

San Joaquin County
Council for Quality Education and Care
of Children

2025-2030 Needs
Assessment



The Council for Quality Education and Care of Children (CQECC) is the San Joaquin County Local Planning Council.

San Joaquin Local Child Care Planning Council Needs Assessment 2025-2030

1. Attach Reports

Please include the following reports from the California Early Learning Needs Assessments Reports (CELNAR). Attach reports in Microsoft Excel or PDF directly from the CELNAR

(<http://reports.elneedsassessment.org/LPCReports.aspx>).

- a. CELNAR Table 1: Number of Children by Age
- b. CELNAR Table 2: Percent of Children by Race/Ethnicity and Age
- c. CELNAR Table 3: Regional Market Rate Ceilings Allowed for State Subsidy by Age and Type of Care
- d. CELNAR Table 4: Unmet Need for State and Federally Subsidized Programs for Infants and Toddlers
- e. CELNAR Table 5: Unmet Need for State and Federally Subsidized Programs for Preschool

The following requested reports from California Early Learning Needs Assessments Reports (CELNAR) are not applicable due to lack of updated data from this source. Please reference alternative data below:

- a. Number of Children by Age

Age Group	Number of Children
Ages 0-2	28,747
Ages 3-5	29,780
Ages 6-10	56,182
Ages 11-13	36,086
Ages 14-17	51,346
Total of Children Ages 0-17	202,141

Source: California Dept. of Finance, Population Estimates and Projections; U.S. Census Bureau, Population and Housing Unit Estimates (Mar. 2025).

- b. Percent of Children by Race/Ethnicity and Age

Race/Ethnicity	Percentage of Children Ages 0-17
African American/Black	6.8%
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.3%
Asian	14.9%
Hispanic/Latino	52.7%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.5%
White	18.4%
Multiracial	6.5%

Source: California Dept. of Finance, Population Estimates and Projections; U.S. Census Bureau, Population and Housing Unit Estimates (Mar. 2025).

c. Regional Market Rate Ceilings Allowed for State Subsidy by Age and Type of Care

Child Care Centers for San Joaquin County (Maximum Reimbursement effective Jan 1, 2022)						
Age Group	Full-time Daily	Full-time Weekly	Full-time Monthly	Part-time Hourly	Part-time Weekly	Part-time Monthly
Birth to 24 Months	85.00	337.08	1,384.06	16.39	236.87	915.84
2 -5 Years	55.51	260.83	934.32	10.57	162.30	643.02
School Age	53.34	201.85	751.09	10.51	142.81	496.50

Family Child Care Homes for San Joaquin County (Maximum Reimbursement effective Jan 1, 2022)						
Age Group	Full-time Daily	Full-time Weekly	Full-time Monthly	Part-time Hourly	Part-time Weekly	Part-time Monthly
Birth to 24 Months	51.75	227.09	918.23	11.47	170.64	695.33
2 through 5 Years	47.26	203.52	829.18	10.31	161.34	614.87
School Age	41.37	173.76	709.70	9.82	134.73	534.07

TrustLined/Relative for San Joaquin County (Maximum Reimbursement effective Jan 1, 2022)						
Age Group	Full-time Daily	Full-time Weekly	Full-time Monthly	Part-time Hourly	Part-time Weekly	Part-time Monthly
Birth to 24 Months	36.23	158.97	642.76	8.03	119.45	486.73
2 through 5 Years	33.08	142.46	580.43	7.22	112.94	430.41
School Age	28.96	121.63	496.79	6.87	94.31	373.85

Source: California Department of Social Services. (2025). Reimbursement Ceilings for Subsidized Child Care. <https://rcsc.adm.dss.ca.gov/index.aspx>

d./e. Unmet Need for State and Federally Subsidized Programs for Infants/Toddlers and Preschool

With the limited amount of information available, due to lack of updated data from California Early Learning Needs Assessments Reports (CELNAR), available data referencing infants/toddlers and preschoolers has been included below.

Income Eligibility (Early Head Start/ Head Start)*

	Category	Total
INCOME	Eligible 0-100%	204
	101-130%	59
	Over Income	90
	Foster Child	47
	Homeless	251
	Public Assistance	590
TANF	Yes	254
	No	967
	Former	13
SSI	Yes	31
	No	1210
SNAP	Yes	651
	No	586
WIC	Yes	789
	No	450
INCOME RANGE	\$0-\$2,999	931
	\$3,000-\$5,999	14
	\$6,000-\$8,999	13
	\$9,000-\$11,999	14
	\$12,000-\$14,999	15
	\$15,000 and over	254

**Early Head Start/ Head Start Data refers to children enrolled in an Early Head Start/Head Start program held by San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJCOE).*

Source: San Joaquin County Office of Education. (2025). Early Head Start and Head Start Program Information, 2004 Management Report

Requests for Child Care (2023)

Age Group	Percentage
Ages 0-1	28%
Ages 2-5	45%
Ages 6 and Older	27%

Source: California Child Care Resource and Referral Network, California Child Care Portfolio (May 2025).

Child Care Spaces in Licensed Facilities, by Facility Type (2023)

San Joaquin County	Number
Child Care Center	12,528
Family Child Care Home	6,562
Total for Both Facility Types	19,090

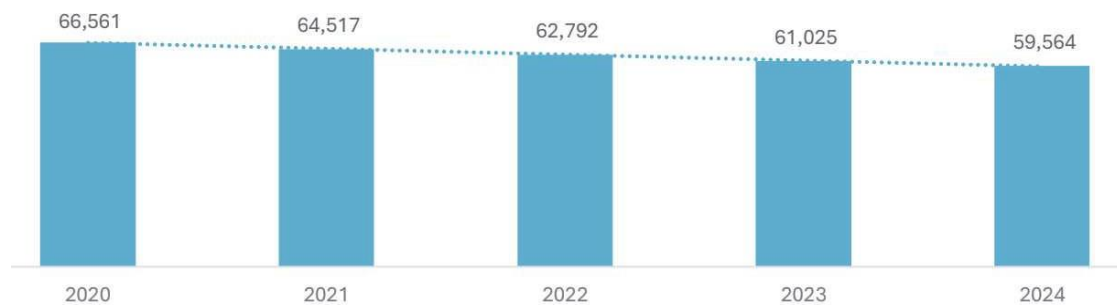
Source: California Child Care Resource and Referral Network, California Child Care Portfolio (May 2025).

