

J.O. Combs Unified School District Kinder Prep

2026-2027 KINDER PREP



J.O. COMBS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
43371 N. KENWORTHY RD.
SAN TAN VALLEY, AZ 85140
(480) 987-5300 | WWW.JOCOMBS.ORG

Combs
J.O. Combs Unified School District
Learning Today. Leading Tomorrow

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J.O. Combs Unified School District Kinder Prep

Contact Information

Email: kinderprep@jocombs.org

Phone: 480-987-5321

District Office

43371 N Kenworthy Rd.

San Tan Valley, AZ 85140

Kinder Prep Locations

Ellsworth Elementary School

38454 N. Carolina Ave.

San Tan Valley, AZ 85140

480-882-3520

LIC CDC 13415

Ranch Elementary School

43521 N Kenworthy Ave

San Tan Valley, AZ 85140

480-882-3530

LIC CDC 14469

J.O. Combs - Kinder Prep

The J.O. Combs Kinder Prep Program provides a supportive learning environment where young children can learn, play, and grow. Certified teachers and paraprofessionals foster creativity, independence, and the development of strong foundational skills for future learning.

Curriculum

The Arizona Early Learning Standards, 4th Edition (AzELS) provides a framework for the planning of quality early learning experiences for all children in early childhood settings. The AzELS provides an essential first step for designing and/or choosing an effective, high-quality preschool curriculum. Curriculum includes Scholastic Pre-K On My Way and Heggerty to strengthen early literacy, phonological awareness, and language development. These evidence-based resources are used to support differentiated instruction and ensure access to learning for all students

Licensing and Quality Assurance

The Kinder Prep classrooms are licensed, regulated, and supported by the Arizona Department of Health Services (DHS), the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES), and First Things First - Quality First. Contact information of these organizations are provided below. DHS inspection reports are available upon request at the District office.

Department of Health Services (DHS) (website):

Office of Child Care Licensure
150 N. 18th Ave, 4th Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85007
(602)364-2536

Department of Economic Security (DES) (website):

Department of Economic Security - Child Care Assistance Division
1789 W. Jefferson St.
Phoenix, Az 85007
833-947-6396 (Child Care Assistance)
800-308-9000 (Child Care Resources & Referral)

Quality First Participation: [Quality First](#) (website) is Arizona's early learning quality improvement and rating system, supported by First Things First. The goal of the program is to assist early childhood programs to strengthen the learning experiences they offer through coaching, professional development, and resources.

Smart Support Mental Health Consultation: [Smart Support](#) (website), through First Things First and Southwest Human Development, works with Kinder Prep staff to implement practices

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and strategies to support children's social and emotional development. They provide coaching, professional development, model teacher-child interaction, and when necessary offer specific child support.

Program Hours/Days of Operation

All Kinder Prep locations will follow the K-12 [school/district calendar](#) (website).

Both half day and full day options are available.

Full Day Schedule:

Ellsworth Elementary

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday: 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM

Wednesday and all Half Days: 8:30 AM – 1:30PM

Ranch Elementary

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday: 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM

Wednesday and all Half Days: 8:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Half Day Schedule:

Ellsworth Elementary

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday:

AM Session 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM; PM Session 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Wednesday and all Half Days:

AM Session 8:30 AM - 11:00 AM; PM Session 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM

Ranch Elementary

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday:

AM Session 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM; PM Session 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Wednesday and all Half Days:

AM Session 8:30 AM - 11:00 AM; PM Session 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM

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Daily Schedule

Kinder Prep is exciting and unique in many ways. It is a positive, child-oriented program with a hands-on, active approach toward learning. This approach includes the extensive use of manipulatives, learning by doing, and encourages active involvement in problem-solving.

The following is an example of a typical Kinder Prep day:

- Whole group welcome & opening activities
- AM snack (parent provided)
- Whole group story time
- Small group
- Whole group lesson – Reading, Writing, Math, Science, and Social Studies
- Lunch (parent provided)
- Independent activities – An extension or follow-up of whole group lesson
- Centers - small group
- PM snack (parent provided)
- Recess –independent or group activity
- Closing activity and dismissal

Registration and Enrollment

Age Requirements

Kinder Prep: Students must be at least 4 years old and fully potty trained to enroll.

