

*** PUBLIC HEARING MEETING NOTICE***
FIRST 5 SAN MATEO COUNTY (F5SMC)
COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: Monday, December 17, 2018
TIME: 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM
ADDRESS: San Mateo City Hall, Council Chambers
330 W. 20th Avenue
San Mateo, CA 94403

AGENDA		
Call to Order and Preliminary Business		
1	Roll Call	4:00 PM
2	Public Comment	
3	Action to Set Agenda for December 17, 2018 Meeting and Approve Consent Agenda Items <i>(This item is to set the final consent and regular agenda, and for the approval of the items listed on the consent agenda. All items on the consent agenda are approved by one action.)</i>	
4	Commission Announcements	
5	Storytelling: First 5 Work / Impact: Diane Christensen, Co-Owner of Christensen and Rafferty Fine Jewelry	
Action Items		
6	Nominate and Elect Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for 2019 <i>(See Attachment 6)</i>	4:30 PM
7	Approval of F5SMC’s 2019 Committee Members and 2019 Meeting Calendar <i>(See Attachments 7)</i>	4:35 PM
Informational Items		
8	Communications Update <i>(See Attachments 8)</i>	4:40 PM
9	Report of the Executive Director <i>(See Attachments 9)</i>	
10	Spotlight on Excellence Awards	
11	Farewell to Commissioners Anne Campbell and Michael Garb	
12	F5SMC Highlights – 20 Years of Community Investment Celebration <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) November 1st 20 Years of Community Investment Celebration Photo Highlightsb) Review F5SMC History and Milestonesc) Present County Partner Awards: San Mateo County Health System, San Mateo County Human Services Agency	

	<p>d) Award for First Executive Director, F5SMC, Kris Perry</p> <p>e) F5SMC Video</p>	
13	Adjournment	
14	20 Years of Community Investment Celebration Reception	

*** Public Comment:** This item is reserved for persons wishing to address the Commission on any Commission-related matters that are as follows: 1) Not otherwise on this meeting agenda; 2) Listed on the Consent Agenda; 3) Executive Director's Report on the Regular Agenda; or 4) Subcommittee Members' Reports on the Regular Agenda. Public comments on matters not listed above shall be heard at the time the matter is called.

Persons wishing to address a particular agenda item should speak during that agenda item. If you wish to speak to the Commission, please fill out a speaker's slip located in the box on the sign in table as you enter the conference room. If you have anything that you wish to be distributed to the Commission and included in the official record, please hand it to Myra Cruz who will distribute the information to the Commissioners and staff. Speakers are customarily limited to two minutes, but an extension may be provided to you at the discretion of the Commission Chair.

The identified times are approximate and are intended to serve as a guide to the public and all First 5 meeting attendees regarding the approximate start times for any one section of the Agenda. The actual start and end times for an agenda item may differ from the noted times.

Public records that relate to any item on the open session agenda for a regular Commission meeting are available for public inspection. Those records that are distributed less than 72 hours prior to the meeting are available for public inspection at the same time they are distributed to all members, or a majority of the members of the Commission. The Commission has designated the First 5 San Mateo County office located at 1700 S. El Camino Real, Ste. 405, San Mateo, CA, 94402, for making those public records available for inspection. The documents are also available on the First 5 Internet Web site at www.first5.smcgov.org.

IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE AND THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT: First 5 San Mateo County Commission meetings are accessible to individuals with disabilities. Contact Myra Cruz at (650) 372-9500 ext. 232, or at ecruz@smcgov.org as soon as possible prior to the meeting, if (1) you need special assistance or a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, in order to participate in this meeting; or (2) you have a disability and wish to receive the meeting notice, agenda packet or other writings that may be distributed at the meeting in an alternative format. Notification in advance of the meeting will enable First 5 San Mateo County to make reasonable arrangements to ensure full accessibility to this meeting and the materials related to it.

First 5 San Mateo County Commission Meeting

CONSENT AGENDA

December 17, 2018

All items on the consent agenda are approved by one roll call motion unless a request is made at the beginning of the meeting that an item be withdrawn or transferred to the regular agenda. Any item on the regular agenda may be transferred to the consent agenda.

- 3.1 Approval of the October 22, 2018 Commission Meeting Minutes
(See Attachment 3.1)

**First 5 San Mateo County (F5SMC)
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
October 22, 2018
San Mateo County Office of Education**

Call to Order & Roll Call

1. Roll Call

Commission Members: Anne Campbell, David Canepa, Rosanne Foust, Pam Frisella, Michael Garb, Neel Patel, Sandra Phillips-Sved, Nicole Pollack, Louise Rogers

Absent: None

Staff: Kitty Lopez, Michelle Blakely, Jenifer Clark, Emily Roberts, Myra Cruz

County Counsel: Monali Sheth

A quorum was present. Commissioner Frisella called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM; roll call was taken. Commissioner Pollack was not present during roll call.

- 2. Closed Session:** The Commissioners moved to the Arroyo Conference Room to discuss the Public Employee Performance Evaluation (California Government Code Section 549579(b)), Executive Director, First 5 San Mateo County (F5SMC).

3. Report Out of Closed Session

The Commission meeting was reconvened at 4:10 PM. Commissioner Frisella acknowledged Kitty Lopez for all she have done for F5SMC. The Commission will be taking her to lunch to review the specific feedback from her annual performance evaluation.

Public Comments: None

- 4. Public comments on items not included in the agenda:** None

5. Action to Set Agenda for October 22, 2018 Meeting and Approve Consent Agenda Items

MOTION: PHILLIPS-SVED/ SECOND: PATEL

AYES: CAMPBELL, CANEPA, FOUST, FRISELLA, GARB, POLLACK, ROGERS

NOES: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

Motion approved.

6. Commission Announcements

- Commissioner Campbell announced that she attended the 4C's Leadership Awards last week where F5SMC received a Community Partnership Award. Kitty Lopez showed everyone the award.
- Commissioner Frisella shared that she attended the retirement party for Commissioner Campbell, and was delighted to hear many positive comments about her.
- Kitty Lopez announced that this is Commissioner Campbell's last official F5SMC's Commission meeting, and we will be honoring Commissioners Campbell and Garb at the December 17th Commission Meeting.
- Kitty Lopez welcomed back Deputy County Counsel Monali Sheth from her maternity leave. Lopez presented her with a basket containing F5SMC's Kit for New Parents.

7. **Storytelling: First 5 Work/Impact**

Kitty Lopez introduced Yogita Butani Thakur, DDS, Dental Director at Ravenswood Family Dentistry. Dr. Thakur gave a background on Virtual Dental Home (VDH) and its impact on many young children. She reported that last year, VDH had seen 650 kids and had 1,000 patient visits. The VDH model was able to provide dental care to patients they could not reach otherwise. She shared patient stories and acknowledged F5SMC for its support of this program. Commissioner Rogers thanked Dr. Thakur for her leadership on this effort.

8. **Proposition 64 – Cannabis/Marijuana Presentation**

Kitty Lopez introduced Moira Kenney, PhD, Executive Director of First 5 Association of California to present the impact in communities of Proposition 64. Dr. Kenney highlighted the following:

- An overview of cannabis legalization in California.
- First 5's approach to cannabis conversations is to promote responsible use of cannabis, not to prevent all cannabis use.
- Data and impacts of cannabis on fetal exposure during pregnancy, infant exposure during breastfeeding, children's exposure in the home.
- The spike in usage among expectant mothers.
- State taxes under Prop 64 and State revenues.
- Described how other counties such as Santa Cruz, Humboldt, Los Angeles and Yolo County are handling legalization and potential revenue of cannabis.
- Key considerations for local discussions such as cannabis as a revenue source for any municipality that does not ban cannabis and the importance of framing "prevention" as early childhood, not stigmatizing all cannabis use.

The Commission asked questions and provided comments. Discussion ensued.

Public Comments: None

The PowerPoint presentation can be found on the [F5SMC's website, October 22, 2018, Commission Meeting Presentation](#).

9. **Quality Counts SMC: Quality Ratings & Improvement System (QRIS) Presentation**

F5SMC's Program and Planning Director, Michelle Blakely, introduced presenter Nirmala Dillman, Coordinator, SMC Child Care Partnership Council and QRIS, San Mateo County Office of Education. Blakely also introduced Alyson Suzuki, Administrator of Early Learning Support Services, San Mateo County Office of Education who just started a few weeks ago. The Commission welcomed Suzuki. QRIS (Quality Rating and Improvement System) or Quality Counts CA, led by California Dept. of Education and First 5 California, a state level project designed to help improve early care education programs. It uses a common set of standards to measure and guide quality improvement in early learning centers and family child care homes in San Mateo County. Dillman highlighted the following:

- F5SMC, San Mateo County Office of Education and 4C's implemented the QRIS.
- Quality Counts San Mateo County logo was shown.
- The investments in quality and elements of quality.
- How rating works and enrollments data
- New website, www.smcqualitycounts.org
- Goals is to grow in family childcare centers and all sites that accept low income children.

Kitty Lopez acknowledged VIVA Strategy and Communications for helping with the communication plan, brochures, website, and kits.

Public Comments: None

The PowerPoint presentation can be found on the [F5SMC's website, October 22, 2018, Commission Meeting Presentation.](#)

10. Approval of 2017-2018 Budget Close Out

Kitty Lopez shared that at the September 10, 2018 Finance Committee Meeting, the Committee Members reviewed the 2017 – 2018 Budget Close Out, and recommended its approval. Lopez highlighted that we have \$177,000 higher revenue than the plan budget, expenditures are \$1.349 million below the planned budget, and \$1.526 million higher than the ending fund balance of the planned budget.

MOTION: GARB/ SECOND: FOUST

AYES: CAMPBELL, CANEPA, FRISELLA, PHILLIPS-SVED, PATEL POLLACK, ROGERS

NOES: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

Motion approved.

Public Comments: None

11. Approval of Annual Financial Audit and Submission to the California State Controller's Office and First 5 California for FY 2017 - 2018

Commissioner Frisella opened the public hearing for this agenda item.

With no public comment, Commissioner Foust moved to close the public hearing session, and seconded by Commissioner Garb. Motion approved.

Kitty Lopez introduced R.J. Ricciardi's Audit Director, Heip Pham, an independent auditor, who presented the 2017 – 2018 audit results. The 2017 – 2018 audit report was included in the October 22, 2018 Commission Meeting Packet. For full details, visit

<https://www.first5sanmateo.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/2018-October-22-Commission-Meeting-PACKET.pdf>

The following were highlighted:

- Independent Auditor's Report, unmodified – clean opinion
- Government Auditing Standards – no significant deficiencies or material weaknesses
- Budget to Actual - \$1.5 million under budgeted deficit
- Acknowledged the staff for the cooperation and assistance during the audit

MOTION: GARB/ SECOND: PATEL

AYES: CAMPBELL, CANEPA, FOUST, FRISELLA, PHILLIPS-SVED, POLLACK, ROGERS

NOES: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

Motion approved.

12. Approval of FY 2017 – 2018 First 5 San Mateo County Annual Program Report and Submission to First 5 California

Commissioner Frisella opened the public hearing for this agenda item.

With no public comment, Commissioner Foust moved to close the public hearing session, and seconded by Commissioner Campbell. Motion approved.

F5SMC's Program and Planning Director, Michelle Blakely presented the report. The Annual Report to First 5 California provides information about local activities and expenditures to First 5 California. Blakely stated that this year, the State Commission has revised its reporting requirements and has restructured the expenditure and

service categories to emphasize the types of organizations that receive First 5 funding and to gather some limited information on evidence-based assessments and service models in use across the state. It has also begun to request that county commissions provide an estimated count of the unduplicated clients served, in addition to service counts. Blakely highlighted the following:

- Fiscal data
- Client data (number of children, parents, and providers served duplicated and unduplicated)
- 2,832 Kits for New Parents were distributed.
- Family demographics
- Evaluation activities
- Selected findings on Early Childhood Teacher Compensation Study

Blakely added that the Early Childhood Evaluation Advisory Committee reviewed the report last week. The written report was included in the October 22, 2018 Commission Meeting packet. For full details, visit

<https://www.first5sanmateo.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/2018-October-22-Commission-Meeting-PACKET.pdf>

MOTION: FOUST/ SECOND: GARB

AYES: CAMPBELL, CANEPA, FRISELLA, PHILLIPS-SVED, PATEL, POLLACK, ROGERS

NOES: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

Motion approved.