2. Local Population Data

Please provide any additional information or explanation related to the population figures from the CELNAR. Please cite the specific source of data. This could include any information related to recent population increases or decreases in your county, or local data sources that you believe provide more accurate estimates about the child population in your county (please cite specific source) than 1a-e above.

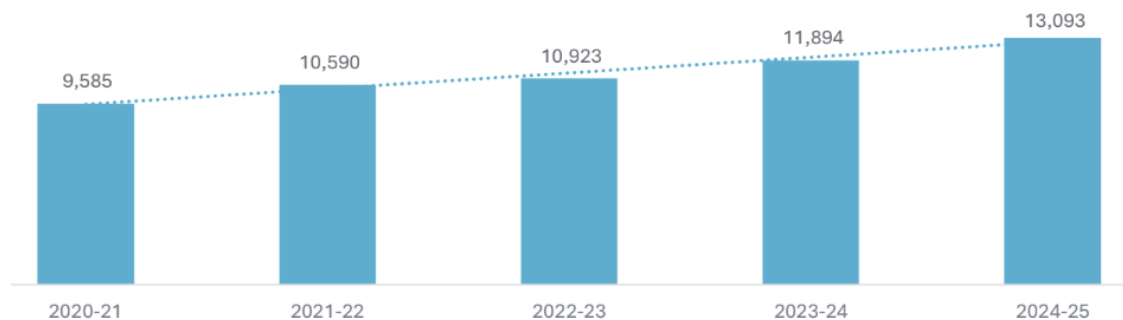
The requested reports from California Early Learning Needs Assessments Reports (CELNAR) were not applicable due to a lack of updated data from this source. Please reference the additional alternative data and explanations below:

Number of children aged 0-5, San Joaquin County



Source: University of California at Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project. (2025). 2020-2045 Child Population.

Number of Students Aged 4-5, San Joaquin County

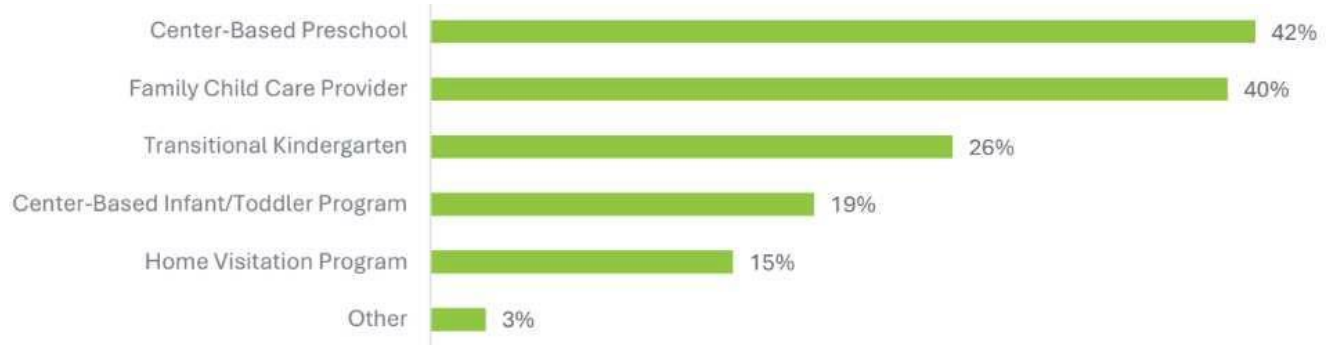


Source: California Department of Education. (2025). 2020-2025 K-12 Enrollment by Age Group and Grade.

3. Local Enrollment Data

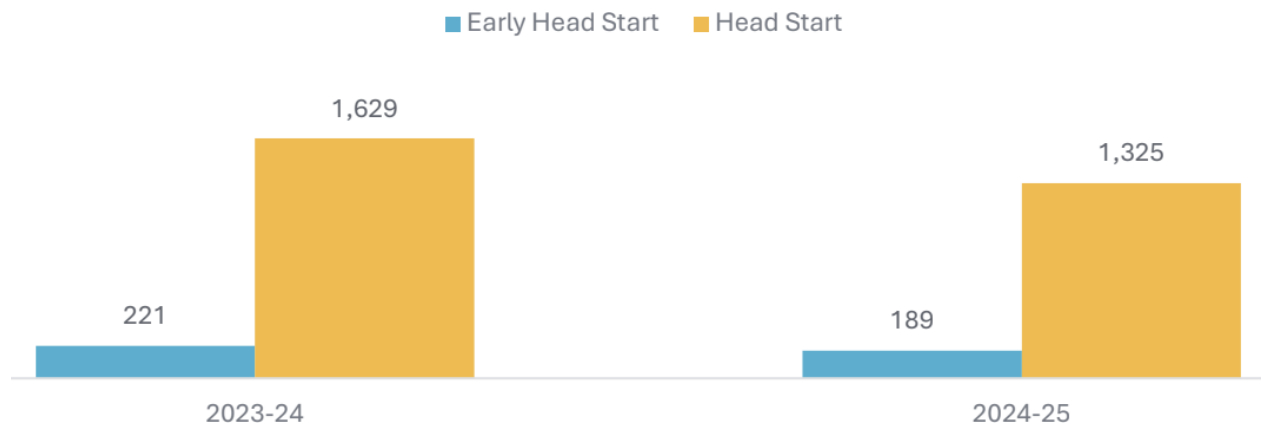
Please provide any additional information about enrollment in early learning and care (ELC) programs not accounted for in 1a-e above (for example, locally funded preschool programs). Please cite the specific source of data.

Type of Early Learning and Care Program Participated in During the Last Year



Source: ASR Survey of Parents/Caregivers in San Joaquin County, data collected July-August 2025. [Note: Multiple response option, total does not add up to 100%.]

Number of Children Enrolled in Early Head Start and Head Start San Joaquin*



*Early Head Start/ Head Start Data refers to children enrolled in an Early Head Start/Head Start program held by San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJCOE).

Source: San Joaquin County Office of Education. (2025). 2023-2025 Early Head Start and Head Start Program Information Reports. [Note: The 2023-24 data represents the complete fiscal year (July 1-June 30), while the 2024-25 data reflects only a portion of the year.]

4. Waiting Lists

Please provide any information you have related to the estimated number of children on ELC program waiting lists, by age cohort. Please cite the specific source of data.

