



Early Care and Education Policy Forum

Reference Guide

January 2024

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Dear colleagues and partners,

Welcome to the 2023 Early Care and Education (ECE) Policy Forum.

It has been an extraordinary time in the field with significant challenges, opportunities, and changes that are altering the ECE landscape for providers, policymakers, and families. It is exciting to have this opportunity to come together with a wide range of community leaders, all of whom are affected – directly or indirectly – by ECE policy to reflect on the changes that have already happened and learn about what may come next. Federal, state, and local elected officials and our community partners will describe how these changes have affected their work and share where they expect the field to go next.

This reference guide includes an agenda for the forum, speaker biographies, and a collection of materials from the Santa Clara County Office of Education's (SCCOE) many programs serving young children and their families. The SCCOE has the privilege to serve as a core piece of the ECE mixed delivery system in Santa Clara County: connecting families with providers, providers with training and technical assistance, and supporting the rollout of Universal PreKindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten (TK) expansion by our local education agencies. Our hope is that these materials will provide an introduction to the various ways the SCCOE is supporting the goal of access to high quality ECE for every child in Santa Clara County.



In partnership,

Mary Ann Dewan

Mary Ann Dewan, Ph. D.
Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools

Forum Agenda

- 8:30 Resource tabling, networking, and coffee and pastries in the Atrium
- 9:00 **Welcome and Introductions**
- 9:05 **Santa Clara County Office of Education's Commitment to Early Care and Education**
- 9:10 **The Federal Role in ECE: The Head Start Improvement and Expansion Act**
Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren (CA-18) recorded presentation
- 9:20 **The ECE Landscape in Santa Clara County**
- 9:40 **The Childcare Expansion Grant and the County's Role in ECE**
Supervisor Susan Ellenberg, President, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
- 9:55 **Presentation of the ECE Policy Leadership Award**
- 10:00 **BREAK**
- 10:10 **Legislator Panel:**
Assemblymember Berman,
Assemblymember Pellerin,
Senator Cortese
- 10:40 **Partner Panel:**
Sarah Duffy, Maria Noel Fernandez,
Veronica Goei,
Jennifer Kelleher Cloyd, Ted Lempert
Moderated by Milan Balinton
- 11:10 **Closing Remarks**
- 11:15 **Resource tabling and networking in the Atrium**
- 11:30 **Event ends**



Speaker Biographies



Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren 18th District of California

Zoe Lofgren has been a Democratic member of the United States House of Representatives since 1995. She represents the 18th District of California, which serves communities in Monterey, San Benito, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz counties. Zoe attended public schools and attended Stanford University on a California State Scholarship, graduating with a bachelor's degree in political science in 1970. After graduating from Stanford, she attended Santa Clara University School of Law graduating cum laude in 1975. She served as a member of Congressman Don Edwards' staff for eight years and was a founder and first executive director of the nonprofit Community Housing Developers. In 1980, she was elected to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, where she served for 14 years before being elected to the House of Representatives. She is currently the Ranking Member of the House Science, Space and Technology Committee and serves on the House Judiciary Committee. Zoe is also the elected Chair of the California Democratic Congressional Delegation. It is the most diverse delegation in the House and outnumbers all other state House delegations.



Supervisor Susan Ellenberg County District 4

Santa Clara County Supervisor Susan Ellenberg represents residents in District 4, which includes the unincorporated community of Burbank, much of West San Jose, and the cities of Campbell and Santa Clara. Supervisor Ellenberg serves as President of the Board of Supervisors as well as the Chair of the County's Public Safety and Justice Committee and the Vice Chair of the Finance and Government Operations Committee. She is a member of the California State Association of Counties Executive Committee and a board member of FIRST 5 Santa Clara County. Additionally, she is a co-chair of Joint Venture Silicon Valley and on the board of the National Association of Counties' Justice and Public Safety Steering Committee. Supervisor Ellenberg is a former trustee for San Jose Unified School District. She was born in Pittsburgh, PA and is a graduate of Barnard College and Columbia University School of Law. Since relocating to San Jose in 1991, she has worked as a real estate and land use attorney and as a social justice educator.

Speaker Biographies



Assemblymember Marc Berman 23rd California Assembly District

Marc Berman was first elected to the California State Assembly in November 2016. He currently represents the 23rd District, which includes southern San Mateo County and northern Santa Clara County. In the Assembly, Marc serves as chair of the Committee on Business and Professions. He also serves on the following Assembly Standing Committees: Governmental Organization; Insurance; and Transportation. Most recently, he championed legislation that requires elections officials to mail voters a ballot before every election. In the past, he authored legislation on education, youth mental health, sexual assault, firearm safety, deepfakes, housing, and the environment. Prior to being elected to the Assembly, Marc served on the Palo Alto City Council while working for the Silicon Valley Education Foundation. Prior to his work in the non-profit sector, Marc was an attorney with Latham & Watkins LLP and Merino Yebri, LLP. He earned his bachelor's degree from Georgetown University and his law degree from the University of Southern California. Marc lives in Menlo Park with his wife Aimee Gildea and their puppy Maven.



Senator Dave Cortese State Senate District 15

Senator Dave Cortese was elected in November of 2020 to represent State Senate District 15 which encompasses much of Santa Clara County in the heart of Silicon Valley. Along with his accomplished career as an attorney and business owner, the Senator previously served on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors for over a decade, with four years as Board President, on the San Jose City Council for eight years, including two years as Vice Mayor, and as a trustee for the East Side Union High School District for eight years.

Senator Cortese serves on the Senate Education Committee. He previously co-chaired the \$80 million bond campaign that led to Silicon Valley's first new high school in 25 years and was a major architect of School Linked Services, a program that connects students and families to County social services and counseling. School Linked Services has grown to serve about 200 schools in the County.



Assemblymember Gail Pellerin 28th California Assembly District

Assemblymember Gail Pellerin was elected to the California State Assembly in November of 2022 to represent the 28th Assembly District. Assemblymember Pellerin served as the chief elections official in Santa Cruz County from 1993 until her retirement in December 2020. Gail served as President of the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials from 2010 to 2012 and as co-chair of the Secretary of State's Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Gail has a BS in Journalism from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. Before her experience in public service, Gail worked as a campaign assistant to political campaigns, a newspaper reporter and photographer, and a community college instructor.

Speaker Biographies



Milan Balinton
Community Leader

During his early years, Mr. Balinton was introduced to the NAACP organization by his grandmother, urging him to “give back to the community, for many have sacrificed so that we could be free, and you must do the same.” Since graduating from San Jose State University in 2009, Mr. Balinton has continued to devote ample time to service while completing the Executive Master’s in Public Administration program at Golden Gate University. Milan has served in several leadership roles, including Past Advisor of the Delta Rho Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., member of the 100 Black Men Silicon Valley Chapter; former mentor for the Tiger Woods Foundation, member of the Black Leadership Kitchen Cabinet, National Forum Black Public Administrators, member of Maranatha Christian Center, the new SJSU Black Alumni Network, Lions International, CEO of Rise and Shine Consulting LLC and Executive Director of the African American Community Service Agency.



Sarah Duffy
Chief Children’s Officer, County of Santa Clara

Sarah Duffy currently serves as the Chief Children’s Officer, overseeing the County of Santa Clara Office of Children & Family Policy. Sarah has over a decade of experience leading initiatives to support children and families across the Bay Area, promoting evidence-based policies and programs that increase opportunities and advance equity. When not working, Sarah can be found with her husband and two sons, cheering them on in soccer, basketball, or baseball, depending on the season.



Maria Noel Fernandez

Executive Director, Working Partnerships USA

As Executive Director of Working Partnerships USA, Maria Noel brings more than a decade of successful community, labor, and electoral organizing to Silicon Valley's movement for a just economy. She is a fierce advocate for racial and economic justice, and her passion is grassroots organizing to build a multi-racial, feminist democracy for all. Under her guidance, Working Partnerships USA achieved significant victories, improving wages, working conditions, and union job access for over 10,000 subcontracted service workers in Silicon Valley. Maria Noel played a key role in policy campaigns, raising the minimum wage to \$15/hr in eight cities, implementing the first-in-the-nation Opportunity to Work policy, expanding tenant protections, and ensuring universal healthcare access. With a background in progressive politics, community organizing, and leadership roles, Maria Noel is a dedicated advocate for positive change. She currently serves on the boards of PowerSwitch Action, the South Bay AFL-CIO, and Movimiento Arte Cultura Latinoamericana Board (MACLA). Residing in Gilroy with her husband Carlos and their sons, Tadeo and Diago, Maria Noel is committed to building a better future for all.



