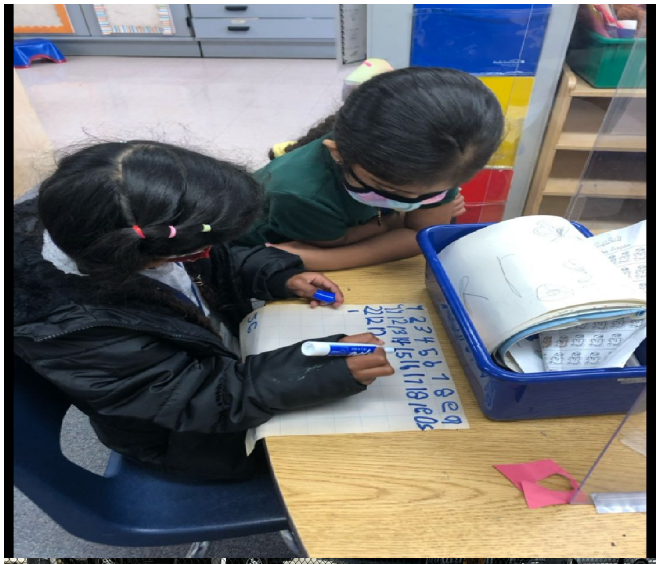




THE STATE OF EARLY LEARNING IN ALUM ROCK

PRESENTATION TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2025

DIANNA J. BALLESTEROS, EdD DIRECTOR

KRISTIN BURT, COORDINATOR





Early Learning: A Holistic Approach in Alum Rock

- A concentrated approach since 2015-2016 expanded TK as an innovative cost effective approach to public education.