In Fiscal Year 2025-2026, the full implementation of universal Transitional Kindergarten (TK) took place which provides free education for children who turn four by September 1 of that school year. All school districts are required to provide TK to all

age-eligible children, meaning no wait lists should exist for those interested in attending. The implementation of TK has created a significant shift in the types of early learning and care programs families are requesting for children of that age.

For children and families interested in early learning and care programs such as: California State Preschool Program (CSPP); General Child Care and Development (CCTR); Alternative Payment Programs (APP); Migrant child care and development programs (CMIG); Family, Friend, and Neighbor; Family Child Care Providers; Early Head Start (EHS); Head Start (HS); etc. the existence of waitlists vary drastically depending on the program, location, and provider. Waitlist data below is specific to Early Head Start (EHS) and Head Start (HS) Programs.

Waitlist Data for Early Head Start (EHS) and Head Start (HS) Programs* (2024-2025)

	Waitlist
EHS Program Total for 2024-2025	374
HS Program Total for 2024-2025	706

**Early Head Start and Head Start Data refers to Early Head Start and Head Start programs held by San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJCOE)*

Source: San Joaquin County Office of Education. (2025). Early Head Start and Head Start Program Information, Child Plus Program Dashboard

5. Language

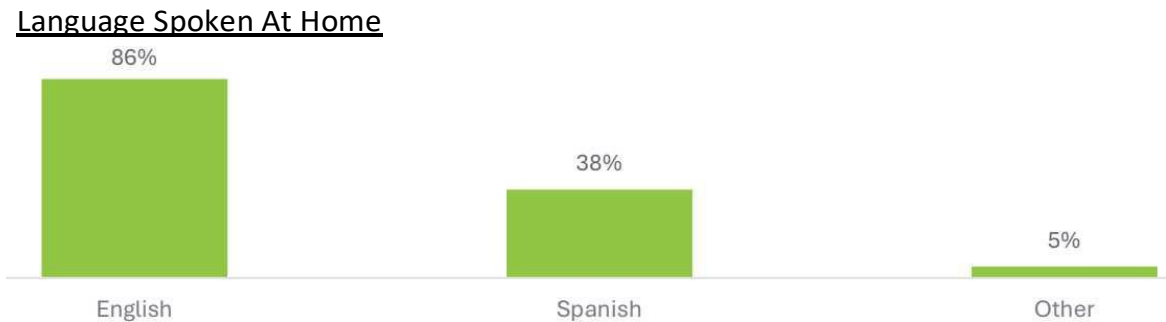
Please provide the number of children in kindergarten in your county speaking each language. This is a proxy for the languages of children from zero to five years old. Please pull this information from California Department of Education (CDE) Dataquest.

Language	Number of Children
Spanish	1,922
Tagalog	3
Mandarin	14
Cantonese	17
Vietnamese	54
Russian	0
Armenian	No data available
Arabic	40
Other: Panjabi/Punjabi	259
Other: Telugu	104
Other: Urdu	78
All other non-English languages	387

Source: California Department of Education DataQuest. 2024-25 English Learners by Language and Grade.

6. Local Language Data

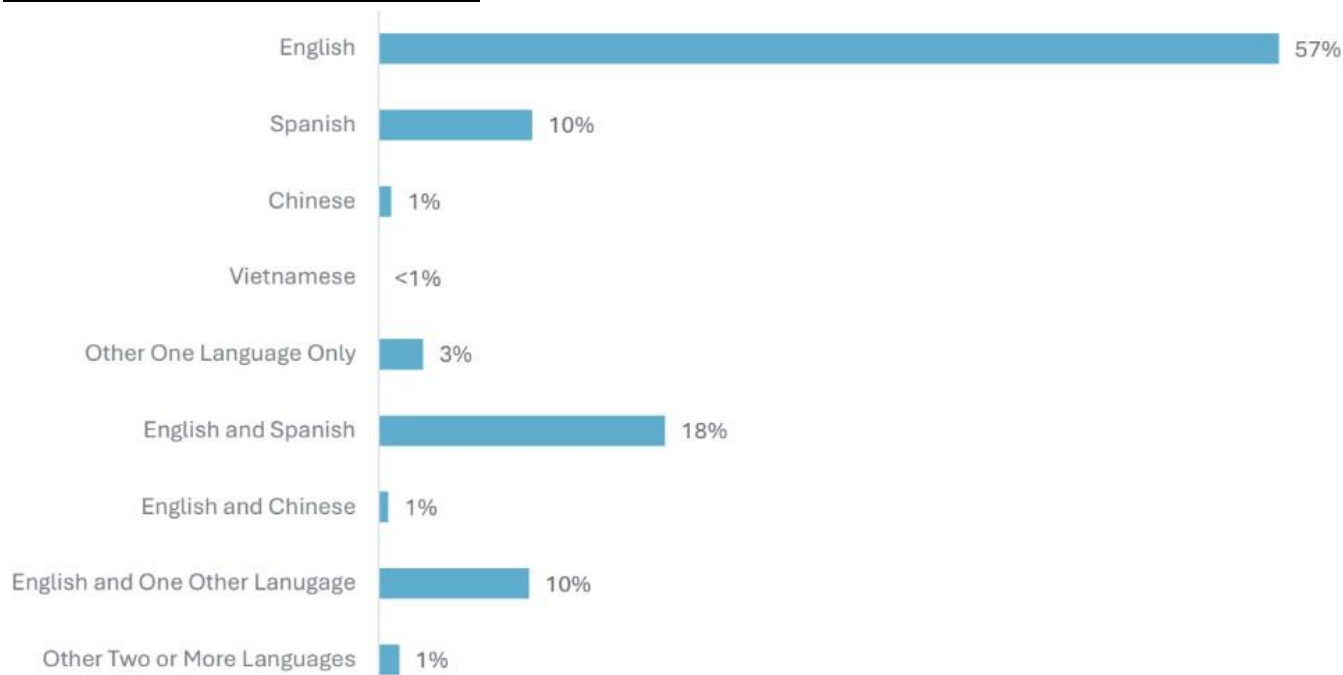
Please provide any additional local information you have related to the estimated number of children zero to five speaking different home languages. Please cite the specific source of data.



Source: ASR Survey of Parents/Caregivers in San Joaquin County, data collected July-August 2025.

[Note: Multiple response option, total does not add up to 100%.]

Language Spoken at Home by Type



Source: UCLA Center for Health Policy Research. (2025). 2021-2023 California Health Interview Survey.

