

Department of Early Childhood Joint CFC & EC COAC Meeting

May 13, 2026



San Francisco Department of
Early Childhood

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Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Roll call
3. General public comment
4. Agenda items public comment
5. Joint Body Member updates
6. CPAC updates
7. Executive Director updates
8. Discussion and possible action to approve February 11, 2026, meeting minutes (Action item) [Body members provided with the following: draft minutes]
9. Public Hearing on the annual update of the Department of Early Childhood Strategic Plan (Discussion and Action Item)
10. Adjourn



1. CALL TO ORDER



2. ROLL CALL

3. GENERAL

Public Comment



4. AGENDA ITEMS

Public Comment

5. JOINT BODY UPDATES



6. CPAC UPDATES



7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATES





Welcome
Supervisor Chen!



Supervisor Chyanne Chen is an immigrant, mother, and has lived in District 11 for over two decades. She immigrated to the United States from a small village in China at age 15 with her family. Chyanne attended Galileo High School and earned her undergraduate degree from the University of California, Davis. She also obtained a master's degree from Cornell University and is currently pursuing a doctoral degree. She is a mother to two daughters and caregiver to her elderly parents.



Director's Report

Joint CFC & EC COAC Meeting
May 13, 2026



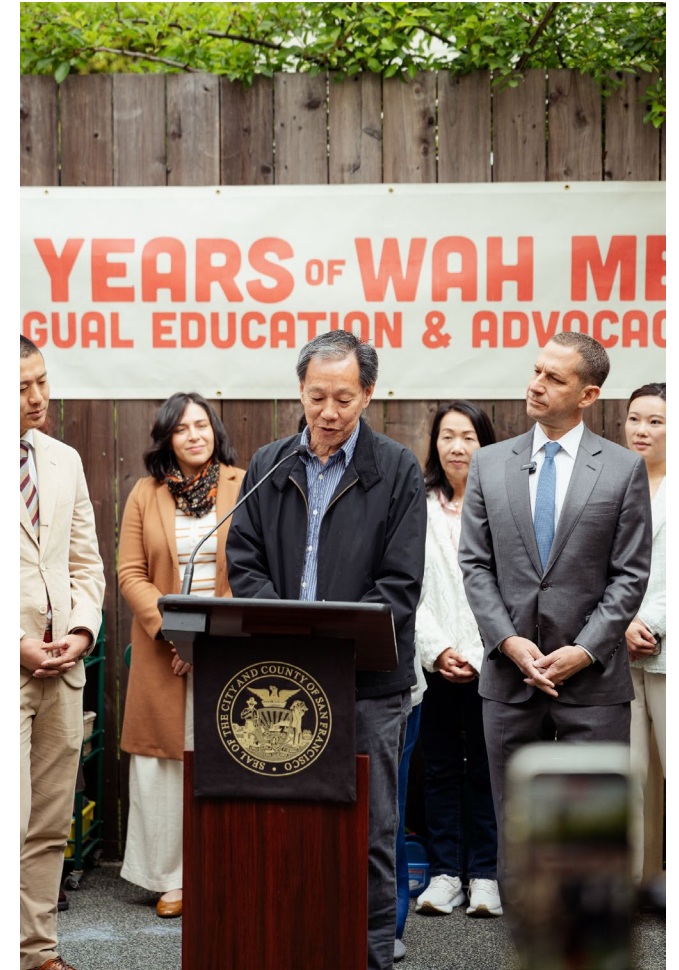
San Francisco Department of
Early Childhood



May: Early Childhood Joy!

- Mayor Lurie and DEC announce ELFA Expansion and child care affordability at Wah Mei in the Sunset District
- Grand Opening: Cross-Cultural Family Oscaryne Williams Center in Potrero Hill.
- Family Carnival in Balboa Park
- Chinatown Celebrating Young Children and AAPI Family Wonderfest
- Pregnancy Family Village, and the annual KQED Festival.
- The Lullaby Project Celebration Concert





Mayor Lurie: ELFA Expansion Announcement

Oscaryne Williams CDC





Balboa Park Family Fest



Chinatown Celebrating Young Children and AAPI Family Wonderfest

Bayview Pregnancy Family Village



KQED Family Fest



LET'S BUILD TOGETHER!
Building together grows many important skills.

