ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

South-Central
Early Learning Hub



DOUGLAS
EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT
LISTEN • LEARN • LEAD

SOUTH-CENTRAL
EARLY LEARNING
HUB
SERVING DOUGLAS, KLAMATH & LAKE COUNTIES



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South-Central Early Learning Hub

Dear Community Partners, Families, and Friends,

As we reflect on the 2024–2025 school year, we are filled with gratitude for the continued partnerships, growth, and collective impact across our region. The South-Central Early Learning Hub remains committed to ensuring that every child and family, regardless of zip code, has access to the resources and support they need to thrive.

Established in July 2014, the South-Central Early Learning Hub was created to build a coordinated, aligned, and effective system of early learning services—ensuring that young children gain the foundational skills they need for lifelong success. Through strong collaboration with community-based partners, the Hub fosters a collective impact approach focused on shared goals, strategies, and outcomes. We deeply value family voice and choice as essential drivers in shaping systems that support stable, nurturing, and connected families.

This year, we strengthened our collective impact through targeted investments in literacy, expanded access to culturally responsive resources, and deepened relationships with local communities. We remain committed to ensuring every child enters kindergarten ready to thrive.

Thank you to our dedicated partners, families, and community champions for helping us advance our shared mission. We look forward to building on this momentum in the year ahead.

Sincerely,
The SCELH Team



WHO WE ARE:

The South-Central Early Learning Hub vision;

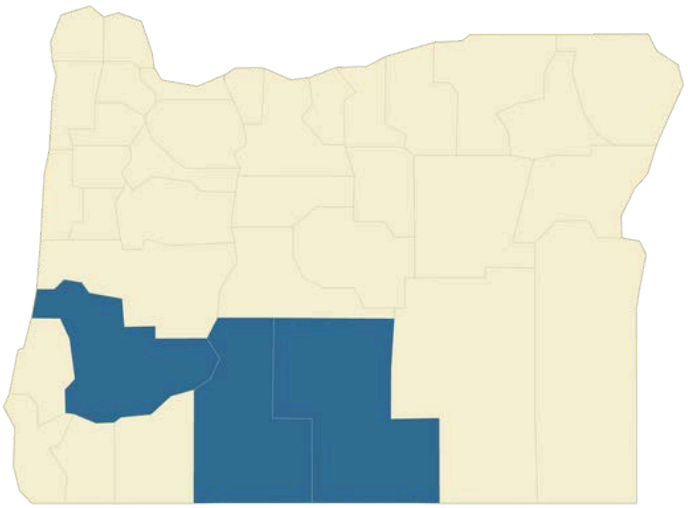
The South-Central Early Learning Hub brings together families, early childhood professionals, schools, businesses, health care providers, coordinated care organizations (CCOs), Tribal partners, faith leaders, and other community partners to:

- Ensure services and support are easily accessible.
- Use evidence-based and innovative approaches to improve outcomes.
- Address the needs of children at risk and children who have been traditionally underserved.
- Collect and analyze data for better accountability in early learning and family support services.

WE SERVE:

Douglas, Klamath, and Lake Counties, the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, and the Klamath Tribes.

9,633 children, ages 0-5 across our region of 19,628 square miles!



TOTAL # OF CHILDREN AGES 0-5 PER COUNTY

Douglas County: 5,304
Klamath County: 3,962
Lake County: 367



EVERY CHILD BELONGS (ECB)



The South-Central Early Learning Hub has partnered with Pacific Research and Evaluation (PRE) to support the strategic development of the Every Child Belongs initiative, formerly known as the Early Childhood Suspension and Expulsion Prevention Program. Set to launch in July 2026, Every Child Belongs remains in the planning and design phase, with intentional efforts underway to ensure that the program is both community-informed and equity-driven.

