

Will your child be
5 by  **AUG 31**?

 If so, now's
the time
to register for Kindergarten!

Get help 
with registration. Visit your
local school or district office.

Register for Kindergarten Starting January 19, 2016: Why Does it Matter?

Suggested Talking Points

Benefits of Registering Early

Benefits for Families

If a family/caregiver registers early, they may:

- Be invited to a Kindergarten event at the school, where they can meet other parents, teachers and tour the school.
- Request an interpreter during the registration process.
- Learn about resources like immunization clinics, summer meal sites and more.
- Have time and support from their school to sign up for meals, bus transportation, and after school programming.

Benefits for Children

If a child is registered before June:

- They may have an opportunity to participate in a Kindergarten transition 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!

Benefits for Schools

When families register on time:

- 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.

Challenges of Not Registering Early

Challenges for Families

When families/caregivers wait to register, they may:

- 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.

Challenges for Children

If a child is not registered early:

- 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.

Challenges for Schools

When families don't register early:

- 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.

www.KRegNow.org