Children are growing **BODY** skills. They're developing gross motor skills, fine motor skills, balance and coordination. They're developing language skills as they use their hands and fingers to grab, move, and stack.

Children are also growing **HEAD** and **HEART** skills as they engage and work together to solve problems.

Early Childhood | sparkler



Let's play & Grow!

Families with kids 5 and under: Join us for music, stories & play at KQED Fest on May 9

KQED sparkler San Francisco Department of Early Childhood



The Lullaby Project Celebration Concert

8. Discussion and possible action

to approve the February 11, 2026 meeting minutes (Action item)
[Body members provided with the following: draft minutes]

9. Public Hearing

on the annual update of
the Department of Early
Childhood Strategic Plan
(Action Item)



Theory of Change

ISSUE STATEMENT

Research shows that being ready for kindergarten is a key educational benchmark that leads to continued success in future years.

All children need the support of family, community, and systems to be ready for kindergarten.

Unfortunately, structural racism prevents too many San Francisco children from being ready for kindergarten and achieving their full potential. Black, Latino, Pacific Islander, and

Indigenous children, face persistent inequities in health, and social and cognitive skills that support school success.

CORE STRATEGIES

Early Learning

We support teacher preparation and compensation, enhance program quality, and improve affordability and access.

Child Health

We ensure universal developmental screening and promote access to health and mental health services for children and their families.

Family Strength

We ensure that families have opportunities for social and professional connections, linkage to resources, and information on parenting and child development.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2023–2028

Advance racial equity in policy, planning, and service delivery across the early childhood network of care.

Amplify parent voice and influence in shaping policy and programs.

Increase cultural responsiveness of all early childhood development services.

Increase transparency in communications and open access to information and services.

OUTCOMES

Children enter kindergarten with the cognitive, social/emotional, and physical skills that support school success.

Children are in excellent physical and mental health or have reliable access to quality health providers to address concerns.

Parents have the information, resources, and connections to peers and professionals to successfully raise their children in San Francisco.

And race is not a predictor for achieving these outcomes.

IMPACT

All San Francisco children enjoy a solid foundation to support future success.

Predictors of Kindergarten Readiness

(From 2007, 2009, and 2015 Assessments)

Research shows that being ready for kindergarten is a key educational benchmark that leads to continued success in future years.

All children need the support of family, community, and systems to be ready for kindergarten.



SF has made significant and sustained investments in each of these areas. Over time, these investments have led to:

- 90% of SF 4-year-olds are participating in preschool
- thousands of families working with FRCs develop increased confidence in their parenting skills
- over 3,000 children receive developmental screenings annually