Registration and Tuition Payment Information

[Registration](#) (website) may be completed online. If additional assistance is needed please contact (480) 987-5300 or KinderPrep@jocombs.org (email). An annual **non-refundable** fee of \$75.00 is due at the time of registration.

Once online registration is completed, the district will be in contact. Registration documents may be dropped off in person at the District office. The following documents are required for registration:

- A copy of your child's up-to-date immunization record or Immunization Exemption Form
- Birth Certificate

Tuition Payment:

- Monthly tuition payments may be made online using [DayCare Works](#) (website).
 - o [To create an account](#) (website).
 - o [To access an existing account](#) (website).
- A late fee of \$25.00 will be charged if tuition is not received by the 5th of each month. Students will be withdrawn from the program if full tuition payment and any accrued late fees are not received on or before the 10th day of any month.
- To pay by check, make the check payable to J.O. Combs Unified School District. Checks

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should be dropped off or mailed to 43371 N. Kenworthy Rd. San Tan Valley, AZ 85140, to the attention of: Kinder Prep Program. In the event a check is returned, a fee of \$32.50 will be added to the balance (the original balance plus the returned item fee must be paid).

- Refunds or credits are not given when students are absent (e.g. illness or vacation).
- Children are withdrawn from the program if the account is not reconciled within ten (10) days of receiving notice from the District of an overdue balance.
- Enroll two or more children from the same family and receive a 20% tuition discount for the 2nd child.
- A discount (20%) is available for children of J.O. Combs employees.
- Kinder Prep accepts children whose families receive DES child care assistance. Please contact your DES caseworker and have them call 480-987-5300 or email KinderPrep@jocombs.org (email) with your authorization or provide mobile authorization from [DES childcare application](#) (website) to the district office. If you already receive DES child care assistance, you can access proof of eligibility through your [MyFamilyBenefits Portal](#) (website). Parents are responsible for all DES co-pays.
- Our Kinder Prep program has partnered with the [First Things First – Quality First Initiative](#) (website). Scholarships for Kinder Prep tuition are available through First Things First. If you are interested in a Kinder Prep scholarship, please email kinderprep@jocombs.org (email) or call 480-987-5300 ext. 5310 for an application form.

Child Find

Child Find is a component of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 2004) that requires schools to locate, identify, and evaluate all children with disabilities from birth through age 21, located within the geographic boundaries of district, who are in need of early intervention or special education services.

If you suspect your child may have a disability and require special education services, the district provides play-based screenings at no cost. A play-based screening allows up to four pre-school age students to participate in a structured and play-based environment to gather information about the child's performance in the areas of cognition, communication, adaptive skills, fine motor and gross motor. [To schedule a screening](#) (website) visit our website for more information or send an email to preschoolchildfind@jocombs.org (email).

Program Procedures and Policies

Drop-Off and Pick-Up

- Parents are responsible for transportation.
- Parents must sign their child(ren) in and out of the program at the designated location at each campus.
- Driveways, crosswalks, or parking spots may not be blocked due to fire code.

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A late fee of \$15.00 will be charged after 15 minutes past the pickup time, and an additional \$15.00 for each 15-minute interval thereafter. If a child is still present one hour after the program's end time, the Pinal County Sheriff's Office will be contacted for assistance.

Signing Students In/Out

- Parents must sign in and sign out daily with their full printed name, date, and time. Signatures must be in blue or black ink only.
- Students will only be released to persons specifically listed in the Synergy ParentVue online portal.
 - In an emergency situation, for a student to be released to anyone other than those listed in the Synergy ParentVue online portal, the school will require written authorization from the parent.
- Valid government issued photo identification (e.g. driver's license, military ID, passport, etc.) is required to sign any child out.

Clothing

Outdoor play is an important part of your child's day and total health. Weather permitting; the children will play outdoors each day. Follow these guidelines regarding student clothing:

- Dress appropriately for the weather
- All clothing jackets, backpacks, and other personal belongings should be clearly labeled with your child's first and last name.
- Dress your child for comfort. Your child should wear practical, washable clothes.
- Sturdy shoes or tennis shoes are recommended. Flip flops, some sandals, cowboy boots, and other slick-soled shoes may prevent children from playing freely and should not be worn.
- Pictures and/or words on any garment and jewelry must be in good taste with nothing that is obscene, vulgar or promotes anything that is illegal or considered drug or gang related are not permitted.

