What's IEEEP?

The Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program Newsletter!
Brought to you by the Sonoma County Office of Education.



Really, 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.

*California Department of Education, Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program Frequently Asked Questions, https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/op/ieeepfaqs.asp

IEEEP in Sonoma County

Each grantee has a specific plan on how to increase access and expand inclusive opportunities in Sonoma County. Some plans include construction and/or renovations. Some plans include adaptive equipment and materials. All plans include professional development opportunities for early care and education providers. Although plans vary, these five LEA's are collaborating and supporting each other to make the most of this opportunity to expand inclusive opportunities for children and families in Sonoma County.

WHO ARE THE GRANTEES?

There are five Local Education Agencies in Sonoma County who have received IEEEP grant funding. They are:

- **Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE)**
- **Sebastopol Union School District**
- **Roseland School District**
- **Rincon Valley Union School District**
- **Petaluma City Schools**

SCOE's IEEEP Plan

SCOE has partnered with several local preschool programs and will work with them throughout the grant period to provide professional development on inclusion in the early learning and care setting, In addition, adaptive equipment and classroom supplies to support inclusion will be provided through the program. SCOE will also support connections and collaboration between ELC staff and special education staff in order to foster a partnerships to strengthen and increase educational opportunities for children with disabilities.

WHO ARE OUR PARTNERS?

- **El Verano Preschool**
- **Multicultural Child Development Center**
- **Flowery State Preschool**
- **Gold Ridge State Preschool**
- **Old Elm Child Development Center**
- **Paulin Creek Child Development Center**
- **Sonoma Child Development Center**
- **Willow Creek State Preschool**
- **Wright Start State Preschool**

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Progress with our Partners

SCOE, in collaboration with their IEEEP partner preschools and the Sonoma County SELPA, is preparing for professional development training on inclusion over the next school year. The focus for the coming year will be on the five training topics which are required by the CA Department of Education for IEEEP participants. These five topics are: Ages and Stages Questionnaire-Social Emotional, Supporting Inclusive Practices, Adaptations and Accommodations, Universal Design for Learning, and Behavior and the use of Positive Behavioral Supports. This training will be primarily provided for SCOE's IEEEP partners, however, additional openings will be made available to the larger ELC community whenever possible!

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IEEEP Required Training

the following training topics are required for IEEEP participants:

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

Site Leadership Team

SCOE's IEEEP site leadership team meets quarterly to discuss, not only the progress of the program, but also the challenges and possible barriers to inclusion in early learning and care (ELC) programs. The site leadership team is made up of community members and stakeholders from Sonoma County with a variety of roles and a diverse wealth of knowledge around inclusion, as well as early learning and care. Another focus of the site leadership team is to build stronger partnerships between the ELC staff from the designated partner programs and district Special Education staff, and the SELPA. Part of the intended goal of the IEEEP is that these connections will sustain beyond the grant period and continue to support expanded access to inclusive ELC programs for children and families in Sonoma County.

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SCOE's IEEEP Partners

1. Multicultural Child Development Center
2. El Verano Preschool
3. Flowery State Preschool
4. Gold Ridge State Preschool
5. Meadow Preschool
6. Old Elm Child Development Center
7. Paulin Creek Child Development Center
8. Sonoma Child Development Center
9. Willow Creek State Preschool
10. Wright Start State Preschool

Stipends for Training

SCOE is pleased to be able to offer stipends to staff from their IEEEP partner preschool sites, and special education staff who serve children from those programs. Stipends will be provided to those who are eligible when they complete the five required training topics by May 27, 2022.

The IEEEP required training topics are: **Ages and Stages Questionnaire - Social Emotional, Supporting Inclusive Practices, Adaptations and Accommodations, Universal Design for Learning**, and **Behavior and the use of Positive Behavioral Supports.**

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IEEEP Professional Development

As part of the Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program (IEEEP) at the Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE), staff at our ten partner preschool programs participate in professional development training focused on Inclusion. Special Education staff who serve children from the ten partner programs are also invited to participate in IEEEP related training. The goal of this training is to ensure that early learning and care staff are prepared to serve children with a broad range of disabilities. One of several IEEEP training days for the year took place in September. Staff from all ten of SCOE's IEEEP partner programs were in attendance, along with several Special Education teachers and specialists.

Thank you to Susan Langer and Suzanne Tribbey of the Sonoma County SELPA for facilitating an excellent training day focused on two of the CDE required training topics; Universal Design for Learning and Supporting Inclusive Practices. **And a big thank you to all of our IEEEP partners for participating in this important work!**

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IEEEP Adaptive Equipment

As part of the Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program (IEEEP) at the Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE), we were able to purchase adaptive equipment to be utilized at our ten partner preschool programs. This equipment ranges from universally designed materials, adaptive furniture, visual cues for daily routines, sensory materials, and adaptive and instructional materials.

Collaboration

Representatives from all of the five Sonoma County IEEEP grantees meet throughout the year to collaborate and support each other in their process. The other four IEEEP grantees in addition to SCOE are: Petaluma City Schools, Rincon Valley Union School District, Roseland School District, and Sebastopol Union School District.

