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Lynwood Unified's Kinder Jumpstart Gives Youngest Scholars a Confident Start to School

LYNWOOD, CA – Classrooms across Lynwood Unified School District were filled with bright smiles and eager energy on Aug. 8 as hundreds of incoming Transitional Kindergarten (TK) and Kindergarten students and their families participated in the District's inaugural [Kinder Jumpstart](#) event, held just days before the first day of school on **Wednesday, Aug. 13**.

The special welcome day, hosted at all 12 elementary schools, began with cheerful back-to-school photo opportunities, colorful "Welcome to Kindergarten" signs, and festive balloon displays that set the tone for a day filled with excitement.

Students met their teachers, explored their classrooms and took part in activities designed to ease first-day jitters – from read-aloud story time and outdoor recess to hands-on learning with coloring, pattern blocks and math games. Teachers also observed early learning indicators such as letter and sound recognition to help them tailor instruction from day one.

"I'm excited about Jumpstart for both families and students because it allows us to take initiative in helping students transition to class before the first day of school," said Esmeralda Perez-Rodas, a special education teacher at Washington Elementary School. "It also allows us to connect with families and ease the nerves and anxiety they may have. It's a great way to start the school year."

Kinder Jumpstart is part of Lynwood Unified's ongoing commitment to early learning and family engagement. This year, Lynwood Unified is expecting over 900 TK and Kindergarten students. For TK students – who benefit from a bridge between preschool and kindergarten that fosters social, emotional, and academic growth – the event offered an early opportunity to build confidence in a supportive, structured environment.

While students grew comfortable in their new classrooms, parents stepped away to learn about upcoming workshops, family engagement opportunities, school policies, and ways to support their child's transition into school.

"Seeing our littlest learners walk in with curiosity and leave with confidence is what Kinder Jumpstart is all about," Superintendent Patrick Gittisriboongul, Ed.D. said. "We want every child to feel comfortable and excited on their first official day, and we want families to know they are a vital part of our school community from the very beginning."

With the first day of school set for Aug. 13, over 900 TK and Kindergarten students are now ready to take their first official steps into the classroom — with excitement, confidence and new friends.

– MORE –

PHOTO CAPTIONS:

LUSD_KINDERJUMPSTART_1: Will Rogers Elementary School Kindergarten teacher Christina Ramirez and incoming students pose for their first-ever class photo during the Kinder Jumpstart event on Aug. 8, 2025.

LUSD_KINDERJUMPSTART_2: Washington Elementary School teacher Esmeralda Perez-Rodas works with students on a variety of activities they can expect to experience during their first year as TK students.

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