

UNIVERSAL PRE-KINDERGARTEN (UPK)

What Community-based Providers Should Expect And How To Prepare



VISION FOR UNIVERSAL PRE-KINDERGARTEN (UPK)



California’s vision for “Universal Pre-K” for all 4 year-olds will be accomplished by utilizing the existing early learning and care (ELC) mixed delivery system. Expanded TK is not intended to replace this system.

Partnerships between community-based providers and LEAs will be key to achieving universal pre-K for all 4 year-olds. Partnerships facilitate:

- Fiscal and program sustainability
- Workforce development pipeline
- Continuum of care for children
- Meeting the needs of families



WHAT IS UNIVERSAL PRE-K (UPK)?

A mixed delivery system that meets the early learning and childcare needs of children and families. It includes the following distinct programs:

TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN

An early learning program with no enrollment caps. All 4 year-olds eligible in 2025/26.

- Only LEAs operate
- No income eligibility
- Credentialed teachers required

STATE PRESCHOOL (CSPP)

A capped early learning program for income-eligible 3 and 4 year-olds.

- Via contract w/ CDE
- \$78,135 per family of 3
- Operated by LEAs and community-based providers

OTHER STATE & FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Additional slot-based state and federally subsidized programs serving ages 0 to 12.

- CalWORKS & APP
- Family childcare homes
- General childcare (CCTR)



2021 LEGISLATION NOW IN EFFECT

LEGISLATIVE PROTECTIONS FOR COMMUNITY-BASED PROVIDERS

- A child's eligibility for TK shall not impact eligibility for other preschool or childcare programs, including, but not limited to, Head Start, state preschool, FCCHs, FCCHNs, AP, CalWORKS, migrant childcare, or special education preschool. (Ed Code 48000(k).)
 - **i.e. Parents can continue to choose a preschool or childcare program instead of TK, even if their child is age-eligible for TK.**
- TK is only required to operate for 180 minutes (3 hours) per day, 180 days a year.
 - **i.e. Most parents who choose TK are still going to need 5 to 7 hours of wrap care.**



2021 LEGISLATION NOW IN EFFECT

EXPANDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM (ELO-P)

- The state created a new program called the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELO-P). ELO-P requires that schools provide 9 hours of combined early learning and childcare to 50% of unduplicated pupils in TK to 6th grade (i.e. low-income, foster youth, and English learners).
 - ELO-P requirements are aligned with the After School Education & Safety (ASES) program.
 - Schools can contract with community-based providers to meet the ELO-P requirements.
 - **i.e. All schools will receive some additional ELO-P funding to provide wrap care. They can use this funding to contract with community-based providers for expanded hours of care.**



