DATE: November 5, 2015

TO: Children, Seniors, and Families Committee

FROM: Jon R. Gundry, County Superintendent of Schools
Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent
Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE)

SUBJECT: Partnerships of the SCCOE, SCCBOE and the County of Santa Clara

Background
On April 7, 2015, the Board of Supervisors approved a request for a joint meeting of the Board of Supervisors and the Santa Clara County Board of Education and referred to the CSFC.

Recommended Action
Receive a report from the Santa Clara County Office of Education.

Fiscal Implications
None

Reasons for Recommendation
The County of Santa Clara and the SCCOE have a mutual interest in understanding early childhood programs and services.

Early Childhood Programs and Services
The Strong Start Coalition is comprised of community leaders, early education providers, non-profit organizations, elected officials, members of the business community and other key stakeholders. All share in the belief that excellent learning opportunities for children ages 0 to 8 is a priority for a community and participate in advocacy to expand access to high quality early learning.

Child Impact
The recommended action will have a positive impact on children by enhancing communication and understanding of early learning programs and services between the Santa Clara County Office of Education, the Santa Clara County Board of Education and the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors.
Leadership

Members of the Strong Start leadership establish the vision of the coalition, provide resources and subject matter expertise, and engage in advocacy to meet the coalition’s goal of expanding access to high quality early opportunities for all children age 0 to 8 in Santa Clara County.

Coalition

Members of the Strong Start coalition build a shared understanding of the need for expanding access to high quality early learning, develop a common agenda for tackling it, support implementation of the work plan by providing thought leadership and resources as needed, and act as ambassadors and advocates to their external partners. Members may serve on or form ad-hoc or external sub-committees or task forces as desired.

Operations

Members of the Strong Start operations group provide day-to-day operations support, develop and implement the work plan, and strategize meaningful opportunities for participation by members of the coalition.
AGENDA

• Strong Start Initiatives
• Future/Emerging
• Discussion
What is Strong Start?

A coalition of community leaders, early education providers, non-profit 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 aged 0-8 in Santa Clara County.

Mission and Vision
To ensure that all children in Santa Clara County have access to high-quality early learning for at least two years prior to kindergarten.

Objectives
- Support an expansion of quality early learning programs in Santa Clara County;
- Increase public understanding of the importance of quality in early learning programs;
- Increase public support of quality and access for all children; and
- Increase public understanding of the economic impact and benefits of early learning.
Readiness Gap ➔ Achievement Gap

"These achievement differences have early roots: The same groups of students* behind by the second and third grades are also behind in kindergarten and first grade, and at kindergarten entry."

- - The Promise of Preschool for Narrowing Readiness and Achievement Gaps Among California Children (Cannon & Karoly, RAND, 2007)

*Latinos, African Americans, English learners, children of parents with low education levels, and children in economically disadvantaged families

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Early Learning Value
Maximizing Potential

Rates of return to investment in human capital

James Heckman, winner of the 2000 Nobel Prize in economics, demonstrates the return on investment for ECE.
FUTURE/EMERGING INITIATIVES

Future Invitations to Collaborate

- Study of School Policing
- Foster Youth Task Force
- Silicon Valley Regional Data Trust
- Opportunity Youth Academy
Discussion