Veronica Goei

Executive Director, Grail Family Services

Veronica Goei, originally from Chile, has over 25 years of non-profit leadership experience working with children and families from underserved communities. She founded and has led Grail Family Services (GFS) as Executive Director for 24 years, growing GFS from a budget of \$250k to over \$6M and from one to three operating sites. Through her consulting practice, Veronica has consulted a range of clients on curriculum development, leadership development, program design, and non-profit operations, such as Stanford University, Western Illinois University, UCLA, and the Children's Bureau. She has published her work on a National Early Literacy Initiative with Scholastic Inc., the largest children's publisher in the world, currently serves on the board of the Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits, and is one of the founding members of the Si Se Puede Collective in East San José. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of Chile, is a graduate of the Harvard University Strategic Perspective in Nonprofit Management Program, and an alum of the HOPE Institute (Hispanas Organized for Political Equality).



Jennifer Kelleher Cloyd CEO, FIRST5 Santa Clara County

Jennifer joined FIRST 5 as the Executive Director in April 2022. Prior to joining FIRST 5, Ms. Cloyd served as the Chief Program Officer for the Law Foundation of Silicon Valley, where she expanded the Legal Advocates for Children and Youth (LACY) program. Ms. Cloyd led the development and management of a multidisciplinary team of attorneys, social workers, and support staff to provide comprehensive and responsive services to children and families in Santa Clara County. Ms. Cloyd is a Community Advisory Member of the Santa Clara County Child Abuse Prevention Council, a member of the Governing Board of the Santa Clara Family Health Plan, and serves on the board of Razing the Bar, a nonprofit that provides comprehensive mentorship and housing support services to current and former foster youth across the Silicon Valley region. Ms. Cloyd is a mom to two school-age children and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communications from the University of California, Los Angeles and her Juris Doctor from the University of Minnesota Law School.



Ted Lempert President, Children Now

Ted Lempert is the President of Children Now, a research and policy organization based in Oakland that is focused on transforming children's advocacy. Children Now coordinates The Children's Movement of California. Mr. Lempert is also a Lecturer in the Political Science Department at UC Berkeley. Previously, he was the founding CEO of EdVoice, a California education reform organization. Mr. Lempert was a California State Assembly member for eight years representing Silicon Valley. He served as chair of the Assembly Higher Education Committee and co-chair of the Joint Committee to Develop a Master Plan for Education, and had more than 75 bills signed into law, including major policies in the areas of education, health care, children and families, tax policy and the environment. Mr. Lempert also served on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and worked for the law firm Sheppard, Mullin, Richter and Hampton. He graduated from Princeton University's School of Public and International Affairs and earned his law degree from Stanford University.

Data and Resources from Santa Clara County Office of Education Early Care and Education Programs



Santa Clara County ELMP Mid-Implementation Review

The early care and education (ECE) landscape in Santa Clara County has seen extraordinary change in the last 5 years. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately impacted children, families, and ECE professionals. It also demonstrated that ECE is essential for the whole community and economy, not just to the parents of young children. Elected leaders and policymakers at all levels have responded with historic investments, programmatic changes, and a deeper understanding of the challenges, benefits, and promise of universal access to high quality early learning.

Below is a summary of the investments and policy changes that are moving the field towards our goal of universal access to high quality ECE. These changes are arranged in the categories in the Santa Clara County Early Learning Master Plan (ELMP) mid-implementation review.

ACCESS

- Since 2021, California has committed to add more than 200,000 slots in its General Childcare (CCTR), State Preschool (CSPP), and Alternative Payment (APP) subsidized ECE programs.
- The 2023-24 State Budget included a provision to extend the Santa Clara County Child Care Subsidy Pilot Project until July 1, 2024.
- Income thresholds have increased so that families making less than 100% of the State Median Income (SMI) – \$113,000 for a family of four are eligible for the CSPP and families making less than 85% of SMI are eligible for childcare subsidies.
- Transitional Kindergarten (TK) expansion creates up to 15,000 new, free ECE slots for four-year-olds in Santa Clara County by the 2025-26 school year.
- Beginning in October 2023, a new family fee structure ensures that no family who is eligible for subsidized care will pay more than 1% of their income in family fees and that families under 75% of SMI will pay no fees.
- CSPP eligibility has expanded so that children living in high need school districts, children who are TK eligible, and children with disabilities can enroll, regardless of income, so long as all income eligible children have been served first.
- The Early Learning Opportunity Program (ELOP) provides 9 hours per day of combined school and after school care and 30 days of summer care for TK to 6th grade students who are low-income, English Learner, or foster youth.

ARTICULATION, ALIGNMENT AND DATA SYSTEMS

- The Steps to Success initiative is working with partners across Santa Clara County to raise public awareness about all early learning options for children ages birth through five. Through multilingual, high-visibility media channels, more than 18,000 families visited www.enrollsantaclara.org. More than 20,000 families visited the Resource & Referral (R&R) website at www.childcarescc.org.
- Local Education Agencies (LEAs) in Santa Clara County received \$7.6M in Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) planning and implementation grants with the goal of increasing access to ECE for all 3- and 4-year-olds through the mixed delivery system.

FACILITIES

- Since 2022-23, the State of California has budgeted \$690M to LEAs and another \$250M to non-LEA ECE providers to increase ECE facilities capacity and quality.
- The County of Santa Clara has funded a \$15M ECE facilities grant program that will provide facilities funds to ECE programs beginning in 2023-24.
- The state has provided over \$420M in Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program (IEEEP) grant funding to build and renovate ECE facilities so they are more accessible to children with disabilities. SCCOE has received over \$5M of IEEEP funds.
- SCCOE-sponsored legislation to remove regulatory barriers that prevent children with disabilities from enrolling in inclusive early learning programs (AB 2827 and SB 722) have become law.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

- SCCOE was awarded the county R&R contract in June 2020 and supports 500 families per month to find childcare and other resources online and in-person.
- First 5 Santa Clara County Family Resource Centers supported over 8,000 families with food, diapers, and other needs during the COVID-19 emergency response.
- The City of San José's Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services program has implemented the Strengthening Families family engagement framework in its Little Learners and Kinder Prep recreational preschool programs.

PROGRAM QUALITY

- QUALITY MATTERS, Santa Clara County's quality rating and improvement system (QRIS) supports 142 centers, 564 licensed family childcare homes and 80 license-exempt providers serving over 7,500 children
- AB 2806 (enacted in 2022), sponsored by SCCOE, prohibits ECE providers from suspending or expelling children, expands these provisions beyond CSPP to CCTR and Family Child Care Home Education Network (FCCHEN) programs, and increases the adjustment factor for early mental health consultation.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- The contracted reimbursement rate for CSPP providers in Santa Clara County has increased by 73% since 2017-18.
- California's \$350M Teacher Residency Grant program, which provides up to \$40,000 in support to become a credentialed teacher, has prioritized support for new TK and Kindergarten teachers.
- The new \$500M Golden State Pathways Program funds collaboration between LEAs, institutions of higher education and employers on workforce development in areas of acute statewide need, such as ECE.
- Beginning 2021-22, the state will provide \$260 million per year in additional funding for LEAs to serve 3- and 4-year-olds with disabilities through the Special Education Early Intervention Preschool Grant.
- The 2023-24 State Budget included \$122M in available federal funds to provide temporary stipends for CSPP employees.
- The California Commission on Teacher Credentialing has developed a Pre-Kindergarten (PK) to 3rd Grade (PK-3) teaching add-on credential to train teachers in developmentally appropriate practices for young children. SCCOE has applied to offer this credential.