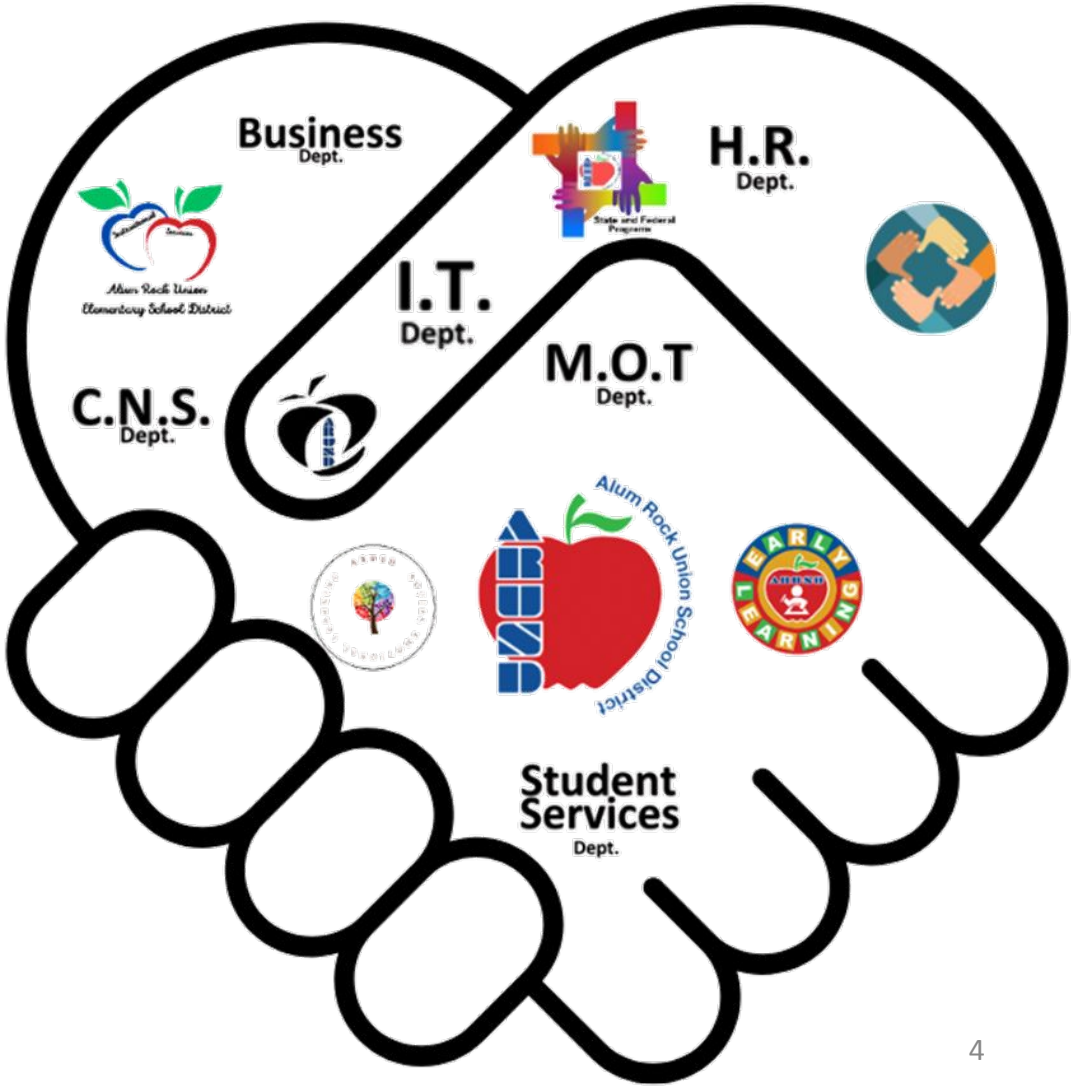
Alum Rock Envisioned

- A well designed Strategic Plan 2017-2025 with authentic partners



Alum Rocks' Early Learning and TK-8th System: Research Frameworks

- Purposely aligned departments and programs to meet family and child needs at the earliest stage of human development learning.



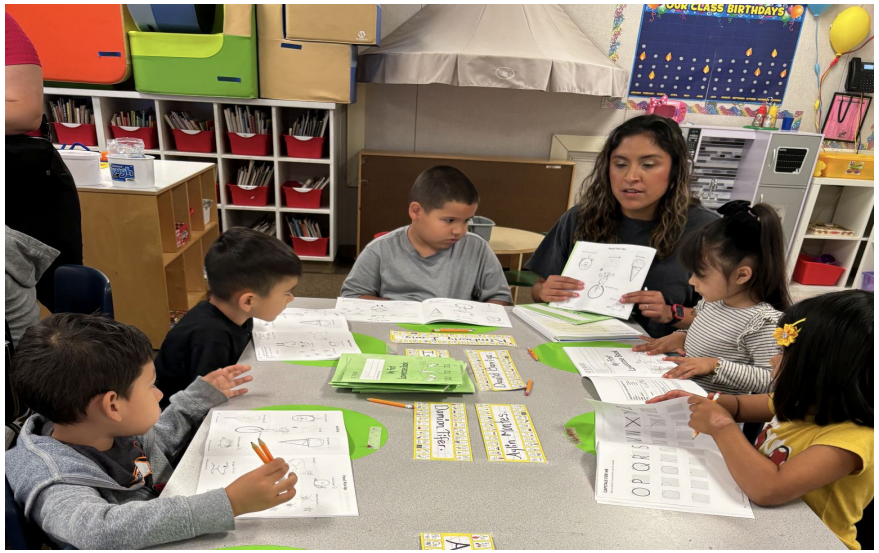
ARUSD our Community

- First approach to implement and include the fours (T4s) with the TKs.



Comprehensive Early Learning Plan

- Children supported with the optimal goal of completing grade three with foundational skills they need for future school success in reading, mathematics, and social emotional learning.



