



Strong Start

AAUW's public policy advocates support for a strong system of high-quality public education and adequate and equitable funding for all students, **including preschool**. Here is a round-up of the events affecting small students in SCC offered from the seventh Strong Start newsletter, October 26, 2018.

Even though they do not vote, the nearly 438,000 children living in Santa Clara County deserve elected officials who understand how funding and policy decisions impact their lives. Our community's current and future prosperity will be decided by our elected officials. So, the Santa Clara County Local Early Education Planning Council, Strong Start of Santa Clara County and Kids in Common, a program of Planned Parenthood Mar Monte, came together to create a Voter's Guide on Children's Issues. The guide asked each candidate running for selected local, state or federal offices in Santa Clara County - well over 200 in total - to answer five questions about their priorities for children. It is hoped that the officials elected in November will keep to the statements made.

The California Budget and Policy Center has released its latest child care and preschool fact sheet with the headline that, adjusted for inflation, state spending on early care and education (ECE) programs are "near pre-recession levels with [a] boost from one-time funding".

However, funding for vital pieces of California's ECE system, like the centralized eligibility lists, resource and referral agencies, and local planning councils, have either not been restored or have not kept pace with inflation. Given that, the report seems less like cause for celebration than evidence of the state's ongoing underinvestment in its youngest citizens.

For more go to <http://www.strongstartsantaclara.org>.