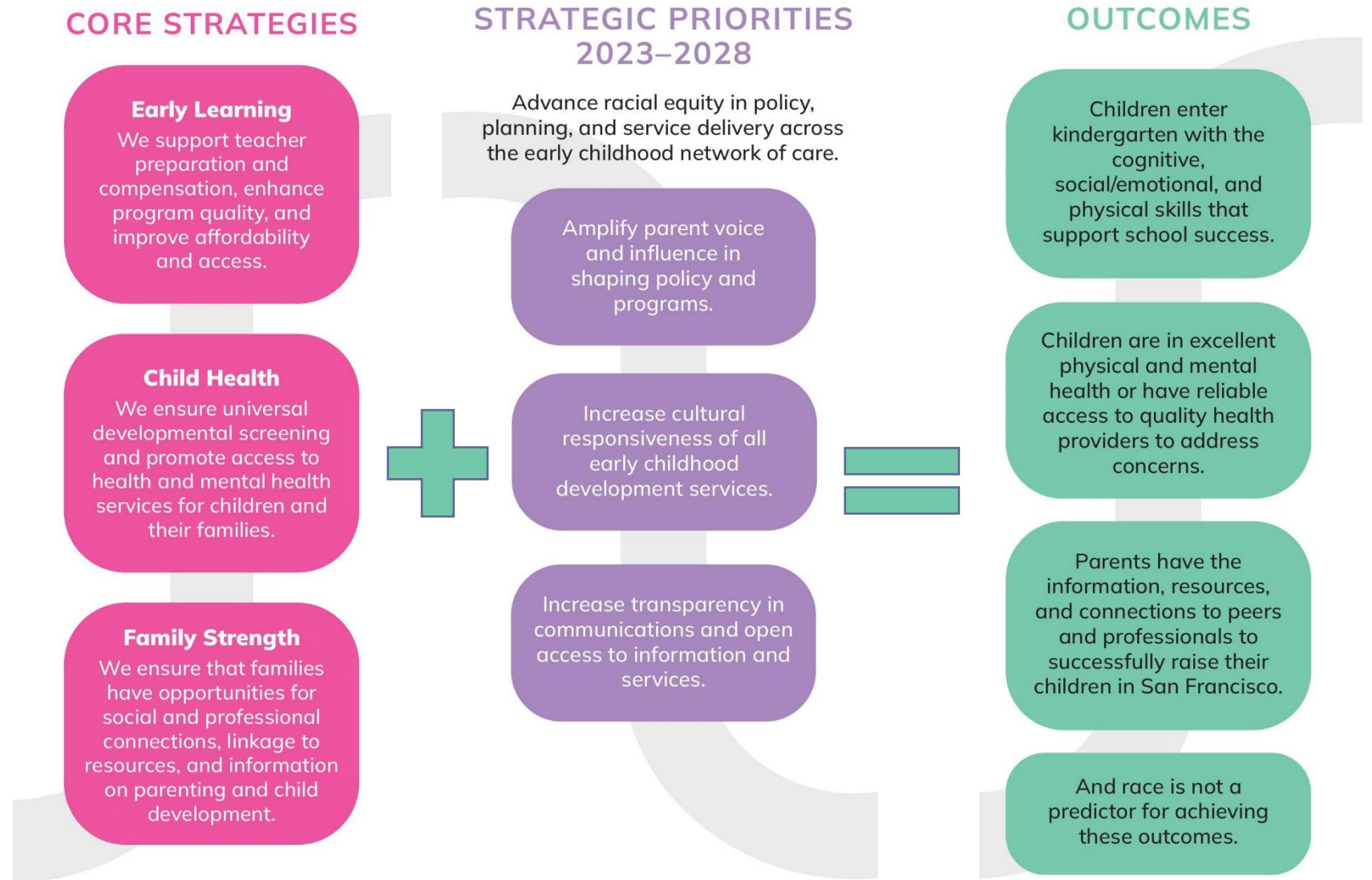
Despite these significant advancements in the early childhood development field, we still see racialized outcomes in Kindergarten Readiness.

Unfortunately, structural racism prevents too many San Francisco children from being ready for kindergarten and achieving their full potential. Black, Latino, Pacific Islander, and Indigenous children, face persistent inequities in health, and social and cognitive skills that support school success.



What We Learned

- Family voices confirmed best practices!
- The key issue is **EQUITY** in access and experience



Core Strategies

What we planned for 2025-2026 & What we Accomplished

Affordability and Access

- Families 110% and below AMI continue to receive free childcare
 - Families 111-150% AMI receive 100% full time reimbursement rate.

Teacher Prep and Compensation

- Phase I & II with prioritization for educators working directly with students.
 - First in the nation wage augmentation, ensuring FT teachers with a BA earn at least \$76,000.
 - Educators receiving EESSG – 47% salary increase
- Phase III: Working Conditions
 - SEQUAL Survey & Community Engagement
 - Phase IV Pathways
 - Partnering with 8 different agencies = 15 different pathways

Early Learning

We support teacher preparation and compensation, enhance program quality, and improve affordability and access.



Planned & Accomplished in 2025-2026

Quality Programming

2024-2025

2025-2026

Enrollment: 28+ sites

591 spaces by July

Intentional Application

Streamlined Validation

Quality Child care Facilities Funding

New Capital Projects

2024-2025:

*3 capital new

*2 FCC acquisition

*2 FCC Expansion

*22 Reno/Repair

2025-2026:

*4 Capital new

*3 FCC acquisition

*6 FCC Expansion

*36 Reno and Repair

Plan, Design, and Intentional build out and growth for infant/toddler licensed capacity.

