

Early Learning Master Plan for Santa Clara County

The brain's foundations are built in the first 5 years of life. The earlier we invest in children the higher the returns for society and for the children themselves. Providing access to high quality early care and education (ECE) is the most effective means of preventing opportunity gaps.

As of 2016, more than 141,000 children ages zero to five live in Santa Clara County. The ELMP addresses challenges in six major areas of the ECE system that serves these 141,000 children. Here are the results of the year long process that engaged nearly 100 community stakeholders.

ACCESS

EXPAND SERVICES

- Launch a local funding initiative
- Enroll all eligible children in Transitional Kindergarten

LINK SCHOOLS TO ECE

- Create school-ECE provider networks
- Assign unique student IDs in preschool

ARTICULATION

FACILITIES

IMPROVE AND EXPAND

- Create a facilities technical assistance provider
- Develop a county-wide ECE facilities plan

ENGAGE FAMILIES

- Implement the "Strengthening Families" family engagement framework county-wide

FAMILIES

QUALITY

ENHANCE QUALITY

- Expand participation in the QUALITY MATTERS quality rating and improvement system

EXPAND THE PIPELINE

- Re-open ECE lab schools at community colleges
- Advocate for worthy wages

WORKFORCE

STRONG START

QUALITY MATTERS ... a STRONG START for kids

Who We Are



Strong Start is a coalition of community leaders, early education providers, nonprofit organizations, elected officials, members of the business community, and other key stakeholders who are committed to expanding access to high quality early learning opportunities for all children age 0 to 8 in Santa Clara County.

The coalition looks for local, state, and national solutions to help increase access to high quality early education and conducts advocacy efforts at the state level to encourage increased investments in early learning.

Strong Start is an initiative of the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) and builds upon the strong leadership of its many partners in the field of early education.

www.strongstartsantaclara.org

@StrongStartSCC