



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Mayor Liccardo &
Councilmember
Rocha

SUBJECT: EDUCATION AND DIGITAL
LITERACY STRATEGY

DATE: May 3, 2018

Approved

Date

RECOMMENDATION

Don Rocha PH

That the City Council approve the staff recommendation.

ANALYSIS

Nothing is more important to the future of San Jose than our children's education. We know that education happens in the classroom, but if as a community we come together to make education a priority there are many other opportunities to support and enhance learning. As a City we can touch the lives of children through our libraries, our parks and recreations programming, and our ability to convene stakeholders and leverage partnerships. By pursuing these opportunities we can realize the goal articulated in the Mayor's original Rules memo to "re-envision our city as a classroom."

We enthusiastically support the Library Director's detailed proposal to develop education policy and coordinate education programming. We are very fortunate to have such capable and innovative library staff. The San Jose library system has a long tradition of reimagining the role of libraries in our community to ensure that they stay relevant to the needs of our residents. Leadership on the issue of education is the next chapter in that tradition of innovation.

We look forward to reviewing the results of the work that staff proposes. We will no doubt learn new things and discover opportunities through the course of our work on this issue. We believe it would be useful to continue to engage the Council as this work progresses, to ensure that we are providing the support and space necessary for our Library staff to succeed in their efforts. We appreciate the staff recommendation to establish a reporting framework and to continue to engage the Neighborhood Services and Education Committee and the City Council on this issue. We are hopeful that through this work our library system can grow into a Library and Education Department.