Personal Items at Preschool

Please do not send any toys or other personal items to preschool with your child unless requested by their teacher. The J.O. Combs School District is not responsible for personal items lost, stolen, or broken.

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Food and Nutrition

Kinder Prep classrooms eat lunch in the school cafeteria.

- **Meal Options:**

- **Apply [online](#)** (website).
 - Download the **LINQ Connect App** from the Apple App Store or Google Play.
 - Select the **Combs District**. The online system is the most efficient. In addition, it helps ensure all information is submitted correctly and prevents delays.
 - **Apply for Free or Reduced Meals:** Many families may qualify and we strongly encourage all families to complete an application.
- Or
- **Self-Pay:** If your family does not qualify for the Free or Reduced Meals, you may add funds to your child's meal account to purchase school lunches.
- Or
- **Bring Lunch From Home:** Students may continue to bring a packed lunch from home if preferred.

- **Breakfast**

- Breakfast is offered before the start of the school day. If you would like your child to have breakfast at school, please contact the school's front office for information about site-specific procedures.

- **Snack**

- There are 2 snack times during the school day. It is recommended 2-3 items per snack opportunity that contain the following components: protein, fruit, vegetables, whole grains, and dairy (if allowed), according to the child's nutritional needs. There is no access to refrigeration, please ensure all food items are packed in insulated containers with adequate cooling (such as ice packs, thermos) to keep food fresh.

Attendance Information

Regular attendance and arriving on time are important habits that help children succeed and make the most of their learning each day. Absences and tardiness can be disruptive for both your child and the classroom community.

If a child qualifies for a **DES or Quality First scholarship**, be aware that there are specific attendance requirements tied to these programs. Not meeting these requirements could result in loss of the scholarship.

Permission to Photograph/Videotape

The District reserves the right to have students interviewed, photographed or have their picture displayed in the news media, District publications or on the Internet, unless the parents refuse the participation of these activities in the Synergy ParentVue enrollment system. In addition, creative and authored works of your child may be displayed or shared with the public unless the parent refuses participation via Synergy ParentVue.

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Emergency Procedures

The District has procedures in place to handle emergency and crisis situations. All schools have regular drills for students to practice lockdown and evacuation procedures, as well as bus evacuation drills. In the event of a civil emergency, the District will work closely with the local emergency response team. The District sends alerts out via a digital platform, as well as an emergency alert on the website to assist staff, students and parents in preparing for, responding to, or recovering from a crisis. Make sure your child's information is as up to date as possible.

Pets and Animals

Pets are only allowed on campus with prior principal approval. Check with the Kinder Prep teacher before bringing pets to ensure they are approved by DHS for licensed child care facilities.

School Visitations

Parents who would like to visit or observe a classroom must schedule the visit in advance through the principal. All visitors are required to sign in at the front office upon arrival, present a photo ID, and obtain a visitor badge before entering campus. If a parent plans to bring another child, prior approval from the principal is required. Children who are not enrolled at Combs may not visit or attend school during school hours.

Health Services

There is a health aide at each school. They are able to administer first aid and medications.

Medication

- Medications will be administered in the Health Office during Kinder Prep hours per doctor's orders.
- Medications must be delivered to the Health Office by the parent.
- Medication must be in the original container from the pharmacy (pharmacies will provide a duplicate container for school use upon request).
 - The appropriate consent form for giving medication at school must be completed and signed by the parent and the physician.
- Medication will not be given the first and last hour of the school day to avoid any possibility of overdose.

Child Illness

Any student with a temperature of 100.0 degrees or more will not be allowed to attend school. When a student is sent home from school with a fever, the student may not return to school until fever-free without fever-reducing medication for a minimum of twenty-four hours.

Students are to be kept home if the following symptoms are present: nausea and vomiting, diarrhea, elevated temperature, red or inflamed eyes, coughing, sore throat, yellow or green nasal discharge, skin rash unless it has been diagnosed by a physician as noninfectious, headache or other pain. If

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any of these symptoms occur while at school, the parent will be contacted and the student will need to be picked up from school.