Santa Clara County ELMP

Mid-Implementation Review

Proposed Actions and Desired Outcomes

Content Area	Proposed Action	Desired Outcome
Workforce Development	Expand the Early Childhood Consortium to help all ECE educators identify educational pathways that align with their career goals, promote pathways intended for racially and linguistically diverse working professionals and provide financial support to offset costs.	A system of career development supports for ECE professionals in all settings (FFN to TK).
Access	Determine and implement changes that make infant and toddler care more sustainable for providers and more accessible for low- and mid-income families.	Increased number of children who qualify for a childcare subsidy and are enrolled in care.
Program Quality	Increase inclusions of children with disabilities by expanding and coordinating access to ECSE and mental health professionals, resources, and other supports (for children and providers) across all care setting.	Increased number of sites with access to needed special education and mental health supports.
Family Engagement	Expand efforts to partner with families of children with disabilities by researching their needs, identifying and expanding the number of programs that are enrolling children with disabilities, and encouraging early intervention providers and special education programs within LEAs to align family partnership efforts across general and special education.	Increased number of ECE programs that enroll children with disabilities.
Articulation, Alignment, and Data Systems	Provide opportunities for ECE and TK-12 staff to communicate and coordinate around developmentally appropriate curricula and practices.	Increase capacity of staff to use developmentally appropriate practices with children with disabilities.
Facilities	Advocate for sustainable financial and technical supports to build and maintain developmentally appropriate and ADA-compliant ECE facilities across the county's mixed delivery system.	Increased number of licensed childcare facilities.

Strong Start Initiative



Santa Clara County  Office of Education

Who We Are

Strong Start is a coalition of community leaders, early care and education (ECE) providers, school leaders, nonprofit organizations, elected officials, members of the business community, and other key stakeholders who are committed to expanding access to high quality ECE opportunities for all children ages 0 to 8 in Santa Clara County. The coalition advocates for local, state, and national solutions to increase access to high quality ECE and encourage increased investments in early learning. Strong Start is an initiative of the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE).

Our Mission

To ensure that all children ages 0 to 8 in Santa Clara County have access to high quality ECE opportunities.

Our Objectives

- Increase public understanding of the importance, economic impact, and community benefits of high quality ECE programs; and
- Increase support and expansion of access to high quality ECE for all children in Santa Clara County for at least two years prior to kindergarten.

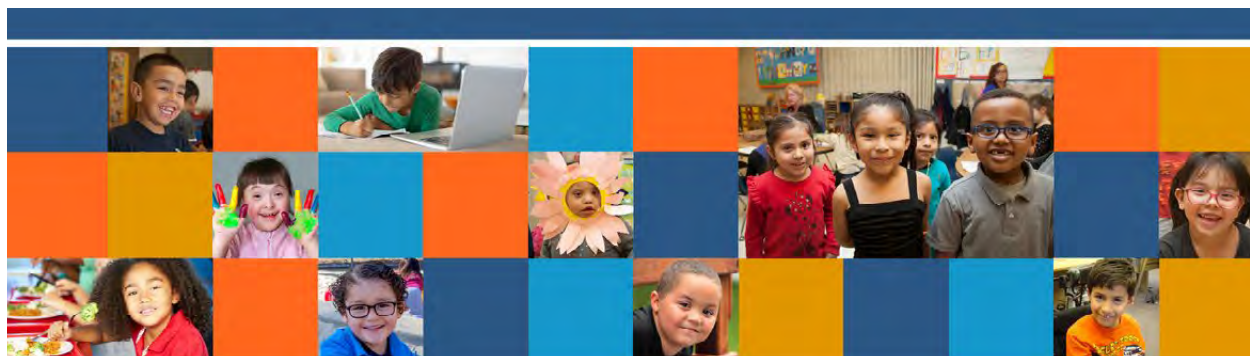


Visit the Strong Start website to:

- Find the latest data on ECE in our community
- Access research and resources
- Learn simple ways to advocate for access to ECE
- Subscribe to our mailing lists and join the Strong Start coalition.

www.sccoe.org/strongstart

Steps To Success Early Learning Enrollment and Attendance Initiative



Early Learning Programs in Santa Clara County

90% of a child's brain develops by age 5. Regularly attending early learning programs prepares children to be fully ready for kindergarten. The **Santa Clara County Office of Education** has resources to help families and caregivers find programs that meet their needs.

Programs	California State Preschool Program (CSPP)	Head Start	Private Centers and Homes*	Transitional Kindergarten
Ages	3 and 4 year olds	3 and 4 year olds	Varies by provider	4 year olds
Schedule	Full-day options available	Full-day options available	Determined by provider	Full-day options available
Cost	Free or low-cost, based on family income and other factors	Free, based on family income	Determined by provider, subsidized vouchers available if eligible	Free to all
Required Educational Component**	Required	Required	Not required but may be available	Required
Eligibility	Must meet eligibility criteria	Must meet eligibility criteria	None	Open to all. Part of school system

*Centers and family homes can be licensed or license-exempt.

** Programs that require an educational component must follow developmentally appropriate and research-based standards/foundations

(Adapted from CDE UPK Materials)



Find a program

The **Santa Clara Childcare Resource & Referral (R&R) Program** provides free information to families about all program options below, locations, how to receive help with paying for care, and more. The R&R does not administer programs.

California State Preschool	Contact the Santa Clara County R&R Program for locations and contact information Phone: 669-212-5437 Email: childcarescc@sccoe.org Web: www.childcarescc.org
Head Start	Contact the Santa Clara County Office of Education, Early Learning Services Department Phone: 408-453-6900 Email: HSReceptionist@sccoe.org Web: https://sccoe.to/ELS
Private Centers and Homes	Contact the Santa Clara County R&R Program for locations and contact information Phone: 669-212-5437 Email: childcarescc@sccoe.org Web: www.childcarescc.org
Transitional Kindergarten	Visit your school district's enrollment webpage: https://sccoe.to/MySchoolDistrict

Santa Clara County Childcare Portal

The Santa Clara County Childcare Portal is an online search tool that allows families to immediately find licensed childcare and Pre-K programs throughout Santa Clara County. The website is managed by the **Santa Clara County Office of Education's Childcare Resource & Referral Program**.

- Access contact information for nearly 2,000 providers
- Search by program characteristics
- Learn about getting help with paying for care
- Free accounts for families who want to save their search results



Early Learning Videos

Visit the Santa Clara County Office of Education's early learning YouTube playlist to find answers to frequently asked questions about early learning programs.



Programs & Supports for Children with Disabilities

The **Inclusion Collaborative** offers free supports, resources, and referrals for both educators and families who serve children with disabilities and other needs.

Contact Us:
408-453-6651
inclusionwarmline@sccoe.org
www.inclusioncollaborative.org

STEPS TO SUCCESS
Enroll. Attend. Learn.

Childcare Resource & Referral
SERVING SANTA CLARA COUNTY

INCLUSION COLLABORATIVE
Strategies. Professional Development. Culture.

The Santa Clara County Office of Education provides programs and services for migrant families. For more information, contact 408-453-6770.

Universal Prekindergarten: Resources and Support



Universal PreKindergarten (UPK) is the expansion of the state's mixed delivery system to meet the ECE needs of 3 and 4-year-old children and their families.

UPK brings more choices for preschool, including Transitional Kindergarten (TK) which will be available to all 4-year-olds by 2025-2026.

SCCOE's Early Care & Education Initiatives Department is providing guidance and resources to support schools and school districts, and providers with Universal Pre-K (UPK) Expansion.

Parent Resources

Information for parents about ECE includes what TK is and its benefits, a tool to help parents identify their school district, how to enroll in an early learning program, and much more.

ECE Provider Resources

Links to frequently asked questions about the UPK rollout, school district information, professional development opportunities for staff, and presentations in English and Spanish on how to position your program to take advantage of the opportunities provided by UPK.

Resources for School Districts and Charter Schools

Information, tools, and resources from the California Department of Education, the Center for District Innovation Leadership in Early Education (DIALEE), and SCCOE on all aspects of UPK including funding, planning grants, data and projections, and implementation. SCCOE has also developed specific presentations on:

- Integrating UPK into the district's Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP)
- Blending, braiding, and layering UPK programs (in collaboration with CCEE).



Early Childhood Integrated Data System

What is an Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS)?

An Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS) integrates information across early childhood programs that serve children and families from birth to age eight. Typically, the data included in an ECIDS are related to the individual child, the child's family, the classroom, the program/providers, and other services that provide comprehensive care and education for young children. Creating an ECIDS helps program leaders, researchers, funders, and policymakers better understand the needs of children and families and support continuous improvement, innovation, and research.