Oregon data shows approximately 15,460 children aged 0–5 experienced suspension or expulsion statewide—nearly 9%—with clear racial and ability-based disparities



COLLECTING COMMUNITY INPUT

As part of this developmental process, PRE conducted a series of regional listening sessions across Douglas, Klamath, and Lake Counties. These sessions were designed to elevate family and provider voices, surface community-specific needs, and identify systemic barriers related to the exclusionary practices in early learning settings. The insights gathered will be instrumental in shaping an initiative that reflects the lived experiences and priorities of families and providers throughout the region.

NEXT STEPS

Recognizing the critical importance of sustainability, capacity, and deep-rooted community connections, the South-Central Early Learning Hub has formally recommended that Douglas Education Service District (ESD), in partnership with Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R), assume leadership of the Every Child Belongs initiative upon implementation. This recommendation reflects both agencies' longstanding commitment to early learning, their infrastructure to support complex program delivery, and their collaborative approach to improving outcomes for children and families.

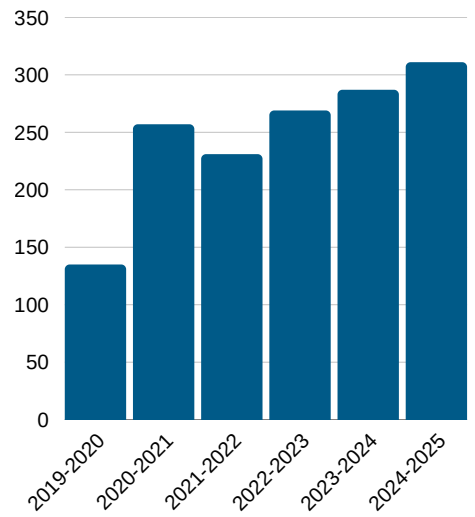
PRESCHOOL PROMISE

Preschool Promise is a high-quality, publicly funded preschool program serving children ages 3 and 4 from families at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, those in foster care, and other historically underserved groups. The program emphasizes a mixed-delivery model including licensed centers, home-based care, school district preschools, culturally specific programs, and Head Start to foster inclusivity, while ensuring families can choose settings that best match their child's and family's cultural and educational needs..

Preschool Promise Provider	# of Slots
North Douglas	15
Sutherlin School District	18
Brockway	18
Elkton School District	10
Wildflower Child Care	16
Yoncalla School District	34
Victoria's Home Daycare & Preschool	8
Days Creek Charter School	12
Honker Preschool	17
The YMCA of Klamath County	45
Gilchrist Elementary	18
Klamath Early Childhood Development Center	43
Nic Nacs Quality Childcare	9

263

Preschool Promise slots awarded to our partners in the South-Central Early Learning Hub Region!



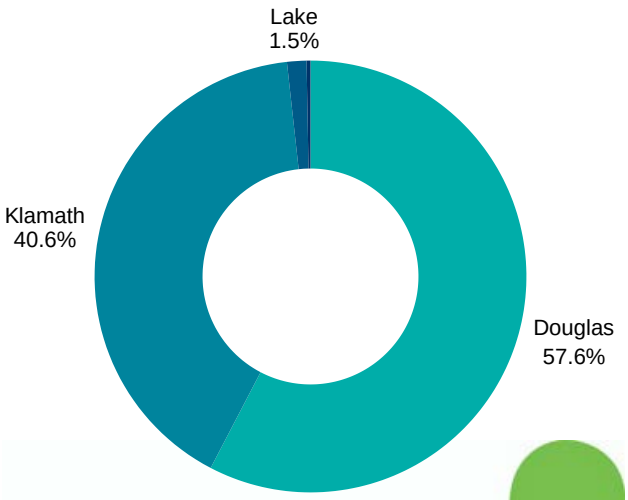
COORDINATED ENROLLMENT

The South-Central Early Learning Hub coordinates enrollment and eligibility for Preschool Promise, serving as a gateway to free, full-day preschool that aligns with kindergarten schedules (at least 6 hours/day, 4 days/week, 900 hours annually). For the 2024–25 school year, Douglas County secured 12 dedicated slots at Days Creek Charter Preschool through the Hub's Request for Application (RFA) process. This expansion reflects the continued growth of the Preschool Promise program and the Hub's commitment to increasing access to high-quality early education—especially in rural and frontier communities where preschool opportunities have historically been limited. By reaching deeper into underserved areas, the program helps ensure that more children enter kindergarten ready to learn, no matter where they live.

