



NEWS RELEASE

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Strong Start coalition unveils website

SAN JOSE, CA – In an effort to increase awareness of the importance of increasing access to high quality early learning for all children, the Strong Start Coalition of Santa Clara County is pleased to officially launch its [website](#) for use by coalition partners, key stakeholders, educators, families and members of the community.

The website features the latest early education news and research, a resource library, legislative updates and tools for use by community partners and stakeholders.

“The launch of the Strong Start website is a first step in providing the community with easy access to a wealth of information and resources about the importance of the first five years of life, the most critical period of brain development for children,” said Jon R. Gundry, Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools. “Research has demonstrated again and again the power and positive outcomes of quality early childhood education programs, not just for our children, but the entire community. The Strong Start website will serve as a conduit of information that I hope will lead to increased awareness about one of the most important investments we can make.”

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.

Convened in 2012, the coalition has looked for local solutions to help increase access to high quality early education and conducted legislative advocacy efforts at the state level to encourage increased investments in early learning.

Strong Start builds upon the strong leadership of the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) and its many partners in the field of early education. The SCCOE is the largest early learning provider in Santa Clara County, offering a variety of programs for young children, families and districts, including Head Start, Early Start and State Preschool, which prepare students for kindergarten and academic success throughout school.

Strong Start's partners include the Santa Clara County Board of Education, Local Early Education Planning Council (LPC) of Santa Clara County, San Jose/Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce, Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley, First 5 Santa Clara County, the Health Trust, United Way Silicon Valley, Kidango, League of Women Voters, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, Kids in Common, Silicon Valley Leadership Group, SV2, Mountain View Whisman School District, Family Engagement Institute, the Office of Congressman Mike Honda and the Office of Santa Clara County Supervisor Joseph Simitian.

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