13. Strategic Plan 2020 Recommendation and Adoption

Commissioner Frisella opened the session for this agenda item.

With no public comment, Commissioner Foust moved to close the public hearing session, and seconded by Commissioner Patel. Motion approved.

Kitty Lopez introduced Christina Bath Collosi, Managing Partner, VIVA Strategy and Communications. Lopez acknowledged Michelle Blakely for her leadership with the process. Collosi acknowledged the F5SMC Staff and Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee for putting together the Strategic Plan for 2020 – 2025. Blakely emphasized that the SP Plan does not include funding allocations. The funding allocations will be presented for approval at the future Commission meetings. Commissioners acknowledged the staff. The draft Strategic Plan for 2020 – 2025 was included in the October 22, 2018 Commission Meeting packet. For full details, visit

<https://www.first5sanmateo.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/2018-October-22-Commission-Meeting-PACKET.pdf>

MOTION: GARB/ SECOND: ROGERS

AYES: CAMPBELL, CANEPA, FRISELLA, PHILLIPS-SVED, PATEL, POLLACK, ROGERS

NOES: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

Motion approved.

14. Communications Update

A Communication's written report was included in the [October 22, 2018 Commission Meeting Packet](#). Kitty Lopez highlighted the following:

- 20 Years of Community Investment Celebration on November 1st at San Mateo Event Center, and a second celebration will be held on December 17, 2018 at San Mateo City Hall.

- “Think Bigger” e-newsletter was sent out.

15. Executive Director’s Report

Kitty Lopez’s written report was included in the [October 22, 2018 Commission Meeting Packet](#). Lopez highlighted the following:

- Acknowledgement letter from Commissioner Campbell regarding EQ+IP Project.
- Bay Area Early Childhood Education Legislative Forum on October 19, 2018.
- On October 19th, Lopez presented at the Good Morning Redwood City Chamber Event regarding Build Up, and the staff also presented at Annual Housing Leadership Day on Build Up.
- Zero to Three is hosting a webinar “Screen Sense: All the Need-to-know Research on Screens for Children Under Five”.

16. Committee Updates

- A. Early Childhood Evaluation Advisory Committee Meeting: Commissioner Rogers reported that the Committee met and discussed the draft Annual Report to First 5 California. The Committee also focused on the feedback from the Commission Meeting regarding current indicators for the 2020 Strategic Plan.

Commissioner Garb motioned to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Commissioner Phillips-Sved. Motion approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 PM.

Date: December 17, 2018
To: First 5 San Mateo County Commissioners
From: Pam Frisella, Commission Chair
Re: Nominate and Elect Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for 2019

ACTION REQUESTED

Nominate and Elect Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for 2019

BACKGROUND

Each year the Commission takes action to appoint the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for First 5 San Mateo County. The following is taken from the approved Bylaws of the First 5 San Mateo County Commission, Article V (Officers):

1. Officers:
 - a. The Chair shall preside over all business and meetings of the Commission, appoint chairs of standing and ad hoc committees, and exercise such other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Commission.
 - b. The Vice Chair shall be a Commissioner, and in the Chair's absence or inability to act, shall preside at the meetings of the Commission. If both the Chair and Vice-Chair will be absent or unable to act at a meeting at which a quorum of the Commission will be present, the Chair may in advance of said meeting appoint a Commissioner to preside at said meeting over all business of the Commission, appoint chairs of standing and ad hoc committees, and exercise such powers and perform such other duties of the Chair as may be prescribed by the Commission.

Currently Pam Frisella serves as Commission Chair and Louise Rogers as Commission Vice-Chair.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

RECOMMENDATION

Nominate and Elect Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for 2019

Date: December 17, 2018

To: First 5 San Mateo County Commissioners

From: Kitty Lopez, Executive Director

Re: Approval of First 5 San Mateo County 2019 Committee Members and the 2019 Committee Meeting Calendars

ACTION REQUESTED

Approval of First 5 San Mateo County 2019 Committee Members and the 2019 Commission and Committee Meeting Calendar

BACKGROUND

The Committees provide technical assistance and professional expertise by reviewing materials and making recommendations for consideration by the full Commission. Members are appointed by a majority vote of the Commission and consist of a minimum of 2 Commissioners and a maximum of 4, which is less than a quorum of the members of the Commission (In compliance with The Brown Act: California's Open Meeting Law). Each Committee elects the Committee Chair and appoints public members as appropriate.

The following are appointment recommendations for the 2019 Committees:

First 5 San Mateo County Subcommittees

Committee	Committee Description	Members for 2019
Finance and Administration	Reviews the Commission's financial operations including but not limited to the: annual budget, annual audit, long term financial planning, and investment strategies.	Pam Frisella Rosanne Foust
Program, Operations and Planning <i>(also referred to as POP)</i>	Reviews program specific content areas and helps facilitate the successful implementation of the Commission's Strategic Plan.	Nancy Magee Nicole Pollack Sandra Phillips-Sved
Early Childhood Evaluation Advisory	Reviews the implementation of First 5 San Mateo County's outcome-based evaluation framework and helps the Commission use evaluation results to inform strategic decision making.	Louise Rogers Neel Patel David Canepa

Attachment 7

The following 2019 Commission and Committee schedule was developed based on meeting dates and times that have been established by the Commission members:

Commission Meetings:	4 th Monday of each month / 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Finance & Administration:	2 nd Monday of each month / 9:00 am – 10:00 am
Program, Operations & Planning:	1 st Monday of each month / 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Early Childhood Evaluation:	3 rd Monday (bi-monthly) / 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Meeting dates that deviate from the schedule above are due to holiday conflicts (**See Attachment 7.1**).

RECOMMENDATION

Approval of First 5 San Mateo County 2019 Committee Members and the 2019 Committee Meeting Calendar



2019 Commission and Committee Calendar

	Commission Meeting	Program, Operations & Planning	Finance & Administration	Early Childhood Evaluation Advisory
	SMC Office of Education 101 Twin Dolphin Drive 1st Floor Conf. Room Redwood City, CA 94065	SMC Office of Education 101 Twin Dolphin Drive 2nd Floor Conf. Room Redwood City, CA 94065	First 5 San Mateo 1700 S. El Camino Real, Ste. 405 San Mateo, CA 94402	First 5 San Mateo County 1700 S. El Camino Real, Ste. 405 San Mateo, CA 94402
	4th Monday 4:00pm - 6:00pm	1st Monday 4:00pm – 5:00pm	2nd Monday 9:00am – 10:00am	3rd Monday 3:30pm – 4:30pm
January	1-28	1-7	1-14	No Meeting
February	2-25	2-4	2-11	2-11 (2-18, Presidents Day)
March	3-25	3-4	No Meeting	No Meeting
April	4-22	4-1	4-8	4-15
May	5-20 (5-27, Memorial Day)	5-6	5-13	No Meeting
June	6-24	6-3	6-10	6-17
July	7-22	7-1	7-8	No Meeting
August	No Meeting	8-5	8-12	8-19
September	9-23	9-9 (9-2 Labor Day)	9-9	No Meeting
October	10-28	10-7	10-21 (10-14, Columbus Day)	10-21
November	No Meeting	No Meeting	No Meeting	No Meeting
December	12-16	12-2	No Meeting	No Meeting

2019 COMMITTEE MEMBERS, STAFF REPRESENTATIVES, PUBLIC MEMBERS*

Finance & Administration

Pam Frisella
Rosanne Foust

Staff

Kitty Lopez
Khanh Chau

PROGRAM, OPERATIONS & PLANNING (POP)

Nancy Magee
Sandra Phillips-Sved
Nicole Pollack
Harvey Kaplan, MD*

Staff

Kitty Lopez
Michelle Blakely
Myra Cruz

EARLY ADVISORY EVALUATION

Louise Rogers
Neel Patel
David Canepa
Tracey Fecher*
Heather Cleary*

Staff

Kitty Lopez
Michelle Blakely
Jenifer Clark

DATE: December 17, 2018
TO: First 5 San Mateo County Commission
FROM: Kitty Lopez, Executive Director
RE: Communications Update

ACTION REQUESTED

None; this agenda item is for information only.

COMMUNICATIONS

- F5SMC banners were posted on the digital billboards located in Hwy 101 at Millbrae Avenue, Holly Street and Ralston from October 29th to November 10th. RSE developed these digital banners.
- The F5SMC Staff and RSE will be working on the following:
 - Updating the website to include a search bar.
 - Communication materials for Help Me Grow and Trauma-Informed Initiatives.
 - Marijuana/cannabis educational brochure and campaign materials for use by F5SMC and partners. A draft designed was created, and F5SMC will ask for input from our community partners.

SOCIAL MEDIA

- See November 2018 Social Media Report (*Attachment 8.1*)

First 5 San Mateo County November 2018

Overview

We continue to see positive interaction and engagement in First 5 San Mateo social media platforms. Instagram showed strong follower growth; impressions were the highest on Twitter with more than 4.3K in November. Followers demonstrated active engagement in F5SMC's 20th Anniversary posts on Twitter and Instagram.

All activity on social media was organic for the month of November. RSE we will continue to post relevant content, participate in Twitter chats, find new ways to engage fans on Facebook and Instagram, and will work with F5SMC to promote the LinkedIn page.

Activity by Platform

The following report provides engagement statistics by social media platform.



1,325
3,379
335

Followers (+7 followers from last month)
People Reached
Total Engagements (Likes and Comments)

Facebook

In November, we saw an increase in followers. Engagement for the month consisted of 335 comments, likes and shares and the two most popular posts reach over 1,114 impressions. The organic post, which included an AAP statement, had the highest reach of 564 people in addition to a strong 36 reactions, comments and shares.

Highlights:

First 5 San Mateo County
Published by Mai Le [?] · November 13 at 7:45 PM · 🌐

This Thursday from 6-8 PM, Daly City Partnership is holding a special community meeting, **Children with Special Needs: Perspectives and Resources**.
This is for parents, caregivers, and teachers. Find out what supports exist locally, and what rights children with special needs have within the education system.

Performance for Your Post

550 People Reached
17 Reactions, Comments & Shares

7 Likes	7 On Post	0 On Shares
5 Comments	5 On Post	0 On Shares
5 Shares	5 On Post	0 On Shares

20 Post Clicks
0 Photo Views | **8** Link Clicks | **12** Other Clicks

NEGATIVE FEEDBACK
0 Hide Post | 0 Hide All Posts
0 Report as Spam | 0 Unlike Page

Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on posts

EVENTS.R20.CONSTANTCONTACT.COM
Children with Special Needs: Perspectives and Resources
What are some resources in the area for children on the autism / ADD...

✔ **Get More Likes, Comments and Shares**
Boost this post for \$20 to reach up to 10,000 people.

550 People Reached | **37** Engagements | **Boost Post**

👤 Gaby Buendia, Erika Hernandez and 5 others | 3 Comments 5 Shares

👍 Like | 💬 Comment | ➦ Share | 🌐

First 5 San Mateo County
Published by Runyon Saltzman, Inc. [?] · November 28 at 1:20 PM · 🌐

"The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that all immigrant children and families seeking safe haven are treated with dignity and respect to protect their health and well-being. Children who are displaced and fleeing violence should be given special protection and humanitarian assistance and allowed to petition for asylum. The use of tear gas on children—including infants and toddlers in diapers—goes against evidence-based recommendations, and threatens their short and long-term health."