Analyzing linked data helps to answer questions about program access, participation, quality, and the impact on child outcomes, such as:

- Are children (birth to age 5) on track to succeed when they enter school and beyond?
- How many and which children have access to high-quality early care and education programs?
- What are the characteristics of effective programs?
- Is the early care and education workforce adequately trained and prepared to meet the needs of children and to provide effective education and care for all children?

Answers to programmatic questions can inform and influence the distribution of funds across programs in the early childhood system, facilitate continuous quality improvement and innovation, and improve the coordination of service delivery across sectors and systems.



Santa Clara County ECIDS Pilots

In partnership with local school districts and early learning partners, the Santa Clara County Office of Education is currently leading pilots towards the development of a countywide ECIDS:

- **SSID Generation Pilot:** In partnership with Kidango, Go Kids, California Young World, SJB Child Development Centers, and KinderSystems, multiple departments within the Santa Clara County Office of Education are coordinating efforts to assign statewide student identification numbers to early learners in order to create unique identifiers that link early childhood data systems to K-12 data systems.
- **Digital Early Learning Record Pilot:** In partnership with the Campbell Union School District, multiple departments within the Santa Clara County Office of Education are developing a preliminary early learning digital record that aims to provide key information about a child's early experiences to K-12 teachers and administrators.
- **Expanded Readiness Framework and Kindergarten Readiness:** The Early Care and Education Initiatives Department at the Santa Clara County Office of Education is in the process of developing an Expanded Readiness Framework that outlines key community indicators that contribute towards the success of families, educators, and children within the early learning ecosystem. This framework will be used to inform ECIDS data stories and was launched through the incredible work of TK and Kindergarten teachers who participated in the Countywide Kindergarten Readiness Symposium (Summer 2022) and subsequent workgroups.



Inclusion Collaborative

Special Education Training and Technical Assistance



Leaders in promoting and supporting inclusion for all children

Santa Clara County  Office of Education



INCLUSION COLLABORATIVE

EQUITY · DIVERSITY · INCLUSION · PARTNERSHIP

Annual Report 2022-2023

From the Director

Dear friends of the Inclusion Collaborative,

It brings me immense joy to connect with you again as we reflect on the remarkable strides achieved by the Inclusion Collaborative over the past year – my second year as Director. Many inspiring developments unfolded, shaping the inclusive landscape for both students and educators.

One highlight of the year was the grand opening of our South County Annex Makerspace in May 2023. This collaborative, hands-on learning environment provides a space where students and educators can explore, create, and celebrate their uniqueness. Equipped with cutting-edge

tools, including a 3D printer, laser cutter, and various design machinery, the Makerspace serves as a hub for innovation and creativity.

In our continued pursuit of equity in education, we released the Ways 2 Equity Playbook Enhancements for Early Childhood Education Learners, African-American learners and Students with Disabilities. These tools are a guiding light on the equity journey, offering support and insights that empower both educators and students alike.

This year, we transitioned from mostly virtual to in-person training, rekindling the unique excitement of face-to-face interactions.

This change deepened our connections with educators, amplifying program impact. We offer comprehensive Professional Learning (PL) to Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to support inclusive practices, covering UDL guidelines, culturally sustaining pedagogy, co-teaching models, and curriculum alignment. These tools empower educators to create inclusive learning environments for diverse student needs.

The Inclusion Support Warmline has remained a vital resource, experiencing a significant increase in calls and emails. We continue to

provide support in multiple languages, including English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Mandarin. The Warmline has been actively facilitating parent support groups, creating a collaborative space for families to share experiences and resources. We also support the professional growth of family child care home providers, ensuring they can create inclusive and enriching environments for the children in their care.

Our Early Learning team plays a crucial role in supporting coaching and professional development around the

(Continued on page 2)

Inside:

2022 Conference: Inclusioners Thrive!
South County Annex Makerspace Grand Opening!
Professional Development Trainings
Program Spotlight: Ways 2 Equity Playbook
Financial Report FY 2022-23
Inclusion Warmline Update



Inclusion Supports for

Community Agencies

Preschool and Child Care Centers

School Districts

Families



2022 Inclusion Collaborative State Conference

- Hybrid event
- 343 attendees
- 40 Concurrent Sessions
- 6 Keynote Sessions
- 87% of attendees agreed that as a result of the conference, they have increased their knowledge about inclusion and equity and can begin to address next steps to promoting inclusion in their classroom/school/district
- 91% of attendees agreed that the conference provided relevant information they can use and apply to their current position/role

Keynotes



Ken Shelton
*Design Matters:
Rethinking
Learning
Environments*



Shelley Moore
*The Evolution
of Inclusion*



Dr. Christopher Emdin
*Ratchetdemic:
Reimagining
Academic Success*



Theresa Sage
*Accommodations
Matter!*

South County Annex Makerspace Grand Opening!

On May 22, 2023, the doors of the South County Makerspace swung open, welcoming educators throughout the county. The SCCOE Makerspace stands as a hub for collaborative learning, offering students and educators an immersive environment to nurture creativity and sharpen critical thinking skills through hands-on engagement with a variety of materials and technologies. The grand opening festivities were a testament to the space's vibrant potential, featuring a ceremonial ribbon cutting, engaging activities such as puppet making, heat pressing, crafting sensory bottles, and designing puzzle pieces. The event also provided a comprehensive showcase of the diverse programs available at South County. Flexible membership options tailored to the unique needs of any organization are available.



Above: IC Director Lopez is joined by (l-r) County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, Gena Pacada, County Board of Education Trustee Maimona Afzal Berta, and Charmaine Warmenhoven.

Below: Visitors to the new South County Makerspace.



From the Director

(Continued from page 1)

Universal PreKindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten program. Their work will ensure the success of this initiative, paving the way for enhanced learning experiences for our youngest learners.

I extend my gratitude to the Warmenhoven Advisory Committee for their support and insight; to Charmaine Warmenhoven, whose dedication as a true inclusioneer has been a driving force behind our success; and to Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, County Superintendent of Schools, whose commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion sets the standard for our collaborative efforts.

Thank you for your continued support, and I eagerly look forward to another year of transformative progress!

Sandya Lopez



Professional Development Top Trainings 2022-23:

1. Universal Design for Learning
2. Welcoming and Belonging
3. Co-Teaching
4. Behavior is Communication
5. Self-Regulation
6. Equitable Practices

Program Spotlight: Ways 2 Equity Playbook

The original Playbook is the culminating project of the California Equity Performance Improvement Program (CEPIP) grant of which the Santa Clara County Office of Education served as one of the statewide equity leads for California.

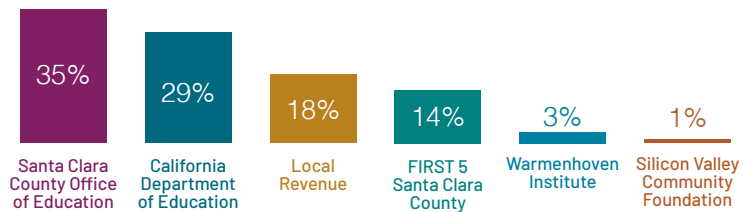
NEW! Enhancements have been designed as deep-dive navigational tools for schools and districts, as well as home childcare educators to use when planning and reflecting around student equity issues.

The following enhancements are available:

- African American Learners*
- Early Childhood Education Learners*
- English Learners*
- Students with Disabilities*

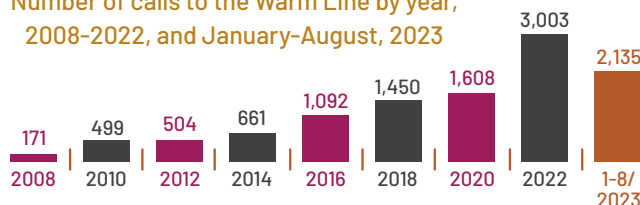


2022-23 Funding:
\$2,894,737



(408)453-6651 • inclusionwarmline@sccoe.org

Number of calls to the Warm Line by year,
2008-2022, and January-August, 2023



FREE support, information, and referrals for including children of all ages with disabilities and other needs in your community

- The Warm Line started as a partnership with Parents Helping Parents in 2008 with two part-time Warm Line Specialists who mainly helped clients in English. Since then, we have grown tremendously.
- Increase in both Spanish and Vietnamese contacts; additional resources developed in these languages, as well as Mandarin.
- Development of many visual supports and social stories; guidance to caregivers and support providers.



