

JumpStart: A Kindergarten Transition Strategy



The education achievement gap begins early; research points to the first signs emerging as early as nine months. The gap has a long reach, affecting graduation rates, future earnings and health outcomes. Research shows that high-quality early learning can substantially increase the likelihood of later academic success. However, even universal access to preschool is not enough, and more aligned early education and elementary systems are needed to support Oregon's young learners.



P-3 Alignment Project

The program aims include:

- Change the way schools interact with families to support children's development
- Connect early learning providers with schools in order to foster school readiness and 3rd grade



**Crook County
P-3 Alignment Project**



**sponsored by
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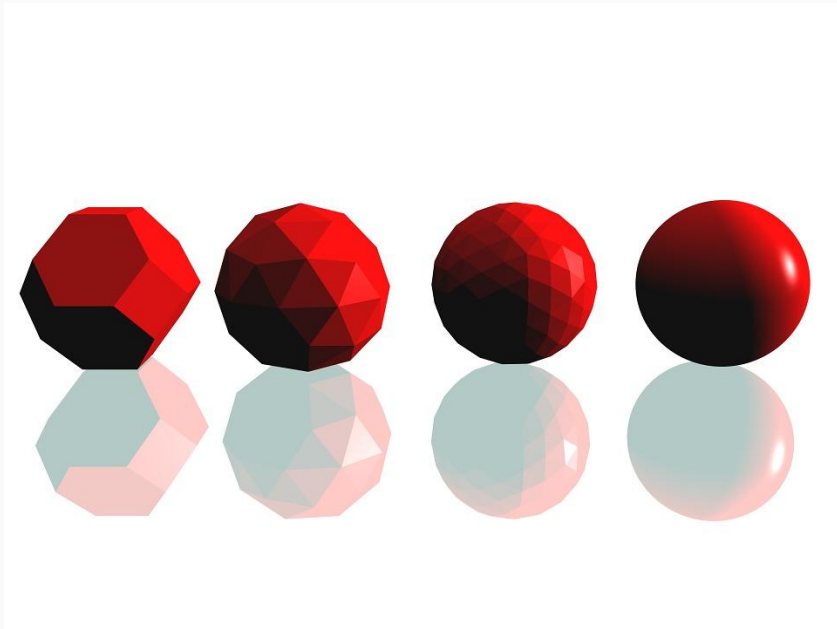


GOALS

Based on Kauers/Coffman Framework for Planning, Implementing and Evaluating PreK-3rd Grade Approaches (2013), we chose:

- Leadership Development - K-12/Early Care and Education Services
- ***Family Engagement and Transitions***
 - ***Kindergarten JumpStart, and the opportunity to provide transition services was an early goal/activity***
- Joint Professional Development

JumpStart Refinements



- Year 1
 - 45 students
 - 1 week
 - 2 teachers
- Year 2
 - 65 students
 - 2 weeks
 - Transportation provided
 - Breakfast/Lunch provided
 - Registration May/June
 - 3 teachers/1 early learning partner
- Year 3
 - 90 students
 - 2 weeks
 - Transportation provided
 - Breakfast/Lunch provided
 - Early Registration - Beginning Feb.
 - 5 teachers/4 partners/1 special ed teacher

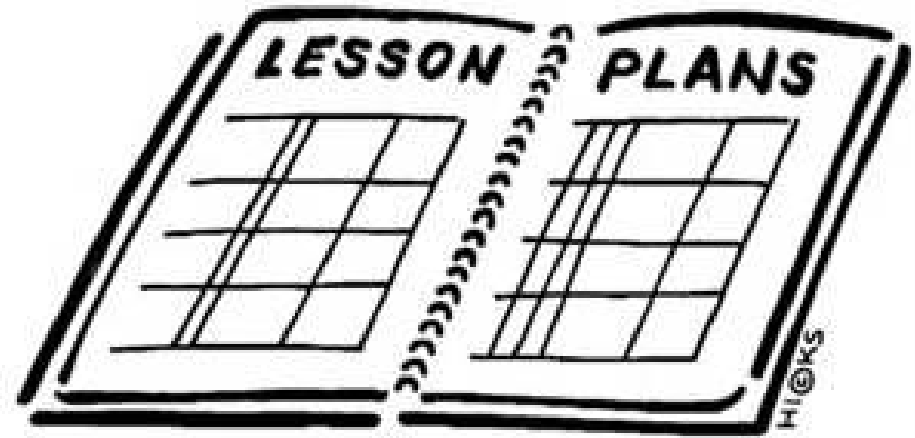
Helping to build alignment: Transition Coordinator Positions

- 2 paid positions for a Kindergarten teacher from each school in Prineville
- Teachers work together to organize, plan and participate in outreach events for parents and community members at the Pk 3 level
- Coordinators work with other building colleagues for event outreach and recruiting JumpStart participants
- Explore engaging strategies for incoming Kindergarteners to increase confidence for the upcoming transition



Planning and Implementation: Spring

- Kindergarten Coordinators planned the scope and sequence for the 2-week JumpStart before the end of the school year
- Use district curriculum to introduce students to the flow of Kindergarten ELA and Math lessons
- Recruited fellow teachers and community partners for the summer school