If for any reason your child should not participate in any activity, a doctor's excuse may be required.

Any student with, or recovering from, a communicable disease will not be permitted in school until the period of contagion is passed or until a physician recommends a return, in accordance with A.R.S. [36-621](#) et seq., appropriate regulations of the State Department of Health Services, and policies of the County Health Department.

Student Injuries

Even with the greatest precautions and the closest supervision, accidents can and do happen at school. Parents need to be aware of this and be prepared for possible medical expenses that may arise should their child be injured at school. Students who have an accident or injury at school need to report it to the health office immediately.

The school district does not provide medical/accident insurance to automatically pay for medical expenses when students are injured at school. This is the responsibility of the parents or legal guardians. The district carries only legal liability insurance. The district does make student medical insurance available to families for their individual purchase. Brochures outlining the coverage and premiums are handed out at the beginning of the school year and are available at the school office. Parents, please be prepared to pay for your child's possible medical expenses.

Immunizations

A verified immunization record which includes the month, day and year the child was immunized against these diseases must be presented at the time of enrollment. No student will be allowed to enroll in school without being fully immunized as mandated by the Arizona Department of Public Health and an original/verified copy of your child's immunizations from the doctor has been submitted. Please check with Health Office staff regarding your child's immunization status. The required immunizations include:

- 4 DPT – 5 doses needed if 4th dose was given prior to 4th birthday
- 3 OPV – 4 doses needed if 3rd dose was given prior to 4th birthday
- 2 MMR
- Varicella (Chicken Pox) - 2 Doses
- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B Series
 - 1st dose required to enter school
 - 2nd dose due 30 days after 1st dose
 - 3rd dose due 5 months after 2nd dose

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Children may be exempted:

- If the parents submit a signed statement that immunizations are contrary to their religious or personal beliefs.
- Although the law allows exemptions, the County Health Department may request we exclude your child from school should there be an outbreak of any of these diseases they have not been vaccinated against.

Exemption Forms:

[Medical Exemption Form \(English\)](#)

[Medical Exemption Form \(Spanish\)](#)

[Religious Exemption Form \(English\)](#)

[Religious Exemption Form \(Spanish\)](#)

Field Trips

Parents need to give permission for their child to attend both on and off-site field trips. The Kinder Prep staff will provide the appropriate permission forms prior to any field trips.

On-site field trips occur when students leave their classroom to visit another area of the school that is not licensed, such as the library, music room, or other designated spaces. A permission slip signed by a parent or guardian is required for all on-site field trips and will be kept in the student's file.

Student Code of Conduct/Discipline

In Kinder Prep, we want every child to feel safe, respected, and ready to learn. Our Code of Conduct helps create a positive, orderly environment where all students can enjoy learning and growing together. We ask that students demonstrate kindness, respect, and appropriate behavior at school, on the bus, traveling to and from school, and during school activities. Following these expectations helps everyone have a successful and happy day.

We appreciate your support as parents and guardians:

1. Review and discuss the Code of Conduct with your child so they understand our expectations.
2. Sign the ParentVue acknowledgment in Synergy to confirm that you have reviewed the Code of Conduct with your child.

Note: Even if the acknowledgment is not returned, students and families are still responsible for following the Code of Conduct.

Positive Guidance and Support in Kinder Prep:

Our goal is to guide children toward positive choices. Teachers use a 5-step plan to help students learn and practice expected behaviors:

1. Verbal reminder and positive redirection – helping your child understand better choices.
2. Temporary break from an activity – giving your child time to reset while still staying in the classroom.

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3. Phone call to parents – to share strategies and work together on next steps.
4. On-site conference with staff, parent, and child – collaborating to support your child's success.
5. Program withdrawal – considered only if other steps are not effective and the child's needs cannot be met safely in the classroom.

Behavior guidance is progressive, meaning first incidents are handled with gentle reminders and support, while repeated behaviors may require additional steps. Staff consider each situation individually to respond in the most helpful and fair way. If behaviors are on-going a consultation with the Mental Health Consultant from Smart Support will be requested. Our approach focuses on teaching and reinforcing positive behaviors, so each child can learn, belong, and grow in a safe and nurturing environment.