2021 LEGISLATION NOW IN EFFECT

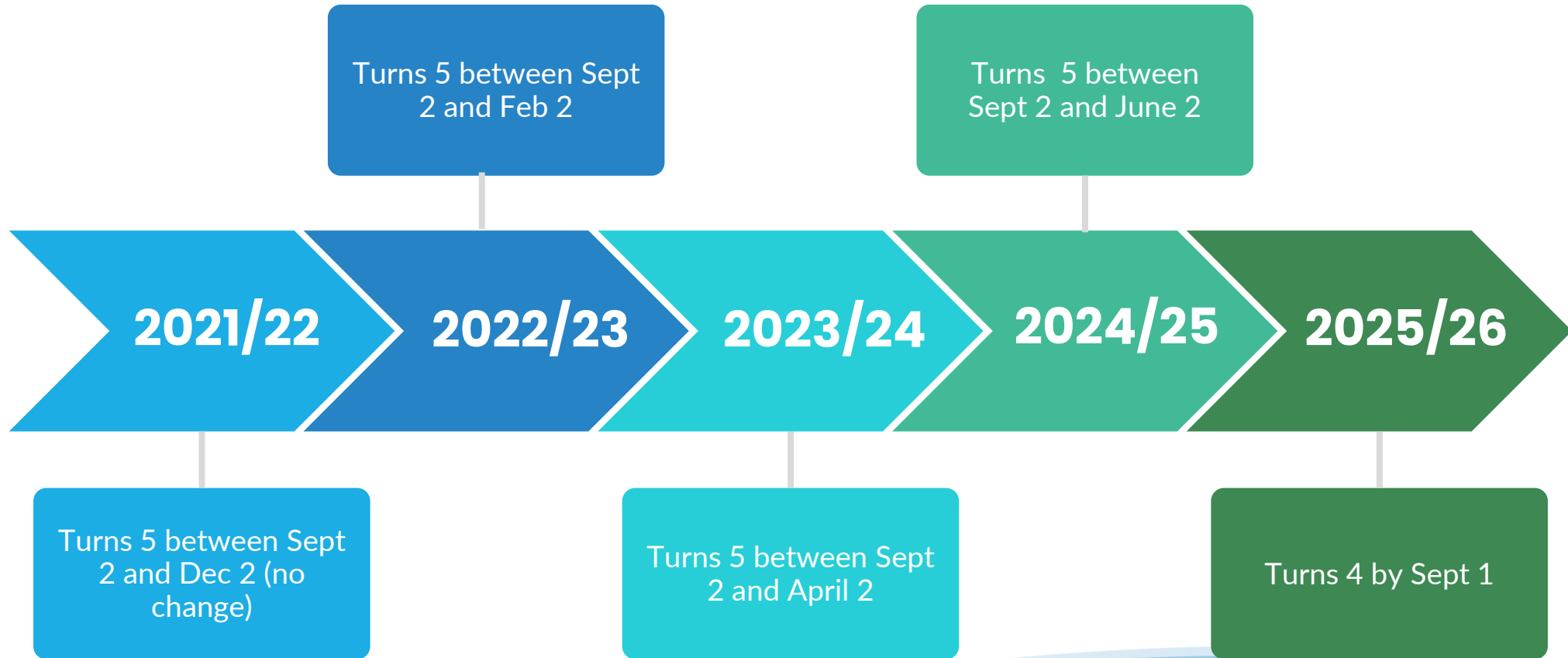
UNIVERSAL PRE-K PLAN

- All schools that operate a kindergarten program will be required to create a Universal Pre-K Plan by June 2022.
 - In the Plan, LEAs will need to articulate how all children the year before kindergarten will have access to full-day (9 hours). (LEAs are not required to provide full-day care.)
 - The state has released a template for schools to use when creating their Plan. The template strongly encourages schools to partner with community-based providers and requires schools to engage community stakeholders when creating their plan.
 - **i.e. To meet their Plan requirements, schools will probably need to partner with community-based providers to identify full-day care options for 4 year-olds.**



TK EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY TIMELINE

LEAS MAY ENROLL CHILDREN OUTSIDE THE ELIGIBILITY PERIOD; HOWEVER, LCFF FUNDING WILL NOT BE PROVIDED UNTIL THE CHILD TURNS 5



HOW IS THE COUNTY OFFICE SUPPORTING AND COMMUNICATING WITH DISTRICTS RE UPK IMPLEMENTATION?



4-PART WEBINAR SERIES

The County Office of Education is hosting webinars on: The Basics of Implementing Universal PreK; How to Blend, Braid and Layer Programs; Curriculum and Assessments; and the Universal PreK Plan.



DASHBOARD

The County Office will provide all districts with access to a dashboard that maps every licensed early learning and childcare provider who serves 4 and 5 year-olds.



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The County Office is meeting with school districts when requested to help them think through options for implementing universal preK through partnerships with community based providers.



CONSIDERATIONS FOR ALL LEAS

01

PARTNER WITH COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

Community based providers have expertise, existing infrastructure, and can often operate with lower overhead cost.

02

MAXIMIZE EXISTING FACILITIES/ SPACE

Are classrooms being under-utilized as storage? Only operating 1 part-time program each day? Can K-6 classrooms be utilized for the ELO-P?

03

BUILD A WORKFORCE PIPELINE

Blended, braided and layered staffing models can facilitate creation of career pathways and apprenticeship opportunities for staff.

04

WORK WITH LABOR

Severe staffing shortages and program braiding may require negotiations with labor.

05

IDENTIFY PARENTS NEEDS

Parents overwhelmingly indicate a need for affordability and programs that operate 9 hours or more per day. Part-day models are unlikely to be sustainable with increased competition from blended/braided TK/ELO-P options that offer 9 hours a day.

06

CONSIDER CONTRACTING

Some programs must be staffed by LEA employees (eg TK) while others can be staffed by contractors. When blending, braiding, and layering, LEAs may want to utilize both hired employees and contracted staff.