Childcare Planning and Support Programs and Initiatives

PARTNER PROGRAMS AT SANTA CLARA COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION



Local Early Education Planning Council (LPC)

Santa Clara County  Office of Education

Local Early Education Planning Council (LPC)

Established by an act of the State Legislature in 1991, the Local Early Education Planning Council (LPC) is a collaborative association of representatives from the early care and education field, including parents, childcare providers, businesses, and government.

www.lpcsantaclara.org



Join the LPC Email List:

Email LPCinfo@sccoe.org



Childcare Resource and Referral Program

The Santa Clara County Office of Education serves as the Childcare Resource and Referral Program (R&R) for Santa Clara County. The function of the R&R is to provide every family and provider with what they need to be successful by implementing the SCCOE's core values of equity, diversity, inclusion, and partnership. The Resource and Referral Program provides the following: childcare resources for families and providers, information and resources for families, and training and technical assistance for providers.

Visit our county's Childcare Portal at childcarescc.org to find high quality, safe, licensed childcare for all ages.

www.childcarescc.org



Join the R&R Email List:

www.childcarescc.org/subscribe





QUALITY MATTERS ... A STRONG START for Kids

QUALITY MATTERS ... A STRONG START for Kids (Quality Matters) is Santa Clara County's local quality rating and improvement system committed to giving early educators access to information, resources, and opportunities to provide the best care to children and families in Santa Clara County.

FIRST 5 Santa Clara County and Santa Clara County Office of Education serve as the co-lead organizations for QUALITY MATTERS, an initiative of Quality Counts California. Prop 10 funds are used for a variety of programs and initiatives that support Santa Clara County's mixed-delivery early learning and care system including building partnerships with the public libraries, family resource centers, and parks and recreational programs.

www.qualitymattersccc.org



California Preschool Instructional Network (CPIN) Region 5

The California Preschool Instructional Network (CPIN) is funded by the California Department of Social Services, Child Care and Development Division, and provides high-quality professional learning, technical assistance, and support to California's preschool program administrators and teachers through its statewide network.

www.cpin.us/regions/05



Join the CPIN Email List:

Email CPIN@sccoe.org



The Santa Clara County Childcare Resource & Referral (R&R) Program offers a variety of professional learning opportunities to support early learning and care providers, including those below.

To find out more about the training opportunities, contact the SCC R&R Program at 669-212-KIDS (5437) or email childcarescc@sccoe.org.
View the R&R Training Calendar here: <https://sccoe.to/RRtraining>

Child Care Initiative Project (CCIP)

The Child Care Initiative Project (CCIP) is a state-funded grant established to recruit, train, and retain licensed family childcare providers in the community. If you enjoy caring for young children and want to work from home, family childcare could be a great career choice.

The CCIP program is **FREE** and provides training and support to individuals interested in starting a family childcare home business. This includes technical support like reviewing the licensing application, pre-licensing visits, business development workshops, and training. Training topics include:

- Overview of the childcare licensing application process
- How to operate a strong family childcare business
- Child health, safety, and learning environments
- Family and community resources
- Reimbursement for basic start-up supplies

California Preventative Health & Safety Practices (CPHSP)

The SCC R&R Program is funded to provide **FREE** California Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA)- approved training to childcare providers in Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Benito, and Monterey counties. Currently, the SCC R&R Program is providing EMSA-approved eight-hour Preventative Health and Safety training (with nutrition and lead poisoning prevention) required for childcare licensing.



California Health and Safety Training Reimbursement Program

Through the Health and Safety Training Reimbursement Program, the SCC R&R Program may issue a partial reimbursement to assist licensed center-based staff, licensed family childcare providers, license-exempt childcare providers, and in-home providers in completing prescribed training on preventive health practices. Eligible training that may be reimbursed must be for approved Pediatric CPR/First Aid and Preventive Health and Safety training.

Trauma Informed Care (TIC)

The SCC R&R Program offers Trauma Informed Care (TIC) training for providers in various childcare settings who serve children in the Foster Care Bridge Program. This 14-hour training series includes four 3.5-hour modules that begin with brain development and end with building resilience. Through this training series, childcare providers will have the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of how trauma impacts brain development and learn trauma informed strategies that effectively help support children who have experienced trauma. We highly recommend that you register for all four modules in this training series.

Below is a brief overview of what each module covers:

- Module 1: How Trauma Impacts Brain Development
- Module 2: Identifying & Responding to Childhood Trauma
- Module 3: Enhancing Caregiver Resilience – Burnout and Compassion Fatigue
- Module 4: Self-Care for Providers

Local Early Education Planning Council: 2023 Childcare Average Tuition Rate Survey

Who Completed the Survey?

A total of 111 childcare providers - 65 licensed home-based providers (FCCH) and 46 licensed center-based providers - who were providing services in May of 2023 completed the survey.

Among respondents:

- 54.1% (n=60) were in San Jose,
- 12.6% (n=14) were in Santa Clara,
- 6.3% (n=7) were in Gilroy, and
- 6.3% (n=7) were in Cupertino.

Average Weekly Child Care Rate in Santa Clara County			
Full-Time Rates	Center	FCCH	Centers and FCCHs
Infant (under 2 years)	589 (n=21)	413 (n=55)	462 (n=76)
Toddler (2 – 4 years)	482 (n=36)	386 (n=60)	422 (n=96)
School Age (5 years and up)	419 (n=20)	338 (n=43)	364 (n=62)
Part-Time Rates	Center	FCCH	Centers and FCCHs
Infant (under 2 years)	405 (n=10)	291 (n=33)	318 (n=43)
Toddler (2 – 4 years)	324 (n=29)	271 (n=41)	293 (n=70)
School Age (5 years and up)	318 (n=18)	253 (n=32)	276 (n=50)



Notably, rates are much higher at licensed child care centers compared to licensed family childcare homes. On average, full-time rates are \$176 more expensive per week for infants, \$96 dollars more expensive for toddlers, and \$81 more expensive for school age children.

Among providers responding to the survey, approximately 63% (n=69) charged annual fees in addition to regular tuition. Among those charging additional fees, the average cost of fees was \$229.

Average Tuition Rates by City

There are large differences in average costs between cities. Palo Alto had the highest infant (\$697 full-time per week) and third highest toddler rates (\$553 full-time per week) while Gilroy had the lowest average weekly rates of \$358, \$337, and \$319 for full-time care of infants, toddlers, and school age



City	Average Weekly Rate Full-Time			Average Weekly Rate Part-Time		
	Infant	Toddler	School Age	Infant	Toddler	School Age
Cupertino	582 (n=6)	503 (n=6)	408 (n=3)	--	--	196 (n=1)
Gilroy	358 (n=4)	337 (n=7)	319 (n=6)	294 (n=4)	249 (7)	247 (6)
Los Altos	531 (n=1)	497 (n=1)	--	--	--	--
Los Gatos	647 (n=2)	582 (n=2)	484 (n=1)	390 (n=2)	346 (n=2)	345 (n=1)
Milpitas	438 (n=2)	431 (n=3)	387 (n=1)	--	434 (n=1)	365 (n=1)
Morgan Hill	550 (n=1)	406 (n=2)	475 (n=1)	--	188 (n=1)	--
Mountain View	--	393 (n=1)	393 (n=1)	--	312 (n=1)	312 (n=1)
Palo Alto	697 (n=1)	553 (n=2)	--	--	427 (n=1)	--
San Jose	403 (n=41)	380 (n=51)	348 (n=34)	309 (n=25)	291 (n=39)	271 (n=27)
Santa Clara	532 (n=10)	508 (n=11)	353 (n=8)	250 (n=6)	257 (n=8)	264 (n=6)
Saratoga	433 (n=2)	433 (n=2)	325 (n=2)	300 (n=2)	240 (n=3)	225 (n=2)
Stanford	674 (n=1)	634 (n=1)	749 (n=1)	479 (n=1)	479 (n=1)	383 (n=1)
Sunnyvale	514 (n=3)	480 (n=3)	403 (n=2)	375 (n=1)	328 (n=2)	313 (n=2)

Educator Preparation Program:

Early Childhood Education Programs and Supports

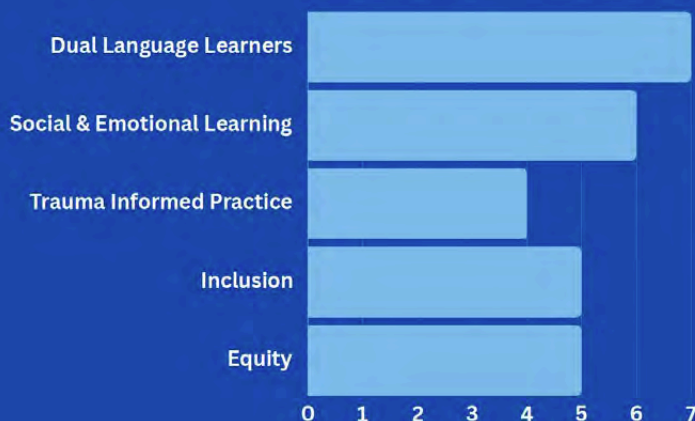
Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) Educator Preparation Programs and Early Care and Education Initiatives Department are leveraging state and local funding and local partnerships to develop supported pathways for new and experienced ECE educators to advance their careers.