Performance for Your Post

564 People Reached
21 Reactions, Comments & Shares

21 Like	9 On Post	12 On Shares
2 Love	2 On Post	0 On Shares
3 Sad	3 On Post	0 On Shares
2 Angry	1 On Post	1 On Shares
2 Comments	1 On Post	1 On Shares
6 Shares	6 On Post	0 On Shares

36 Post Clicks
0 Photo Views | **6** Link Clicks | **30** Other Clicks

NEGATIVE FEEDBACK
0 Hide Post | 0 Hide All Posts
0 Report as Spam | 0 Unlike Page

Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on posts

ACESCONNECTION.COM
AAP Statement in Response to Tear Gas Being Used Against Children at the U.S. Southern Border [aap.org]
Boost this post for \$20 to reach up to 10,000 people.

✔ **Get More Likes, Comments and Shares**
Boost this post for \$20 to reach up to 10,000 people.

564 People Reached | **72** Engagements | **Boost Post**

👤 Jan Craig, Jeanette Martin Schorr and 13 others | 1 Comment 6 Shares

👍 Like | 💬 Comment | ➦ Share | 🌐

First 5 San Mateo County November 2018



Twitter

450 Followers (+6 followers from last month)
20 Total Engagements- Retweets/Likes/Mentions
4.3K Tweet Impressions

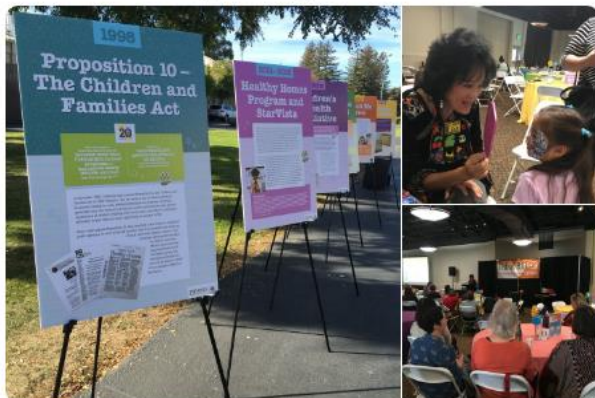
During the month of November, Twitter saw great engagement and a high number of 4.3k impressions, which led to an increase in followers. The account continues to be tagged in content and tweets from other influencers in the early childhood space. Most of the visibility this month came from a tweet about high-quality early childhood services for children and families with over 450 impressions.

Some highlighted tweets from the month are shown below:



First 5 San Mateo Co
 @first5sanmateo

Thank you to everyone who joined us today in celebrating 20 years of prioritizing the children of San Mateo County! We look forward to many more years to come!



4:33 PM - 1 Nov 2018

1 Retweet 4 Likes



Top Tweet earned 450 impressions

A well-aligned, well-prepared workforce is a necessary component of high-quality early childhood services for children and families, but the field cannot achieve this goal without a comprehensive, systemic approach to professional development (PD).

ow.ly/mLA130moe6e

2 Retweets 7 Likes

View Tweet activity

View all Tweet activity

First 5 San Mateo County November 2018



Instagram

309
20

Followers (+10 from last month)
Total Engagements (Likes and Comments)

The Instagram account continues to see steady growth in followers with ten additional people following in November. Followers continue to include parents, teachers, early education and health community organizations, other First 5's and public officials. We published 5 posts this month, and engagement stayed consistent with 20 likes and comments. The two most popular post are shown below:



first5sanmateo • Follow

first5sanmateo While breastfeeding can be a wonderful way to bond with baby, it can also be challenging. Check out our site to find tips and support for feeding, pumping and for problems commonly faced by breastfeeding mothers. #First5CA #breastfeeding

alannaflippi Breastfeeding my first was so hard!



16 likes

NOVEMBER 14

Add a comment...



first5sanmateo • Follow

first5sanmateo Yesterday was ✨magical✨! Thank you to all who came out to celebrate our 20 Years of Community Investment! Our work is only possible through partnership, collaboration, and a shared vision for children's success, and we appreciate everyone who has been part of that. And a special thank you to @first5california Express, @pottethehealthyotter, and Senator-magician Jerry Hill for dazzling our youngest guests yesterday! 🎉🎉🎉🎉



13 likes

NOVEMBER 2

Add a comment...

First 5 San Mateo County November 2018



LinkedIn

RSE continued to post content during the month of November to the First 5 San Mateo County LinkedIn business page. RSE and F5SMC will continue to work together to find ways to engage internal staff and other county individuals on this platform.



First 5 San Mateo County

35 followers

1w



The shortage of high-quality child care providers in San Mateo County is fueled by a number of factors, a shortage of teachers being one of them. A well-aligned, well-prepared workforce is a necessary component of high-quality early child ...see more



Aligning professional development across HV and ECE will contribute to a more cohesive early childhood workforce

childtrends.org



1 Like



Like



Comment



Share

**FIRST 5 SAN MATEO COUNTY (F5SMC)
REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DECEMBER 2018**

OVERVIEW

The Big Lift Initiative was featured in the September 19, 2018 issue of *The Almanac*. It discussed the plan of boosting the reading skills of disadvantaged kids. (See attachment 9.1)

2018-2019 California County Scorecard of Children's Well-Being published by *Children Now*. Visit <https://www.childrennow.org/reports-research/scorecard/> for full details. For San Mateo County scorecard, see Attachment 9.2.

STRATEGIC INVESTMENT FOCUS AREAS – UPDATE

Early Learning

Peninsula Family Services-Thought Leader Series: On October 17, 2018, Jenifer Clark, F5SMC's Evaluation Program Specialist, and Myra Cruz, F5SMC's Administrative Secretary attended the Thought Leader Series hosted by Peninsula Family Service focusing on Early Learning: Closing the Achievement Gap Before Age 5. Some of the topics that were presented includes the Early Years and the Achievement Gap, Brain Science and the Early Years, and The Early Learning Environment. F5SMC also was a sponsor of this event.

Build Up for San Mateo Children: On Thursday November 29th, Build Up hosted a conversation with Caitlin Cordello-Low – Senior Policy Analyst from the *US Chamber Foundation-Center for Education and Workforce*. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation is dedicated to strengthening America's long-term competitiveness and to do that the Chamber develops and promotes solutions for the most pressing education and workforce challenges of our day. The Chamber asserts that childcare is a crucial economic driver. Ms. Low presented data and case studies from around the country showcasing business partnerships with early learning initiatives. Build Up presented our draft Employer Engagement Plan designed to grow the number of business' partnering with Build Up to expand the number of high quality spaced for children.

AB-124 Preschool Facilities Bond Act of 2020: A new proposed legislation introduced on December 3, 2018, by McCarty, Berman, Bonta, Burke, Carrillo, Chiu, Friedman, Eduardo Garcia, Gonzalez, Limón, Reyes, Santiago, Ting, and Wicks. Enacts the Preschool Facilities Bond Act of 2020. Authorizes the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$500,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance a preschool facility grant program. For full details, visit https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB124

Child Health and Development

SMC Oral Health Coalition Meeting: On November 13, F5SMC staff member and Oral Health Coalition Chair Emily Roberts convened the quarterly SMC Oral Health Coalition meeting. The meeting featured two guest speakers and drew approximately 30 attendees. Adrienne Mendle, Staff Attorney for Legal Aid's LIBRE (Linking Immigrants to Benefits Resources & Education)

program, presented on Public Charge and its implications for immigrants and access. Dr. Ryan Padres, Medical Director of The Primary School, presented on The Primary School's whole-child approach, and specifically their integration of oral health as a focus of child, family, and provider education and preventative service delivery as part of the Virtual Dental Home program.

Daly City Partnership Meeting: The Daly City Partnership hosted their quarterly meeting on November 15th with a focus on Children with Special Needs: Perspectives and Resources. A panel of local experts on services and supports for families of children with special needs shared their perspectives with attendees, which included parents, children, and providers. First 5 SMC-funded services including Watch Me Grow, the Family Resource Center, and Help Me Grow were represented on the panel and in the announcements preceding the panel discussion.

Help Me Grow Leadership Advisory Team Meeting: F5SMC staff members Kitty Lopez, Michelle Blakely, and Emily Roberts along with Help Me Grow (HMG) Consultant Cheryl Oku convened the second meeting of the HMG Leadership Advisory Team on November 26th. The meeting brought together leaders from many of the prominent child- and family-serving organizations in the County for a refresher on the HMG model, an update on the status of the Core Components, and a discussion on communications and messaging in preparation for the soft launch of the Call Center in January 2019. Attendees provided thoughtful suggestions on stakeholder messaging and alignment with other local efforts.

Family Engagement

Over the last six weeks, F5SMC's Family Support Program Specialist, Karen Pisani, has attended several county and grantee meetings on the Trump administration's proposed change to the Public Charge Rule. Public Charge is a term used by immigration officials to refer to people who rely on government assistance to primarily support their cost of day-to-day living. Currently, immigrants can access nutrition programs, health insurance, and other safety net services without those supports being held against them in immigration proceedings. (Note: refugees, asylees, and domestic violence survivors are not subject to the Public Charge test.)

The proposed Public Charge Rule change includes additional factors that can be considered (held against people) in determining if someone is likely to become a Public Charge, including but not limited to:

- Use of Non-emergency Medicaid
- Use of SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Attachment Program)
- Use of Low income subsidy for prescription drug costs under Medicare Part D
- Use of Section 8 housing vouchers
- Not speaking English fluently
- Being under 18 or over 61
- Less than a high school diploma
- Not employed/in school
- Income under 124% of Federal Poverty Guidelines

According to the Migration Policy Institute (MPI), the impact of the expanded Public Rule Charge would be felt across the two largest racial/ethnic groups among immigrants in San Mateo County: people of Hispanic and Asian American/Pacific Islander ethnicities.

Approximately 68,300 people in San Mateo County live in benefit-receiving families with at least one Hispanic noncitizen, and 26,000 persons are in benefit-receiving families with at least one Asian American/Pacific Islander (AAPI) noncitizen. The proposed rule could make immigrant families afraid to seek programs that support their basic needs, stay productive and raise children who thrive. Although the proposed change is not yet in effect, there has already been significant disenrollment from public assistance programs. This “chilling effect” is likely to extend to relatives, including U.S.-citizen children, if families decide to disenroll from, or not apply for, benefits and services.

Public comments were being accepted through December 10th. F5SMC submitted a letter opposing the new Public Charge Rule, (*See Attachment 9.3*). The Department of Homeland Security must respond to each unique comment, however there is no date by which this must be accomplished. Furthermore, there is no set time line for the implementation of the proposed rule, but we do know that if the current Public Charge rule is changed it would not go into effect until 60 days after being published.

POLICY & ADVOCACY UPDATES

“More California kids would attend preschool under push in Legislature” an article from December 3, 2018, *Capitol Alert*. Democratic Assemblyman Kevin McCarty of Sacramento plans to introduce a nearly \$2 billion package of bills to give access to preschool to all low-income 4-years-olds and more 3-years-olds. Some of the bills would include improving and constructing preschool buildings, and increasing preschool workers’ pay rates. (*See Attachment 9.4*)

“More California school administrators gain skills as early-childhood leaders” an article from November 8, 2018, *Educationdive.com*. The article discussed the importance of preschool programs and the impact of First 5 initiative including First 5 San Mateo County. (*See Attachment 9.5*)

ACCOUNTABILITY, RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

On November 26th, Jenifer Clark attended the Oral Health Data Workgroup associated with the implementation of the County’s Oral Health Strategic Plan. Lizette Brenes, the county epidemiologist supporting this work, presented a draft survey that will be distributed to partners delivering oral health services. The purpose of the survey is to identify oral health indicators that are of interest to service providers, to enable the Oral Health Coalition to develop relevant reports and dashboards.

