MEDIA RELEASE

District Awarded $1 million Grant for Early Learning Language Program

What: State awards Fresno Unified School District a $1 million grant to help other California communities replicate the strategies developed through the Fresno Language Project.

Fresno Unified’s Early Learning Department is one of five professional development providers awarded a California Department of Education grant to provide early childhood educators with training on effective strategies for dual language learners. The grant recognizes the trailblazing work of Fresno’s early childhood community in educating children birth to 5 whose home language is other than English. With the grant, Fresno Unified will help replicate its program in two Central Valley communities, and disseminate the strategies throughout the state through four Trainer of Trainer Institutes. The expansion of the Fresno Language Project will be done in collaboration with Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, Central Valley Children’s Service Network and Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission.

The Fresno Language Project was established in 2015 through funds from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. It has hosted more than 15 learning sessions for early childhood educators, including licensed family childcare homes and early learning centers, to share best strategies for helping young learners with language development.

“We are extremely proud of the work our early learning staff is doing to help prepare our youngest learners for success in school, especially those whose first language is not English,” said Superintendent Bob Nelson. “Working with our partners, this grant allows us to share successful early learning strategies with other educators and care providers.”
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