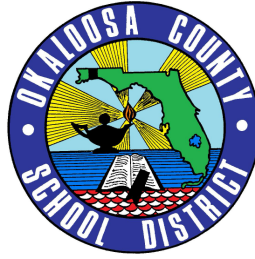


SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OKALOOSA COUNTY

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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Kindergarten Kickstart Prepares 326 Students for a Successful Start to School

The Okaloosa County School District's annual Kindergarten Kickstart program welcomed 326 incoming kindergarten students at 11 Title I schools from July 20-23, 2026, helping young learners build confidence and prepare for their first day of school. Kindergarten Kickstart is designed to ease the transition into elementary school by giving students the opportunity to explore their new classrooms, meet teachers and classmates, establish daily routines, and develop confidence in a fun, supportive learning environment before the school year begins.

"Starting kindergarten is one of the most important milestones in a child's educational journey, and we want every student to walk through our doors feeling confident, excited, and ready to learn," said Superintendent Marcus Chambers. "Kindergarten Kickstart provides students with a positive first experience at school while helping families feel connected and supported. We are grateful to our Title I team and school staff for investing in the success of our youngest learners."

Through the Title I District Initiative, each participating student received a School Success Kit filled with learning materials and school supplies. Students also received free meals and transportation throughout the four-day program, ensuring every child had access to this valuable opportunity. The schools participating in the 2026 Kindergarten Kickstart program included Walker, Edwins, Northwood, Laurel Hill, Lewis, Wright, Bob Sikes, Elliott Point, Kenwood, Shalimar, and Riverside.

The Okaloosa County School District looks forward to welcoming these students—and all of our learners—for the first day of the 2026-2027 school year on Monday, August 11.



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