THE INCLUSIVE EARLY EDUCATION EXPANSION PROGRAM

At the Sonoma County Office of Education



What is IEEEP?

The Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program, or IEEEP, is a grant program funded by the California Department of Education with the purpose of expanding access to inclusive early learning and care (ELC) opportunities for children with disabilities.

The Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE) was awarded funding to participate in the program and has partnered with several local, state-funded ELC programs.
The IEEEP grant period began in June of 2020 and will continue through December of 2024. During this time SCOE will work with their designated partners in their combined efforts to expand inclusive opportunities for children and families in Sonoma County.

Who are SCOE's partners?

- El Verano Preschool
- Multicultural Child Development Center
- Flowery State Preschool
- Gold Ridge State Preschool
- Meadow Preschool
- Old Elm Child Development Center
- Paulin Creek Child Development Center
- Sonoma Child Development Center
- Willow Creek State Preschool
- Wright Start State Preschool
- Special Education Staff from the local education agencies who serve children from the ten partner preschool programs

How will SCOE meet its goal of expanding inclusive opportunities?

1.) Training

SCOE will provide professional development opportunities for staff from designated partner sites which includes evidence-based training, coaching, and leadership support.
In addition to several recommended trainings, the California Department of Education lists five trainings which are required of grantees. They are:

- Ages and States Questionnaire-Social Emotional
- Supporting Inclusive Practices
- Adaptations and Accommodations
- Universal Design for Learning
- Behavior and the use of Positive Behavioral Supports

2.) Adaptive Equipment

SCOE will use IEEEP grant funding to purchase adaptive equipment and create an adaptive equipment lending library for their designated partner sites. SCOE will work with the Site Leadership Team, special education staff and staff from their partner school sites to identify items which will make a difference in creating a more inclusive environment for children of all abilities. This includes things like iPads with assistive programs for communication, toys and books which represent children with disabilities, sensory materials, adaptive furniture and universally designed materials.

"When inclusion... is fully embraced, we abandon the idea that children have to become 'normal' in order to contribute to the world. Instead we search for and nourish the gifts that are inherent in all people. We begin to look beyond typical ways of becoming valued members of the community, and, in doing so, begin to realize the achievable goal of providing all children with an authentic sense of belonging"

Norman Kunc



Site Leadership Team

SCOE's IEEEP Site Leadership Team convenes quarterly to discuss and identify the local professional development needs to address the barriers preventing inclusion in ELC settings.

Another focus of the Site Leadership Team is to build stronger partnerships between the ELC staff from the designated partner programs and district ECE Special Education staff, and the SELPA.

The primary partners of the Site Leadership Team are Sonoma County Office of Education, Special Education, SELPA, Educational Support Services, Child Care Planning Council, and the designated partner ELC programs. Additional partners include Quality Counts Sonoma, Resource & Referral, 4C's, First 5 Sonoma County, Early Learning Institute, North Bay Regional Center, Santa Rosa Junior College Child Development Center, Sonoma Valley Unified School District, California Parenting Institute, and Head Start.

Get in touch.

Please reach out if you have questions or would like more information on the Inclusive Early Education Expansion program at the Sonoma County Office of Education.

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Additional information can be found at:
www.scoe.org/pub/htdocs/ieeep_grant.html