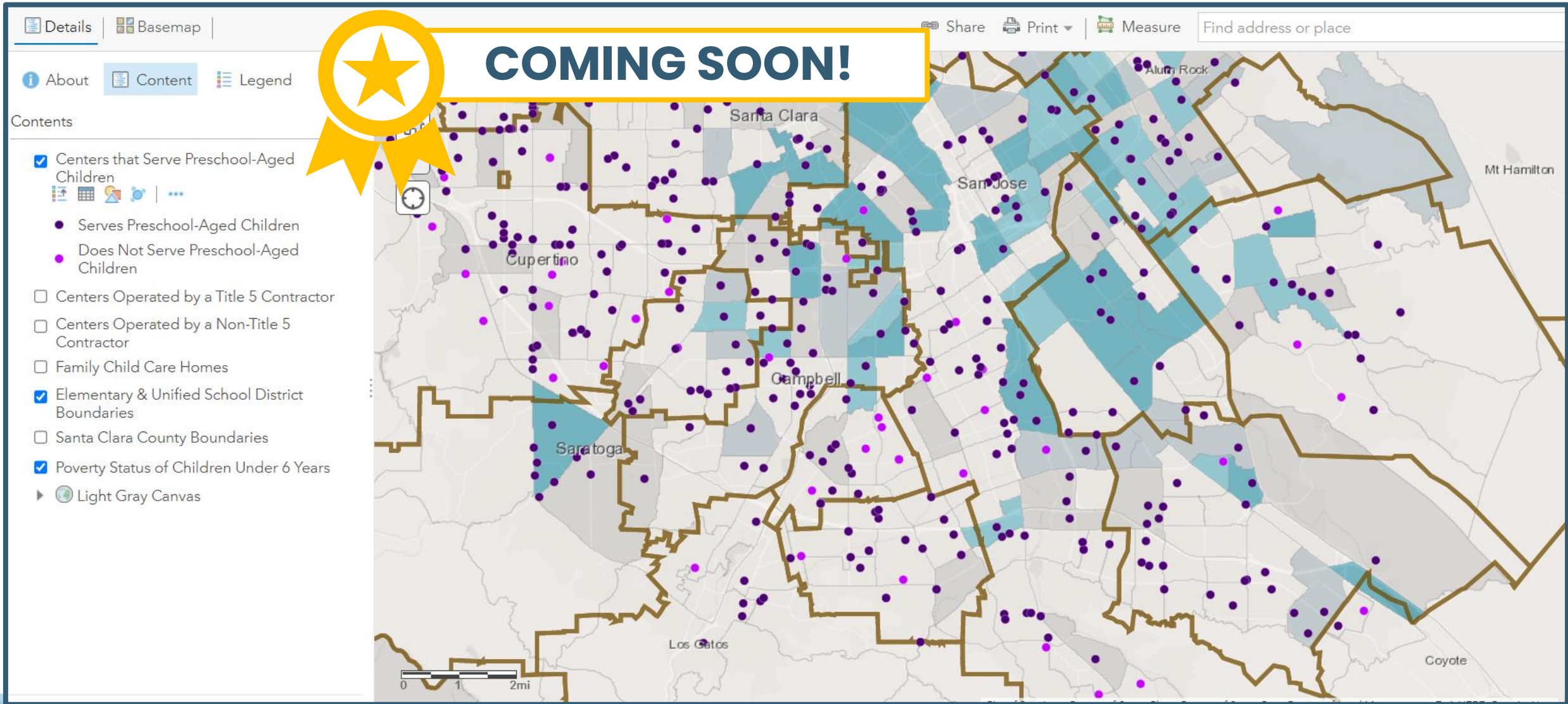
07

PRE-K TO 3RD GRADE ALIGNMENT

Districts should select aligned curriculum and assessments, and should create professional development opportunities for Pre-K to 3rd grade teachers as programs are blended, braided and layered.



