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NEWS RELEASE - For immediate release

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Expansion of Universal Transitional Kindergarten and Prekindergarten in Solano County

Solano County, CA- Starting next school year, California's Universal Transitional Kindergarten (UTK) program will begin its roll out to create an optional grade level that precedes kindergarten. Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) is providing support to local school districts and charter schools with the statewide expansion of UTK. This includes help with the UTK planning and implementation process designed by the California Department of Education (CDE). SCOE also brings the early learning and care community together with schools to collaborate around a wide range of educational options for families of 4-year-olds in Solano County.

Assembly Bill 130, signed in 2021, established an early learning initiative to expand access to classroom-based prekindergarten programs offered by school districts, county offices of education, or charter schools. Creating a unified system of state-funded preschool opportunities, the California Master Plan for Early Learning and Care has established the expansion of transitional kindergarten (TK) that will occur over the next five years.

"We are pleased to see the state fund the expansion of critical early learning opportunities for children. SCOE will continue to be a conduit, support and resource for educators, school districts and charters as high-quality early learning programs continue to become available for Solano families," remarked Solano Superintendent of Schools Lisette Estrella-Henderson.

UPK stands for Universal Prekindergarten, which, by 2025–26 will exist for all four-year-old children in California. Universal transitional kindergarten (UTK) is part of UPK and includes a variety of instructional systems like California State Preschool Programs, the federal Head Start Program, subsidized programs operated by community-based organizations, and private preschool. Another part of UPK is the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program that helps provide TK-6th grade students with a full-day program aligned with the needs of parents.

Attending a high-quality early education program helps children develop critical social-emotional, cognitive, and early academic skills to prepare them for kindergarten and future educational endeavors. To learn more about the UTK and prekindergarten expansion, visit the SCOE website at <https://www.solanocoe.net/edsrvtk> or contact Bronwyn Kennedy at bkennedy@solanocoe.net or (707) 399-4452.

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Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) provides leadership, support, and fiscal oversight for charter schools and Benicia, Dixon, Fairfield-Suisun, Travis, Vacaville, and Vallejo school districts which serve approximately 63,000 students. Solano County Superintendent of Schools Lisette Estrella-Henderson is elected by voters of Solano County. The Superintendent is a state constitutional officer who serves as the chief executive officer of SCOE and as a liaison between local school districts and the state.