



TRANSITION TO KINDERGARTEN MINI-GRANT

FALL 2024 THROUGH FALL 2025

You're invited!
When: Monday, August 25, 2025 from 4-5 pm
Where: Abraham Lincoln School, 45 Forest Avenue, Bangor *
Who: Incoming Kindergarten students and their families
What: Tour the school, meet the staff, learn to ride the bus, and go home with some fun prizes!
NOTE: We know you might want to go "back to school shopping" soon. Your child **only** needs a full-sized backpack and a water bottle. All other school supplies are provided by the school.
* If you need transportation to the event, please call the school at 948-6260 by Aug 17

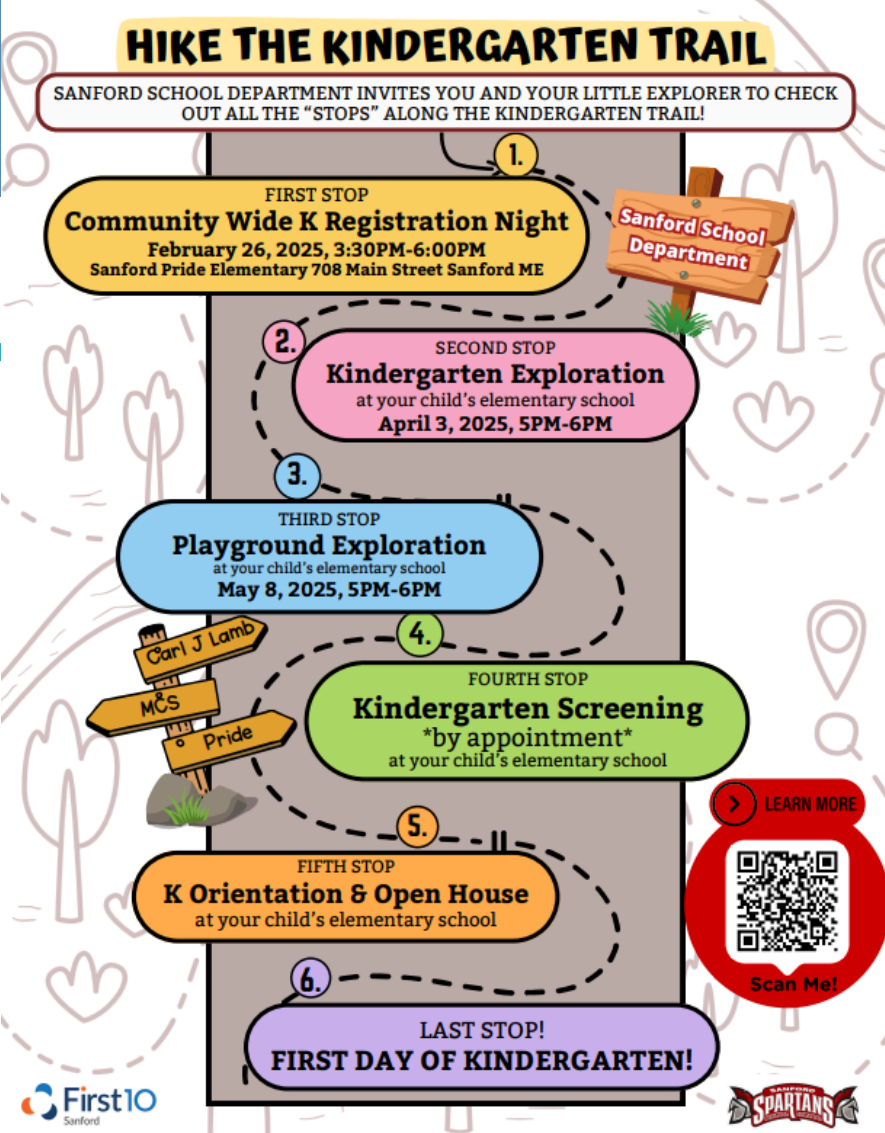
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Welcome to Kindergarten!
Kickoff Event
Abraham Lincoln School
August 25, 2025
4-5 pm