COMMUNITY AND STATEWIDE EVENTS & UPDATES

Community Collaborative for Children’s Success - On November 5th, Jenifer Clark and Mai Le attended the Community Collaboration for Children’s Success Neighborhood Leadership Group meeting for Daly City at Our Second Home family resource center. This was the project kick-off meeting for the community of Daly City. Shireen Malekafzali from the San Mateo County Health System led the meeting, along with Raimi and Associates consulting group.

20 Years of Community Investment Celebration: On November 1, 2018, F5SMC celebrated 20 years of investing in San Mateo County with community partners, officials, children and families at the San Mateo Event Center. First 5 Express Van and Potter the Otter Mascot entertained the kids as well as Senator Jerry Hill who treated the crowd with his magic show performance. F5SMC presented several awards: Assembly member Kevin Mullin, Senator Jerry Hill & former Commissioner Anne Campbell for their support and advocacy of young children and families in San Mateo County.



F5SMC's ED Kitty Lopez, F5SMC's Commission Chair Pam Frisella, Assembly member Kevin Mullin



Senator Jerry Hill showed his magic tricks to kids

F5 Association Summit: On December 10-12th, Kitty Lopez, Jenifer Clark, Emily Roberts and Michelle Blakely attended the F5 Association's Strategy in Action Summit. Representatives from over 45 F5 county commissions participated. The goal of the summit was to assess and iterate how best to implement the common F5 Network Strategy. Summit themes included individual leadership, working across/within our network and systems change and policy efforts at the local and state level to improve the lives of children and family.

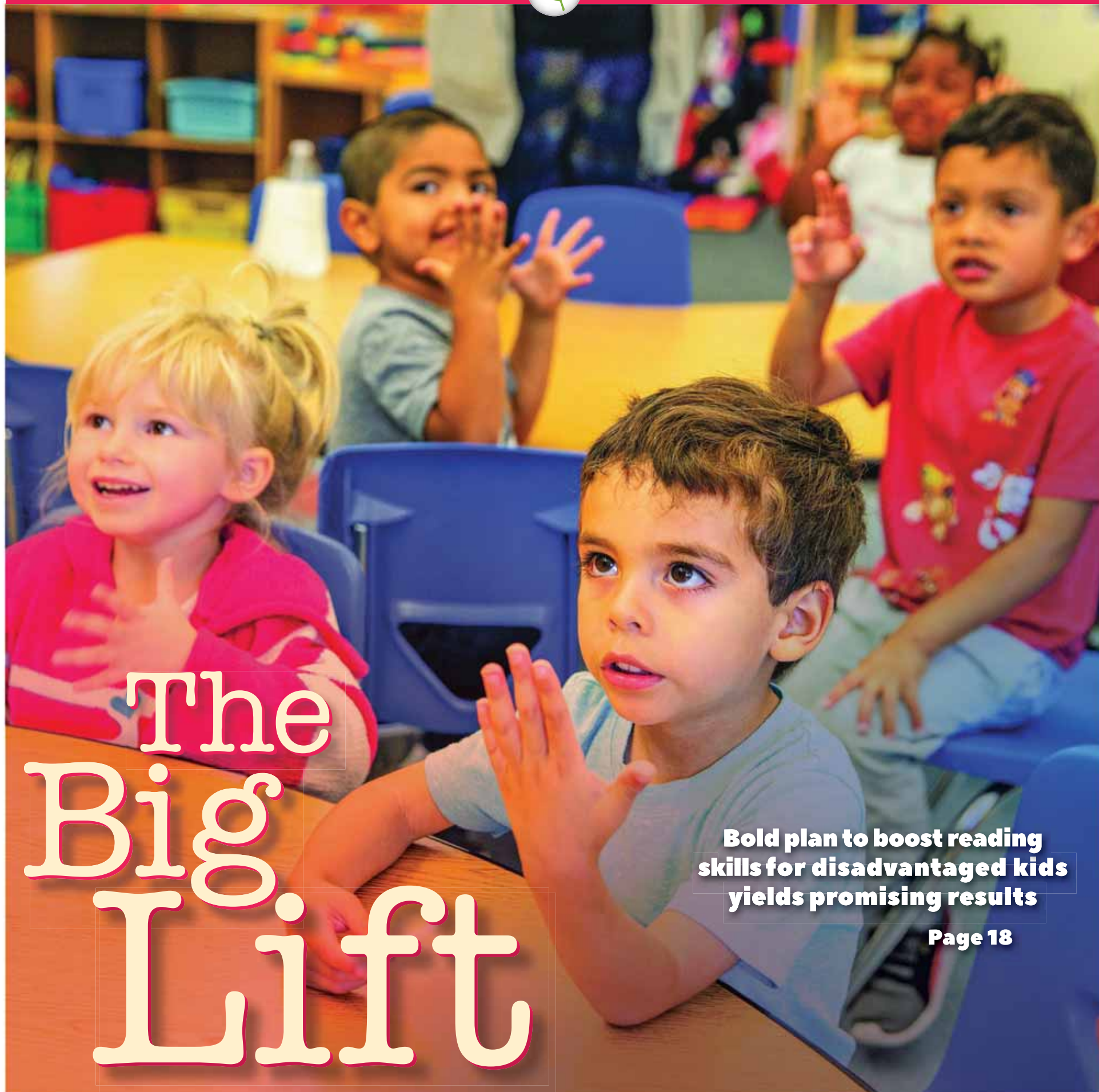
The Almanac

THE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER FOR MENLO PARK, ATHERTON, PORTOLA VALLEY AND WOODSIDE

SEPTEMBER 19, 2018 | VOL. 54 NO. 03



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The Big Lift

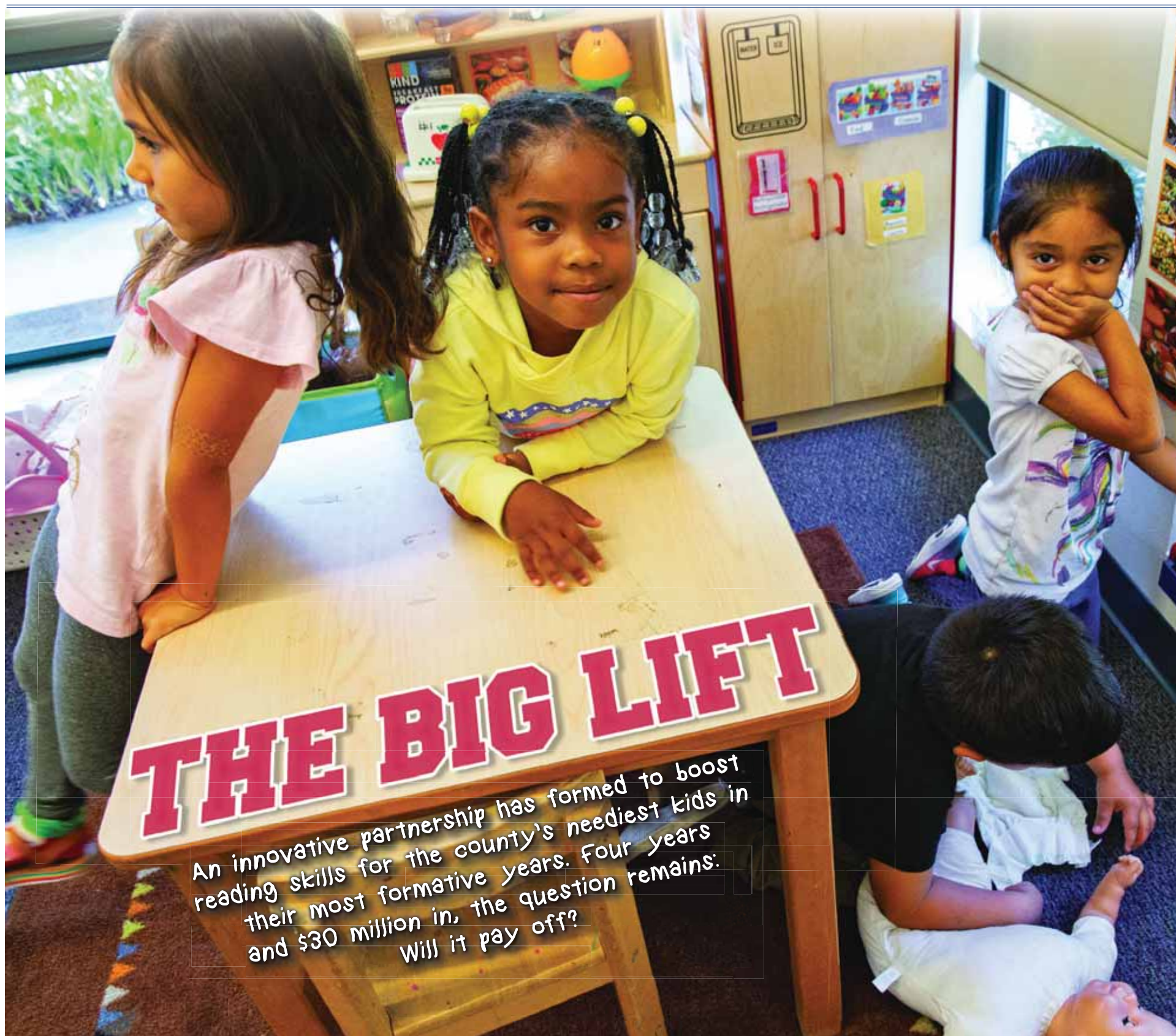
Bold plan to boost reading skills for disadvantaged kids yields promising results

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Enrollment dips in local schools | Page 5

Scooter accident claims Menlo man's life | Page 7

Street Smarts: Mom was right | Page 23



THE BIG LIFT

An innovative partnership has formed to boost reading skills for the county's neediest kids in their most formative years. Four years and \$30 million in, the question remains: Will it pay off?

BY KATE BRADSHAW | PHOTOS BY NATALIA NAZAROVA

On a recent Monday morning, Delaney Moore, center, and Aranza Martinez, right, and Marcos Linares, lower right, enjoy playtime at the Belle Haven Child Development Center. They're participants in "The Big Lift," a major effort underway to get kids across San Mateo County reading proficiently by third grade.

It all started with some startling data: After the 2013-14 school year, 43 percent of third-graders in San Mateo County schools couldn't read proficiently. That number rose to 65 percent for the county's Latino, African-American and Pacific Islander third-graders.

Reading proficiency at the third grade level is widely accepted as a predictor of a student's future success. That's because after third grade, classroom teachers generally assume kids can read, and switch teaching modes from "learning to read" to "reading to learn."

Those who can't read well by then

go from being behind in only reading to trailing their classmates in all other class subjects, since text becomes one of the primary ways information in other disciplines is transmitted.

A longitudinal study released in 2011 and commissioned by the Annie E. Casey Foundation — a private foundation focused on improving American kids' well-being — found that one in four low-income kids who didn't read at grade level in third grade didn't

graduate from high school on time.

Faced with those statistics, the Peninsula Partnership Leadership Council, a coalition of public and private organizations dedicated to improving kids' well-being, led by San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools Anne Campbell, San Mateo County Supervisor Carole Groom, and Silicon Valley Community Foundation Chief Community Impact Officer Erica Wood, went to work to tackle the problem.

The goal: to get 80 percent of third-graders in participating school districts reading at grade level in five years.

From research, they learned that there are four types of actions that make a difference in improving reading outcomes in early education and elementary school: engaging parents in their kids' learning, making sure kids don't miss school, preparing kids well for kindergarten, and preventing kids from backsliding on their learning gains during summer.

They developed a bold, ambitious plan, called the Big Lift, to put in place all four actions at once at school districts struggling with reading scores, and then see what happens, tracking outcomes with rigorous data collection and analysis.

The goal: to get 80 percent of third-graders in participating school districts reading at grade level in five years.

Enacting the plan, however, came with a price tag. In 2015, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors agreed to put \$15 million of Measure A funds (now Measure K) toward the project.