7. Children Receiving Special Education Services

- a. How many children under three years of age (up to 36 months) in your county had an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) as of October of the most recent year? Please cite the specific source of data.

Number and Percentage of Children Enrolled in Early Head Start with an Individualized Family Service Plan*

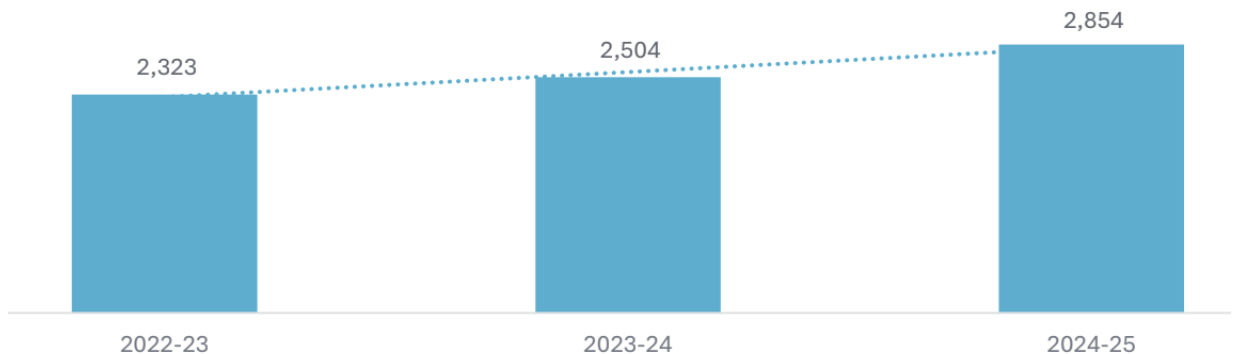


**Early Head Start Data refers to children under three years of age that have an Individualized Family Service Plan and are enrolled in an Early Head Start program held by San Joaquin County Office of Education (SICOE)*

Source: San Joaquin County Office of Education. (2025). 2023-2025 Early Head Start Program Information Reports. [Note: The 2023-24 data represents the complete fiscal year (July 1-June 30), while the 2024-25 data reflects only a portion of the year.]

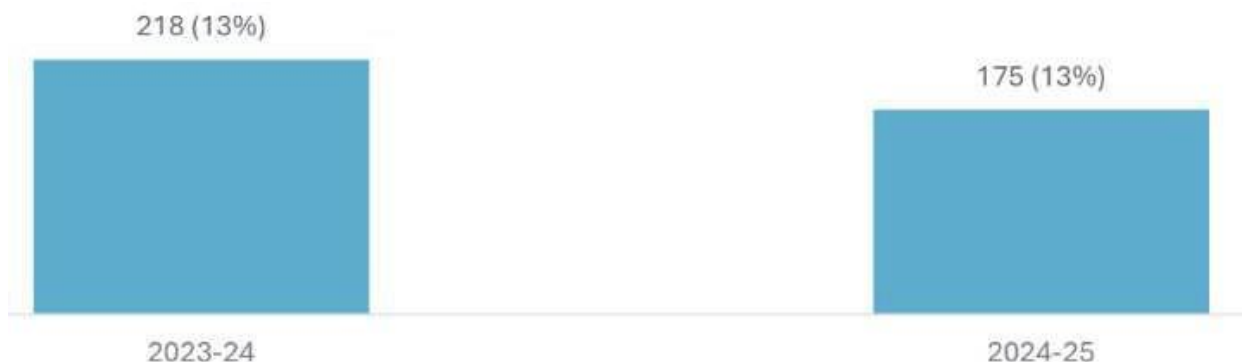
- b. How many children ages three to four (from 37 to 60 months) in your county had an Individualized Education Program (IEP) as of October of the most recent year? Please cite the specific source of data.

Number of Students Aged 3-5 Enrolled in Special Education



Source: California Department of Education. (2025). 2022-2025 Special Education Enrollment.

Percentage of Children Enrolled in Head Start with an Individualized Education Program*



**Head Start Data refers to children that have an Individualized Education Program and are enrolled in an Early Head Start program held by San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJCOE)*

Source: San Joaquin County Office of Education. (2025). 2023-2025 Early Head Start Program Information Reports. [Note: The 2023-24 data represents the complete fiscal year (July 1-June 30), while the 2024-25 data reflects only a portion of the year.]

8. Children Under Protective Services (e.g., Foster Children)

- c. How many children under three years of age (up to 36 months) in your county are under protective services supervision as of October of the most recent year? Please cite the specific source of data. (Recommended data source: http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/)

Infants and toddlers in foster care (under 3): 209

Source: University of California at Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project. October 1, 2024 Children in Foster Care.

- d. How many children ages three and four in your county are under protective services supervision as of October of the most recent year? Please cite the specific source of data. (Recommended data source: http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/)

Children under protective services supervision (i.e foster care) ages 3-5: 121

Source: University of California at Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project. October 1, 2024 Children in Foster Care. [Note: Recommended data source provides data in ages 3-5 years old.]

9. Number of Children in Working Families

Please pull these numbers from the Early Learning Needs Assessment Tool subscription site (www.elneedsassessment.org).

The following requested report from the Early Learning Needs Assessment Tool is not applicable due to lack of updated data from this source. Please reference alternative data below:

Availability of Child Care for Working Families

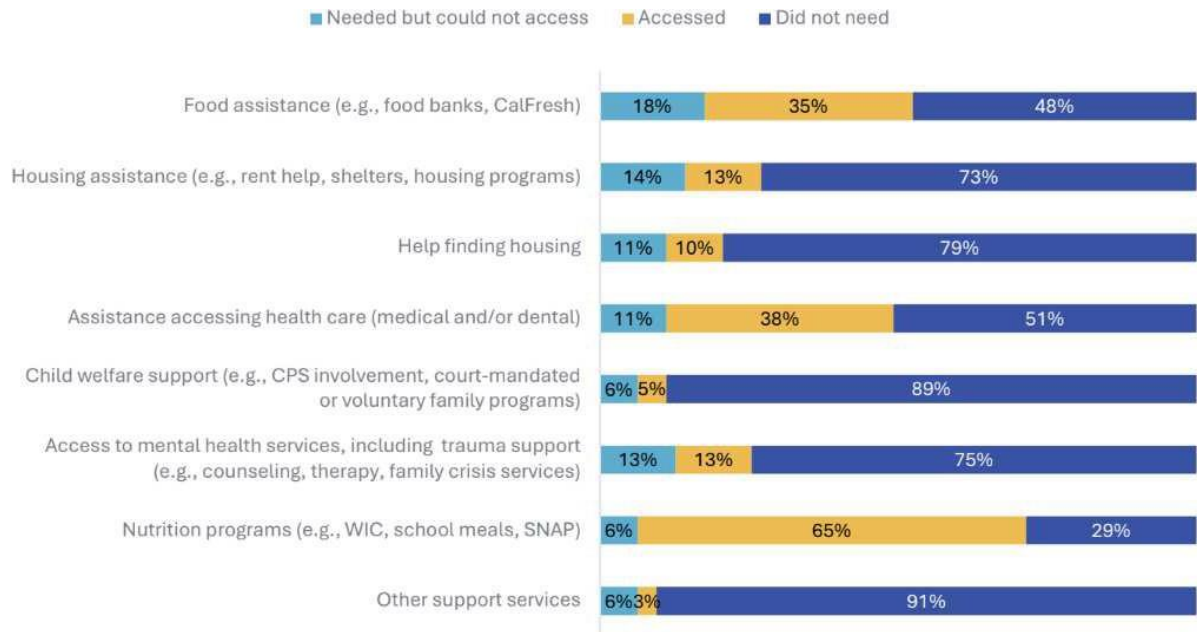
San Joaquin County	22.6%
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Data Source: California Child Care Resource and Referral Network, California Child Care Portfolio (May 2025); U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey public use microdata (Dec. 2024).

10. Families Receiving Public Assistance

Please indicate the number of children zero to five in families receiving public assistance (including CalFresh benefits, housing support, and Medi-Cal, and assistance from the Healthy Families Program and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families [TANF] program). Please cite the specific source of data.

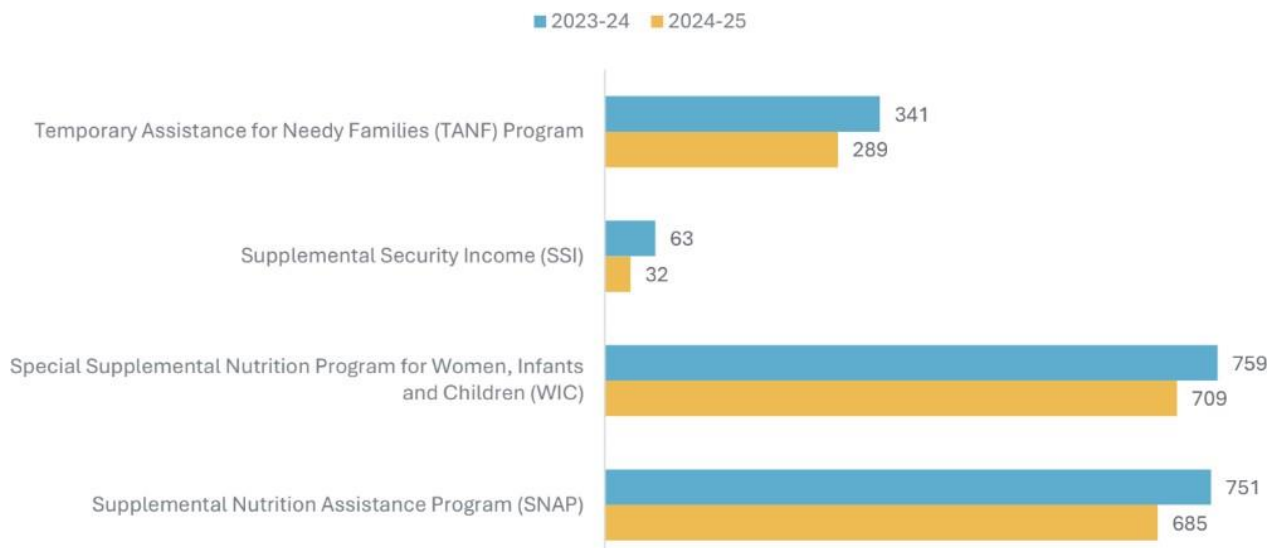
Percentage of Families Utilizing Support Services in the Last Year



Source: ASR Survey of Parents/Caregivers in San Joaquin County, data collected July-August 2025.

[Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.]

Families Enrolled in Head Start San Joaquin that Received Federal or Other Types of Assistance*

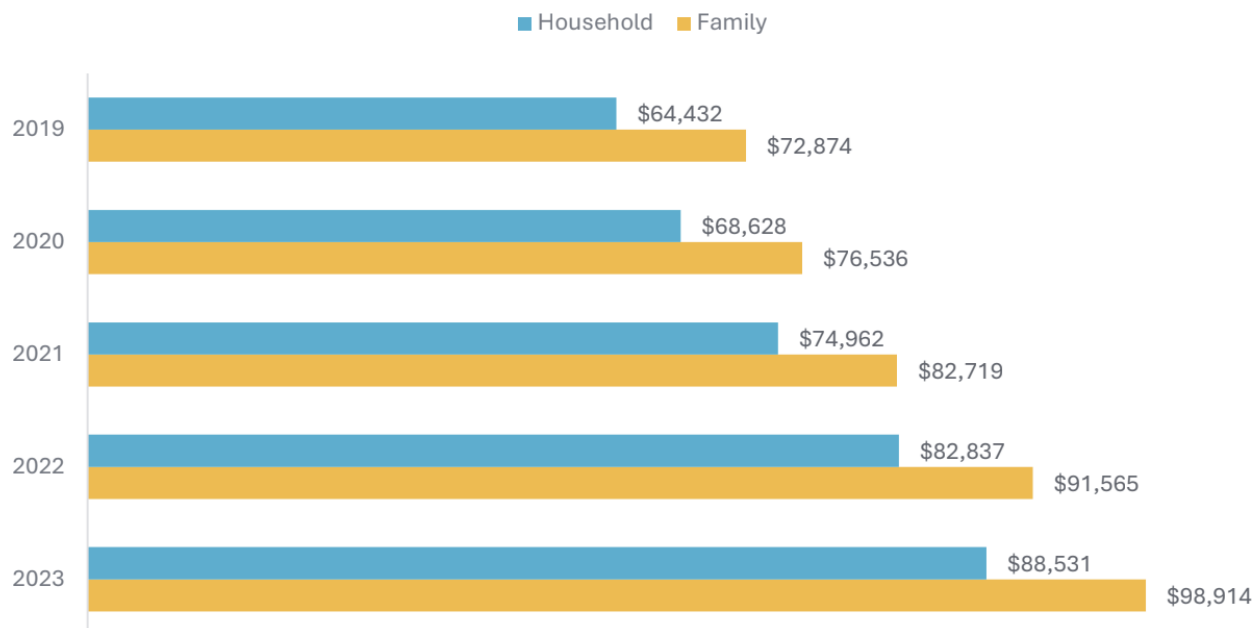


*Head Start Data refers to children that have an Individualized Education Program and are enrolled in an Early Head Start program held by San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJCOE)

Source: San Joaquin County Office of Education. (2025). 2023-2025 Early Head Start Program Information Reports. [Note: The 2023-24 data represents the complete fiscal year (July 1-June 30), while the 2024-25 data reflects only a portion of the year.]

