



San Mateo County has a **shortfall of 19,000 child care, preschool, and after school spaces**, directly impacting children's early education and families economic opportunities.

By 2025, this shortage is expected to rise by 27%.

School Districts are valued partners for growing and improving early childhood education, child care, and after school; early education and care on school campuses complement Districts' missions and goals.



## How does the availability of high quality child care, preschool, and after school care impact School Districts?

Children who participate in high quality child care and preschool programs enter kindergarten more prepared, reducing the need for additional K-12 resources and supplemental services. Children who receive high quality early education are **50% less likely to require special education** and **29% more likely to graduate high school** (*America's Best Investment: Early Childhood Development*, First Five Years Fund). Accessible after school care allows parents to pursue employment opportunities knowing their children are safe and engaging in enriching activities.

A recent County needs assessment found that **school districts are key strategic partners** in addressing this issue (*2017 San Mateo County Child Care and Preschool Needs Assessment*, Child Care Partnership Council).

## Potential School District Actions and Local Examples

- **Child care for teachers and staff offered on-campus supports employee retention and work-life balance.** Recently, the **Sequoia Union High School District** opened a pilot **infant-toddler program for teachers and staff** at Carlmont High School, partnering with a local, private child care provider to run the infant/toddler program. **The Bayshore School** and the **San Mateo-Foster City School District** make their **on-campus preschool and after school programs available to staff.**
- **Using vacant space for infant/toddler care provides access to quality early learning for the youngest children.** The **Pacifica School District** hosts a **private operator** to run both **infant/toddler child care** and preschool on available space at Linda Mar Elementary School. With formal child care available for just 60% of the infants and toddlers in the County who may need a space, many of the youngest children are missing out on high quality early learning that will prepare them for school.
- **Tuition-based preschool or after school offered in vacant classrooms is a win-win.** First, the **San Mateo-Foster City School District**, and then many others, used vacant classrooms to offer **tuition-based preschool** for three and four year olds. These programs pay for themselves and help Districts align preschool through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.
- **Long-term leases and below-market rents allow nonprofit child care programs to be economically viable.** The **Belmont-Redwood Shores School District** has a long history of partnering with a nonprofit to run child care, preschool and after school on several campuses. The District **provides unused campus space at below-market rent with a long-term lease.**
- **Partnering with Cities allows Districts to leverage resources and coordinate to meet family needs.** **Brisbane, Redwood City, South San Francisco, and San Carlos** have **City Council/School District standing committees.** In **Brisbane, Hillsborough, Pacifica, Redwood City, and South San Francisco**, the Districts **partner with City Park and Recreation Departments to offer on-campus preschool and/or after school care.**
- **Long-term facilities planning and bond initiatives can include child care, preschool, and after school.** In 2014, **Woodside Elementary School District** successfully passed **Measure D**, a bond that included **\$1.6 million for their district-operated preschool.**

**Build Up is here to support you to learn more about how to operate or host tuition-based or subsidized child care programs, with technical assistance, connections to potential program operators, and needs assessment data.**

## Thank you to Build Up's Seed Funders and Partners:



To learn more, visit [www.buildupsmc.com](http://www.buildupsmc.com) or contact Christine Padilla, Director, Build Up for San Mateo County's Children, 650.517.1436 or [cpadilla@sanmateo4cs.org](mailto:cpadilla@sanmateo4cs.org). Twitter/Facebook: @BuildUpSMC Instagram: TheBuildUpInitiative