REFER TO COMMUNITY-BASED CHILDCARE PROVIDER FOR EXTENDED HOURS



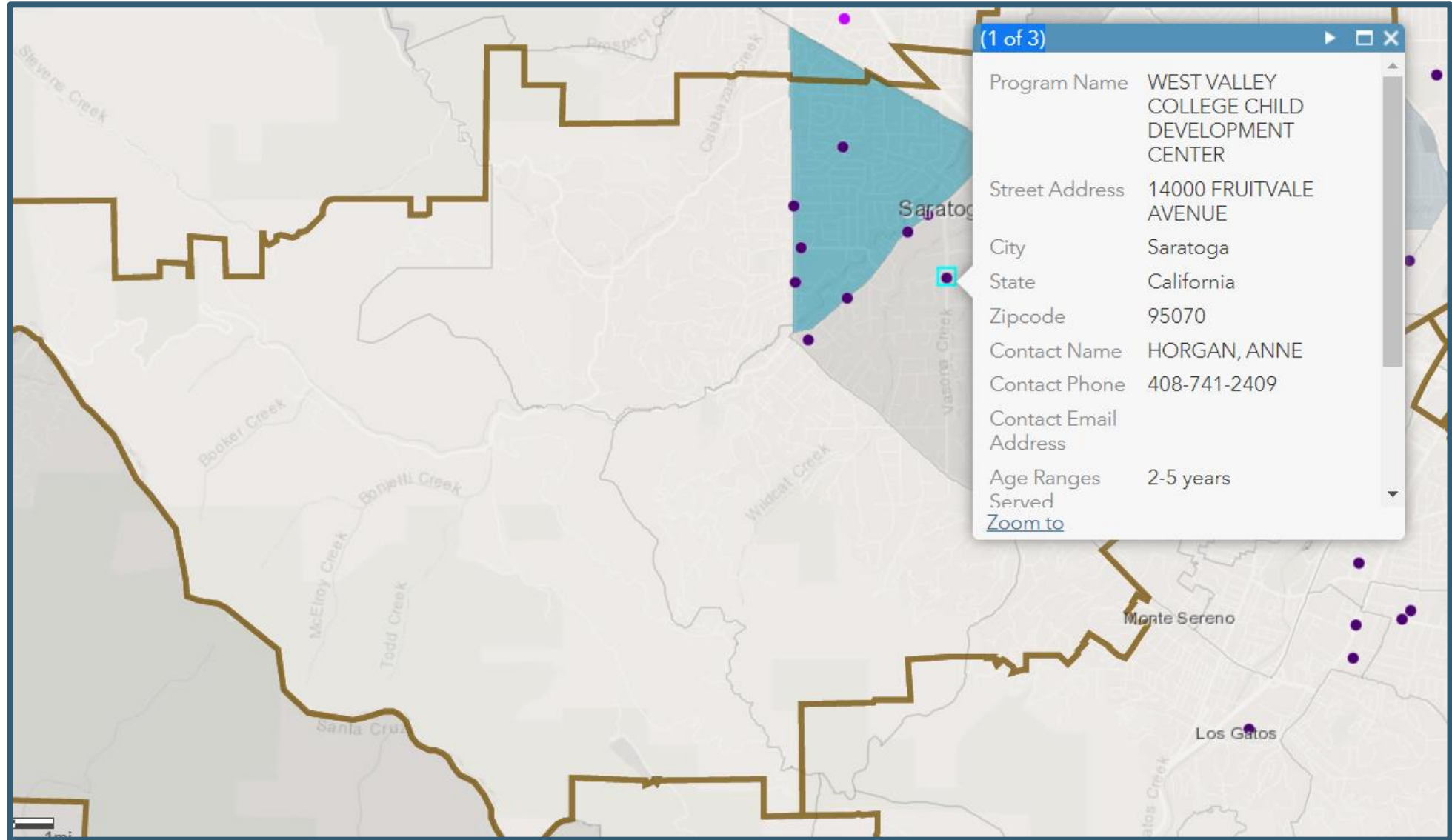
REFER TO COMMUNITY-BASED CHILDCARE PROVIDER FOR EXTENDED HOURS

DASHBOARD USES:

- Identify existing community-based providers nearest to each school site
- Identify and connect with all childcare providers with LEA boundaries (for purposes of the UPK Planning Template)

FILTER BY:

- Ages served
- Type of provider (eg center-based or family childcare home)
- Centers that offer free or reduced-cost early learning for low-income families



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMMUNITY-BASED PROVIDERS

01

IDENTIFY THE SCHOOLS OFFERING TK NEAR YOU

Which elementary school district enrollment area is your business located within?

<https://www.zipdatamaps.com/schools/california/county/map-of-santa-clara-county-ca-elementary-school-attendance-zones>

02

PARTNER WITH A SCHOOL DISTRICT

While school districts cannot contract with a community-based provider to provide TK, they can partner with community-based organizations to meet their new ELO-P requirements (i.e. must provide 9 hours of combined early learning and childcare to 50% of unduplicated pupils).

