February 4, 2015

TO: Santa Clara County Board of Education

FROM: Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D., Chief Schools Officer
       Student Services Branch
       Lisa Kaufman, Ph.D., Director
       Early Learning Services Department

VIA: Jon R. Gundry
     County Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Request Approval of the Submission of a Grant Application to the California Department of Education for the California State Preschool Program, Quality Rating Improvement System Block Grant Program

Associated Goal
Goal 1: Improve student equity and reduce access discrepancies to high quality education
Goal 2: Provide support to districts, communities, schools and students

Background
Santa Clara County has been actively involved in the development of a Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). The purpose of this system is to increase the quality of early learning experiences for young children birth through five years of age in the county and the state. FIRST 5 Santa Clara County has been the lead agency for QRIS work in Santa Clara County and has established a QRIS consortium, consisting of numerous and diverse partners, including the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE), to help develop the local QRIS.

The California Department of Education has announced a QRIS funding opportunity for counties. A requirement is that the application be jointly submitted by a lead agency representing the local QRIS consortium and a local educational agency. FIRST 5 Santa Clara County will serve as the lead agency for the Santa Clara County grant application and has requested that the SCCOE serve as the local educational agency for this grant submission.

Fiscal Implications
If funded, the grant would enable QRIS work to continue in Santa Clara County. The grant would be a “pass-through,” whereby the SCCOE would contract with FIRST 5 Santa Clara County to lead implementation work.
**Requested Action**
Approve the submission of a grant application to the California Department of Education for the California State Preschool Program, Quality Rating Improvement System Block Grant program