Notices

Public Notice of Nondiscrimination

J.O. Combs Unified School District #44 does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, age or sexual orientation in admission and access to its programs, services, activities, or in any aspect of their operations and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. J.O. Combs Unified School District #44 also does not discriminate in its hiring or employment practices.

El Distrito Escolar Unificado de J.O. Combs no discrimina basada por la raza, el color, el origen nacional, el sexo, la discapacidad o la edad de una persona en sus programas o actividades y proporciona igual acceso a los Boy Scouts y otros grupos juveniles designados. Las consultas pueden dirigirse al coordinador del Título IX o al coordinador del Título II de la Sección 504 / ADA en 43371 N. Kenworthy Rd., San Tan Valley, AZ 85140 o (480) 987-5300.

The following employees have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies.

Title IX Compliance Officer	Section 504/ADA Compliance Officer
Mr. Toby Haugen 43371 N. Kenworthy Rd San Tan Valley, Arizona 85140 480-987-5300 thaugen@jocombs.org	Ms. Jennifer Corry 43371 N. Kenworthy Rd San Tan Valley, Arizona 85140 480-987-5300 jcorry@jocombs.org

Prohibited Sexual Harassment:

J.O. Combs Unified School District takes very seriously any violations of its Governing Board [Policy ACA, Sexual Harassment](#) (website). Sexual harassment is a form of discrimination in educational opportunities on the basis of sex. It is prohibited by Title VII of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964, by Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, by the Arizona Civil Rights Act, and by District policy. Sexual harassment includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. This includes employee to student actions, student to employee actions, and student-to-student actions. If you feel you have been sexually harassed or you know someone who has been sexually harassed, you should immediately report it to your teacher, Dean of Students, school principal, Title IX Coordinator or the District Assistant Superintendent. The District will take immediate steps to investigate complaints and to take appropriate remedial action. Sexual Harassment by students will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action.

Electronic Information Services User Agreement

The school's information technology resources, including email and Internet access, are provided for educational purposes, communication, and employee access to resources. Online communication constitutes web browsing, email, instant messaging, blogging, any use of network resources, etc.

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JOCUSD electronic resources include, but are not limited to, all hardware, software, data, communication devices, printers, servers, filtered Internet access, and local and wide area networks. Online communication is critical for learners to apply 21st Century Skills and employ tools such as interactive websites, blogs, video conferencing, podcasts, etc., which offer authentic opportunities for students to express and share information. (Policy [IJNDB](#) [website], Policy [IJNDB-R](#) [website], Policy [IJNDB-E](#) [website])

To keep students safe and comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), the Acceptable Use Agreement is put in place and updated to accommodate the many educational and global changes to date. This Acceptable Use Agreement is written for all those who use school-provided network connections. These connections may be used for classroom blogs, student emails, podcast projects, interactive websites, social media, and any other occasion students, teachers, or community members use school network resources. Adherence to the following policy is necessary for continued access to the school's technological resources. Parent/Legal Guardian electronic signature will be required in the Synergy ParentVue.

Personal GPS Tracking Devices

The District is committed to working with parents who have purchased personal GPS tracking devices (such as AngelSense or other personal GPS devices) for their child to wear. It is the responsibility of the parent to inform the school if their child is wearing the device to school.

Many of these personal GPS tracking devices have a "Listen-In" and/or recording feature which allows parents to listen-in, in real time, to their child and their child's surroundings. Due to the need to maintain confidentiality and protect the privacy of all of the students, any type of listen-in or recording feature must be disabled during the school day, when the student is being transported to and from school and when the student is at any school sponsored event. Only an administrator may give permission for the listen-in or recording feature to be activated.

If a child is discovered to have device without the school being informed or a device is found to have its "listen-in" and/or recording feature activated during any time defined above, the device shall be turned off and/or confiscated by school administration until such time as the child's parent is able to pick up the device from campus. If a device is found to be in violation of this policy on more than one occasion, the child will no longer be permitted to bring the device to school.

Acknowledgement Agreement

I have read, understand, and agree to the policies and procedures as set forth in the Kinder Prep Parent Handbook.

Parent/Guardian printed name

Parent/Guardian signature

Date

Child's Name