Early Learning

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What's next 2026-2027

Affordability and Access

- Eligibility expansion up to 200% AMI
- Alignment with R&R Partners

Early Learning

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Teacher Prep and Compensation

- Planning an increase to living wage
- Educator Survey will inform Infant/Toddler & Inclusion Certification classes
- Launch: May 12 SEQUAL results
- Deepen Commitment to educators pursuing degree attainment
 - Non-traditional college Advising hours
 - Stipends for ESL classes

Early Learning

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What's next 2026-2027

Quality Programing

- FCCHEN K-readiness: Instructional strategies and coaching support pilot
- Uplifting Quality Assurance- Peer review Pilot
- Bringing Children to Nature
- Growing our network of supports while understanding impact (Training, Coaching, Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation)

Quality programs-facilities

- Inclusive Environments and Equipment Pilot



What we planned for 2025-2026

- Sparkler expansion to SFUSD and city-wide
- Imagination Library launch
- Formal partnerships with DPH clinics and MCP's
- Strengthen Early Connections system

What we accomplished

- Sparkler launched to all SFUSD ECE classrooms; 260 sites (27 SFUSD) across the city, and 8,100 children were screened.
- Launched Imagination Library with over 9,000 children currently receiving monthly books
- Early Connections system continues to expand; co-location of services beginning at DPH Healthy Steps Clinics
- Launched Strong Starts birth equity initiative with Mayor's Office, DPH, DOSW, and HRC

Child Health

We ensure universal developmental screening and promote access to health and mental health services for children and their families.



What is planned for 2026-2027

- Comprehensive in-language training plan to onboard FCCs onto Sparkler
- Examine family experiences and referral patterns within Early Connections to support continuous quality improvement
- Develop and implement training plan for Healthy Steps Clinics in partnership with DPH and UCSF; promote Imagination Library sign-ups within clinic sites
- Launch Little Lift concrete perinatal supports initiative in partnership with Mayor's Office, DPH, HRC, DOSW

Child Health

We ensure universal developmental screening and promote access to health and mental health services for children and their families.



What we planned for 2025-2026

- FRCs continue to broaden reach and deepen neighborhood collaboration
- Launch of new systems integration funding portfolio

What we accomplished

- FRCs on track to reach well over 9,000 families
- 7 FRC collaboratives focused on collaborative community events, healing and trauma informed care, enhanced safety of physical spaces, and improved coordination of parent education classes
- Launched 7 new system integration grants that are expanding cross-sector partnerships and extending the reach of family support services

Family Strength

We ensure that families have opportunities for social and professional connections, linkage to resources, and information on parenting and child development.



Family Strength

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What is planned for 2026-2027

- New collaboration between Bayview YMCA and surrounding schools that will strengthen referral pathways to prevent child welfare involvement (Project 94124)
- Pregnancy Family Village partners will deepen anti-racism practice through year-long facilitated engagement
- Assess and refine new approaches emerging from systems integration grantees
- Three new FRC professional development offerings focusing on operations, management skills, and early literacy/school readiness



Strategic Priorities



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2023–2028

Advance racial equity in policy, planning, and service delivery across the early childhood network of care.

Amplify parent voice and influence in shaping policy and programs.

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Increase transparency in communications and open access to information and services.



Creating Direct Lines Between DEC and Parents and Caregivers

- DEC's public web site was redesigned for parents and moved onto SF.gov, resulting in more than double the traffic – about 700 unique visits a day
- DEC is gearing up to launch Parent Insights, a panel of 2,000 San Francisco parents and caregivers who will provide periodic input and feedback on DEC's work, including evaluation – representativeness is a top priority
- DEC's new Early Learning for All parent portal is nearly complete, replacing the current Early Learning San Francisco portal