11. Median Family Income

Please indicate the median family income for a family of four. Please retrieve this data from data.census.gov (search for your county name to find its profile).



Source: United States Census Bureau. (2025). 2019-2023 American Community Survey 5-year estimates. [Note: A household includes related family members and all unrelated people, while a family includes a householder and one or more people living in the same household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption.]

12. Migrant children

Please indicate the number of children zero to five in migrant families. Please cite the specific source of data. (Census data, American Community Survey, ELNET, CELNAR, Resource and Referral)

Number of migrant children in Transitional Kindergarten: 5

Number of migrant children in Kindergarten: 61

Source: California Department of Education DataQuest. 2024-25 Enrollment by Grade.

13. Facilities

Please describe ELC facility needs in your county and any progress made in the past five years towards meeting those needs (for example, has the county conducted a facility needs assessment in the last two years? Are there any new facilities being built or that have been built in the last two years? Are there any sites that have expanded capacity due to facilities expansion)?

Expansion of facilities and classrooms has been a concerted effort throughout San Joaquin County since the completion of the last San Joaquin County Needs Assessment. This expansion was done with the goal of meeting the needs of children

and families throughout the county. As part of the Needs Assessment process, community feedback was collected to identify areas in need of support regarding Early Learning and Care (ELC) facilities. That data can be seen as follows:

- Financial Shortfalls or Funding Gaps That are Most Affecting the Ability to Meet the Early Learning and Care (ELC) Needs of the Community
 - Limited facilities and staffing restrict the number of slots available
 - Aging or inadequate facilities need investment; without upgrades, providers cannot expand capacity
 - Home-based providers in particular are struggling financially and potentially face closure, with too few grants reaching them

Source: ASR Interviews with ELC Leaders in San Joaquin County, data collected July-August 2025.

- The Most Pressing Infrastructure or Capital Investment Needs

Classroom & Facility Upgrades	• <i>Retrofitting classrooms for younger children (bathrooms inside classrooms, carpeting, flooring suited for preschoolers)</i> • <i>More classrooms/facilities needed to expand access</i> • <i>Structural repairs: Buckling concrete, roof damage, and wood rot pose health and safety hazards</i> • <i>Additional classroom features: More sinks in classrooms and new storage containers for preschool teachers</i>
Outdoor & Play Spaces	• <i>Playgrounds are aging, unsafe, or inappropriate for young children</i> • <i>Outdoor learning spaces need investment to meet developmental needs</i>
Accessibility & Safety	• Many classrooms and bathrooms are outdated and not ADA compliant, requiring upgrades • Ongoing need for safety-focused improvements (ramps, flooring, pathways)
Parity for Home-Based Providers	• Home-based care providers lack access to capital investment funds, which are often reserved for centers • Without facility support, many home providers struggle to maintain or expand services
Maintenance & Staffing Challenges	• Even when funding exists, maintenance staff shortages delay upgrades and repairs • Many improvements are tied to the School District's Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP): ELC needs often fall lower on district priority lists compared to higher-grade facilities • Progress is slow and incremental (e.g., playground replacement projected over 10 years at current pace)

Source: ASR Interviews with ELC Leaders in San Joaquin County, data collected July-August 2025.

14. Requests for Care During Nontraditional Hours

Please give an estimate of the number of requests for care during nontraditional hours during the past six months. Clearly specify your source of data. (Suggested resource: Local child care resource & referral agency, Alternative Payment agencies)

Licensed Child Care Facilities Offering Evening, Weekend or Overnight Care

San Joaquin County	Percentage
Child Care Center	3%
Family Child Care Home	50%

Source: California Child Care Resource and Referral Network, California Child Care Portfolio (May 2025).
[Footnote provided by Data Source: "Evening care is available after 7pm, overnight care is offered from 7pm through the following morning, and weekend care is available on Saturdays or Sundays".]

Requests for Evening, Weekend or Overnight Child Care

Location	Percentage
San Joaquin County	19%

Data Source: California Child Care Resource and Referral Network, California Child Care Portfolio (May 2025). [Footnote provided by Data Source: "Data are based on referral requests from local child care resource and referral programs for April through June."]

15. ELC Workforce and Quality Counts California (QCC)

Please describe needs in your county related to the workforce and site participation in QCC, and any progress towards meeting those needs. Be sure to include a summary of any findings from any local educational agency (LEA) or provider focus groups or surveys conducted for this Needs Assessment here.

San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJCOE) hosts quarterly meetings with child care providers that hold a contract from the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and/or California Department of Education (CDE) [e.g. California State Preschool Program (CSPP), General Child Care and Development (CCTR)]. These meetings serve as a structured platform for providers to discuss areas requiring additional support, review licensing requirements, and receive state and local updates. Participants also engage in professional development discussions, share best practices, and collaborate to address challenges and celebrate successes, fostering a stronger network of early learning providers throughout the county.

The Council for Quality Education and Care of Children (CQECC), the Local Planning Council for San Joaquin County, works in collaboration with the Quality Counts California, Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) Mixed Delivery Workgroup and UPK Planning and Implementation to continuously discuss and identify ways to support the workforce needs of the entire early learning and care community. Through this collaboration, the Council

continuously examines and identifies strategies to strengthen the early learning and care workforce, ensuring a cohesive and responsive system that meets the evolving needs of children, families, and providers.

The San Joaquin County Raising Quality! Consortium, known locally as Quality Counts San Joaquin, conducts recurring meetings for both its consortium and executive committee. These meetings offer timely information on new legislation, professional development opportunities, and career pathways, while providing a forum for open dialogue on early education issues within the county. In addition, the Raising Quality! Workgroup meets monthly during CQECC sessions to advance specific projects and initiatives that align with the consortium's goals of supporting high-quality early learning environments and workforce development.

