

BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

RESOLUTION 18-021 IN SUPPORT OF IMPROVING AND EXPANDING CHILD CARE AND EARLY EDUCATION SERVICES IN ALAMEDA COUNTY:

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE ALAMEDA COUNTY BALLOT MEASURE FOR CHILD CARE AND EARLY EDUCATION ON THE JUNE 5, 2018 BALLOT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR HIGH QUALITY CHILD CARE AND EARLY EDUCATION SERVICES FOR LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN ALAMEDA COUNTY AND TO IMPROVE WAGES FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS AND EARLY EDUCATORS WHO PROVIDE THESE SERVICES.

WHEREAS, the children of Alameda County are our future and will provide the leadership, creativity, and productivity to strengthen and sustain the quality of life in our County; and

WHEREAS, research shows that a child's brain develops most dramatically during the first five years of life, and this critical period is a window of opportunity to lay the foundation for all of the years that follow¹; and

WHEREAS, children need access to quality early educators and child care programs to nurture them during this critical period of their development; and

WHEREAS, only 44% of Alameda County children enter kindergarten fully ready for school²; and

WHEREAS, only 31% of Alameda County children with working parents have access to a space in a licensed child care or early education setting,³ and

WHEREAS, child care and early education is more expensive than college, with average, full-time infant care costing more per year than tuition at the University of California Berkeley and almost three times the annual cost of California State East Bay⁴; and

WHEREAS, the growing homeless population in Alameda County includes hundreds of children and their families who cannot get access to quality child care and early education services; and

WHEREAS, 75% of Alameda County child care providers and early educators worry about paying monthly bills, and 54% worry about putting food on the table, as early educators' pay has not kept up with the rising cost of living in the Bay Area⁵; and

¹ Harvard Center for the Developing Child

² *2015 School Readiness Report* by Applied Survey Research.

³ The California Child Care Resource and Referral Network *2015 Child Care Portfolio*

⁴ *2015 Child Care Portfolio Report*, UC Berkeley and CSU East Bay

WHEREAS, low compensation disproportionately affect low-income women, as early educators are almost exclusively female, with large numbers of older women, women of color, recent immigrants, and first-generation college students and mothers; and;

WHEREAS, low compensation of early educators drives turnover and hampers the ability to attract and retain skilled educators, which in turn undermines stable, continuous relationships essential to children; and

WHEREAS, in 2016-17, the State of California only reimbursed providers on average less than 70% of the true cost of providing high-quality preschool for 3- and 4-year-olds, per child per year⁶; and

WHEREAS, investing in high quality early education yields a high return on investment of up to 13%, or \$8.2 billion over 10 years for the new local investment proposed herein⁷; and

WHEREAS, the measure will provide high quality child care and early education services for low- and middle-income children and families in Alameda County and improved wages for participating child care providers and early educators so that they can earn at least \$15 per hour with appropriate adjustments for the cost of living.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Berkeley USD School Board endorse the Alameda County Ballot Measure for Child Care and Early Education appearing on the June 5th, 2018

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Education of the Berkeley Unified School District, this 14th day of March 2018 by the following votes:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTENTIONS:

ABSENT:

ATTEST:

Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, Clerk
Board of Education

⁵ 2016 Center for the Study of Child Care Employment Report

⁶ 2016 San Francisco Office of Early Care and Education Comprehensive Fiscal Analysis

⁷ Nobel Laureate Economist James Heckman