Outcomes & Impact



OUTCOMES

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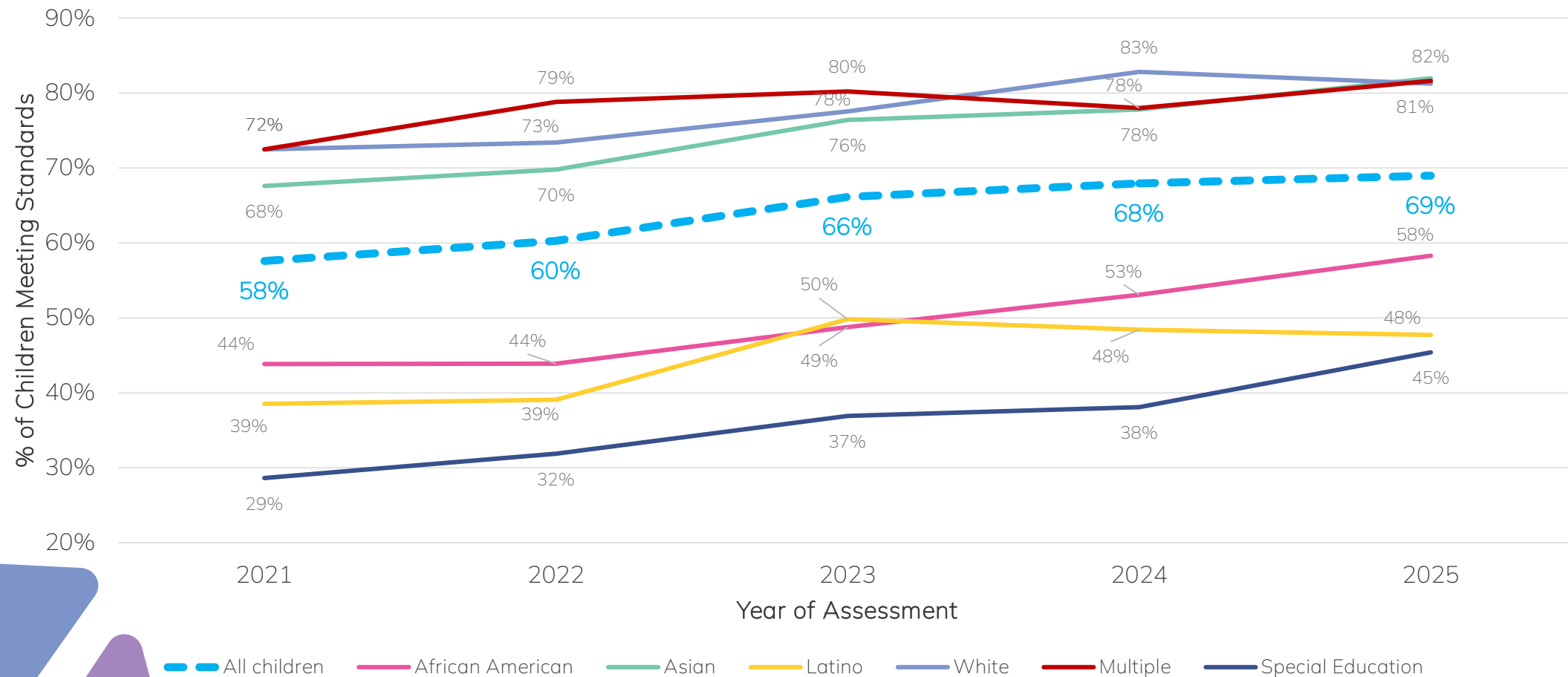


Key Accomplishments and Indicators

- Kindergarten readiness grew for the 4th straight year to highest level since SFUSD launched the Kindergarten Readiness Inventory in 2017
 - Record levels of readiness for African-American children and children with special needs
- Early learning enrollment exceeded pre-pandemic peaks
- Infant and toddler enrollment in ELFA exceeded preschool enrollment
- Early educator compensation and retention substantially outpaced the state
- Participation in developmental screening reached record highs, with increasing adoption of the Sparkler mobile app
- Families embraced new programs and services for children with developmental concerns through Early Connections

Kindergarten readiness improved for the fourth straight year, achieving record highs

Kindergarten Readiness of Entering SFUSD Students by Race/Ethnicity and Special Education, 2021-2025
(SFUSD Kindergarten Readiness Inventory)



Measuring Outcomes and Performance

- Launched 5-year program evaluations of ECE access and enrollment, ECE workforce, ECE quality improvement, mental health consultation, FRCs, and early intervention
- Mapped data across all DEC programs and data systems, beginning data governance work to develop standardized data policies and practices
- Developed new data systems for contract monitoring and program quality improvement; preparing for launches in FY27

10. ADJOURN