Program Goals

1. Build on-ramps to the PK-3 teaching career pathway in Santa Clara County public schools for culturally and linguistically diverse people. On-ramps are supported by scholarships for candidates pursuing child development permits, early childhood special education credentials or multiple subject teaching credentials.
2. Provide early childhood educators with advising, pathway navigation tools, scholarships, ongoing coaching, and job placement opportunities.
3. Provide ongoing professional learning opportunities for early childhood educators teaching in Preschool, Transitional Kindergarten, and Kindergarten in facilitating equitable, inclusive, culturally and linguistically sustaining, healing informed classroom communities that support social and emotional learning for all students.
4. Provide ongoing professional learning opportunities that empower school administrators overseeing UPK implementation and P-3 Alignment with research, resources, tools, and technical support

TEACHER TRAINING TOPICS AND NUMBER OF SESSIONS

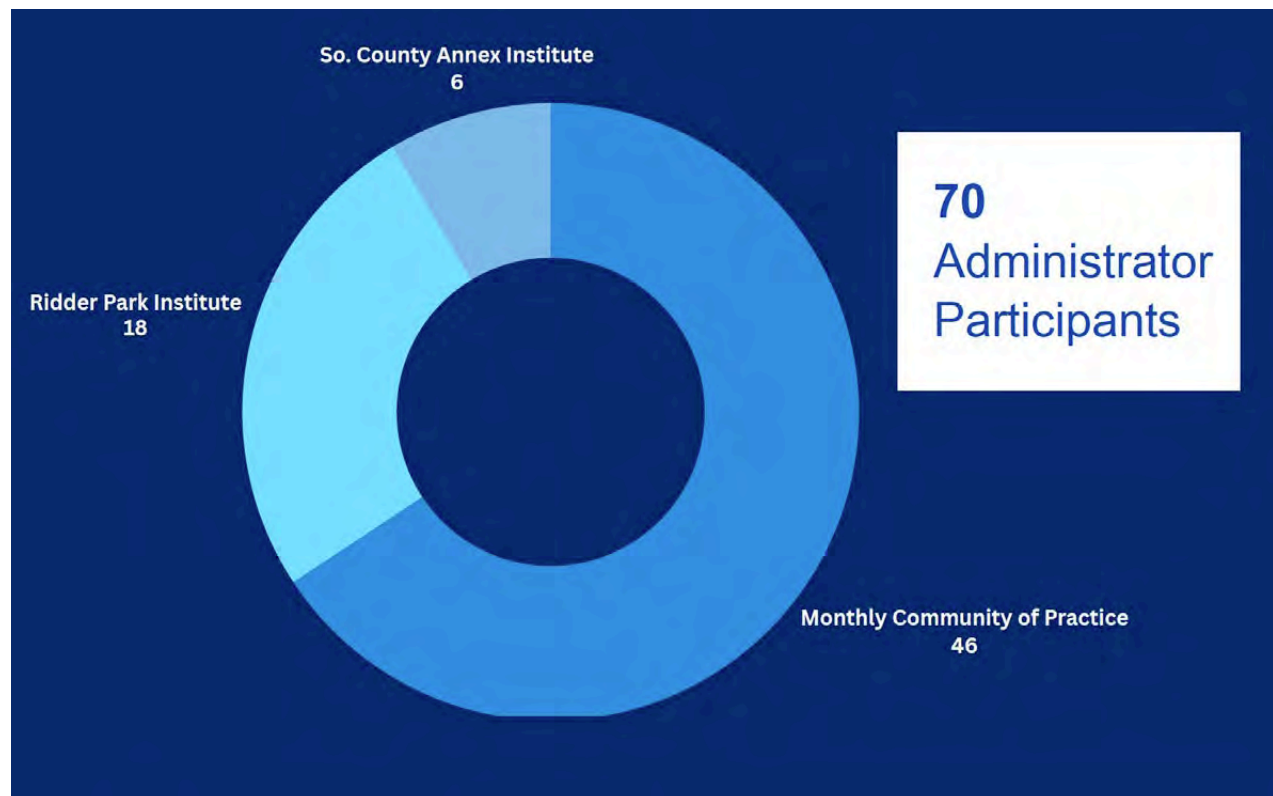


220 Preschool, TK, and K Teacher Participants

The departments are also providing professional learning opportunities for school administrators to strengthen the delivery of aligned education from preschool through third grade.

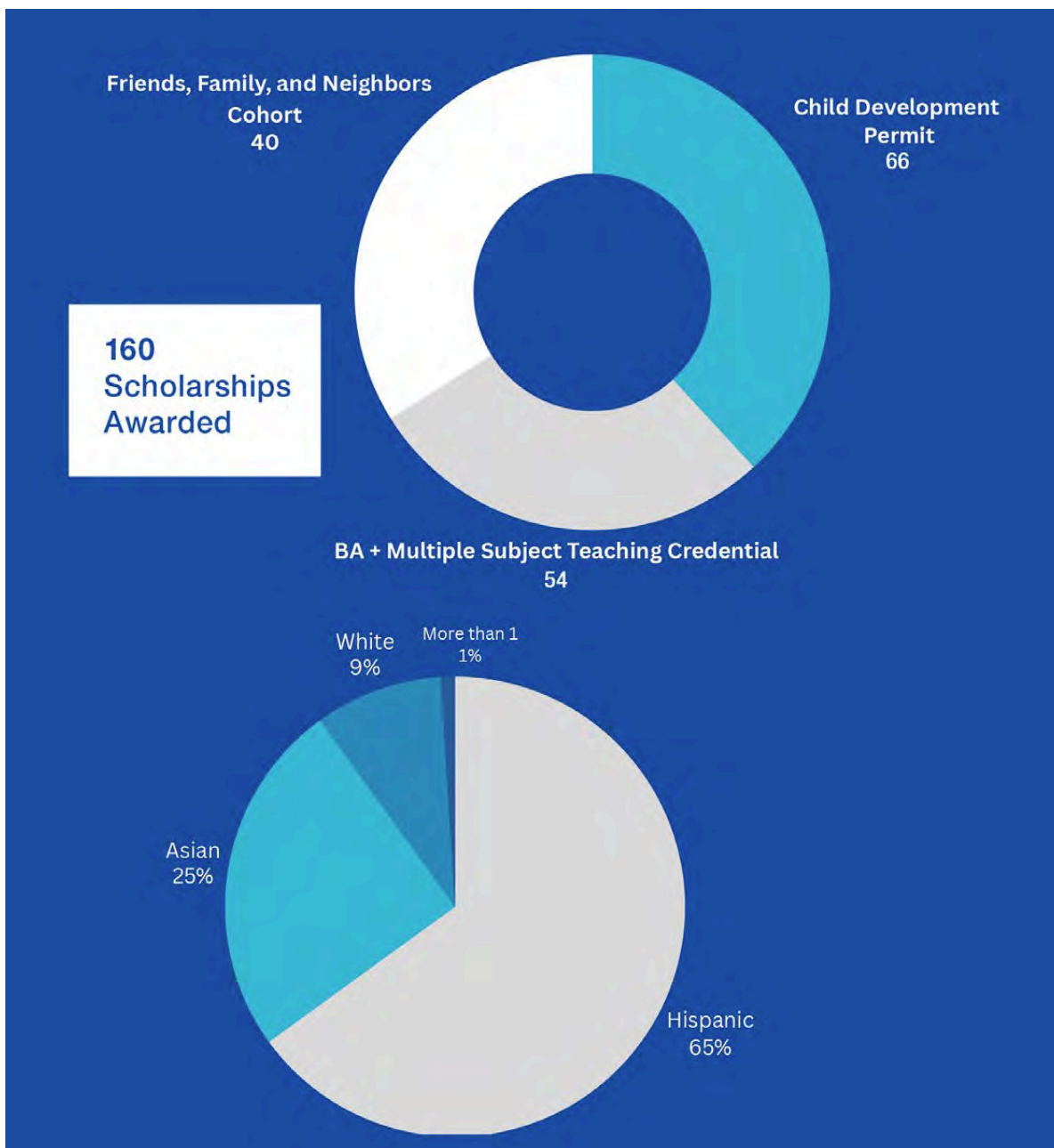
The Institute is intended for district level administrators and focuses on supporting child inquiry, learning through play, addressing racial equity and inclusion in early learning, and family support and cultural competence. The Institute attendees will also develop and pilot “walk through” tools to support quality instruction.

