

March 2018

STRONG START

IN THIS ISSUE



Strong Start already has a website, Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn accounts - why a newsletter?

This quarterly round-up of activities, opportunities, and events is a resource for Strong Start members and friends who don't want to check in every day. It's also easily forwarded so if you know of anyone who might be interested in our efforts to support the county's young children and families - please send it on to them.

In our fifth issue, we'll cover the Governor's January 2018 Budget Proposal and selected early care and education legislative proposals working their way through the State legislature. We'll report out on an ECE facilities convening co-sponsored by the San Francisco Federal Reserve Bank, the Silicon Valley Community Foundation and the Santa Clara County Office of Education. We'll also discuss the state's performance in Children Now's 2018 California Children's Report Card and, finally, provide some highlights from the Santa Clara County Children's Agenda 2018 Data Book. As always, you can learn about upcoming ECE events in the county by checking the [events calendar](#) on the Strong Start web site.

If you think someone you know would, or should, be interested in this newsletter, please forward it to them. Santa Clara County's youngest children need their adults to be their advocates and the better informed we all are, the better advocates we can be. Thanks for reading and for everything you do for the children and families of Santa Clara County.

Governor Brown presents his final January Budget proposal

The January budget proposal by Governor Brown included the now-customary warning of an impending recession, substantial funds being placed in the State's "rainy day" fund, and conservative revenue estimates. However, record state revenue has been strong enough to also allow for fully funding the Local Control Funding Formula (by which the state funds K-12 education), over \$4.5 billion in transportation funding, extending CHIP funding through FY 2019 and continuing the early education re-investment promised in earlier budgets. Specifically, the budget proposal includes:



- Increasing the Standard Reimbursement Rate (the rate at which State Preschool programs and other center-based services are funded) by 2.8%
- Additional funds to convert the temporary Regional Market Rate (the subsidy rates for child care providers) "hold harmless" provision to a permanent provision, beginning in 2019-20
- 2,959 full-day State Preschool slots, beginning in April 2018
- Using \$167 million (of which \$125 million is ongoing) to create the Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program to increase the availability of early education and care for children ages 0 to 5, targeting children in low-income areas

The governor's January proposal is the opening bid in the budget development process. It is now up to early care and education advocates, and their allies in the state legislature, to improve on this proposal – and provide some ideas of their own – over the next three to four months before the next step in the process, the May Revise due on or before May 15. The full proposal can be found at <http://www.ebudget.ca.gov/>.

A selection of early care and education legislative proposals



Every year the state's legislators scramble to file thousands of bills before the mid-February deadline. Some of these bills are "spot" bills, essentially placeholders to be subsequently gutted and amended, and in the second year of a legislative session a few holdover bills from the first year of the session make it out of their originating house in time to survive and become

"two-year" bills. This year's collection of over 3,000 bills - of which a few hundred will become laws - include a couple of dozen addressing early care and education in various ways. Below are brief descriptions of three that may be of particular interest to Strong Start coalition members.

AB 605 (Mullin) is a two-year bill sponsored by SCCOE (among others) and would require the California Department of Social Services to adopt regulations to develop and implement a birth to entering first grade license option for daycare centers. Currently California is one of four states that require separate licenses to serve children ages 0-3 and 3-5 creating bureaucratic obstacles that lessen the availability of services for younger children. The bill also lists proposed regulations to address age appropriate transitions from one age group to another, continuity of care and more. The bill passed the Assembly unanimously and, at the time of writing, is before the Senate Committee on Rules (whose membership includes Senators Kevin De Leon, Anthony Cannella, Toni Atkins, Tom Berryhill, and Connie Leyva).

AB 2292 (Aguiar-Curry) would increase the reimbursement paid to providers for serving younger children in state-funded ECE programs. Currently, center-based providers serving infants (0-18 months of age) are paid 1.7 times the rate used for preschoolers. The bill proposes increasing that to 2.1 times the rate to compensate for the extra cost of serving these younger children that is mostly due to the higher staff-to-child ratios required by the state. Similarly, the bill would increase the adjustment factor for toddlers (18-36 months of age) from 1.4 to 1.7. Finally, the bill would increase the adjustment factor for infants and toddlers served in a family child care home from 1.4 to 1.7. Increasing the reimbursement rates for infants and toddlers makes it more economically viable for providers to serve younger children and is a step towards increasing access to services for these children and their families.

AB 1754 (McCarty) requires that the state provide funding to enroll all income-eligible four year olds in the California State Preschool Program (CSPP). While the state budget provides nearly \$1 billion annually for 170,000 low-income three- and four-year olds to participate, there are approximately 40,000 low income 4-year olds who don't have access to preschool before they enter kindergarten. Assemblymember McCarty has introduced a version of this bill in each session of his tenure and, while the State Budget process has resulted in increased preschool slots over the last few years, the state funds fewer CSPP slots than it did ten years ago.

Each of these bills will wind their way through the legislative process before potentially landing on the Governor's desk to be signed into law, vetoed, or ignored, before the mid-September deadline.

