



NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Ken Blackstone, SCCOE
(408) 453-6514

Santa Clara County Office of Education's Head Start program passes federal review with flying colors

Board of Education to honor program at its April 9 meeting

SAN JOSE, CA –

For the last nine years, the Head Start program administered by the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) has achieved 100-percent compliance in their triennial federal review, conducted by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF). The SCCOE was just notified of the results of the most recent review in mid-March. Once again, the ACF found no areas of noncompliance or need for corrective action.

"I am both pleased for the team at the Santa Clara County Office of Education but not surprised," said Yasmina Vinci, Executive Director of the National Head Start Association in Alexandria, VA.

"We are so very thrilled to acknowledge such consistent quality demonstrated by the SCCOE and its long history of excellence and leadership for the Head Start community," she said.

The Santa Clara County Board of Education will applaud the achievements of the Santa Clara County Office of Education's Head Start program on April 9 at 6 p.m. during a special recognition agenda item, *Celebrating Head Start: A Tradition of Excellence for Children and Families*.

At that time, the Board will honor the dedication of the Head Start team, including Director Ana Trujillo, and the many community partners who have contributed to the success of the program. Because of the exceptional staff and community support, including the outstanding Parent Policy Council and parents, the SCCOE Head Start program is able to provide high-quality, developmentally appropriate early learning services to children, equipping them with the foundation for lifelong learning and success.

“I know I speak on behalf of our early childhood students and their families in expressing gratitude for our staff’s role in running such a fine program as validated by these results,” said Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, Santa Clara County Office of Education Interim Superintendent.

“I am proud of the leadership provided by our Board members and our entire organization’s continuing commitment to early learning by supporting this priority in our community.”

The Santa Clara County Board of Education has actively supported Head Start, voting to lessen the impact of federal sequestration cuts on the program last May through the allocation of \$1.27 million in general fund revenues to avoid teacher layoffs and a reduction in days of school site operation.

The SCCOE 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 sites are located in most cities in the two-county area, including San Jose, Santa Clara, Campbell, Mountain View, Milpitas, Gilroy and Hollister.

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