School Supplies



- A backpack full of school supplies was provided to each child on the last day of Kindergarten JumpStart
- Students “shopped” for school supplies on their last day of JumpStart with community partners, selecting backpacks and essential school supplies

Curriculum

- District adopted language arts curriculum (*Wonders, McGraw Hill*)
- District adopted math curriculum (*Engage New York*)
- Grade level assessments to help measure growth
- Teachers were given specific lessons out of both curriculums that were specifically selected to further develop kindergarten readiness skills within those subjects
- All teachers had the same access to the same curriculum and resources



Planning and Implementation: Summer



- 2-weeks prior
 - Re-contacted families, in English and Spanish, to remind them of JumpStart
 - Arranged Transportation and Food Services
- 1-week prior
 - Met with partners and teachers to let them know plans
 - Prepared classrooms and spaces for JumpStart

Transportation



- Bussing provided for all JumpStart participants
- Partners rode the bus to greet students on the first day
- Partners waited outside of the school to receive students departing the bus

JumpStart Daily Schedule (sample)



Breakfast	8:00-8:20
Classroom AM Activity	8:20-8:30
Calendar	8:30-8:45
Wonders (Reading)	8:45-9:15
Recess	9:15-9:30
Snack & Writing	9:30-9:45
Math PK - Engage NY	9:45-10:15
Writing	10:15-10:30
Centers & Art	10:30-11:00
Read Aloud	11:00-11:20
Lunch	11:20-11:40
PackUp	11:40-11:50
Leave	12:00 Noon

Parent Engagement

- Started with a letter home to the child and to the parent welcoming them to Kindergarten JumpStart the week before
- Letters home every few days
- Parent communication folders
- Kindergarten Readiness Booklet (courtesy of Polk County)
- Parent Information about what to expect from kindergarten and being in school in the Crook County School District
- Parent Engagement Day:
 - STEM Activity
 - Modeling of a Read-Aloud to build vocabulary

Parent Day is on the last day of JumpStart:

Thursday, August 4th 10am-Noon

We would like to invite you to come join your child in their Jumpstart Classroom to show you what they have been learning, "shop" for school supplies, join in a family read-aloud, help make our program stronger by filling out a JumpStart parent survey, and have a little cupcake celebration with your confident and proud future Kindergartener!

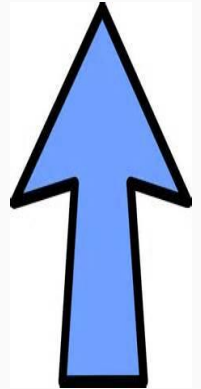
Student Assessment and Data



- To help measure the effectiveness of JumpStart on academic and social emotional growth we took two data points in several different areas from the first day of JumpStart through the 8th day.
- Typical of data we use in our Kindergarten classrooms throughout the year.
- In a sample classroom, over the 8 days of JumpStart:
 - 8% more letter names
 - 12% more letter sounds
 - Could count 16 numbers higher than on the first day
 - The most noticeable growth, however, was in the social-emotional growth of the students and in their learning the routines and procedures that accompany elementary school. This type of growth is difficult to quantify, but various anecdotal evidence suggests that this opportunity was extremely beneficial for these incoming kindergarteners.

PSU Parent Engagement Survey Data from JumpStart

- Survey given at the end of Kindergarten JumpStart at Parent Engagement Day
- Data Shows, after Kindergarten JumpStart:
 - 30% increase in incoming kindergarteners feeling comfortable at school
 - 21% increase in parents/caregivers knowing how to promote reading at home
 - 34% increase in parents/caregivers knowing how to promote math at home
 - 15% increase in parents/caregivers feeling comfortable at school
 - 10% increase in parents/caregivers who felt their student were ready to start kindergarten after JumpStart
- Survey also provided great feedback to take into next year's planning process: more communication with families before the summer.



Parent Perspective





Community Partnerships

- NeighborImpact (Head Start & Child Care Resources)
- Early Learning Hub of Central Oregon
- Oregon Community Foundation
- Crook County School District
- Crook County Library
- High Desert ESD PreK-3 & Early Intervention
- Local Early Learning Providers

Partner Perspective



- Two-way partnerships between early learning teachers and elementary teachers
- Sharing social-emotional and behaviour techniques
- Exposing the early learning providers to the routines of an all-day kindergarten classroom

Dual Language

- Barnes Butte Elementary hosts Crook County School District's Dual Language Program for students of Spanish-speaking and English-speaking backgrounds
- One of the JumpStart classes has a bilingual Dual Language teacher for incoming DL Kindergarten students
- Students in this class receive instruction for part of their day in English and part in Spanish
- This particular DL JumpStart class is unique in that most of the students will enter the DL Kindergarten class together in the fall



Special Education Inclusion



- One of the most powerful benefits of JumpStart was the participation of students with special educational needs
- We were able to build rapport and relationships with families
- Get to know students individual needs to better launch the school year with their needs in mind

Refinements

- Reaching Out to More Students Who Have Had No Preschool Experience
- Increase Participation
- Expand JumpStart Program to Both Local Elementary Schools
- Track Longer-Term Outcomes
- Spanish-Speaking Outreach

Questions?