COMMUNITY UPLiFT

Community UPLiFT, a program of the South-Central Early Learning Hub, connects expectant parents and families with children ages 0–5—and up to age 21 for those with special needs—to free, local support services. Through a closed-loop, universal intake and referral process, Community UPLiFT ensures families are efficiently linked to the resources and supports of their choice. Family Resource Facilitators, who are either certified Community Health Workers (CHWs) or currently working toward certification, serve as trusted access points across Douglas, Klamath, and Lake Counties. Their training and lived experience uniquely position them to build strong relationships with families and guide them through available early childhood, special needs services, and other resources in their communities.

Since its inception, Community UPLiFT has received a total of 1,720 referrals across Douglas, Klamath, and Lake Counties. This milestone reflects the program's ongoing role in connecting families to vital early childhood, special needs services, and other resources throughout the region.



COMMUNITY UpLiFT
DOUGLAS • KLAMATH • LAKE



Raising a family can be tough. Asking for help shouldn't be!

KINDERGARTEN READINESS PARTNERSHIP & INNOVATION

The Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation (KPI) Program supports the development of promising, community-driven models that strengthen connections between early learning and K–3 education throughout Oregon. By fostering collaborative partnerships between schools and local organizations, the program aims to improve measurable outcomes in children's readiness for kindergarten.

KPI is designed to build scalable and replicable approaches to prenatal-to-third-grade (P–3) alignment at the local level. Core strategies include joint professional development for early childhood educators and kindergarten teachers, facilitating smooth transitions into kindergarten, and engaging families as essential partners in children's learning and development.



Kids in Transition to School (KITs at Home)

The Hub has partnered with KITS at Home–KITS En Casa to bring early education resources directly to families in some of the most rural and underserved areas of our region. KITS at Home is an online program for parents, grounded in the evidence-based KITS model, and integrates content from both in-person parent groups and school readiness sessions for children. The curriculum includes 16 one-hour sessions and provides families with practical social-emotional skill-building activities to try at home. To ensure accessibility, sessions are offered in both English and Spanish. This partnership expands access to high-quality early learning supports and helps families prepare their children for school success—no matter where they live.

Professional Development

The South-Central Early Learning Hub coordinated a series of professional development trainings with Dr. Dawn Bailey and Dr. Amy King, providing early learning educators with meaningful opportunities to expand their knowledge and skill sets. Dr. Bailey led sessions on Preschool Life Skills and De-escalation strategies, equipping participants with tools to support young children's social-emotional development and manage challenging behaviors. Dr. King's Cards for Connection training focused on strengthening relationships and promoting educator well-being. These offerings reflect the Hub's ongoing commitment to supporting a highly skilled early learning workforce across the region.



FAMILY GOVERNANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

This year, the South-Central Early Learning Hub's Family Governance Advisory Committee continued to demonstrate the power of family-led leadership in early learning systems. The committee brought together a dedicated group of parents and caregivers whose lived experience and community-centered focus have shaped policy, advocacy, and access to resources across the region.



RESILIANCE & COMMITTMENT

Despite facing personal and systemic challenges, committee members showed unwavering dedication by consistently attending monthly meetings and actively participating in discussions and initiatives. Their presence and engagement reflect deep resilience and a shared belief in the importance of elevating family voice in decision-making spaces.

LEARNING & ADVOCACY

Committee members engaged in targeted professional development throughout the year, gaining skills in:

- Advocacy and civic engagement
- Understanding the Hatch Act and family rights
- Special education processes (IEP and IFSP)
- Conflict resolution
- Digital tools and technology

These efforts supported participants in strengthening their role as community advocates and equipped them with tools to effect meaningful change.