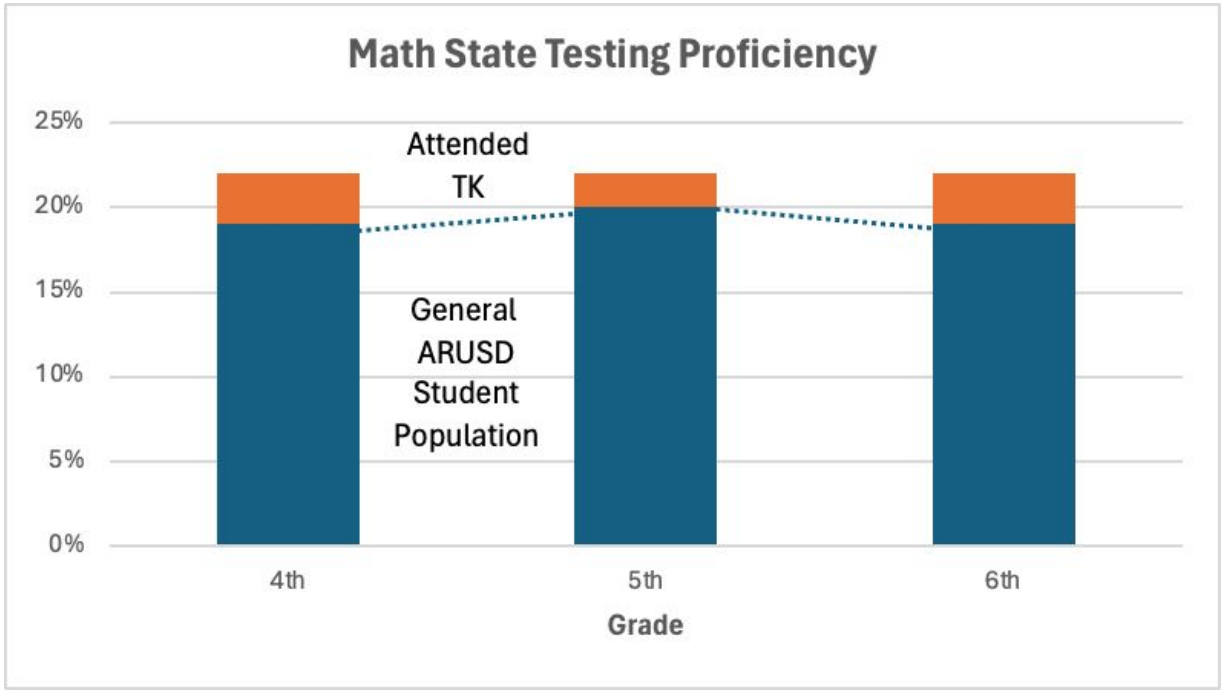


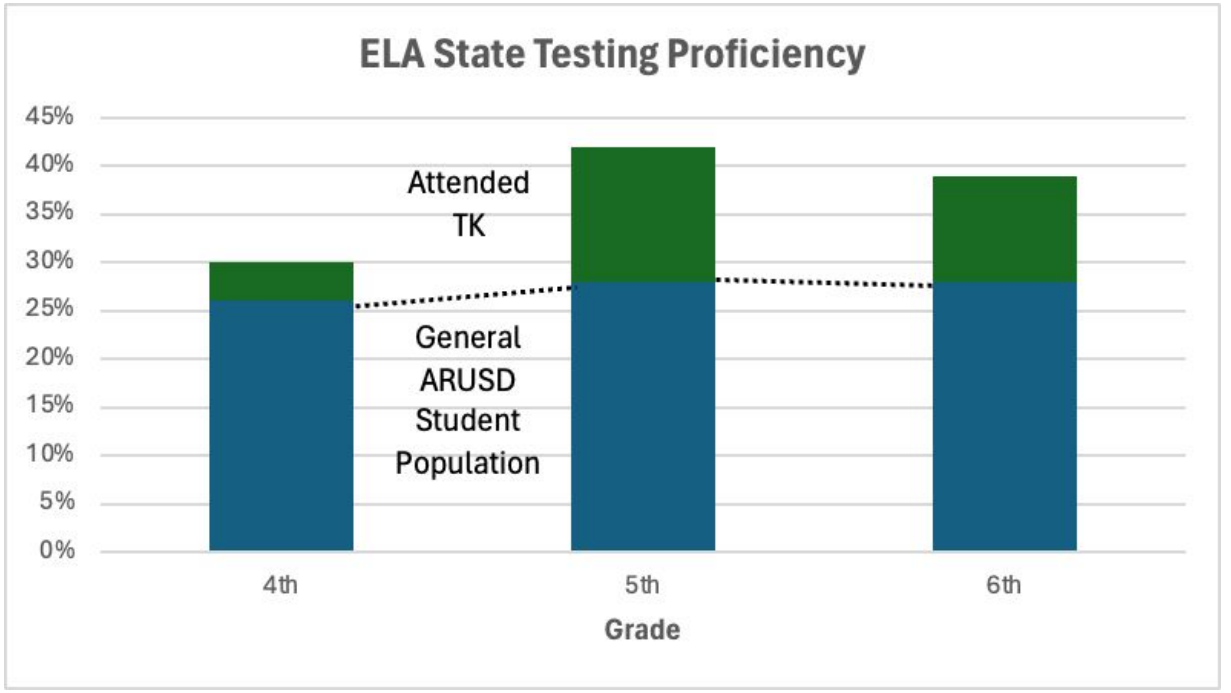
Impact of Early Learning

1st cohort of TK students are now in 7th grade

- State testing proficiency scores are higher than peers that did not attend TK

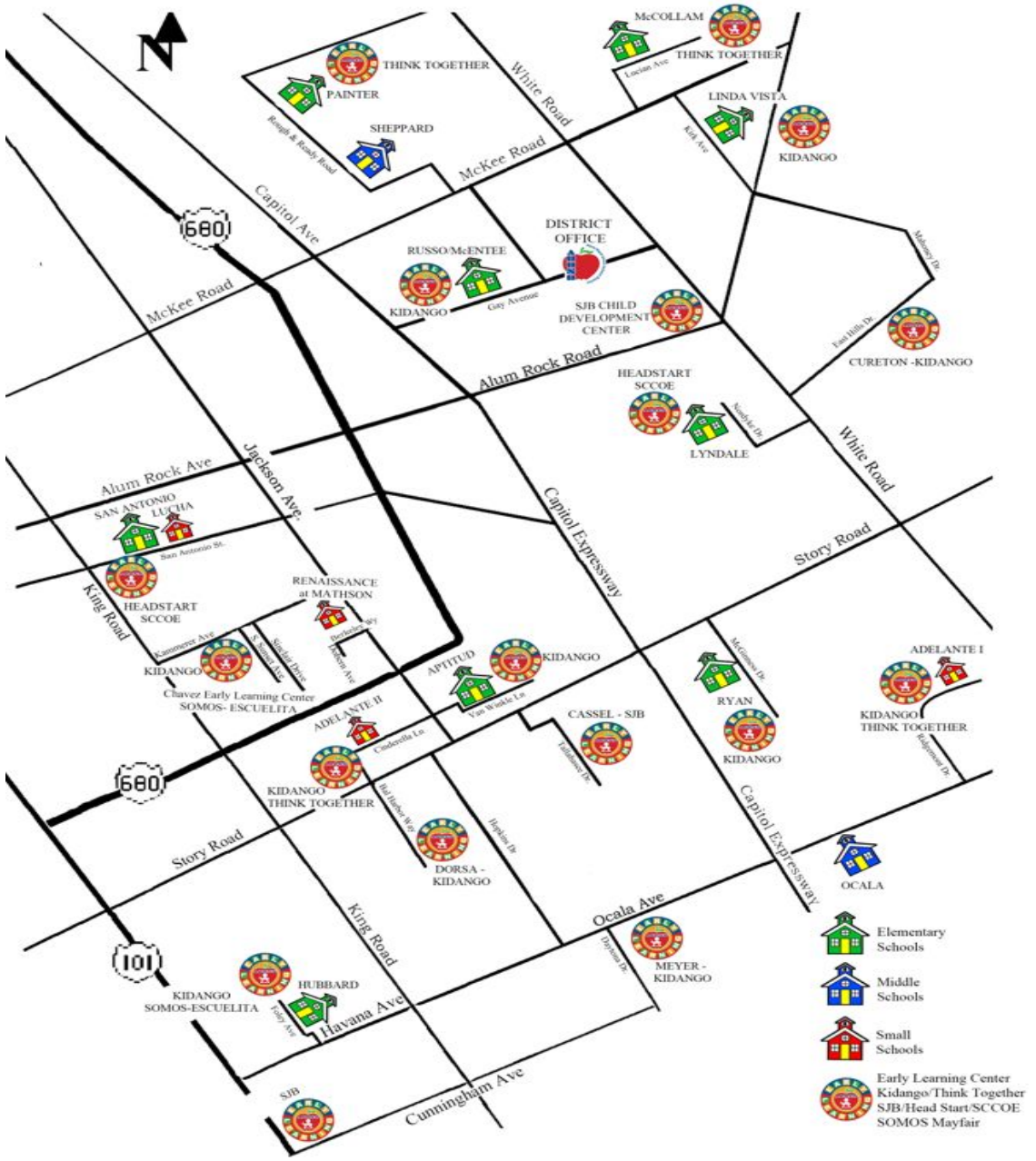
% of Students Scoring Proficient or Advanced on the California State Test				
	Math (General ARUSD)	Math (ARUSD students w/TK)	ELA (General ARUSD)	ELA (ARUSD students w/TK)
2021/2022 (4th grade)	19%	22%	26%	30%
2022/2023 (5th grade)	20%	22%	28%	41%
2023/2024 (6th grade)	19%	22%	28%	39%





Collaborative Early Learning System

- 18 Early Learning available sites that provide families with inclusive, equitable, affordable, and universal access to high -quality early learning experiences in Alum Rock.



