



San Francisco's Emerging Model for Early Learning

Why Early Learning?

The San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) is committed to narrowing the racial and socio-economic achievement gap so that all young people have the opportunity to succeed. Research shows that smart and strategic investments in early learning better support educational outcomes for students. SFUSD is committed to a new model for strengthening education in the years from pre-Kindergarten to third grade (PreK-3rd). Key strategies in San Francisco's emerging approach are: expanded access to quality preschool for all students; and shared responsibility for children's growth and achievement among schools, students, parents, community institutions, City agencies, and others.

What is the School District Doing?

The school district's PreK-3rd model aims to improve students' early outcomes and provide the foundation for lifelong learning. The goal is to create a continuum of quality education for children from pre-Kindergarten (ages three and four) through 3rd grade that will ultimately bring about a positive impact on 3rd grade achievement. The school district is working to bring stronger alignment and coordination to high standards, curricula, instruction, and assessments across the early years. This requires new investments in professional development, data systems, leadership and collaboration.

- **Professional Development:** The school district's PreK-3rd approach includes significant investments in professional development to provide teachers with support and resources that will help them improve student outcomes. Professional development components include:
 - *Training:* high-quality learning opportunities to increase teachers' knowledge and skills
 - *Professional Learning Communities:* group learning environments where colleagues can share and examine experiences and what works
 - *Coaching:* one-to-one learning with experienced teacher-coaches who provide direct feedback and mentoring
- **Data Systems:** The school district is working to develop new and improved data systems that can provide accurate, reliable information to assess PreK-3rd progress and guide decisions.
- **Leadership Development and Collaboration:** Developing a high-quality PreK-3rd system requires the active participation of numerous partners, including SFUSD administration, early education programs, elementary schools, special education services, student support services, curriculum and instruction services, parents, community organizations, First 5 San Francisco, the Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families, and other City agencies. Mobilizing new investments in leadership development and collaboration across these groups allows SFUSD to build citywide ownership of the PreK-3rd model and facilitate collective action on issues from early literacy to kindergarten readiness and improved out-of-school-time opportunities.

What Results Can the Community Expect to See?

SFUSD is working to strengthen early education so that all students develop the fundamental skills and love for learning that leads to academic success. Key outcomes of this work will include:

- Improved school readiness in the earliest years
- Higher 3rd grade English Language Arts (ELA) and math scores sustained in 4th grade
- Higher confidence and improved social and emotional well-being for all students

The school district's high-quality PreK-3rd model will promote long-term educational success for young students, no matter where they live, and support them in reaching their full potential as students, citizens, and workers.