Imagine every Kindergartener in Lane County starting school with the best skills for success.

This vision is possible with the Kids in Transition to School (KITS) Program.
368 children and their families participated in the KITS program across Lane County, an increase of about 300%.

20 KITS teams of school district staff were trained by program developers to implement KITS.

$2M in new funds brought to the community to match our $1M SIF award.

24 elementary schools implemented KITS.

WHAT IS KITS?
The KITS program, developed by Oregon Social Learning Center (OSLC), boosts children's early literacy, numeracy, self-regulation and social skills just prior to kindergarten through school readiness classes, parent/family workshops and extensive professional development sessions for school staff.

More than a curriculum, KITS is a comprehensive system that provides teachers and parents the same positive teaching and behavior management tools for use in the classroom and at home.

THE GOAL OF KITS
• Foster a smooth transition into kindergarten for children and their families
• Improve children’s school readiness skills
• Build strong family-to-school connections
• Improve reading success in 3rd and 8th grade
• Increase graduation rates

“The SIF grant provides the opportunity to make KITS sustainable in our community by training and supporting school district staff to implement the program within their districts. Generations of children stand to benefit from this program, far beyond the longevity of the grant award.”
—Noreen J. Dunnells, President and CEO, United Way of Lane County

MEET JAXEN.
He’s a 2016 KITS graduate, and he’s ready to take on kindergarten and the world.

Each dollar invested in KITS is matched 2:1

Social Innovation Fund Sub-recipients

Bethel Education Foundation partnering with Bethel, Creswell and Junction City School Districts
Eugene Education Foundation partnering with Eugene 4J School District
Lane Education Foundation in collaboration with Lane Education Service District, partnering with Crow-Applegate-Lorane, Fern Ridge, Lowell, Marcola, McKenzie, Siuslaw, and South Lane School Districts
Springfield Education Foundation partnering with Springfield Public Schools

ABOUT SOCIAL INNOVATION FUND (SIF) FUNDING
United Way of Lane County (UWLC) received a $1 million per year, for up to 5 years, federal Social Innovation Fund grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service to scale the KITS Program across Lane County. The SIF grant requires a match from UWLC and its sub-recipients.

FEDERAL FUNDING
STATE FUNDING
PRIVATE FUNDING
LOCAL FUNDING
ADDITIONAL STATE, PRIVATE, AND LOCAL FUNDING

Social Innovation Fund Grant $1 million per year
United Way match $1 million per year
SIF Sub-recipient match $1 million per year
WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

What school district staff are saying...
“We had two kids that were expected to go into a high need, behavioral, emotional classroom — it was tough. But they made a huge amount of progress, and are back in mainstream. 100% better able to self-regulate and do these things that we thought wouldn’t have been able to do in such a short amount of time.”

“The first day of school for the kindergarteners was a huge tell. You could identify those kids that were in KITS just by how well they were doing. And parents knew who to talk to and names and faces and what dropping kids off was going to look like. This really eased anxiety. It’s amazing.”

“Camaraderie for parents is ongoing; parents who have gone through the same cohorts stay friends on social media. [KITS] creates cohorts of parents who support each other and grow together.”

What parents are saying...
“My daughter has a lot of anxiety and is very shy. I wanted her to know what was coming and what to expect in Kindergarten. [KITS] is a great way for your child to get a feel for what is to come, so that he or she is more confident and comfortable with starting Kindergarten. [KITS] prepared my daughter so much and helped a lot with her confidence.”

“KITS changed my parenting style which in turn changed my child’s response to my behavior and discipline in general. KITS made a huge difference for our household overall. The focus is on kindergarten, but trust me when I say your whole family will benefit.”

“(The best part of about KITS) How much I learned regarding parenting and positive reinforcement. Also, how much I learned about how young minds, like my child’s, process and respond to things. KITS really helped me to put myself in her [daughter’s] shoes.”

OUR FUNDERS: Laura and John Arnold Foundation; Oregon Early Learning Division, in partnership with the Early Learning Alliance; PacificSource Health Plans; Quest Foundation; The Ford Family Foundation; The Oregon Community Foundation; United Way of Lane County; W.K. Kellogg Foundation