



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Jill Bourne

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: March 22, 2019

Approved

Date

3/22/19

SUPPLEMENTAL

SUBJECT: QUALITY STANDARDS FOR EARLY EDUCATION PROGRAMMING

REASON FOR THE SUPPLEMENTAL

This memorandum includes information and feedback that the Neighborhood Services & Education Committee provided to staff during their February 14, 2019 meeting.

OUTCOME

The City Council will adopt the proposed Early Education Quality Standards (EEQS) that have been developed by City staff and members of the Project Advisory team and reviewed by NSE for City programs serving children (ages 0-5).

BACKGROUND

On May 7, 2018, the City Council held a special meeting regarding the Education and Digital Literacy Strategy. The San José Public Library (Library), as lead department, partnered with other City departments (Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services, Work2Future), school districts and Santa Clara County Office of Education, collaborative organizations (First 5, Region 5), and established programs (SJ Learns, SJ Promise, SJ Works) to devise and present recommendations for a comprehensive city-wide Education and Digital Literacy Strategy in three educational development areas:

- Early Education - Entering School Ready to Learn and Succeed;
- Learning by Grade Level Proficiency - Expanding Education Beyond the School Day; and
- Pathways to Post-Academic Success - Graduating Ready for College and Career.

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The City Council provided feedback and gave direction regarding future policy, roles and governance, quality standards, and reporting expectations. In addition to giving unanimous approval of all recommendations, City Council directed staff, in partnership with appropriate networks and leading agencies, to “establish evidence-based quality standards for all programs that are City-funded, sponsored, or endorsed; align program standards with existing standards and program assessments whenever possible.”

ANALYSIS

At its meeting on June 20, 2018, the Library and Early Education Commission formed an ad-hoc Advisory Committee that would lead the process of identifying quality standards and assessment tools for City departments and agencies providing informal and/or license-exempt child care to children ages 0-5. The ad-hoc Advisory Committee included Commissioners Mahaney-Gurahoo, Jolly, and Magana who worked closely with City staff (Library and Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services) to identify membership and develop the workplan. They engaged experts in the local early education as part of an EEQS Project Advisory Team to develop broad quality standard options based on California State competency standards.

The full process of developing the EEQS for all City-funded, sponsored and endorsed programs for children 0-5 is detailed in the attached memorandum presented to NSE on February 14, 2019. At that meeting, NSE reviewed and accepted the staff report on the development of the EEQS for City programs that serve young children as specified by the Education and Digital Literacy Strategy. NSE recommended this item for full Council consideration and adoption at the March 19, 2019 Council meeting.

Additionally, NSE recommended staff return with a plan to expand development, training and outreach to non-traditional partners. NSE recommended staff explore ways to increase access to the Recreation Preschool program by expanding seats in higher income areas as a way to subsidize and expand scholarships in areas of need.

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP

If adopted by the City Council, the EEQS will become the evaluation tool for existing programs and a benchmark for program growth targets. Staff will report on progress implementing the EEQS to the NSE Committee in September 2019.

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COORDINATION

This report has been coordinated with the Parks, Recreation Neighborhood Services and Neighborhood Services and Education Committee.

/s/

JILL BOURNE

Director, Library Department

For questions, please contact Michelle Ornat, Deputy Library Director at 408-808-2112.