The Community of Practice is intended for school site leaders and addresses topics of child development, developmentally appropriate practice and classroom management, and supporting families’ integration into the TK-12 school system.



Through partnerships with local institutions of higher education (IHEs), the program is providing scholarships for ECE professionals in all settings to earn post-secondary credits, increasing their skills and qualifications, and improving program quality.

IHE partners include San Jose State University, Santa Clara University, National University, West Valley-Mission Community College, Teachers' College of San Joaquin, and Foothill College.



SCCOE Early Learning Services:

Direct Service Early Care and Education Programs

SCCOE Early Learning Services (ELS) Department provides direct ECE services to children and families in Santa Clara and San Benito Counties through Head Start, Early Head Start, Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership, California State Preschool (CSPP), and General Childcare (CCTR) programs.

CAPACITY TO SERVE INCOME ELIGIBLE CHILDREN BY COUNTY

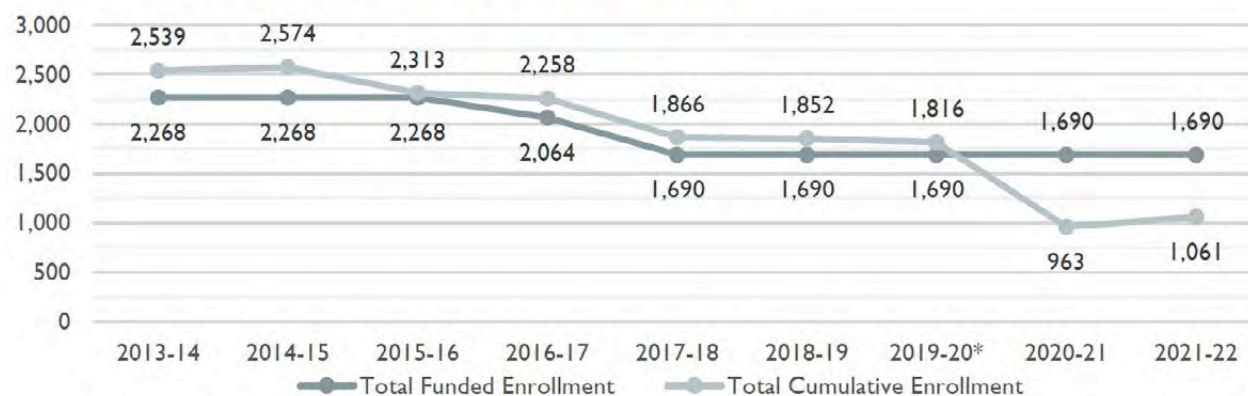
	No. of Children Living Below 100% FPL	No. of Available Slots (Capacity, 2022)	No. of Slots Needed to Service 100% of Income Eligible Children ¹	Pct. of Children that Can be Served with Available Slots ²
Santa Clara Co.	6,887	2,014	4,873	29.2%
Children 0-2y	3,111	484	2,627	15.6%
Children 3-4y	3,776	1,530	2,246	40.5%
San Benito Co.	746	174	572	23.3%
Children 0-2y	310	14	296	4.5%
Children 3-4y	436	160	276	36.7%
Service Area	7,633	2,188	5,445	28.7%
Children 0-2y	3,421	498	2,923	14.6%
Children 3-4y	4,212	1,690	2,522	40.1%

Abbreviations: Co. = County; y = Years Old; No. = Number; Pct. = Percent; FPL = Federal Poverty Level.

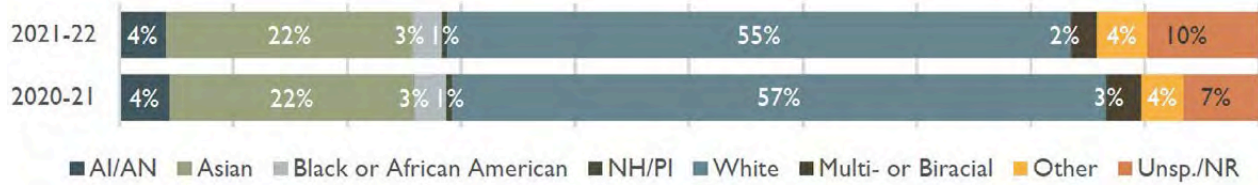
CHILDREN IN SERVICE AREA BY CATEGORICAL SUBGROUP (2022)

	No. of Children in Foster Care	No. of Kindergartners Who Are Homeless	Aggregate Count
Service Area	201	229	430
Santa Clara County	197	213	410
San Benito County	4	16	20

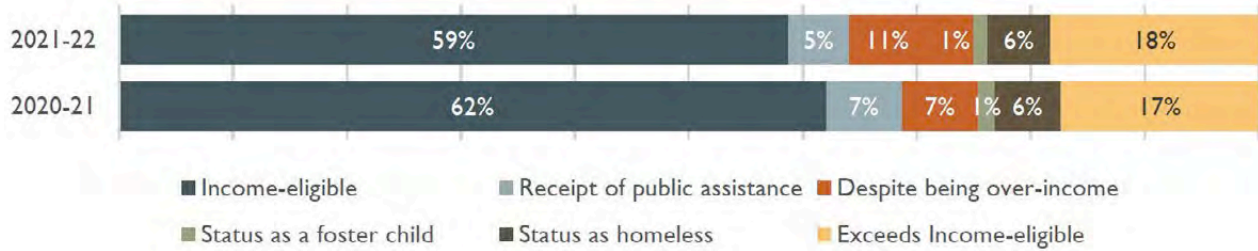
HEAD START ENROLLMENT OVER TIME



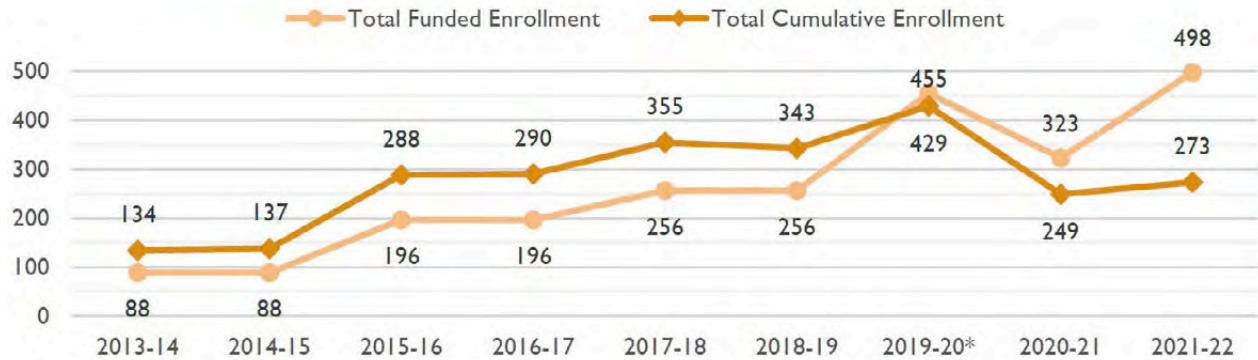
HEAD START CHILDREN BY RACE



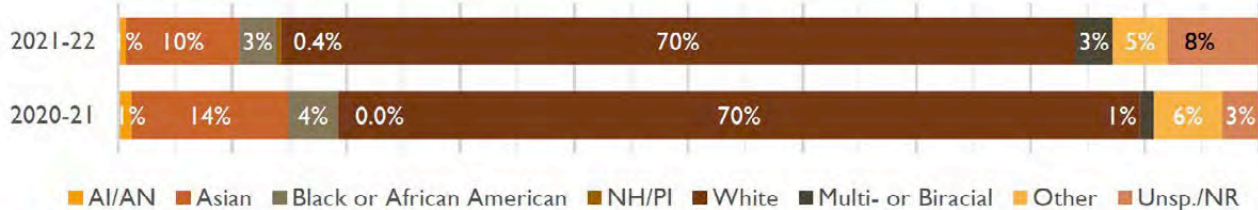
HEAD START ENROLLMENT BY TYPE OF ELIGIBILITY



NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN EARLY HEAD START



RACE OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN EARLY HEAD START



EARLY START PROGRAM: EARLY INTERVENTION FOR CHILDREN AGES 0 TO 3

The Santa Clara County Early Start Program (ESP) is a collaborative effort between San Andreas Regional Center and the SCCOE, as well as a consortium of other community agencies. ESP serves children with many disabilities, including developmental delays, hearing impairments, vision impairments, motor impairments, autism and multiple disabilities. The program works to strengthen, support and empower families of diverse backgrounds to understand, enhance and reinforce necessary skills to promote their child's development. Thus, participation by parents or caregivers is fundamental throughout all our program opportunities.



Our Program Opportunities

While each child's early intervention is designed according to individualized need, the Home Visit is the foundation of our service provision. Depending on individual needs, program options may include:

- Home and/or childcare visits
- Baby group
- Parent participation class
- Parent education workshops
- Family fun and community activities

Our Services

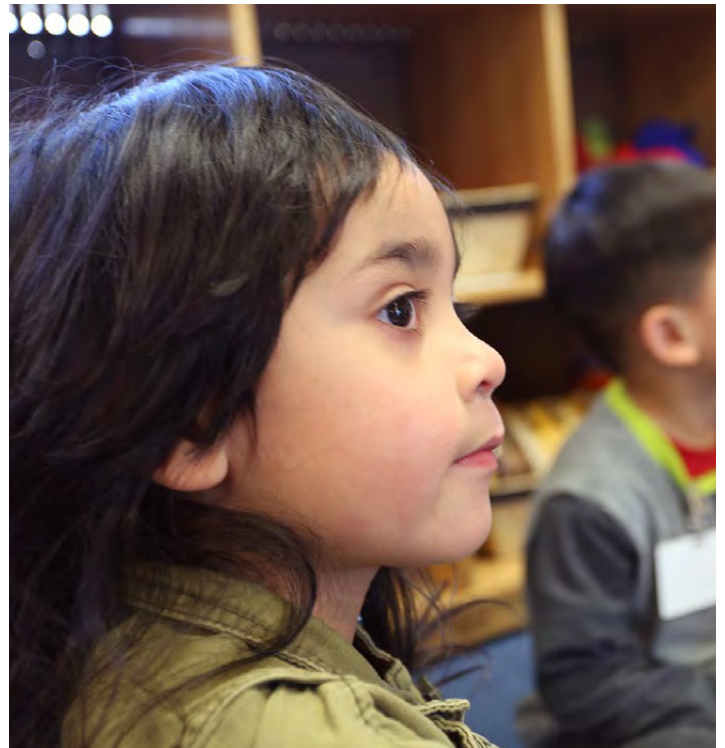
An Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) is developed for all children who are eligible for ESP. Certificated, licensed and paraprofessional early intervention staff provide a variety of services during our program activities:

- Assistive technology
- Family training
- Health services
- Hearing services
- Nutrition counseling
- Occupational/physical therapy
- Social work services
- Specialized instruction
- Speech/language services
- Vision services

The Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) is committed to serving, inspiring, and promoting student and public school success. The SCCOE is an exemplary regional service agency for students, parents, schools, and communities.

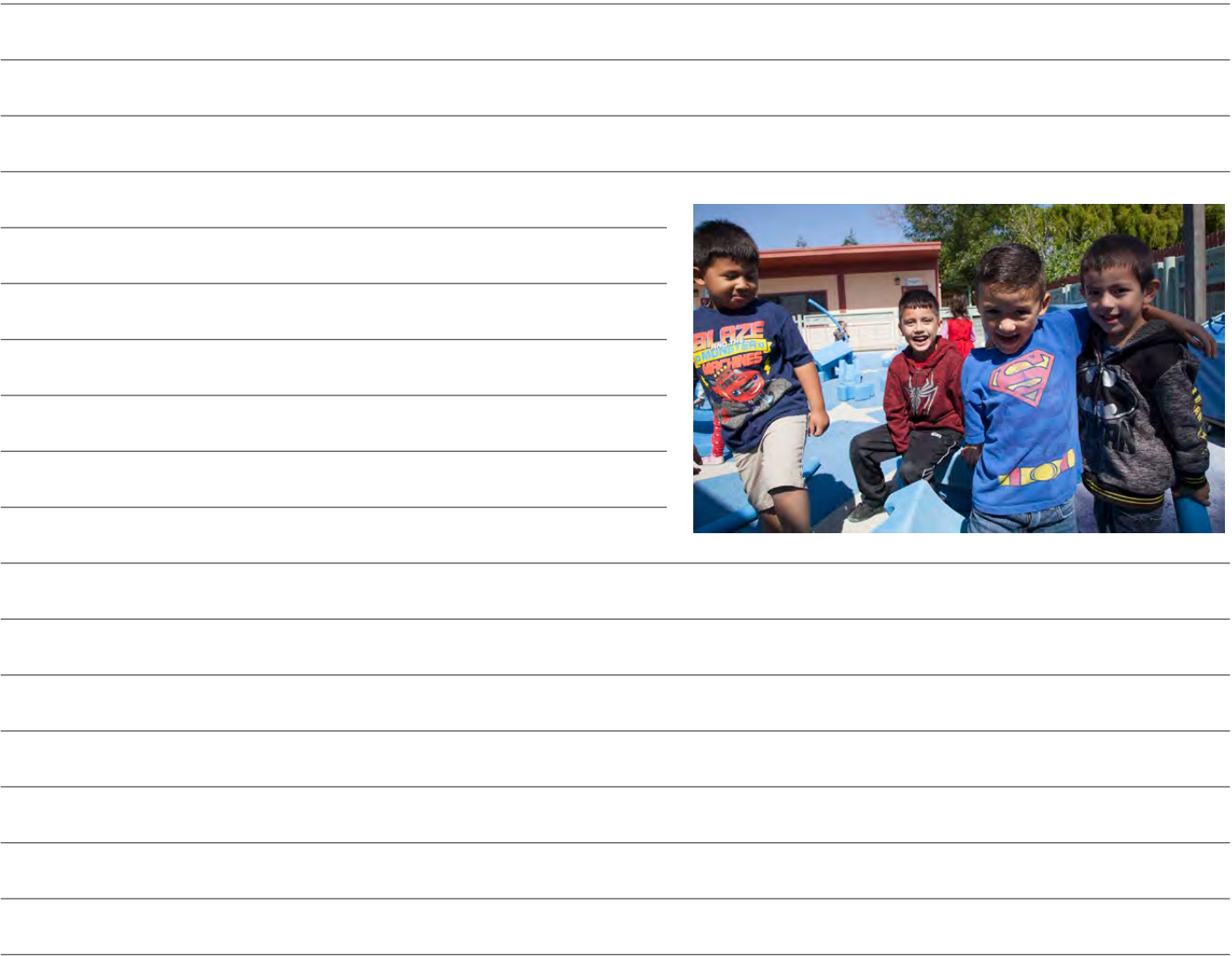
OUR GOALS

- Improve access to inclusive, equitable, high-quality education.
- Provide quality support to districts, schools, students, and communities.
- Be a premier service organization.



Notes







Santa Clara County Board of Education

Maimona Afzal Berta • Victoria Chon • Joseph Di Salvo • Raeena Lari
Grace H. Mah • Don Rocha • Tara Sreekrishnan

County Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Mary Ann Dewan



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