WELLNESS & CONNECTION

Recognizing the importance of emotional well-being, the committee created intentional space for reflection, healing, and self-care. Activities such as vision board creation and Tapping (Emotional Freedom Technique) provided participants with wellness strategies to support themselves and one another.

LEADERSHIP & IMPACT

The committee demonstrated remarkable initiative in the following areas:

- Developed and used an advocacy worksheet to support family leadership
- Created a group responsibility statement to welcome and orient new families
- Designed an action plan to broaden family participation in the Hub
- Authored and implemented a successful grant for community-based Little Free Libraries

These actions not only fostered leadership within the committee but also expanded access to literacy resources in underserved areas.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025-2026

As we look to the year ahead, the South-Central Early Learning Hub remains committed to supporting and growing this vital group. The foundation laid this year will guide expanded efforts in family empowerment, leadership development, and equitable access to early learning opportunities across Douglas, Klamath, and Lake Counties.



LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES

We are proud to highlight the launch of 12 new Little Free Libraries made possible through grant funding and the dedicated efforts of the South-Central Early Learning Hub's Family Governance Advisory Committee. Through their thoughtful grant writing and commitment to equitable access, these libraries have been strategically placed in areas of our region that previously lacked access to books and literacy resources.

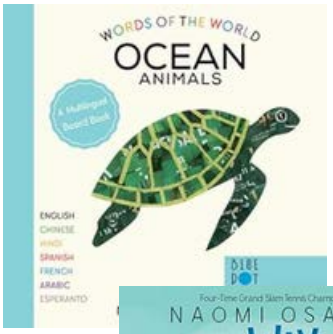
Each library features a carefully curated collection of multicultural and multilingual children's books that are age-appropriate and reflective of a broad range of cultures, identities, and lived experiences. These collections are designed to promote early literacy, celebrate diversity, and foster a love of reading among children and families. By helping young readers see themselves and others in the stories they explore, these libraries contribute to more inclusive, connected communities where all children feel seen, valued, and inspired to learn.

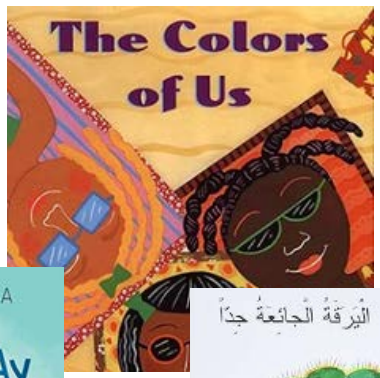


PAISLEY CHARTER SCHOOL
260 GREEN ST. PAISLEY, OR. 97636

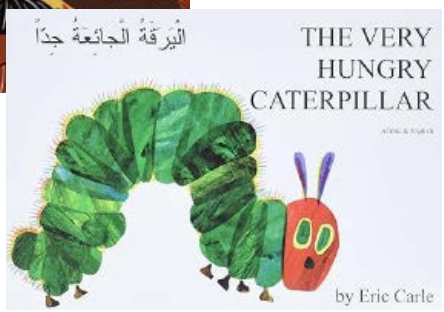
BOOKS THAT REFLECT EVERY CHILD: PROMOTING INCLUSION THROUGH LITERACY

Multicultural and multilingual children's books provide a valuable opportunity to introduce young readers to the rich diversity of the world around them. By celebrating a wide range of cultures, languages, and traditions, these books promote empathy, inclusivity, and a deeper understanding of different ways of life. Whether through bilingual storytelling or narratives that highlight diverse characters and experiences, these books help children build a broader worldview and a lifelong appreciation for learning. Each book is accompanied by a vibrant, engaging bookmark featuring information about the Family Governance Advisory Committee and opportunities for families to get involved