03

ENGAGE IN THE UPK PLAN PROCESS

School districts are required to seek input from stakeholders, including community-based providers on their UPK Plan. Enter your business address at this link to find which school district you are within:

<https://www.greatschools.org/school-district-boundaries-map/>

04

REACH OUT TO THE LPC AND R&R

The LPC and R&R can provide suggestions for connecting with your nearest school district and that ways in which you can engage in the UPK Planning process. The LPC and R&R can also offer guidance and technical assistance if your program is considering serving younger ages or offering alternative hours.

05

LOCATION OF SERVICES

Transportation can be a barrier for school districts who are interested in partnering with a community-based provider for extended hours. Childcare providers interested in partnering with a school district should consider whether they would be willing to offer services at the district campus (if space is available).

06

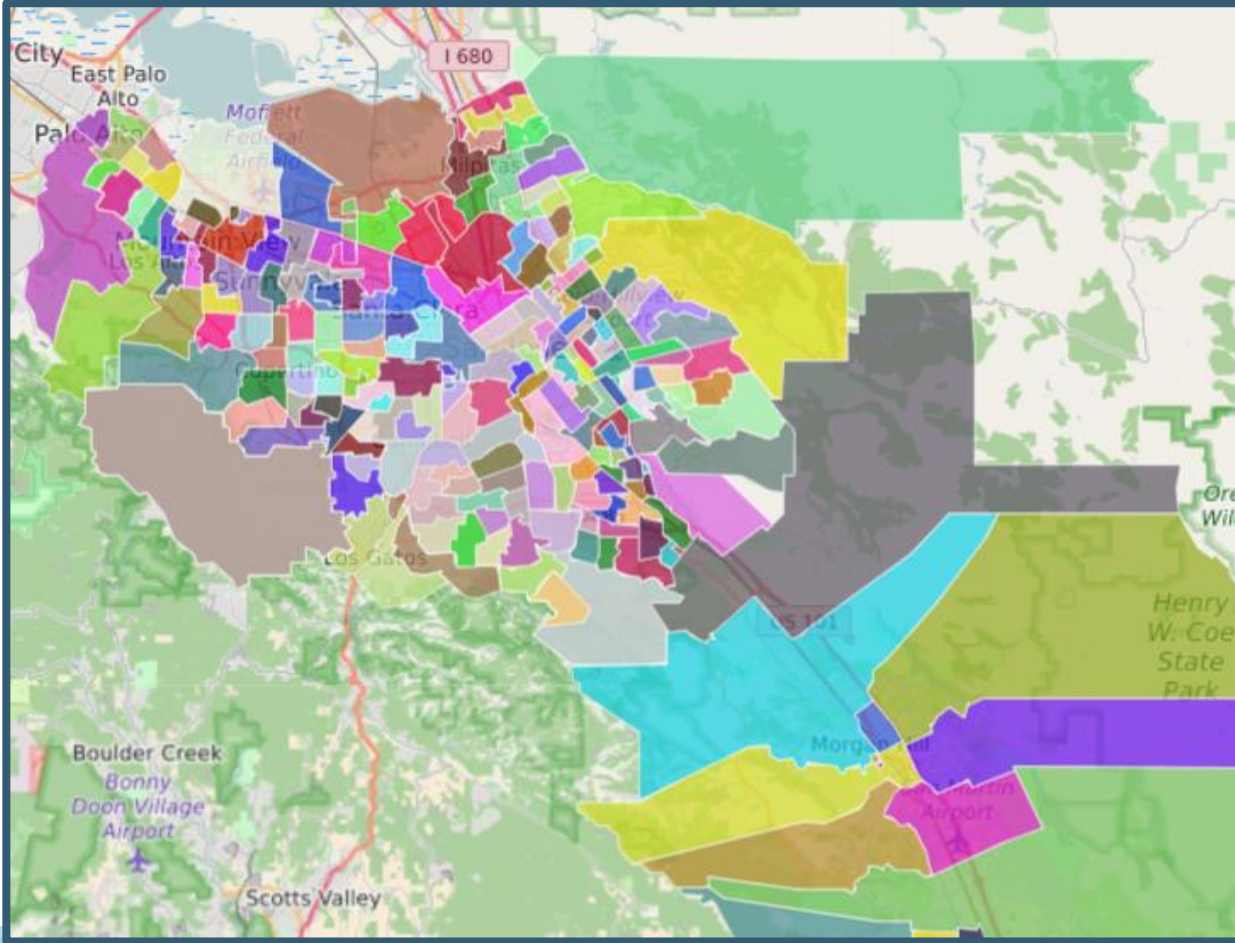
TARGET HOURS TO PARENT NEEDS

Parents overwhelmingly indicate a need for programs that operate 9 hours or more per day. Full-day community-based programs and those that offer alternative hours (eg weekends) will be very competitive against part-day TK programs.



