

[Funding Support for Early Childcare]

Motion urging the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to support funding for the Department of Early Childhood.

WHEREAS, In 2022, former Mayor London Breed and Supervisor Melgar initiated the Department of Early Childhood (DEC) which included investments in affordable childcare, literacy services, pay raises for SFUSD educators, child wellness programs, etc.¹; and

WHEREAS, Since the creation of DEC, San Francisco has been an example for the importance of supporting early childcare; and

WHEREAS, Issues facing children under the age of 6 are oftentimes ignored during policy discussions; and

WHEREAS, Research done by the National Library of Medicine indicates that the ages of 0-5 are critical to a child's long-term social, cognitive, emotional, and physical development. Additionally, children facing food insecurity and poverty have an increased likelihood of developing health issues later on in their adulthood²; and

WHEREAS, In fiscal year 2023-2024, DEC allocated \$123.2M for early learning tuition, \$44.3M for workforce compensation, \$22.7M for Family Resource Centers, and \$16.9M for child care facilities³; and

¹ "San Francisco Launches New Department of Early Childhood," SF.gov, October 11, 2022, <https://www.sf.gov/news--san-francisco-launches-new-department-early-childhood-0>.

² Wesley Barbosa Sales et al., "Early Life Circumstances and Their Impact on Health in Adulthood and Later Life: A Systematic Review," *BMC Geriatrics* 24, no. 1 (November 28, 2024), <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12877-024-05571-4>.

³ "Annual Impact Report 2024 - San Francisco Department of Early Childhood," San Francisco Department of Early Childhood, January 31, 2025, <https://sfdec.org/annual-impact-report-2024/#investments>.

1 WHEREAS, Early childcare educators in San Francisco play a vital role in
2 supporting the social, emotional, and cognitive development of children to help foster a
3 healthy generation of young people; and

4 WHEREAS, According to data from DEC, San Francisco saw an increase of 10%
5 in kindergarten readiness since 2021, with 7,882 children currently enrolled in free
6 childcare⁴; and

7 WHEREAS, Early Learning for All provides affordable and high quality child care
8 and education, in which $\frac{2}{3}$'s of San Francisco families are eligible for a free or
9 subsidized program⁵; and

10 WHEREAS, Access to affordable and high quality early childcare is essential to
11 support working families and ensure that all children are able to receive support in the
12 most developmentally critical period of time in their lives; and therefore be it

13 MOVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board
14 of Supervisors to continue to fund the Department of Early Childhood and protect
15 subsidies for child care and early education programs from being cut; and be it

16 FURTHER MOVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission recognizes the
17 importance of funding programs such as Early Learning for All and affordable childcare,
18 as well as the importance and tremendous impact of early childcare educators in our
19 city; and be it

20 FURTHER MOVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission staff shall
21 transmit a copy of this motion to the Mayor and Office of Supervisor Myrna Melgar.

⁴ "Annual Impact Report 2024 - San Francisco Department of Early Childhood."

⁵ "Early Learning for All - San Francisco Department of Early Childhood," San Francisco Department of Early Childhood, June 12, 2025,
<https://sfdec.org/early-learning-for-all/>.