Furthermore, Head Start San Joaquin—encompassing both Early Head Start and Head Start programs administered by SJCOE—holds monthly meetings with each partner agency to discuss enrollment, attendance, and workforce needs. Partner agencies, which also hold CSPP and/or CCTR contracts, collaborate to ensure coordinated service delivery and alignment with state and federal program standards.

Collectively, these coordinated efforts reflect San Joaquin County's commitment to building a unified, high-quality early learning and care system. Through collaboration, communication, and shared professional development, the county's agencies and partners strengthen the capacity of the early childhood workforce, enhance program quality, and expand equitable access to early education. Ultimately, these initiatives contribute to improved outcomes for children and families and foster a more resilient and connected early learning community across San Joaquin County. In addition to all of the aforementioned efforts, data was collected to identify additional workforce support needs, data from the survey is included below:

Areas in Need of Additional Training or Professional Development

Areas of Professional Development	Percentage
Child Development	61%
Supporting Children with Disabilities or Special Needs	61%
Trauma-Informed Care	40%
Mental Health and Social Emotional Learning	40%
Family Engagement and Communication	35%
Dual-Language Learning or Supporting Multilingual Children	35%
Cultural Competency and Equity	26%
Leadership or Administrative Training	21%
Technology or Data Systems	21%
Health and Safety	19%
Other	5%
No Major Gaps at This Time	9%

Source: ASR Survey of ELC Providers in San Joaquin County, data collected July-August 2025.

16. Parent Needs and Concerns Regarding Access to Quality Early Learning and Care, Needs for Supports, Family Engagement, Transition to Kindergarten.

Please provide information about parents needs and concerns regarding access to quality early learning and care, needs for supports, family engagement, transition to kindergarten. Please provide a description of findings from any focus groups or parent surveys conducted as a part of the Needs Assessment. Indicate how many parents participated and how parents were recruited for participation. Please provide some demographic information about the parents who participated and how well this reflects the demographics of your county. Please do *not* include any identifying information about parents.

Parent/caregiver needs and concerns were gathered through community surveys and focus groups. Surveys were sent out throughout the community and focus groups were held virtually and at public libraries. Data was collected through these means to identify parent/caregiver needs and concerns can be seen below:

Parent/Caregiver Survey: “Have you ever felt unwelcome at your child's early learning and care program due to your family's culture or language?”

Response	Percentage
Yes	6%
No	92%
Not Sure	2%

Source: ASR Survey of Parents/Caregivers in San Joaquin County, data collected July-August 2025.

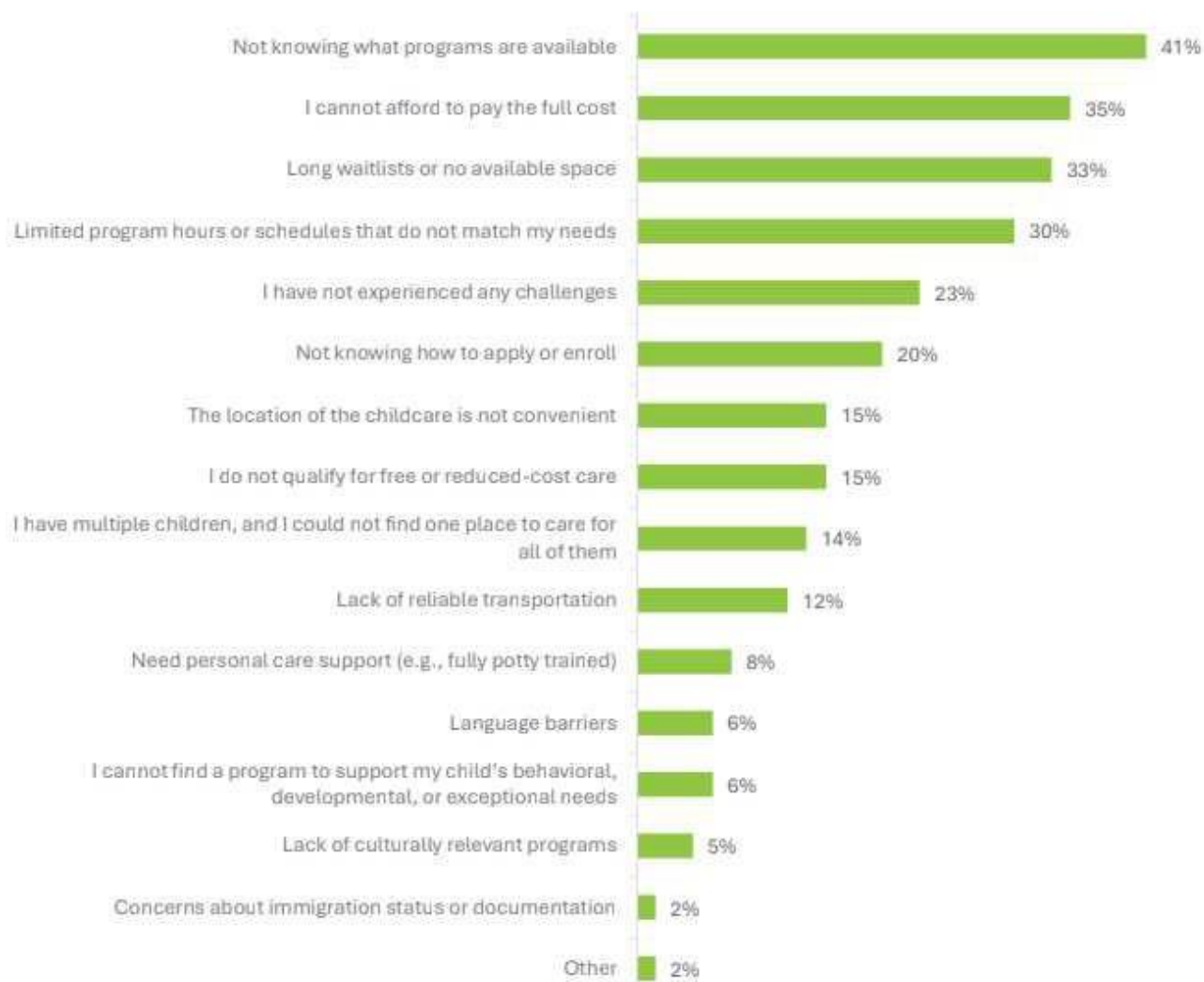
Focus Groups: What has gone well and what has been challenging related to accessing or participating in your child(ren)’s early learning and care program(s)?”