Around that time, the coalition also successfully applied for a competitive federal grant from the Social Innovation Fund, an Obama administration program. It was awarded what was expected to be \$16.5 million grant, with an initial \$7.5 million contribution and the remainder to be offered on a conditional basis.

The initiative started its first cohort in the 2015-16 school year with preschoolers in four county districts: Cabrillo Unified, La Honda-Pescadero Unified, Jefferson Elementary and South San Francisco Unified. The next year, it added three more districts: Ravenswood City, Redwood City and San Bruno Park.

Unexpected funding loss

Then, following the 2016 elections, the the initiative's funding from the Social Innovation Fund was cut by the Trump administration.

Reeling from the loss of that \$9 million in conditional funding, the county, the education office and the community foundation sprang into action.

Some cuts were made to the program — its annual operating budget is now about \$8 million, from \$12 million,

Groom said — and the initiative continues to partner with state-funded preschools to stretch public dollars.

San Mateo County continues to be the dominant funder, but other public and private donors have also stepped up, including First Five San Mateo County, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Heising-Simons Foundation, Silicon Valley Social Venture, and Philanthropic Ventures Foundation, among others. The roster of supporting organizations numbers over 100.

"We've been working very hard to bring in new funding," Groom said in an interview, noting that she, Campbell and Wood have been doing a lot of the fundraising themselves.

To date, the Big Lift is the only program in the country to apply all four such interventions at once, Groom said, citing the Annie E. Casey Foundation. But there's a lag: The coalition won't know for sure if its efforts are fulfilling its ultimate goal until 2020, when the first cohort of students who were tracked starting in preschool finishes third grade and takes the state English test to determine grade level reading proficiency.

However, there are promising signs, both factual and anecdotal, that indicate the program is having an effect.

"We're continuously looking at data," explained Diana Harlick, a Big Lift coordinator in the San Mateo County Office of Education. "We're seeing really promising early results."

Ravenswood district programs

State test results from 2017 indicate that few Ravenswood City School

District third-graders are reading proficiently: About 85 percent did not meet grade-level reading standards.

In that district, the program is working with two preschools, and running summer programs for incoming kindergartners, according to Diana Harlick in the county Office of Education. The two preschools it works with are the Belle Haven Child Development Center in Menlo Park and the Institute for Human and Social Development, a Head Start program in East Palo Alto, she said.

The Big Lift provides resources to some preschools in the districts it has partnered with to help children be ready for kindergarten by improving preschool quality. The county provides extra funding to reduce the ratio of students to teachers, and provide individualized coaching for teachers.

Gaby Gutierrez, a teacher at the Belle Haven Child Development Center, said the coach who has come into her classroom has provided helpful guidance and modeled good teaching practices.

Handwritten, colorful posters on her classroom wall list the many learning standards the students are expected to master. Teaching happens throughout the day, in between the nearly four hours of free play time a day the state mandates that children must receive.

To promote early literacy for her students, Gutierrez says she reads stories in English and Spanish and asks her students questions to gauge comprehension.

In addition to bolstered learning opportunities, kids are given meals and snacks throughout the day and opportunities for screening for vision and developmental problems, according to Andrea Jones, Big Lift officer at the Silicon Valley Community Foundation.

Both the preschools and the students enrolled are subjected to standardized analysis. The Belle Haven preschool, after two years of support from the Big

See **BIG LIFT**, page 20



Left: Mateo Nunez Correa, 4, tries on different costumes during play time at the Belle Haven Child Development Center. **Right:** An instructor at the Belle Haven Child Development Center works with young Nick Valencia, 3, teaching him how to write his name.

BIG LIFT*continued from page 19*

Lift, has improved its overall rating from what's called a "Tier 3" to a "Tier 5" school, according to Carmen Lo, the center's director. Tier 5 is the top rating given to early childhood education centers.

The county has also adopted a standard kindergarten readiness assessment. It is, Harlick said, "the first time ever we have valid data on what kindergarten students look like when they walk through the door."

That, combined with a system to track outcomes of Big Lift students through preschool to elementary school, gives the county a way to compare Big Lift students with students who don't participate in the program. Those results are then sent to an external evaluator.

Analysing this data, Harlick said, "we are seeing incremental improvement every year," she said.

Parents and attendance

Because the school works with low-income families in an extremely high cost-of-living area, getting parents who work multiple jobs and long hours to attend evening workshops has been a challenge in the past, Lo said. However, through her own initiative and efforts supported by the Big Lift, the center has seen significant increases in parent involvement in recent months. The last meeting had 19 parents in attendance, up from fewer than eight. The workshop featured an interactive discussion of different learning styles, she said.

Through the Big Lift, students at the Belle Haven center are also sent home weekly with "book bags" containing bilingual

reading materials for kids to read with their parents.

At the Belle Haven center, the school also recently hired a family engagement specialist to help connect the school's families with services they may be able to benefit from. For instance, the specialist recently helped a family fill out the paperwork to apply for MediCal, Lo said.

Under the direction of the Big Lift, the center has also launched a Parent Advisory Committee.

To reduce chronic absenteeism, parents at participating Big Lift programs are mailed friendly postcard reminders. Jones pointed to a May 2017 study from the Harvard Graduate School of Education that found that by mailing notes reminding families that attendance can affect students' learning, and reporting how many days the children had missed, chronic absenteeism decreased by 15 percent.

The idea is to promote good attendance early on: Kids who skip preschool are more likely to have attendance problems later, when being in the classroom becomes more integral to learning, Lo explained.

Summer learning

One of the key concerns in early literacy programs is the problem of "summer slide" — a term to describe the academic regression that happens when kids forget what they've learned during the school year if it's not reinforced during summer months. Studies show that "summer slide" more often impacts kids in low-income households.

In the Ravenswood school district, almost 100 rising kindergarten students participated in the

Big Lift's "Inspiring Summers" program this year, a full-day summer program that prepares kids for kindergarten. For older students, similar summer programs are already offered, Harlick said. In other school districts, the Big Lift runs summer programs for students beyond kindergarten to prevent "summer slide."

Ravenswood school district Superintendent Gloria Hernandez-Goff told The Almanac that the Big Lift is a "huge support" to students who are learning English and whose primary language is English. "Through the program we are able to determine students' academic and social-emotional needs before they start school. We love this program and hope it will continue to be funded."

A study by the RAND Corporation, an external evaluator, found that during the summer of 2017, children enrolled in the program gained on average 1.5 months of learning, and were kept from losing two months of learning, for a net gain of 3.5 months.

Moving forward

Despite the reported successes of the program, a grand jury report released in August found that the initiative faces an \$11.4 million funding shortage through 2020.

While initiative leaders are not holding out hope of the lost federal grant funding being restored,

Harlick said, there's a growing consensus among politicians and policymakers about the benefits of early childhood education. "We're certainly hopeful there'll be greater public investments over the next few years," she said.

What happens if the ambitious project doesn't achieve its stated goals? Both Campbell and Groom were confident the goal could be achieved.

"I think it is going to be successful," Groom told The Almanac.

The bigger question is how to financially sustain the initiative into the future.

One potential funding source could be to take the matter to voters, Campbell said, adding that after the pilot, "if we show proof of concept — which I fully expect we can ... — then we need to go to voters and say, 'We're dealing with the county's most vulnerable at-risk kids. ... It's a good investment over the long haul.'"

Many of the families the program serves in the Ravenswood district are in "dire economic straits," may be experiencing overcrowding or housing insecurity at home, may be undocumented, and may struggle to have enough food or access to health care, Campbell noted. Getting kids into safe preschool environments and supplying them with services can give them a better chance of overcoming obstacles, she said.

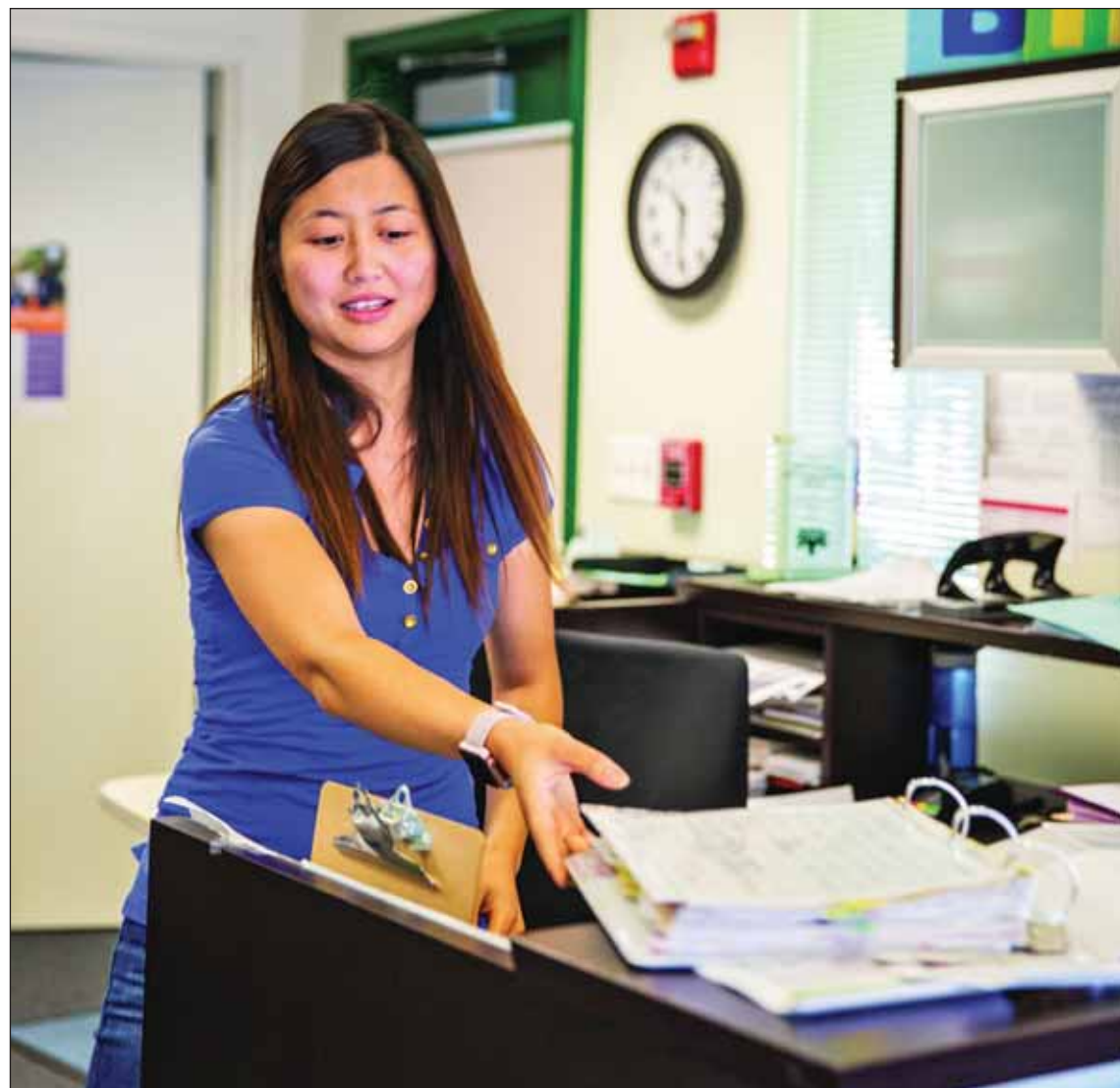
According to Jones, the Big

Lift initiative helped 202 kids receive preschool services in the Ravenswood district in the 2016-17 school year. Of those students, the average family income was \$24,237 a year, and 96 percent came from families earning incomes under \$50,000 a year. Ninety-four percent of their mothers had a high school education or less; 92 percent were Hispanic or Latino; and 79 percent had a primary home language of Spanish.

Campbell pointed to a study by economist James Heckman, who asserts that high-quality educational programs for disadvantaged kids from birth to 5 can deliver a 13 percent per year return on investment for the community in that they help kids attain more education, better health, and higher income later in life.

