



## NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Larry Slonaker, SCCOE  
(408) 453-6662

### **County Board supplements Head Start funding**

**SAN JOSE, CA** –The Santa Clara County Board of Education on Wednesday agreed to significantly lessen the impact of federal sequestration cuts on the Head Start program, by allocating to it a total of about \$1.27 million in general fund revenues and other funding relief.

Without the allocation, which will take place over a two-year span, the program was facing a 5.27 percent reduction in funding, which equates to about \$1.17 million.

The Santa Clara County Office of Education receives federal funds to provide Head Start services to more than 2,000 preschool-age children in Santa Clara and San Benito Counties. Head Start centers—which offer comprehensive preschool program designed to meet the needs of children and their families—are located in most cities in the two-county area, including San Jose, Santa Clara, Campbell, Mountain View, Milpitas, Gilroy, and Hollister.

The SCCOE is also the Early Head Start grantee in Santa Clara County. This program enrolls eligible infants and toddlers and provides services in collaboration with SJB, CalSAFE (teenage mothers) and Parkway Child Development Programs.

“The Board is very supportive of our award-winning Head Start program and believes it is crucial to continue serving our families and children through the budgetary crisis in education,” said Board President Grace Mah. “This investment in Head Start by the Board is fundamental to SJ/SV2020 and closing the achievement gap in Santa Clara County.”

SJ/SV2020 is the collaborative effort by the SCCOE, the City of San José, educators, business leaders and community organizations to eliminate the achievement gap by the year 2020.

The action by the board enables the Head Start program to reduce planned layoffs of teachers and support staff, and mitigates the reduction of days of operation for Head Start centers.

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