What Went Well	• Easy enrollment: Families reported enrollment was simple, especially online through First 5. • Helpful staff support: Staff guided families step by step and offered flexibility in submitting documents (email, text, photo). • Effective scheduling: Full-day care and programs that adjusted to parent needs were highly valued. • Resources provided: Some programs supplied laptops pre-loaded with educational materials for children to use at home.
What Was Challenging	• Limited access: Long preschool waitlists and not enough child care options made finding care difficult. • Inflexible schedules: Late or rigid drop-off times created stress for working parents, and it was often hard to match programs with work schedules. • Administrative burden: Families found paperwork repetitive and time-consuming.

	• System obstacles: Income requirements and unclear eligibility rules sometimes excluded or confused families. • Transitions: The shift into kindergarten was a bigger academic jump than some families expected.
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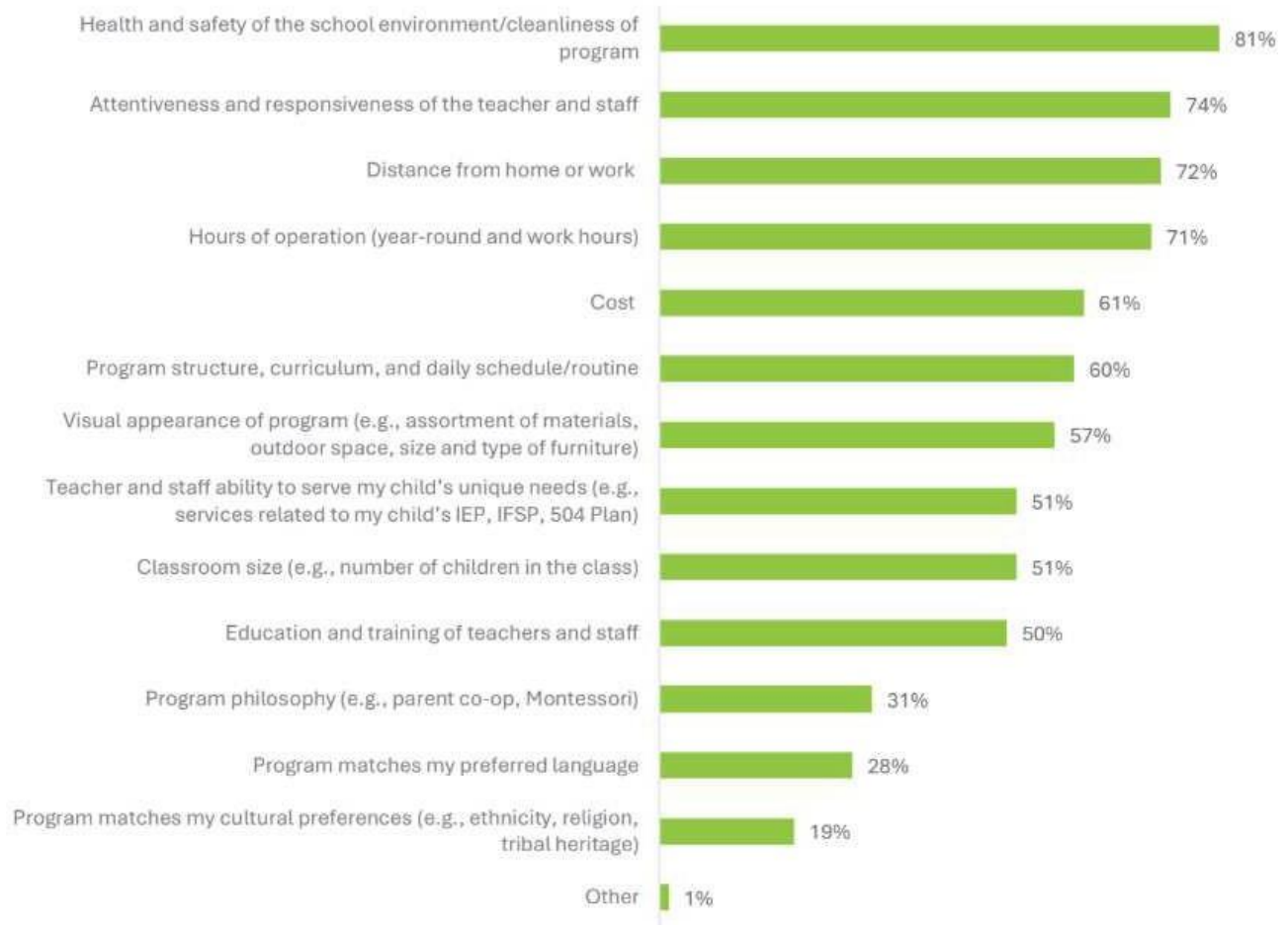
Source: ASR Focus Groups with Parents/Caregivers in San Joaquin County, data collected July-August 2025.

Parent/Caregiver Survey: “What challenges, if any, has your family faced when trying to access early learning and care programs?”



Source: ASR Survey of Parents/Caregivers in San Joaquin County, data collected July-August 2025.

Parent/Caregiver Survey: “When choosing the preferred early learning and care program for my child or children, I would make my decisions based on the following priorities/top factors.”



Source: ASR Survey of Parents/Caregivers in San Joaquin County, data collected July-August 2025.

17. Access

What is your county doing to ensure access to all geographic areas in your county, including remote areas? Please describe.

Child care services are offered throughout the county, including the rural areas, through state, local and/or federally subsidized programs; family child care homes, family friend & neighbor, and fee based services. San Joaquin County continues to work towards developing systems to communicate available services and programs to ensure that families are able to meet their individual needs.

Additional Information

For additional information collected in the 2025-2030 Needs Assessment, please feel free to visit our data dashboard [HERE](#).

Approved By

- Council for Quality Education and Care of Children (CQECC)

Approved by the CQECC on: November 5, 2025

REDACTED

11/18/2025

Kristie Garcia, Chair
Council for Quality Education and
Care of Children (CQECC)

Date

- County Superintendent of Schools

REDACTED

11/24/2025

Dr. Troy Brown
County Superintendent of Schools
San Joaquin County Office of Education

Date

- San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors

REDACTED

12/19/2025

Paul Canepa, Chair
San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors

Date