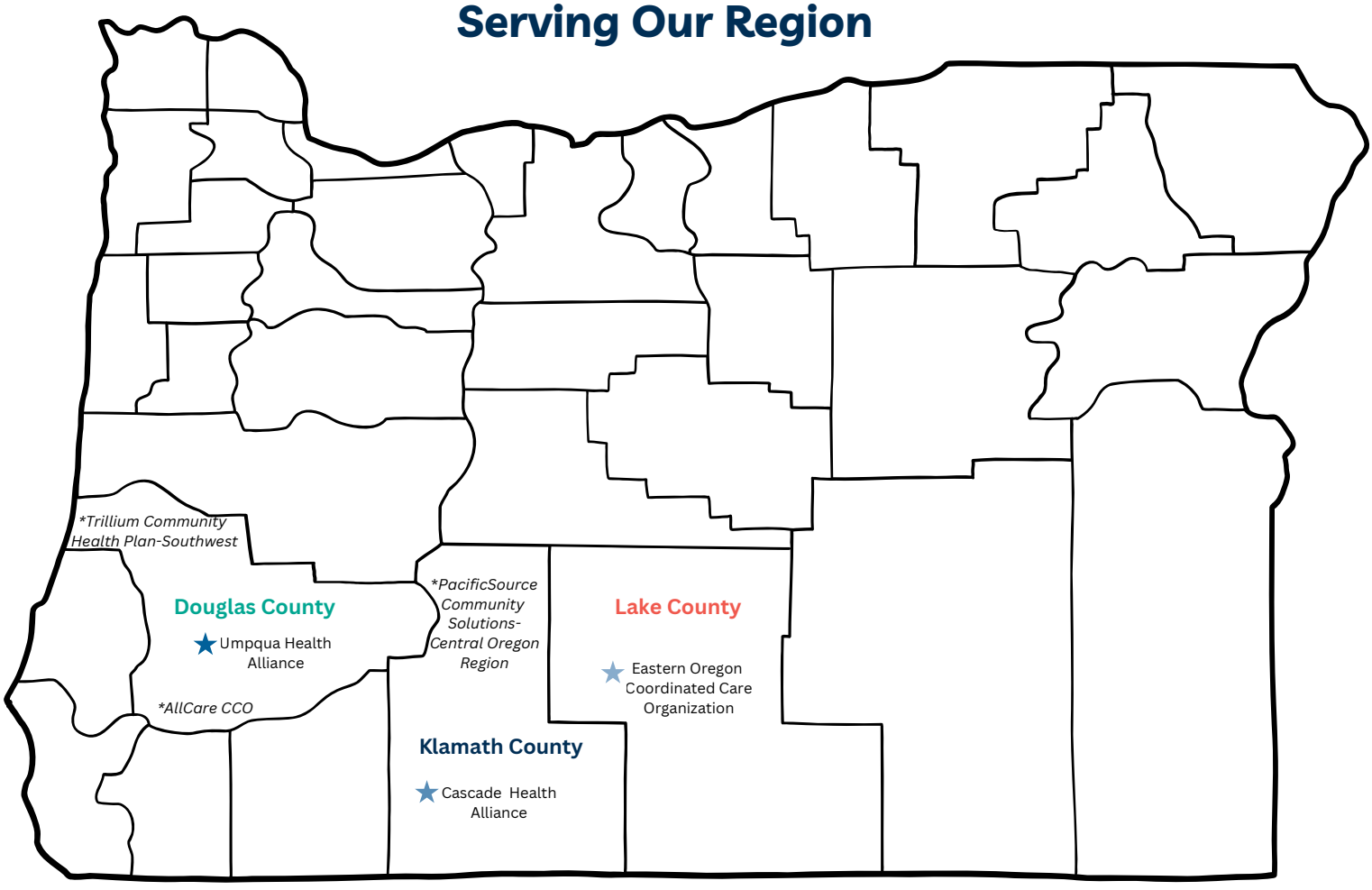
COORDINATED SYSTEMS, CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

The South-Central Early Learning Hub serves the largest geographic region in Oregon, encompassing Douglas, Klamath, and Lake Counties, the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, and the Klamath Tribes. Covering vast and diverse communities across southern Oregon, the Hub works diligently to ensure families in both rural and frontier areas have access to early learning opportunities and support. Due to its expansive reach, the South-Central Early Learning Hub collaborates with three primary Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs) and three ancillary CCOs, an effort that requires strong cross-county partnerships and coordinated systems to best meet the needs of children and families across the region.



