Fresno Unified’s Mission for Early Learning

To ensure all children in Fresno Unified School District have an equitable start for college, career, and life readiness, the Early Learning Department provides nurturing, child-centered environments and high-quality educational programs that value and respect the needs, languages, and cultures of all students, families, staff, and community.

Key Features

- Enrollment in Fresno Unified preschool has more than doubled in the past four years, and is expected to top 3,200 this school year.
- $10 million investment was made in 2012 to hire more teachers and staff, add preschools to eight additional sites and add additional preschool classes at 10 other schools.
- The district serves 3,121 pre-schoolers compared to 1,293 in 2011.
- Including programs for infants and toddlers, the district serves 3,266 children from birth to 4 years old.

Helping Kids Graduate Ready for College and Career

With an increase in students attending early learning programs, more students are entering kindergarten better prepared, academically and socially. In addition, Fresno Unified staff is able to intervene earlier to help young learners who may struggle.

Research indicates that children who attended a high quality preschool are more likely to graduate from high school and less likely to need special education, be held back a grade or get in trouble with the law than students who did not attend preschool. Student outcomes at Fresno Unified align with that research, showing that children who have had the opportunity to attend the district’s early learning programs show significantly greater achievement then those who have not.

The district’s work around early learning has been noticed nationally as well, securing the Starting Smart and Strong Initiative, a grant supported by the Packard Foundation. This grant is creating innovative practices to improve the quality of adult-child interaction for early learners – providing resources to families, extended families and informal caregivers so they can provide nurturing environments to children and further support early learning.

Fresno Unified also partners with Early Head Start, Head Start, and Children’s Services Network to provide educators with the tools and training they need to create quality connections and engaging learning activities that address the needs of all children – giving every student the opportunity to succeed, stay in school and on track to graduate.

For additional information or to enroll please call:
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