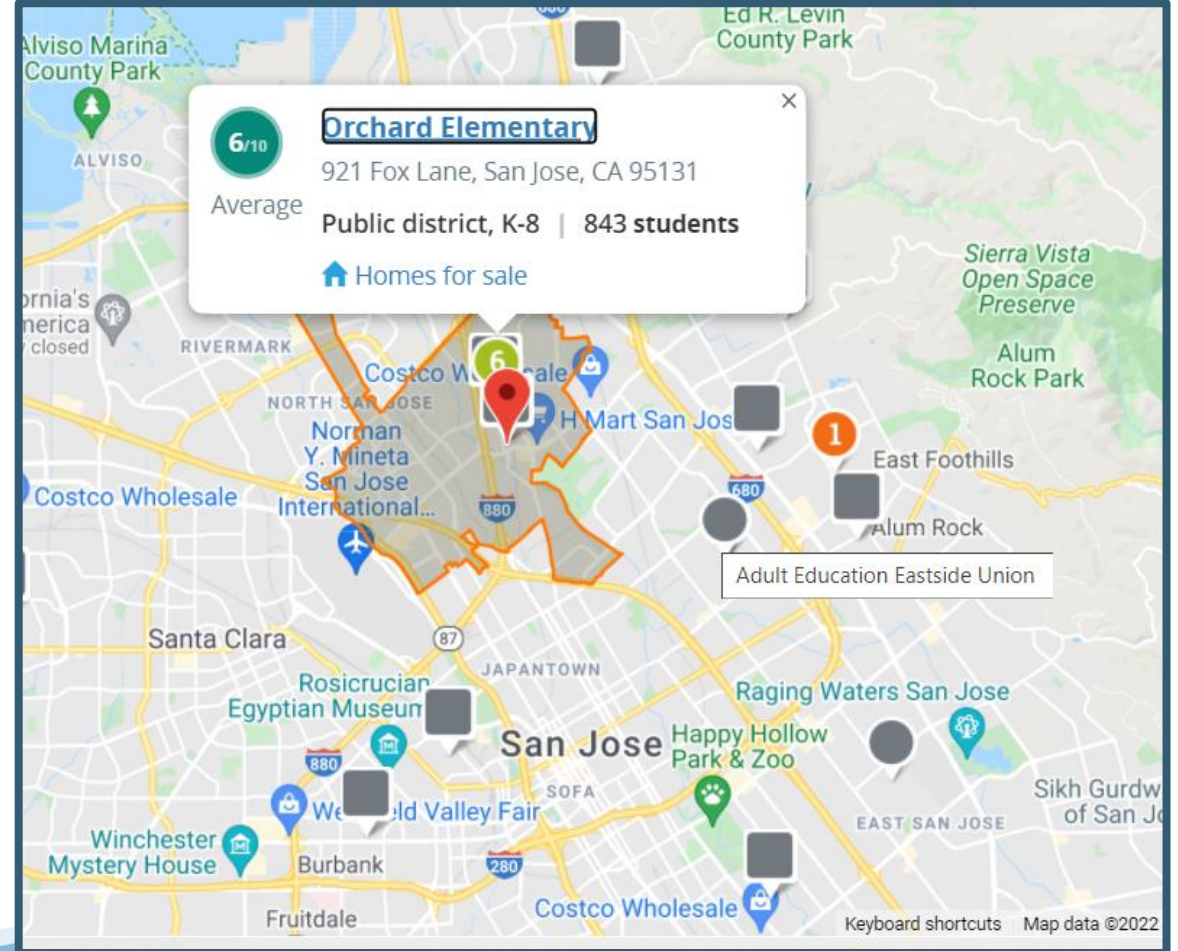
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOUNDARIES

<https://www.zipdatamaps.com/schools/california/county/map-of-santa-clara-county-ca-elementary-school-attendance-zones>



SCHOOL DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

<https://www.greatschools.org/school-district-boundaries-map/>



6/10 **Orchard Elementary** ×
Average
Public district, K-8 | 843 students
Homes for sale



FAQs

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FROM COMMUNITY-BASED PROVIDERS



01

How will TK expansion impact my program/business?