Transition Toolboxes

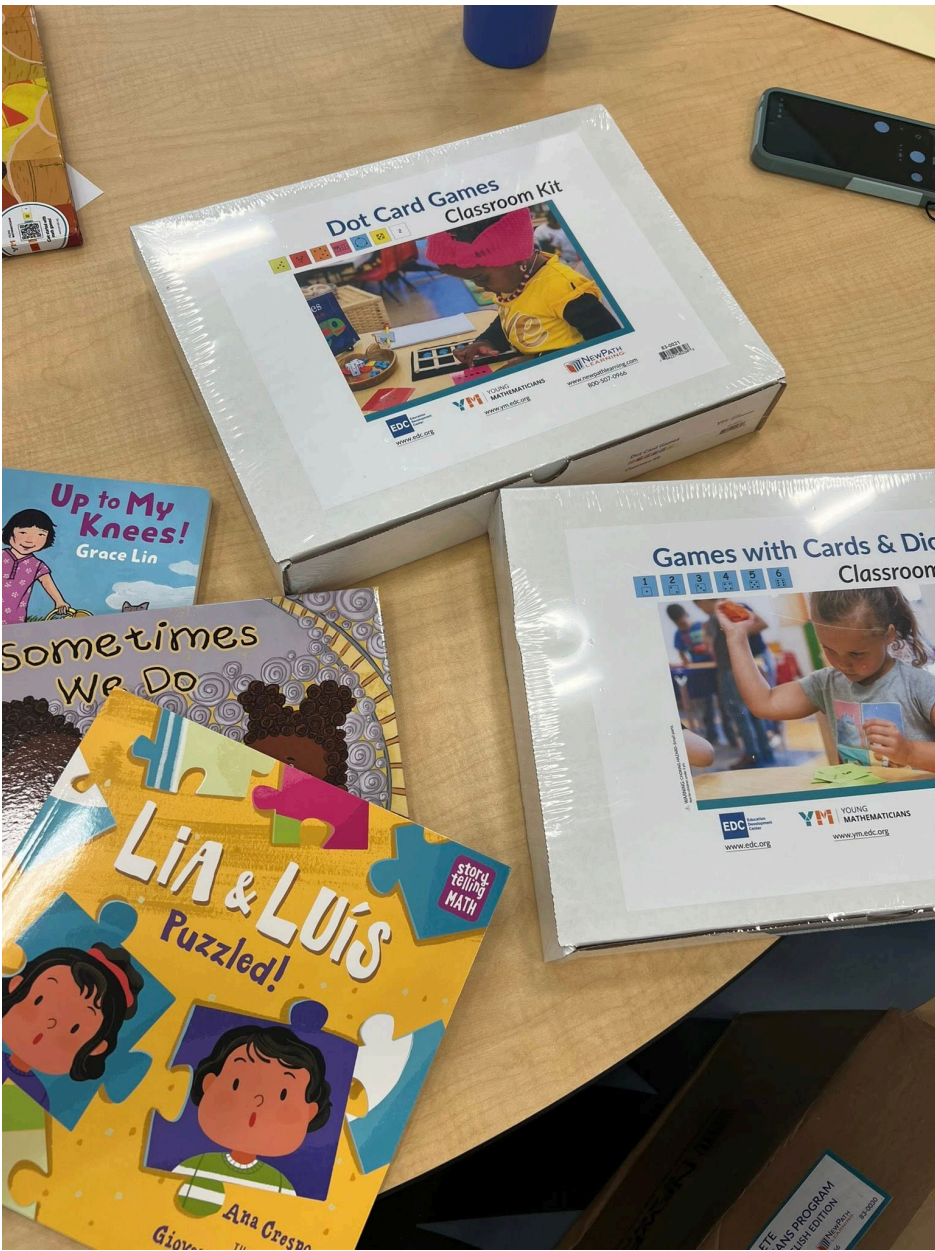
In preparation for our kindergarten Transition event, students work hard to create their own 'toolboxes' to bring with them. What do you bring in a toolbox, you ask? Well, in Tu Casa we oftentimes used an imaginary toolbox to help us through big feelings. Sometimes we pull out a breath, or a word. Other times we pull out an imaginary hug!

In our Transition Toolboxes, we pack sand filled balloons as stress balls, our worry worms handmade by us, and a talking stick to ensure everyone has a turn to speak when problem solving.



What We Set Out to Do and Why

During the 2024-2025 school year, and into the fall of 2025, the PDG funded a Transition to Kindergarten mini-grant opportunity for SAUs to build out community-wide transition teams and year-long transition plans. SAUs were tasked with bringing community partners, school administration and staff, and families together to ensure support for children and families as they made their transition into public kindergarten. In all, the projects support approximately 850 incoming Kindergarten children across six SAUs. SAUs were supported with integrated technical assistance and education.



Moments That Mattered:

SAUs and their partnering community providers held event and family outreach; examples include:

- *Family education gatherings where families gained information about the school community, communication and supporting their child in the transition.
- *Opportunities for school and child care staff to observe in classrooms and meet to share information.
- *Shared professional development sessions were held that included school staff, community providers and families.
- *One SAU designed a 2-week program for incoming K students and their families as a way to support readiness and independence skills for children, and educate and support families, over the summer break.
- *Communities supported a big-yellow bus event that brought children from their child care homes to schools.
- *Family surveys of current and former K students were utilized to give parents a voice in the process.



Transition Event Puppet Show Planning

The state provided us a transition grant to purchase materials for a smooth transition. In my mind, a smooth transition is in an experience with community, so I found a puppeteer that collaborated with me to write a skit about a little boy and his journey in his first day in kindergarten. In the story of the skit, we included all the tools created for our Transition Toolboxes.

Impact and Reach

Resources and materials were designed and provided to support families, children and communities in the transition including:

- Books, magnetic letters, and other learning materials to support interactions through play
- Family activity calendars to support low-cost activities to engage families
- Family resources to educate and support families in the transition to the school community
- Forms to support shared information between schools and providers

Families reported feeling more supported and a part of the school community, while educators reported that children came into school with no tears this year!

What We Learned

Community partnerships can support everyone in the transition to kindergarten, including public SAUs and community early care and education programs, high school student volunteer groups, school PTO groups and community resource agencies and programs.

Continuing the Momentum

Outreach will continue across our state as we support SAUs and community providers to partner together to enhance the transition to kindergarten processes.

Using the information gained through this opportunity, current resources will be updated.