"From an economic perspective, we're shooting ourselves in the foot if we're not investing in the youngest, because the economic outcome is so great," Campbell said. "For it to be sustainable over time, we've got to have public dollars coming into it." ■

About the cover: Students at the Belle Haven Child Development Center pay close attention to their teacher's lesson. Through the Big Lift, teachers receive coaching to improve their efficiency. Photo by Natalia Nazarova



Belle Haven Child Development Center Director Carmen Lo pages through the center's waiting list, a binder of about 40 or 50 applications to the center from hopeful families.

**TOWN OF WOODSIDE
2955 WOODSIDE ROAD
WOODSIDE, CA 94062**

NOTICE OF STUDY SESSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WOODSIDE will hold a Study Session in Independence Hall, 2955 Woodside Road, Woodside, CA, on Tuesday, September 25, 2018, 7:30 PM, to consider:

ZOAM2018-0006: STUDY SESSION TO DISCUSS ZONING CODE AMENDMENTS THAT WOULD CLARIFY BUILDING AND PLATE HEIGHT MEASUREMENT.

A staff report is available for public review at the Woodside Planning and Building Counter, Woodside Town Hall, weekdays from 8:00 – 10:00 AM and 1:00 – 3:00 PM, or by appointment. For more information, contact Corinne Jones, Associate Planner at (650) 851-6790 or cjones@woodsidetown.org

All interested parties are invited to submit written comments prior to the public hearing and to attend and give testimony.

Dora Wong Seamans, MPA, CMC
Town Clerk

San Mateo County

Demographics

163,129 children live in this county.

Latinx 33%
Black 2%
Other 8%

White 34%
Asian 24%

Key

Numbers and percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number

(*) = Data suppressed due to small sample size or large margin of error

(-) = No data available

89,924 with one or more immigrant parents
24% are living at or below 2X the poverty level
1,580 students experiencing homelessness

Indicator	County Average	California Average	County Rank	Latinx	White	Black	Asian	Other
12th-graders who graduated high school on time	87	83	16	80	92	76	91	78
Students who were not chronically absent from school	91	89	4	86	93	82	90	87
Student suspensions not due to "defiance/disruption"	71	80	46	67	80	76	79	65
3rd-graders who read near or above grade-level standards	70	61	5	50	85	54	68	82
8th-graders who met or exceeded grade-level standards in math	50	36	7	26	66	19	53	45
Students who were ready or conditionally ready for college-level math courses	46	32	5	21	65	17	47	43
Students who were college- or career-ready	48	41	16	33	59	17	51	59
Students who reported feeling connected to their school	60	50	4	52	65	49	58	54
Students who reported feeling like they do things at school that make a difference	38	34	12	31	45	42	30	42
English language learners who gained proficiency in English	45	47	20	-	-	-	-	-
Eligible students who received free or reduced-price meals during the school year	52	54	36	-	-	-	-	-
Eligible students who received free or reduced-price meals during the summer	13	8	2	-	-	-	-	-

Attachment 9.2

Indicator	County Average	California Average	County Rank	Latinx	White	Black	Asian	Other
Children who had health insurance	97	95	2	95	98	*	97	*
7th-graders who were not overweight or obese	68	61	13	53	80	55	62	69
Kindergarteners with up-to-date immunizations	97	95	11	-	-	-	-	-
Children who were not food insecure	87	81	1	-	-	-	-	-
Children, birth-5, of low-income families who had visited a dentist in the last year	25	26	39	31	16	20	20	16
Adolescents in the child welfare system who were placed in family-like settings	69	73	37	64	82	58	78	92
Youth in foster care who graduated high school on time	64	51	14	-	-	-	-	-
Children in the child welfare system who had a timely dental exam	74	62	8	75	80	69	72	38
Children in the child welfare system who had a timely medical exam	75	75	34	76	75	71	77	54
Children in the child welfare system who exited to permanency within one year	59	36	7	61	50	50	70	100
Children in the child welfare system who had been in one placement after 24 months in care	17	27	28	29	-	-	-	-
18-25-year-olds registered to vote	58	48	2	-	-	-	-	-
Children, birth-5, who were read to everyday by an adult	62	64	-	59	81	-	50	100
Newborns who were not low birthweight	94	93	22	93	95	87	93	93
3- and 4-year-olds enrolled in preschool or transitional kindergarten	63	49	2	*	*	*	*	*
Pregnant women who received prenatal care beginning the first trimester	91	84	1	88	94	88	90	89
Newborns who were exclusively breastfed while in the hospital	81	70	19	76	86	62	76	79
Children with parents in the labor force for whom a licensed child care slot was available	26	23	21	-	-	-	-	-

December 10, 2018

Submitted via www.regulations.gov

Samantha Deshommes, Chief
Regulatory Coordination Division, Office of Policy and Strategy
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Department of Homeland Security
20 Massachusetts Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20529-2140

Re: DHS Docket No. USCIS-2010-0012, RIN 1615-AA22, Comments in Response to Proposed Rulemaking:
Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds

Dear Madam:

I am writing on behalf of First 5 San Mateo County (F5SMC) to express our strong opposition to the Department of Homeland Security's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on inadmissibility on public charge grounds. The proposed rule would cause major harm to the health and wellbeing of young children in immigrant families in San Mateo County—a significant share of the young child population—without justification. **Therefore, we urge that the rule be withdrawn in its entirety.**

First 5 San Mateo County was founded in 1998 via Proposition 10 – a voter initiated proposition based on early brain development research – that mandates prevention and early intervention investments for children prenatally through age five, and their families/caregivers. San Mateo County is home to over 55,000 children age five and under. Latino/Latinx children are the majority population in the county at 33.9%, (2016 American Community Survey, 5-year estimates for San Mateo County). In Fiscal Year 17/18 F5SMC served nearly 10,000 unduplicated clients, 77% of families served were people of color, with 65% of families served Latino/x.

Research has shown that the early years are the most important in terms of brain development. The foundations for physical, emotional, cognitive, and behavioral health are laid during the first years of life. Children develop these capacities through interactions with responsive and loving caregivers in safe environments. Stable, nurturing relationships literally build children's brains in ways that foster healthy, emotional expression, self-regulation and impulse control, and social interactions. Parents and other caregivers are better able to build warm and consistent relationships with children if they themselves feel secure in their lives. **Parents who are experiencing significant stressors, such as those that would be inflicted if the public charge rule was changed as proposed, would experience significantly increased stress that would negatively affect their developing children. Furthermore, continuation of such a significant stress quickly becomes "toxic stress" and leads to trauma, not only for the parents, but for their children.**

The proposed rule would dramatically alter the "public charge" test with harmful consequences for young children and their parents. The rule proposes to change the definition of who may be deemed a public charge and, as a result, denied entrance to the United States or lawful permanent residency. Under the proposal, the Department of Homeland Security would consider an applicant's use of benefits beyond the existing standards of cash assistance and long-term institutional care to include Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), housing assistance and, Medicare Part D subsidies. This would likely lead individuals—including parents of US citizen children—to withdraw or disenroll from benefit programs that support their

health, wellbeing, and financial security. The proposal would also add specific standards for income, health, English language proficiency, and other factors making it even harder for low-income immigrant parents to obtain long-term stability for their families.

While only the use of benefits by an individual would be considered under the proposed rule—and not their dependents—there is simply no way to implement this rule without direct harm to children, including US citizen children. Parents’ own wellbeing is an important determinant of children’s health and development.¹ Children do better when their parents are healthy and economically stable. The destabilizing effect of this rule would harm parents who lose access to benefits and their children who will be directly impacted.

It is important to note the work of Professor James J. Heckman. Professor Heckman is a Distinguished Service Professor of Economics at The University of Chicago, a Nobel Laureate in Economics and an expert in the economics of human development. Professor Heckman conducted groundbreaking work with a consortium of economists, psychologists, statisticians and neuroscientists shows that early childhood development directly influences economic, health and social outcomes for individuals and society. Adverse early environments create deficits in skills and abilities that drive down productivity and increase social costs—thereby adding to financial deficits borne by the public. According to Professor Heckman, deficit reduction will only come from wiser investment of public and private dollars. Data show that one of the most effective strategies for economic growth is investing in the developmental growth of at-risk young children. **Short-term costs are more than offset by the immediate and long-term benefits through reduction in the need for special education and remediation, better health outcomes, reduced need for social services, lower criminal justice costs and increased self-sufficiency and productivity among families.** Children of immigrant families are part of the at-risk group that Professor Heckman references. Immigrant children need a solid, safe start in life from food security, to medical treatment, to affordable housing, and quality early care-- regardless of where that life is lived -- because accessing basic needs early in life reduces the “social tab” borne by their communities later in life. If the proposed public charge rule were to be implemented, these children would still exist in the shadows of our community, but would ultimately cost us much more as compared to the cost of safety-net services they may be accessing now. Allowing the current public charge rule to stand, without discouraging access much-needed services, benefits us all.

Forgoing critical health and nutrition programs would harm children’s development. The consequences of parents forgoing basic needs programs for themselves—and/or their children—would be deeply damaging for children. The proposed rule would dramatically weaken the economic status of millions of families and put the health and nutrition of millions of children and adults at risk. Parents’ stress and health challenges— which can be caused by unstable housing, not having enough to eat, poor health, or financial insecurity— impede protective caregiving and can undermine children’s development.² Reduced access to public benefit programs would lead to adverse health outcomes for children. The proposed rule would increase poverty, hunger, and illness with profound negative outcomes for children during childhood and into adulthood.³

The proposed rule would exacerbate widespread fear of accessing public programs and services to millions of children and adults, beyond those subject to the “public charge” test. The proposed regulation would make immigrant families more afraid to seek programs that support their basic needs including for their US citizen children. An estimated 26 million people may potentially disenroll or refuse public benefits because of this proposed rule, including approximately 9.2 million children in immigrant households, representing approximately 13% of our nation’s child population.⁴

The widespread “chilling effect” that causes families to withdraw from benefits due to fear is already evident as a result of rumors of the rule. Health and nutrition service providers noticed an increase in canceled appointments and requests to disenroll from means-tested programs in 2017.⁵ Early childhood education programs have reported drops in attendance and applications as well as reduced participation from immigrant parents in classrooms and at events, along with an uptick in missed appointments at health clinics.⁶

F5SMC-funded program utilization reflects this dynamic; immigrant parents are afraid to attend parent/child play groups, parent education groups, and parent trainings, opting instead for one-on-one home visits from a trusted provider. Although we do our best to meet this new demand for home visiting services, home visiting is a much more expensive model than group supports. Therefore, our local child-serving system is already feeling stressed as immigrant families shrink from public view as a result of this “chilling effect.” In addition, anecdotally we know that immigrant parents are also afraid to bring their children to the doctor for well-child visits, vaccinations, and other medical and dental appointments. Immigrant children, like all other children, are exposed to and carry common childhood germs. When under routine and preventative medical care, including receiving regular vaccinations, these children pose no threat. However, if unvaccinated or sick without treatment, these children could become contagious and can quickly spread disease. Germs don’t discriminate based on immigration status or public charge rules. “Chilling” these families into suspending medical care – preventative or acute – endangers everyone in the community!

Critical public benefit programs—such as Medicaid, SNAP and housing assistance—contribute to the healthy development of young children. Many of these systems and influences have been studied in research on social determinants of health, including physical environment, housing, employment opportunities, wages, education, community safety, and social connections. These factors influence the health, cognitive and social-emotional development, well-being, and long-term success of children and their caregivers. Each child’s development and opportunity to thrive is thus shaped by the distribution of and access to resources and power (www.who.int/social_determinants/en/).

Early childhood is a formative period of development, and children need access to enough healthy foods, safe and stable housing, and adequate health care to grow up healthy and strong.⁷ Decades of research show the positive impact of public benefits—such as Medicaid, and SNAP—on children’s long-term health and their economic security.⁸ When children get access to these programs, they are both healthier and their families have more money in their budgets to spend on other basic needs.