Coordinated Care Organizations

Serving Our Region

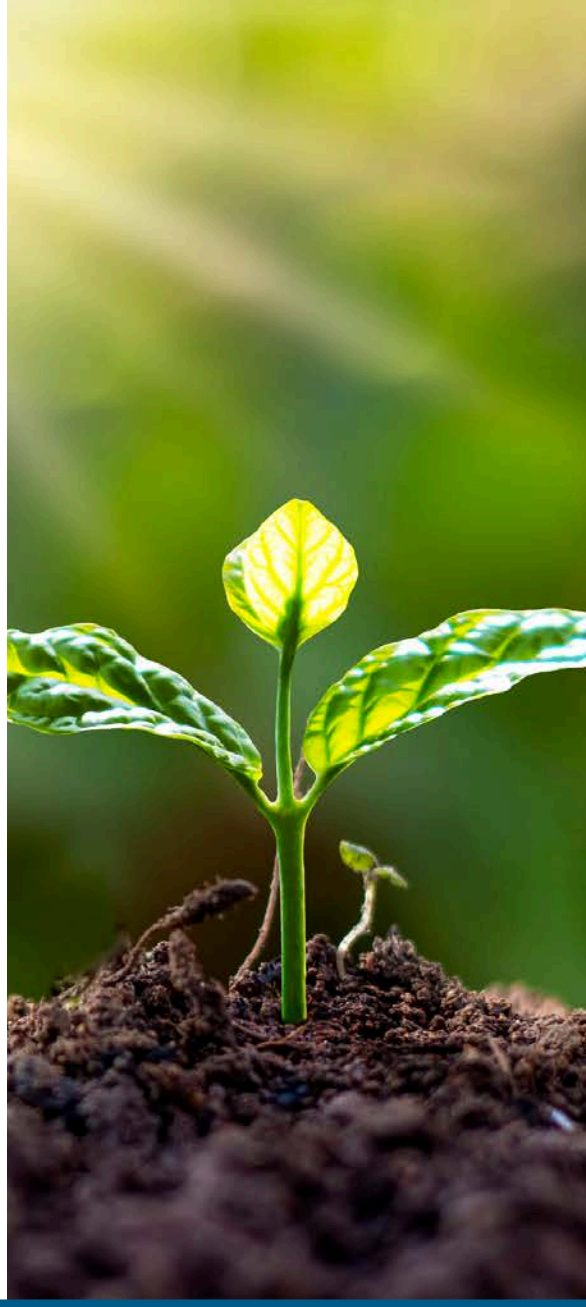


COMMUNITY EVENTS

Throughout the year, the South-Central Early Learning Hub actively engaged families and community partners across Douglas, Klamath, and Lake Counties through a variety of outreach strategies and public events. These community-based efforts served as a vital platform to raise awareness about the Hub's mission, services, and early learning initiatives.

Participation in local events allowed the Hub to connect directly with families, gain insight into community needs, and strengthen trust and collaboration with both residents and partner organizations. These engagements also provided opportunities to distribute information about early childhood programs and resources, ensuring families had access to tools that support early development and school readiness.

In addition to in-person outreach, the Hub strategically expanded its digital presence to ensure ongoing access to information and engagement opportunities. Through social media and online platforms, the Hub continued to foster meaningful connections, broaden its reach, and promote available services and supports to a wider audience.



EVENTS INCLUDED:

Community Baby Showers

First Thursday

Community Cafes

Dr. Seuss Night

Third Thursday

Community Partnership Events

IYS Summer Lunch Kickoff

Other Community Events