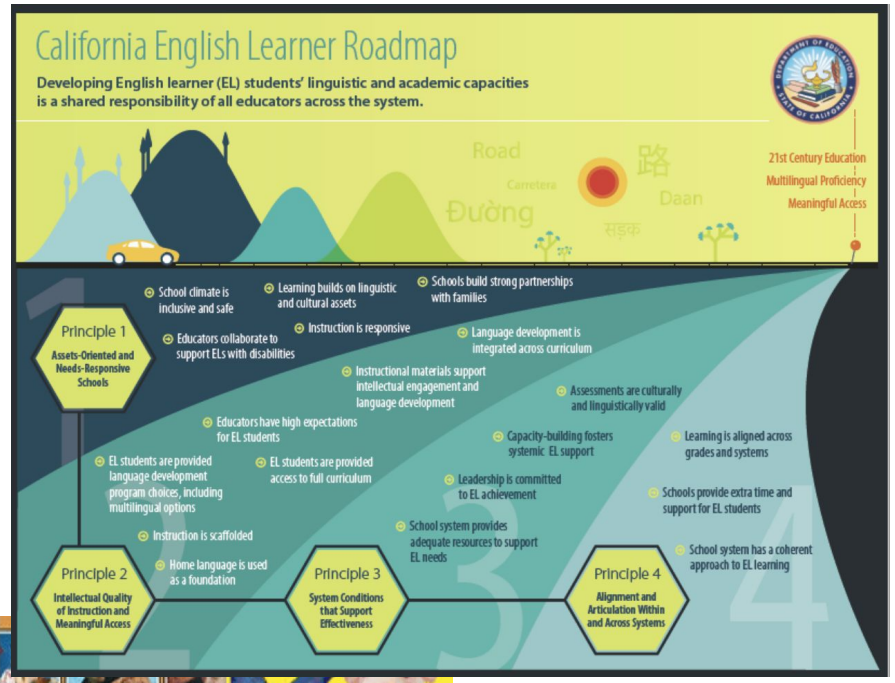
Alum Rock Universal PreKindergarten at a Glance

1,198 students served
(16% of total district master enrollment)

- California State Preschool Program Enrollment - 150 students
- PreKindergarten Special Education Enrollment - 60 students
- Transitional Kindergarten Enrollment - 344 students
- Kindergarten Enrollment - 644 students

Supporting Multilingual Learners

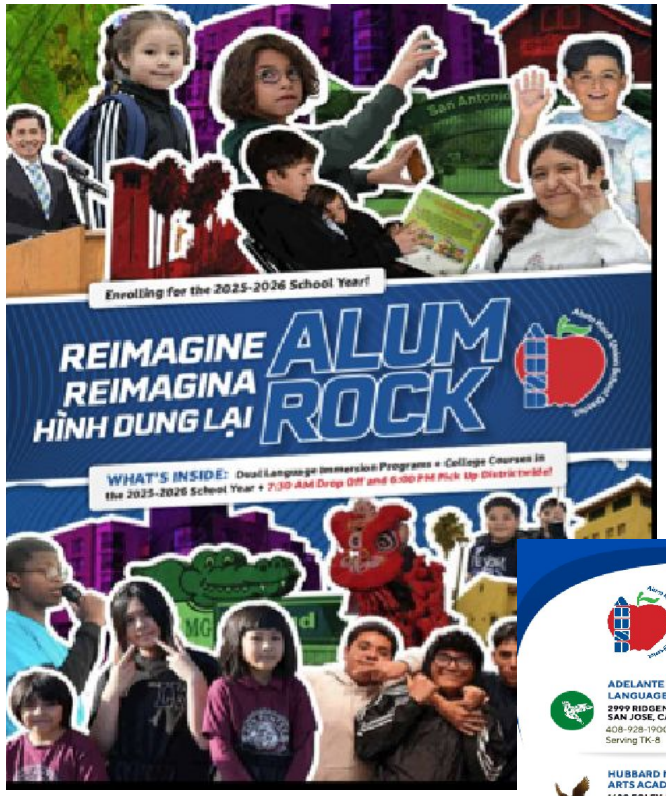
- Alum Rock School District with our Think Together partners established two Spanish Dual immersion preschools Adelante 1 and Adelante II, and Think Together adopted the Painter Preschool and established it as the first Vietnamese preschool in our early education system.