- **Medicaid.** Medicaid, along with the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), covers 45 percent of children ages 5 and younger.⁹ Historic gains in health coverage over the last three years have resulted in the lowest uninsured rates on record for children and their parents, and these rates must be preserved. As compared to children without health insurance, children enrolled in Medicaid in their early years have better health, educational, and employment outcomes not only in childhood but as adults.¹⁰ Preventive health care can help minimize threats to healthy development and provide early detection and intervention for problems that emerge. (Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University (2007). *A Science-Based Framework for Early Childhood Policy: Using Evidence to Improve Outcomes in Learning, Behavior, and Health for Vulnerable Children*. <http://www.developingchild.harvard.edu>)
- **SNAP.** Good nutrition is an important part of a healthy lifestyle for children because it improves their ability to grow and develop. Nutrition assistance programs effectively reduce food insecurity by helping

people purchase healthy food they would not otherwise be able to afford, thereby increasing healthy eating. A robust research base shows that SNAP improves food security, dietary intake, and health, especially among children, and with lasting effects.¹¹

- *Housing Assistance.* Families who receive housing assistance are less likely to live in overcrowded homes, become homeless, and move frequently.¹² When families receive housing assistance, they have more resources to cover the cost of nutritious foods, health care, and other necessities.¹³ This leads to better health and developmental outcomes for young children.¹⁴

The proposed rule would have adverse impacts on pregnant women, infants, and toddlers. The proposed rule would create barriers to accessing health care and nutrition assistance for pregnant women. Medicaid covers almost half of all births in the United States.¹⁵ Medicaid coverage improves access to care and overall health and reduces mortality rates.¹⁶ If pregnant women decline to enroll in Medicaid and lose access to pregnancy-related health services, there would likely be serious health implications for mothers and their children, affecting their birth and early health outcomes. Similarly, fear of enrolling children in Medicaid or CHIP would result in fewer regular doctor visits. The first months and years of a child's life are marked by rapid growth and brain development and especially important for consistent health care.¹⁷ Similarly, nutrition assistance is vital prenatally and in early childhood. Research over decades has demonstrated that nutrition assistance directly targeted at young children and pregnant women is effective in improving child health.

The proposed rule will have a disproportionate impact on people of color. Of the 25.9 million people who would be potentially chilled by the proposed rule, approximately 90% are people from communities of color (23.2 million).¹⁸ F5SMC client demographics are: 65% Latino, 6% Asian, 4% Multi-racial, 4% White, 1% Black/African-American, 1% Pacific Islander, 27% unknown. Because most of the services we fund are targeted to low-income families, and because 77% of the children/families we serve are people of color, although difficult to quantify, it is safe to assume that the proposed change to the public charge rule would negatively affect thousands of young children in our county.

Response to Administration's request for comments on the Children's Health Insurance Program. We strongly oppose the proposed rule and request that it be withdrawn in its entirety. The proposal to expand the public programs to be considered in a public charge test is deeply misguided; in response to the questions posed to the public, no additional programs should be considered in the public charge determination as that would only increase harm to children, families and communities. For many of the same reasons that we oppose the inclusion of Medicaid, we adamantly oppose the inclusion of CHIP, which would exacerbate the problems with this rule by extending its reach further. Including CHIP in a public charge determination would likely lead to many eligible children foregoing health care benefits, both because of the direct inclusion in the public charge determination as well as the chilling effect detailed elsewhere in these comments.

In conclusion, the proposed rule will have a drastic, negative impact on the young children in our care. The impact of experiences on brain development is greatest during the earliest years of a child's life. It is easier and less costly to form strong brain circuits during the early years than it is to intervene later. Proposition 10 was based on research that a child's brain develops more during the first five years than any other time and that a child's experiences and relationships during these years will impact a child the rest of his or her life. Since that time, a wealth of research has supported and expanded upon these earlier findings. Among the primary findings are:

ATTACHMENT 9.3

- The brain undergoes its most rapid development from the prenatal period through three years old. In the first few years of life, 700 new neural connections are formed every second. The proposed rule would literally wire children's brains in a detrimental way, triggering a cascade of stress hormones that change the brain architecture.
- During these early sensitive periods of development, healthy emotional and cognitive development is shaped by responsive, dependable interaction with adults. Parents experiencing toxic stress – as would be the case under the proposed rule -- are less resilient and less able to provide this critical, consistent care.
- Stress experienced early in life can result in physiological changes to the brain and have a cumulative toll on a child's physical, emotional, and cognitive development.
- The more adverse experiences in childhood, the greater the likelihood of developmental delays and life-long problems in learning, behavior, and physical and mental health, and the greater the cost to society. The proposed rule would exponentially increase adverse childhood experiences.

For all the above reasons, we urge you to withdraw this harmful rule in its entirety.

Sincerely,

Kitty Lopez
Executive Director
First 5 San Mateo County

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CAPITOL ALERT

More California kids would attend preschool under push in Legislature

By Sophia Bollag And Sawsan Morrar

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Democrats return to the California Capitol on Monday with their [strongest political advantage](#) in decades poised to fulfill a huge item on their list of pent-up demands: Vastly expanded access to preschool for 3- and 4-year-olds.

<https://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article222444605.html>

Their plan comes with a big price tag, a problem that has doomed past proposals, most recently with outgoing Gov. Jerry Brown. But with huge legislative majorities and Gov.-elect Gavin Newsom, who [called for more spending](#) on early education in his campaign, they see an opportunity.

“There’s no better place to invest... There’s undisputed evidence that shows this is a fantastic remedy,” said Democratic Assemblyman Kevin McCarty of Sacramento. He plans to introduce a nearly \$2 billion package of bills Monday to give access to preschool to all low-income 4-year-olds and more 3-year-olds.

Early childhood education has been linked to myriad positive outcomes, from lower rates of incarceration to higher pay.

“We know that the first 2,000 days build the critical foundation for a child’s readiness for school and life,” said Donna Hoffman Cullinan, campaign director at Moms Rising, which promotes economic security for families. “Focusing on those early days has such an essential return.”

California has increased the capacity of its publicly-funded preschool program in recent years, but McCarty says it’s still behind other states. The National Institute for Early Education Research at Rutgers University [ranks](#) California 13th in state spending on preschool and 21st in total preschool spending, which also includes local and federal money.

Lawmakers have been working to expand preschool access dramatically for years, but Brown’s interest in saving for an impending recession curtailed their efforts. Less than half of children from low-income families in California are in high-quality preschool programs largely because there are many eligible children but not enough space available, Cullinan said.

McCarty’s proposal is not universal preschool, which many advocates have sought.

McCarty’s main bill would expand the state’s existing preschool program by about 50 percent to serve roughly 250,000 low-income kids. It will likely cost about \$1.3 billion dollars over three years, McCarty said. He’s also introducing bills to fund preschool construction and increase pay for preschool teachers.

McCarty said he and Newsom have talked about the issue generally, but not the specifics of his McCarty’s plan. Newsom characterized preschool as a priority, but told McCarty proposals must be affordable.

“He said we need to be reasonable,” McCarty said. “We need to live within our means, so I think this approach is really doable because it is targeted.”

<https://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article222444605.html>

Under the proposal, children would be eligible if they live in an area where at least 70 percent of students fall below a certain income level, generally less than \$47,000 per year for a family of four. Children whose families make less than 85 percent of the state's median income are already eligible for the program.

Targeting low-income families will expand access for the kids who face the biggest barriers to attending preschool, he said. The proposal would also create spots for some children from middle-income families who live in high-poverty areas.

The money would go to preschools run by school districts and nonprofits.

Seventy percent of young mothers are in the workforce but 35 percent of them leave after having kids because they can't afford childcare or preschool, Cullinan said. Supporters of early education say affordable childcare and preschool are ultimately important steps in establishing economic security for all families in California.

"This is a direct impact on our economy and on the success of the future of our state," Cullinan said.

Stanford University Professor Deborah Stipek, an early childhood education expert, thinks more investment in preschool is essential, but said she worries targeting only low-income families could have negative effects.

The state preschools' income requirements effectively segregate low-income children, she said. A better approach would be to provide financial assistance to families on a sliding scale, so children attending preschool together come from a range of backgrounds, Stipek said.

Research that has shown high-quality preschool can have dramatic benefits for children, but low-quality programs can have little to no effect, she said. Some schools provide nurturing programs that foster basic reading and math knowledge and keep children engaged, Stipek said. But others are lacking and have high staff turnover because they pay teachers so little.

For parents looking for a good preschool to send their children, Stipek recommends looking for programs with experienced staff and clear methods to help children learn, such as reading to them. When visiting schools, parents should see that teachers get down at children's eye level and listen to them, Stipek said.

"I have seen some absolutely outstanding programs, and I have seen some very mediocre programs," she said. "My concern is that while we expand access, we need to also expand quality."

One of the bills McCarty is introducing would increase the amount of money the state provides preschools per pupil and raise the standards required for preschools to participate in the program. McCarty said the additional money would help schools pay teachers more than the very low rates most currently make and fund more

<https://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article222444605.html>

training for them. The average preschool worker earns \$13.94 an hour, according to a recent University of California, Berkeley report that cites the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

McCarty also hopes to secure \$500 million to construct and improve preschool buildings to accommodate additional children. He's proposing putting bond measure to voters in 2020 or using money from the expected budget surplus.

Read more here: <https://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article222444605.html#storylink=cpy>



DEEP DIVE

More California school administrators gain skills as early-childhood leaders

With an early-learning advocate now headed for the governor's office, the state's First 5 commissions say it's time to link pre-K and K-12 data to boost student success.

By Linda Jacobson

Published Nov. 8, 2018

This article is part of a series about First 5 — a tobacco tax initiative in California passed by voters 20 years ago to fund services for young children, from birth to kindergarten age. The series is supported by a University of Southern California 2018 Center for Health Journalism fellowship.

The Cloverdale Unified School District (CUSD) isn't like many of the other districts in Sonoma County, California. A freeway runs through the middle of town, it doesn't have a concentration of wineries and tasting rooms, and in past years, most children entering kindergarten didn't have much experience in preschool.

That last point, however, might not have caught CUSD Superintendent Jeremy Decker's attention if not for the county's Road to Early Achievement and Development for Youth (READY) program, which uses a kindergarten readiness assessment to gather information about children's home language, preschool participation, social-emotional development and "school-ready knowledge."

Funded by First 5 Sonoma County — one of 58 county agencies created by a 1998 voter-approved tobacco tax to improve health,

well-being and learning outcomes for young children — the READY initiative also focuses on helping teachers use the data from the readiness assessments and strengthening connections between K-12 and early learning providers.


“I’m a secondary guy. I never really understood the importance of kindergarten or preschool,” Decker said in an interview. “My superintendent lens was absolutely about graduation. Through First 5, I learned exactly where our shortcomings were.”

While the district offered a small fee-based preschool program, most Cloverdale families that could afford preschool would drive to the more populated community of Healdsburg. Children without such opportunities missed out.

But when Decker saw the data, he worked with a child-care agency to add preschool slots for low-income families. With about 100 children per grade level in the district, there are now almost enough spaces for every child who needs one.

The district also developed a two-week summer transition program for incoming kindergartners who still weren’t attending preschool. And after just one year, it saw a 100% increase in the number of children considered ready for kindergarten.

“When they start on the first day [of kindergarten], they’re not crying. It’s not a shock,” Decker said, adding that now he understands the connection between preschool and 3rd-grade reading performance, or the credits students need for admission to a University of California institution. “It will affect those metrics that we look at.”



“Through First 5, I learned exactly where our shortcomings were.”

Jeremy Decker

Superintendent, Cloverdale Unified School District

The push for preschool

In the early years after the ballot initiative passed, both the statewide and some local First 5 commissions placed a major emphasis on directly funding preschool programs. Between 2005 and 2011, for example, the state-level commission — First 5 California — spent almost \$130 million on the Power of Preschool, a demonstration program in eight counties.

