



UPK Advisory Committee Updates

Presenter(s): Nancy Magee (San Mateo) and Mike West (Colusa)

Item Type: Informational

Recommendation: That the Board of Directors receive information on the actions of the UPK Advisory Committee and review next steps.

Background: At the March 7th Board of Director's meeting, the Board voted to establish a UPK Advisory Committee (Committee). County offices of education are dedicated to the successful implementation of Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) to best serve the needs of their communities, families, and youngest learners. To support county offices of education as leaders in the implementation of UPK, the UPK Advisory Committee was created.

The Advisory Committee met six times over the course of six months. The three goals of the Committee were:

1. Agree upon and articulate a vision for COEs in the early learning/UPK space over the next 5 years.
2. Identify the changes and supports that are needed to assist in UPK implementation, including what is needed to sustain the success of early learning and childcare programs (eg state preschool, Head Start, general childcare) as TK is expanded.
3. Bring the outcomes of goals 1 and 2 to the California County Superintendents Legislative Committee and board for consideration and possible inclusion in California County Superintendents' future policy priorities and legislative platform.

The meeting series centered on achieving these goals. Topics discussed ranged from level-setting, the county office role in UPK implementation, messaging of UPK and whole child programs, identifying barriers and solutions, and agreement on recommendations. On October 31st, the Committee concluded the meeting series with the following recommendations:

1. **Establish a UPK Task Force.** The UPK Advisory Committee recommends that The California County Superintendents establish a UPK Task Force of expert practitioners that will define and align expectations for the UPK leads in each COE. This Task Force should make concrete recommendations as to how COEs can best support their districts in implementation of UPK.
2. **Collect and create UPK Technical Assistance Tools.** State investments demonstrate that the legislature believes COEs are critical to creating a regional infrastructure that will help support implementation of a UPK mixed delivery system that meets the needs of all parents.

The UPK Advisory Committee recommends that the California County Superintendents seize the opportunity by collecting and creating tools, resources, and collaboration



opportunities that will build the expertise of all COEs to provide TA and support on UPK.

3. **Advocate for Permanent Investments in COE Technical Assistance and Support.**
Providing TA and support on UPK and acting as a community convenor are natural expansions of COEs' current role in the statewide system of support.

The UPK Advisory Committee recommends that the California County Superintendents advocate for permanent investments in COE UPK technical assistance and integrating it into the statewide system of support.

4. **Advocate for policies to address persistent facilities and staffing shortages.**

There continue to be statutory and regulatory barriers that impede implementation of the state's vision for a UPK mixed delivery system.

The UPK Advisory Committee recommends that The California County Superintendents continue to advocate for the TK/ELC workgroup recommendations that would address facilities and staffing shortages and ease barriers to blending, braiding, and layering programs.