



Childhood Advisory Council Staff Report, by Meghan Reilly
Thursday, October 2, 2025

COE Child Care Briefing Meetings:

County Superintendent Dr. Faris Sabbah and the Child Development Programs team continue to inform the early care community and community partners monthly about the latest health, well-being, and educational issues affecting the early care and education sector. There has been a turnover at the County Health Department, and we will have a new Public Health Nurse II, Cortney Cantrell, from the Communicable Disease Unit in the Public Health Division, joining our meeting beginning on October 6, 2025. We are fortunate to have the support of the County Superintendent and the county public health nurse every month. This meeting will continue to meet on the first Monday of each month.

Inclusive Early Education Expansion Leadership Team (IEEEP):

The IEEEP Round 2 funds are intended to increase access to the inclusive classrooms in the eight CSPP part-day programs. To support additional children with disabilities, the Santa Cruz COE is focusing on providing the CA Teaching Pyramid framework training, including establishing local coaches, certified trainers, mental health consultants, and updating support services materials. Last fiscal year, the eight CSPP participating programs completed all five Teaching Pyramid modules. Additionally, seven Teaching Pyramid coaches completed their training and coaching assignments, and the two local educators/trainers completed the certification process. Mireya Reyna has decided to continue her work as a Mental Health Consultant to support the eight CSPP participating programs. She is eager to continue her work for the second year and will be attending the IEEEP Leadership meeting to better connect with the program leads. She is also creating new ways for the classrooms to book time with her. Staff will present an option for engaging a new mental health consultant at the upcoming IEEEP Leadership meeting, with the intention of facilitating member discussion and gathering input. Additionally, the IEEEP grant will continue to provide professional learning opportunities on topics prescribed by the state to expand confidence and awareness, and quality of care and education. The Council will discuss the professional development needs of the IEEEP group. To support this conversation, staff will share results from the Professional Development Survey and invite feedback to inform future planning.

UPK Mixed Delivery Workgroup:

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education received state funding to coordinate the UPK Mixed Delivery Workgroup Round 3 in March. With this addition, the Santa Cruz COE is managing UPK Rounds 1,2 & 3. The purpose of the latest UPK Mixed Delivery Workgroup Round 1,2, and 3 is to support the grants and to inform and educate the UPK Mixed Delivery Workgroup who are engaged in developing the UPK Mixed Delivery plan. The Santa Cruz COE has taken on the role of the UPK HUB. The HUB includes the Childhood Advisory Council, which is managing: Inclusive Early Education Grant, QRIS CSPP Block Grant, QCC Workforce Pathway Grant, and UPK 1,2,& 3 grants. In addition, there are two TK UPK grants managed by the Educational Services Associate Superintendent. Also, the Child Development Resource Center will inform families about their Universal PreKindergarten options available in the county. The Council will discuss the professional development needs of the UPK MD workgroup. To support this conversation, staff will share results from the Professional Development Survey and invite feedback to inform future planning.