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Feedback from our IEEEP Partners:

As a participant in the Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program (IEEEP), the Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE) provides updates and progress reports to the CA Department of Education on a quarterly basis. SCOE's Early Education Program Specialist gathers information from their ten partner preschools for this purpose. This information includes enrollment data, as well as feedback on how IEEEP is working for their staff, students and families. Below is some feedback from the director at one of the partner preschools who was asked how IEEEP has affected their program:

"It [IEEEP] has supported us 100 percent with our IEP students and children who need help in sensory and social emotional skills"



Whatever is beautiful.
Whatever is meaningful.
Whatever brings you happiness.
May it be yours this holiday season.

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Training Focus:

teachingpyramid



One of the five training topics required by the CA Department of Education for IEEEP participants is "Behavior and the use of Positive Behavioral Supports". In order to fulfill this training topic, SCOE and their IEEEP partners are utilizing the Teaching Pyramid framework. This training program is provided to staff at the partner preschools by the Early Learning Institute. It consists of multiple training sessions throughout the year and is supported by practice-based coaching.

What is Teaching Pyramid?

As described by WestEd, "The Teaching Pyramid approach provides a systematic framework that promotes social and emotional development, provides support for children's appropriate behavior, prevents challenging behavior, and addresses problematic behavior."

For more information on the Teaching Pyramid framework, visit https://cainclusion.org/teachingpyramid/

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Training Focus: Universal Design for Learning



One of the five training topics required by the CA Department of Education for IEEEP participants is Universal Design for Learning, or UDL.

"What is Universal Design of Early Learning?

It is designing early education settings so all children, as equal and valued members of the program, may access and engage in all learning opportunities, learn from a common curriculum according to their individual strengths and abilities, and demonstrate their learning in multiple ways."

The above excerpt comes from an article titled, ***The Universal Design of Early Education, Moving Forward for All Children***, by Michael Conn-Powers, Alice Frazeur Cross, Elizabeth Krider Traub, and Lois Hutter-Pishgahi, published in Beyond the Journal, Young Children on the Web, September 2006.
To read the complete article, visit:
https://fpg.unc.edu/sites/fpg.unc.edu/files/resources/presentations-and-webinars/ConnPowersBTJ%281%29.pdf

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Training Focus:
Ages and Stages Questionnaire – Social Emotional

One of the five training topics required by the CA Department of Education for IEEEP participants.



What is Ages and Stages Questionnaire – Social Emotional?

ASQ-SE is a screening tool to help with early identification of social-emotional challenges. With questionnaire results, professionals can quickly recognize young children at risk for social or emotional difficulties, identify behaviors of concern to caregivers, and identify any need for further assessment.

Training on this topic includes a comprehensive overview of the ASQ-SE screening tool provided by staff from the Early Learning Institute. For more information on the ASQ-SE screening tool, visit https://agesandstages.com/.

This IEEEP sponsored training is available for free to ELC providers. Dates and registration links below. Space is limited.

- ASQ-SE in Spanish, Wednesday, March 30 from 6:00 - 7:30: https://forms.gle/K9wAswfktTwyJmNBA
- ASQ-SE in English, Thursday, March 31 from 6:00 - 7:30: https://forms.gle/AoPYEEbzLKnRjaPaA
- ASQ-SE in English, Wednesday, April 13 from 6:00 - 7:30: https://forms.gle/TaW3U8vMSfWmwHRH7

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IEEEP progress in Sonoma County

In addition to the Sonoma County Office of Education, there are four school districts in Sonoma County who also received IEEEP grant funding. Read below for a brief summary of the great work being done through IEEEP!



Petaluma City Schools is renovating a building on one of their campuses and collaborating with 4Cs to create an inclusive preschool program on campus which is expected to open in the fall of 2022!

Rincon Valley Union School District has renovated a classroom, started an inclusive preschool program and has installed an all-abilities play structure! All staff at this site are in the process of completing Pyramid SEL training this year.

Roseland Public Schools has partnered with 4Cs to transform the Apples and Bananas preschool site into an inclusive program, and to provide training on inclusive practices for staff who support children at that site.

Sebastopol Union School District and the West Sonoma County Consortium have partnered with STARS and Castle Preschools to provide professional development training on inclusion for staff. The grant program has also made possible the purchase of adaptive equipment to support inclusion of students with sensory and emotional needs, as well as plans for an adaptive play structure to be installed over the summer!

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End of Year 2



IEEEP began in June of 2020 and runs through January of 2024. At the end of the second year, much has been accomplished! The main focus for SCOE and their IEEEP partners has been on professional development training and purchasing adaptive equipment.

Professional Development training has been focused on the five training topics required by the CDE for IEEEP participants. These training topics are:

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

After the last training of the year, on May 27th, over 70 IEEEP participants will have completed all five of the required training topics! **Great work!!**

Adaptive Equipment was purchased for all ten of SCOE's IEEEP partner preschools. Site supervisors were consulted to choose items that would benefit their specific classroom needs. Items included universally designed materials, adaptive furniture and materials, visual cues for daily routines, iPads and books.

Stay tuned to learn about what is coming in year 3 of IEEEP!

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