And before that, actor/filmmaker Rob Reiner, the architect of the ballot measure 20 years ago, pressed First 5 Los Angeles to dedicate \$100 million over a five-year period to expand early-learning programs for children throughout the county.

"This is exactly what Prop. 10 was designed to do," Reiner told the First 5 commissioners in Los Angeles in 2002. "This is a historic day for the children, not only of L.A. County, but of the country. This is going to be the model."

In 2004, First 5 L.A. created Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP) as a separate organization. And between then and 2016, LAUP served 130,000 children in more than 800 preschools across the county.

Reiner returned to California voters in 2006 with Proposition 82, which would have created a universal pre-K program, in both public and private centers, to be administered by the state education department and county school superintendents. The measure would have created a 1.7% tax on individuals earning at least \$400,000 and couples with a combined income of \$800,000. But it was defeated, 61% to 39%.

Now, the early-childhood community is waiting to see how Gov.-elect Gavin Newsom's campaign talk about universal preschool and services for infants and toddlers translates into a policy agenda.

"Too many children are growing up in poverty and starting school from behind," Newsom, who oversaw the implementation

of a universal preschool program as mayor of San Francisco, said Tuesday night during his victory speech.

Preschool access varies across the state

According to the annual State of Preschool Yearbooks from the National Institute for Early Education Research, California's income-based State Preschool Program serves 37% of 4-year-olds and 11% of 3-year-olds, which is higher than the national averages of 33% and 5% for state-funded programs. The 37% includes children served in the state's transitional kindergarten (TK) classrooms, but it doesn't include those in any First 5-funded programs.



*Children Now's interactive "scorecard" shows preschool access by county.
Credit: Children Now*

Enrollment in a center-based preschool, however, varies tremendously at the county level, depending on the availability of programs and whether the hours accommodate parents' work schedules. In 2016, the American Institutes for Research calculated the "unmet need" for preschool among children eligible for state-funded programs — more than 33,000

Attachment 9.5

4-year-olds and more than 137,000 3-year-olds were not enrolled.

Counties with the highest number of eligible children without access were concentrated in Southern California — such as Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside. And counties with high percentages of eligible children not enrolled included Sacramento, Ventura, Orange and Tulare.

More recently, data from Children Now, an advocacy organization, shows the percentages of 3- and 4-year-olds enrolled in preschool or TK, regardless of family income level. San Francisco County has the highest rate at 70%, followed by other Bay Area counties. Los Angeles ranked sixth with 54%.



First 5 Amador has long funded a summer transition program to help children get ready for kindergarten. The program has grown from about 16 to more than 100 children — over a third of the incoming kindergarten class. Executive Director Nina Machado tries to always hire kindergarten teachers and a pre-K teaching assistants so they can learn from each other. Credit: First 5 Amador

Forming ‘partnerships with purpose’

With revenues from California's tobacco tax declining, First 5 agencies are far less able to address some of the need for preschool slots, a reality that is more pronounced for First 5 Los

Attachment 9.5

Angeles because it put the most money into preschool — almost \$530 million for slots and quality improvement efforts over that 12-year period. In 2016, the agency stopped funding LAUP, which changed its name to Child360 and is providing coaching, professional development and other quality improvement services.

“We needed to right our fiscal ship,” Kim Belshé, executive director of First 5 Los Angeles, said in an interview. “Our board said we have to emphasize policy and systems change. We need to move more upstream in terms of prevention, and we need to lead with partnership — and partnerships with purpose.”

While some county-level First 5s still fund preschool, the emphasis for many has shifted toward other efforts that improve children’s readiness for school, such as health screenings, fostering communication between early-childhood programs and schools, and developing the type of assessments that spurred superintendent Decker to expand his district’s preschool program.

In fact, finding agreement on an instrument such as a kindergarten readiness assessment — when the topic of assessment in early childhood has long been controversial anyway — would likely be difficult for a state as complex as California. But “First 5s have been plugging away” in supporting the use of such instruments at the local level, Erin Gabel, the deputy director of external and governmental affairs for First 5 California, said in an interview.

In San Mateo County, for example, the Bridges to Success program focused on creating relationships between feeder preschools and school districts across the county. Christine Thorsteinson, the early learning manager with the Silicon Valley Community Foundation’s Center for Early Learning — whose position is largely funded by First 5 San Mateo — encouraged preschool providers to complete transition forms about the children leaving their programs.

Parents gave preschool teachers permission to share the information with schools, and it wasn't long before teachers were depending on the forms to create their class lists and learn about the children entering their classrooms.

"The funding from First 5 was critical in order to make something like that work," Thorsteinson said in an interview.

The project also included joint professional development for preschool and kindergarten teachers — a practice that experts say helps to connect what children are learning across the early years and can reduce the chances that gains made in preschool will fade, according to a recent Education Commission of the States report on transition.

Understanding 'where kids were'

Thorsteinson's work to link preschool and elementary teachers has now "morphed," she said, into the Center for Early Learning Leadership Academy, designed for principals and other administrators from districts in the Bay Area. From her past work with schools, Thorsteinson learned that it was important to have principals involved.

"Early learning is not part of their training unless they came to it with some early learning background," she said. "We knew that it was going to be really important for them to appreciate and understand what was going on in those early years."

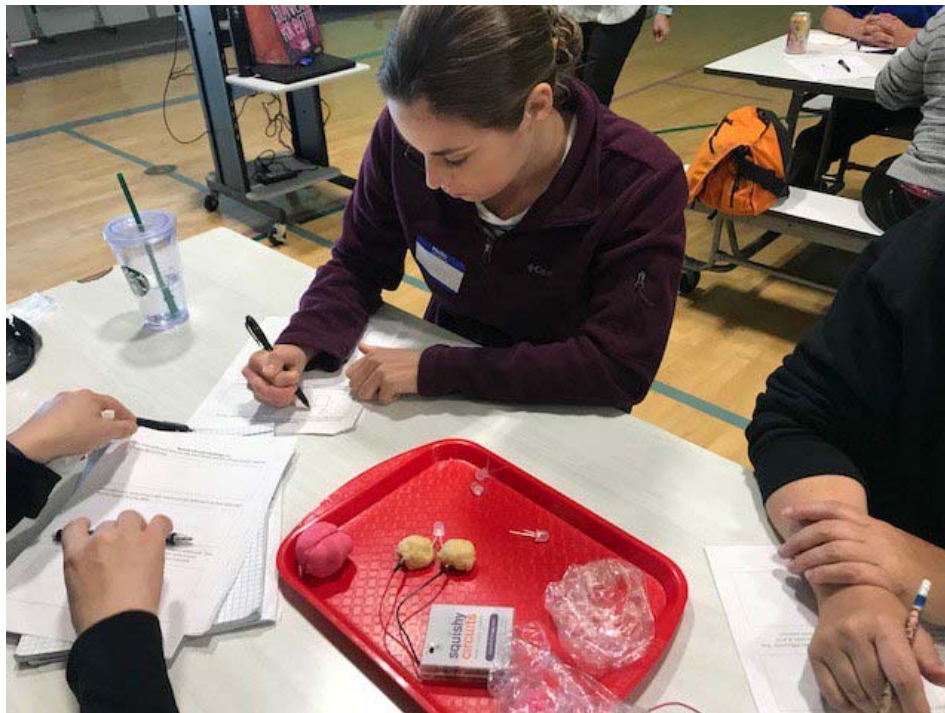
In fact, according to think tank New America's scan of policies in 50 states, only nine of them "explicitly require principal preparation programs to offer coursework in early learning and/or child development."

With the growth of TK across the state, in which districts can receive state funding for enrolling children who turn five after the kindergarten cutoff date, principals are increasingly being expected to understand research on early learning and how

Attachment 9.5

instruction in a TK classroom might look different than in kindergarten.

“I think we’re starting to think about where kids were before they were here,” Sarah Neidhart, principal at Panorama School in Daly City, said in an interview. Her school is participating in an additional Silicon Valley Community Foundation “Close the Gap” initiative, funded by First 5 San Mateo. The effort includes joint professional learning sessions for preschool and early grade teachers in the Bayshore, Brisbane and Pacifica school districts.



Preschool and elementary teachers participate in a joint professional development session focusing on hands-on science. Credit: Brisbane School District

“They get to see what we teach,” Neidhart said, adding that the preschool teachers expressed “their concerns and their desire to be more a part of the school.”

In Orange County, the Children & Families Commission (First 5), has long funded an early learning specialist in each of the county’s 25 school districts. The specialists might provide readiness information to local preschools, make sure families

know when and how to enroll, coordinate joint professional development for preschool and kindergarten teachers, and oversee referrals for children to other services, such as speech and language support or a psychologist.

“Now it has become embedded in the district,” Executive Director Kim Goll said in an interview. “We still pay, but it’s more of a shared cost. It might now be a whole team of people and we augment that budget.”

And in Los Angeles County, First 5 L.A. is increasingly partnering with school districts to encourage the use of the Early Development Instrument (EDI), a questionnaire that kindergarten teachers use to measure children’s skills in five areas. Through formal partnerships, First 5 L.A. is funding the use of the EDI in several school districts — including the Los Angeles Unified School District — with the expectation that education leaders use the information to identify areas of need among young children, make decisions about how to use state funds and advocate for more public funding.

“It’s a terrific conversation starter with school districts, with parents, with community organizations and early learning leaders to identify where are the gaps, who needs to be involved and what are strategies to move forward.” Belshé said.

Gaps in data

California’s district and school leaders value the relationships they’ve formed with early-childhood education providers, and readiness assessments help parents and teachers better understand a child’s strengths and needs when entering kindergarten. But First 5 leaders argue that another important connection has yet to be made — the one that links child-level data to the state’s K-12 student data system.

“We have no longitudinal information about our early-learning system, which is one of the largest in the country, or information

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about the children we have served over a 75-year history,” Gabel said during a California Senate Select Committee on Student Success hearing in August.



First 5 California's Erin Gabel addresses a state Senate committee on linking early childhood and K-12 data. Credit: California Senate Select Committee on Student Success

With Newsom taking office, Gabel and other early-childhood advocates are hoping they'll now have an administration that is more receptive to the idea of incorporating early-childhood data into the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS) so officials and researchers can better track the long-term impact of First 5 and other early-childhood programs.

Experts often point to Pennsylvania's Early Learning Network as an example of how to connect data from multiple early-childhood programs to the K-12 system. With participation from the state's Department of Human Services and the Office of Child Development and Early Learning, the system creates unique identifiers for both children and early-childhood education professionals, allowing users to view information on child enrollment, learning outcomes and staff members' qualifications.

First 5 agencies in two counties — Santa Clara and San Diego — are participating in a pilot in which the checkbox in CALPADS for preschoolers with disabilities, which school districts already serve under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, is

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being “repurposed” to create unique student identifiers for children in community-based preschool programs, Gabel explains. Orange County’s early learning specialists are doing similar work.

Because of the pilot, researchers will be able to “analyze and illuminate the pre-k experiences of kids and downstream benefits as they move through elementary school,” according to a report from the University of California, Berkeley on the Santa Clara pilot, shared by email.

The data-matching process, however, is “labor-intensive” and will require ongoing technical assistance, particularly for preschool providers that are unfamiliar with such a system, the report states.

“A mindset shift is recommended to understand how all of these data can inform planning discussions — what facets of quality pay off for kids, what levels of part-day or full-day ‘dosage’ yield particular kinds of benefits, and how pre-k efforts overall yield solid results, as pre-k graduates move through elementary school,” the report authors wrote.

At the August state Senate hearing, Sen. Steven Glazer, chair of the Select Committee on Student Success, said linking preschool and K-12 data would help lawmakers decide where to spend limited state funds.

“We have this debate every budget year over how much money can we afford to put into early-childhood education,” he said. “That data really would inform these more difficult choices.”