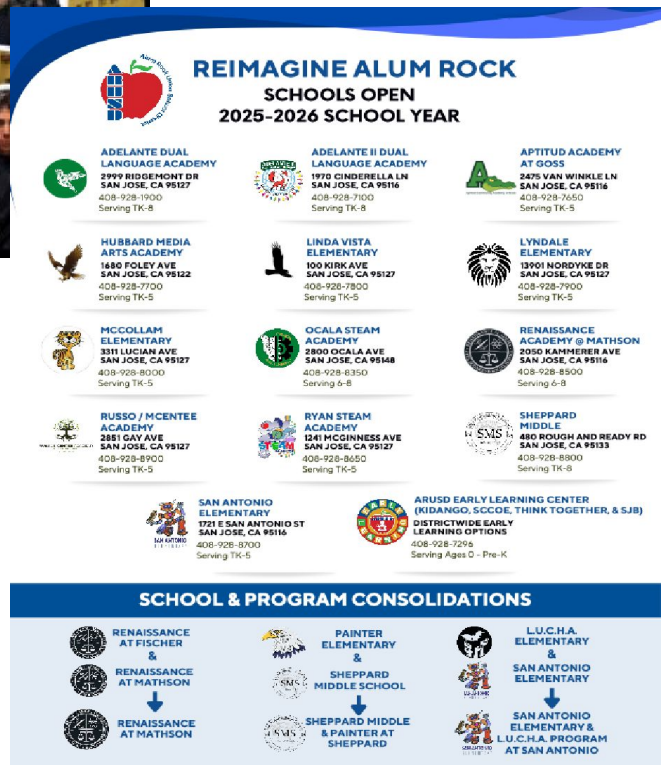




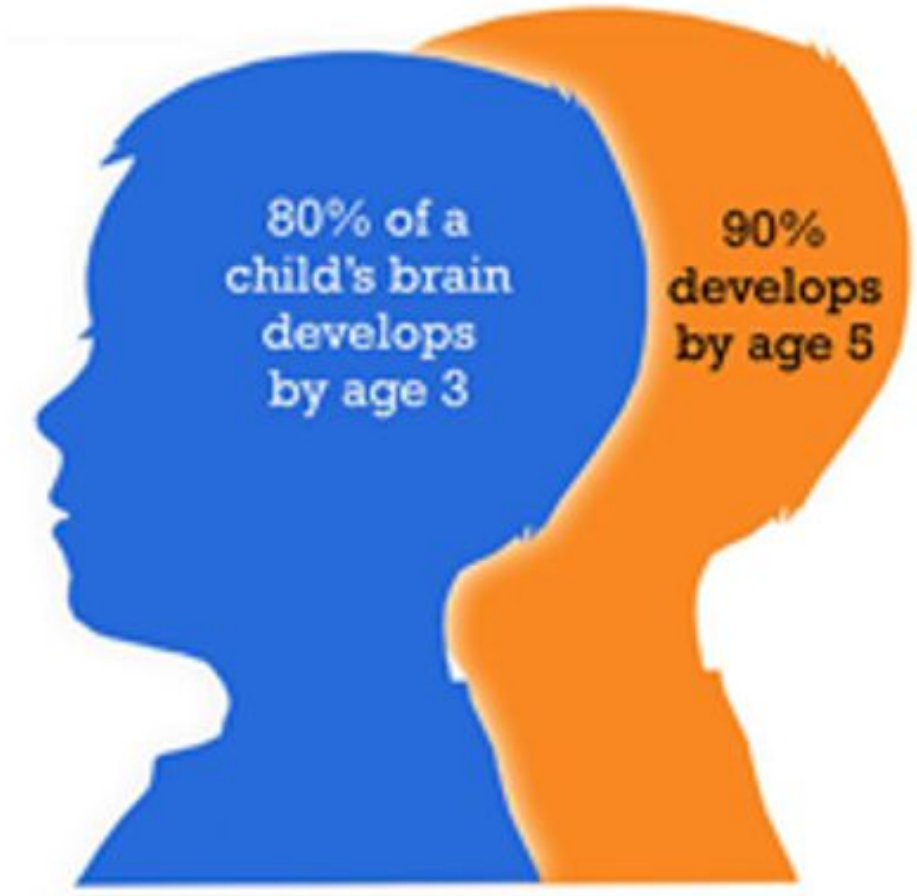
Moving into the future

- Successful sustainable implementation by combining available allocated funding opportunities and with other programs to best connect and leverage early learning, PreK-TK-8th, Expanded Learning Opportunities (before & after school), Community Schools (P-10), Wellness Centers, so that we continue to offer options that families tell us they need.





Why? Does an Early Learning Vision Matter?



- Participation in quality early learning becomes an important foundation for a child's education.
- Children enter kindergarten with a strong foundation in their social-emotional, cognitive, and physical well-being.