As TK expands, community-based providers will likely see some decline in the number of 4 year-olds applying to their programs. Because TK age-eligibility is expanding slowly between 2022/23 and 2025/26, this impact will be gradual. For state preschool providers, recent changes in age-eligibility allow you to enroll children as young as 2.9 years old and removed the requirement that 50% of children must be 4 years-old. It's worth mentioning that state data indicates that less than 15% of low-income 3 year-olds currently have access to a state preschool program. Preschool and APs should consider whether to target their programs to 3 year-old children.



02

How can I partner with the schools in my community?

Schools in your community, especially those in rural areas, those with few students, and those with lower poverty rates, will be looking for contractors who can help them meet their new Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELO-P) requirement to offer 9 hours of early learning and care. Community-based providers who have capacity to contract with districts should consider reaching out to the early learning or curriculum staff member at their local district to express interest in partnering: <http://publicschooldirectory.sccoe.org/viewschool.aspx?dt=4>



FAQs – TK

GENERAL QUESTIONS



03

How do I engage in the UPK Plan process?

Districts are required to submit a UPK Plan to their Board by June 30, 2022. Before doing so, they must seek input from local stakeholders, including community-based providers. Santa Clara COE has provided districts with contact information for the licensed providers within their district boundaries. If your district does not reach out to you directly, we suggest that you contact the early learning or curriculum staff at the district and provide your written comments or ask when they will be holding stakeholder meetings on the UPK Plan. More information about the UPK Plan can be found at <https://www.google.com/url?client=internal-element-cse&cx=007899273231353282595:rooj8qfkg0k&q=https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gs/em/documents/finalupktemp.docx&sa=U&ved=2ahUKEwjw6fzYzM31AhULm2oFHeagBW0QFnoECAkQAg&usg=AOvVaw0Zi-OjmJ7Ti834zhmgLKvI>



04

Should I reach out to my local elementary school or to the school district?

We suggest you start by reaching out to the school district to engage in the UPK Plan process and to express interest in partnering. You may also consider reaching out to the local elementary school if you have capacity to, and are interested, in receiving referrals from the elementary school for parents who are looking for subsidized extended hours or fee-for-service options (for parents above income thresholds).



FAQs – TK

GENERAL QUESTIONS



05

How will families know their options for early learning and childcare?

The SCCOE Steps to Success campaign focuses on raising public awareness about the benefits of enrolling in early learning programs for child birth-6. The R&R is part of the group helping to provide information to families across the county. Families can visit www.enrollsantaclara.org to learn more about what program is best for them based upon their income, age of children, and hours of care needed.



FAQs – TK

GENERAL QUESTIONS



As more 4 year-olds enroll in TK, what program adjustments should community-based organizations consider to ensure fiscal sustainability?

- **Partner with a school district:** Community-based providers who have the capacity and the interest should consider partnering with a school district to offer wrap and extended hours that will provide a total of 9 or 10 hours of care for children.
 - Example: Unified School District offers a 3 hour TK program and contracts with Childcare Center A to provide an additional 6 hours of care to low-income children using ELOP funding (total = 9 hours).
 - Example: Unified School District offers 3 hour TK program and refers families who need extended hours to Childcare Center A, FCCH B, and FCCH C.
- **Serve younger age-eligible children:** Recent legislation allows state preschool providers to serve children as young as 2.9 years old. A 2022 budget proposal from Governor Newsom would allow preschool providers to serve children as young as 2 years-old. Because state data indicates that less than 15% of eligible low-income 3 year-olds are enrolled in preschool, programs should consider focusing on enrolling 3 year-olds.
- **Offer alternative hours and longer hours of care:** Parents overwhelmingly indicate a need for programs that operate 9 hours or more per day. Full-day community-based programs and those that offer alternative hours (eg weekends) will be very competitive against part-day TK programs that are only required to offer 3 hours. Programs can still receive a full-day of funding by providing the additional 6 or 7 hours that families need.
- **Consider the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program:** The ELO-P has lower program requirements than most licensed childcare programs and pay may be comparable in some circumstances. Community-based providers interested in becoming an ELO-P contractor should reach out to their local school district or the R&R.

