packet.
- ☐ STEP 3: Ask the front office staff about kindergarten orientation dates and school tours, summer programs, and school and district resources.

Finally, to align with ODE's Equity Stance, it is essential to prioritize outreach efforts to families who have been historically underserved by the K-12 system.