Building on the Early Learning Master Plan Facilities goals: a joint Santa Clara / San Mateo convening on ECE facilities

At the beginning of March, 55 invited providers, developers, funders, financial intermediaries city councilors and staff from across the region met for a convening on early learning facilities hosted by the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, in partnership with the San Francisco branch of the



Federal Reserve and the Santa Clara County Office of Education.

The attendees heard from San Mateo Supervisor Dave Pine on the need to address the crisis caused by the lack of ECE facilities in San Mateo County. Redwood City councilmember Shelley Masur spoke on how they had worked with The Sobrato Organization to include ECE facilities in a local development. Liz Winograd of the Low Income Investment Fund and Susan Neufeld from Bridge Housing shared San Francisco's approach. Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mary Ann Dewan and CEO of First 5 San Mateo Kitty Lopez discussed their counties' respective initiatives to understand and address the needs for ECE facilities.

The meeting built on the goal of Santa Clara County's Early Learning Master Plan (ELMP) Facilities workgroup to create an Early Learning Facilities Development Plan following a county-wide needs assessment that is expected to be complete before the end of March.

The wide ranging conversation included discussions of specific actions taken by the participants that could serve as a model for others in the room and highlighted shared needs across the counties. The meeting also surfaced the need for building awareness among our cities' elected leaders and staff of this crucial issue, and of local solutions, that will be invaluable as we create the development plan.

California Children's Report Card - "must do better"

2018
CALIFORNIA
CHILDREN'S
REPORT CARD

A review of
kids' well-being
& readiness
for the future.
CHILDREN NOW



Our partners at Children Now recently released their 2018 California Children's Report Card (<http://bit.ly/2ExOTrS>) and a generous interpretation is that the state must do better. While they award the state an A in providing health insurance - which is a magnificent achievement - there are significant gaps in the state's other supports for children throughout their development.

The state received a D+ for its efforts in infant-toddler care and in home visiting, with only one county reporting enough licensed child care spaces for a majority of its children and fewer than 3% of children enrolled in a home visiting program - an extensively validated intervention that saves our community far more than it costs to implement.

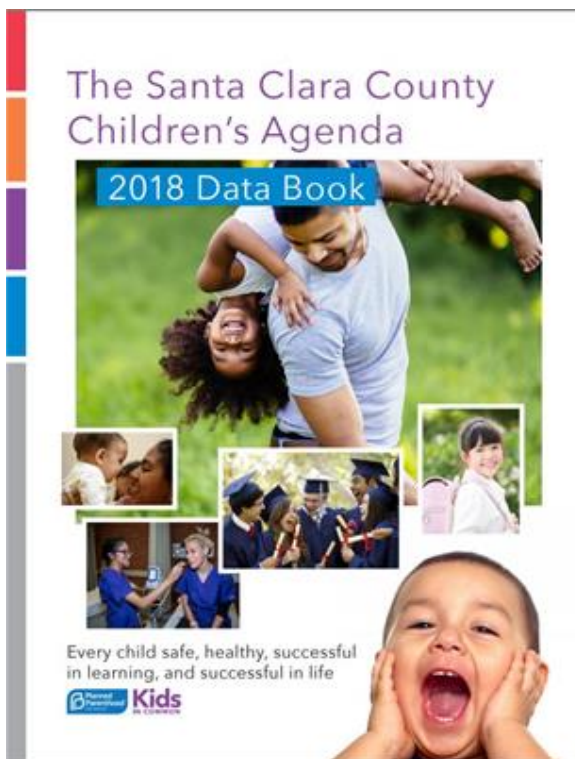
They awarded a C- for developmental screenings with only 21% of children receiving them, placing California 43rd among the states on this measure.

CA was awarded a generous B for preschool/transitional kindergarten despite fewer than half of our children enrolling in preschool.

The state received a C- for TK-12 funding and a D for student achievement with CA's per pupil funding for K-12 education ranking 41st out of the 50 states and - predictably - pupil achievement in math, reading and science rank 40th, 40th and 42nd.

Children Now President, Ted Lempert, concluded his introductory letter with the thought that "together, we can do better to provide for our most vulnerable kids, and in turn, our state's economic and democratic future," underlining the importance of these issues to the state as a whole.

Santa Clara County Children's Agenda 2018 Data Book



A great companion to Children Now's California Report Card is the [Santa Clara County Children's Agenda 2018 Data Book](#) which was released at the 11th Annual Santa Clara County Children's Summit on March 9th. The Data Book showcases the county's progress in ensuring that every child in our county is healthy, safe, successful in learning and successful in life. The progress is tracked through 13 indicators that track a child's progress across their life course. Additionally, the Data Book includes recommendations for action to improve these indicators and a wealth of information and resources about factors affecting children's development that helps to place the indicators in context. This year the Data Book and Summit had the theme of "With Equity and Justice For All" and the book includes sections on race and inequity in our community, immigrant children and the power of two-generation approaches to developing children and families' social capital.

<http://www.strongstartsantaclara.org>

Connect with Strong Start



To learn why you received this and how to remove yourself from the list, see [Privacy & Permissions Policy](#)
[Review / edit information about you](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)



Generated by

[Learn more](#)