

Dr. Tony B. Watlington Sr., Ed.D.
Superintendent

Dear Elementary and K-8 School Principals,

Kindergarten registration for the 2024-2025 school year kicks off on January 16, 2024. Research shows that children who attend kindergarten build confidence, gain strong social-emotional skills, and are more likely to read at grade level by the end of kindergarten – *all of which lay a strong foundation for their long-term academic success.* We need your support to ensure all families with children who will be five years of age on September 1, 2024 *act quickly* and register their child for full-day kindergarten.



Here's What We Need From You:

- **Get Ready** - using this helpful [Checklist for Kindergarten Transition](#) and [Registration Guidelines](#).
- **Distribute Flyers** - Flyers will be sent to your school in early January. Place them in your front offices and send them home with any Pre-K students enrolled in your school.
- **Provide Welcoming Onsite Registration Support** - Families can register online via philasd.org/thriveatfive, in person at the Office of Student Enrollment and Placement or in person at your school. Please prepare your school staff to welcome families seeking kindergarten registration support with excellent customer service. For many families, this is their first point of contact with the School District of Philadelphia. Your warmth and guidance are essential to beginning a positive relationship with families.
- **Encourage Early Registration by May 31st** - Data shows that only 50% of our families register before the first day of school. Starting this year, our shared goal is for families to register for kindergarten by May 31st. This provides an opportunity for families and schools to connect and start building personal, trusting relationships before the summer. It also gives schools more time to prepare for their students before the first day of school.

Our Central Offices will support this effort in a variety of ways. A marketing campaign that includes advertising, social media, and direct mailers will start in January and run through May. A toolkit will be shared with faith leaders, business leaders, elected officials and other influencers to help them become kindergarten registration champions. And to promote community engagement, FACE liaisons will canvas your school communities, encouraging local businesses to post kindergarten registration flyers in their windows.

We all play a part in helping Philadelphia's children get a strong start to their educational success. Thank you for your continued expertise in orienting new families to your schools, and for helping our youngest learners to *thrive at five!* If you have any questions, please email them to osep@philasd.org.

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a large initial "T".

Tony B. Watington, Sr., Ed.D.
Superintendent

PS - *Did you know that the School District also provides free preschool to almost 11,000 children every year? If you know a family with a child turning 3 or 4 in the 2024-25 school year, please encourage them to apply for free preschool at philasd.org/PREK.*