

Goal

To provide consistent and aligned high-quality learning opportunities for children in preschool through third grade.

Model

- ◆ Kickoff to Kindergarten is a four-week summer program that helps children develop basic skills to succeed in kindergarten
- ◆ Ready Schools helps preschool and elementary school teachers work together to ensure that young children and their families have positive experiences in school.



Children who are ready for kindergarten are on track for school success.

These ready children are five times as likely to be successful in third grade as those who enter kindergarten unprepared. Conversely, we know that children entering kindergarten without sufficient skills rarely meet the critical milestone of reading proficiently by third grade.

Locally, only 30 percent of low-income children in Silicon Valley are reading proficiently by third grade. Research has shown that 74 percent of those who fail to meet this milestone are unable to catch up in later grades and are more likely to drop out of high school. Many of these children are from low-income families of color.

Bridges to Success, with major support from First 5 San Mateo County, works to close the achievement gap through two program strands, Kickoff to Kindergarten and Ready Schools, designed to help children, schools and families maximize the child's chances of learning and retaining these skills as they go from pre-school to that all-important third grade mark.

The initiative also sponsors research, such as the Parent Survey currently in development for deployment through the two-county region, and holds convenings to examine and dissect effective PreK-3rd grade strategies to improve school achievement.

Social Return on Investment

Investing in the early years yields a return of \$10.00 for every \$1.00 invested; in order to sustain these gains, early childhood supports must be followed by high-quality learning in the elementary years.

Resources

[Are You Ready? A Parent's Guide to Starting Kindergarten](#) (¿Está Listo?).

In 2010, we produced a booklet and DVD to help parents prepare their children for kindergarten. We have distributed nearly 46,000 copies in English and Spanish throughout our region.

[Kit for New Parents](#): In 2012, with First 5 San Mateo County, we created an innovative parent-education curriculum to help parents develop skills and form meaningful bonds with their young children.

For more information, contact Jessica Mihaly, jmihaly@siliconvalleycf.org, or Michelle Sioson Hyman, mshyman@siliconvalleycf.org.



Impact and Achievements

By serving approximately 1,000 children each summer, **Kickoff to Kindergarten** has reached more than 11,000 children in schools around San Mateo County since 2001.

Ready Schools has worked with more than 300 Pre-K to third grade teachers and administrators to develop district and school-wide plans to help children and families.

Ready School teams and **Kickoff to Kindergarten** are led by these seven strong community partners:

Daly City Peninsula Partnership

Ravenswood City School District (East Palo Alto and East Menlo Park)

Cabrillo Unified School District (Half Moon Bay)

La Honda Pescadero Unified School District

Pacifica School District

Family Connections/Redwood City 2020

South San Francisco Unified School District