

## San Joaquin County Office of Education

James A. Mousalimas, County Superintendent of Schools

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
016-002: Head Start grant awarded

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### **Head Start Program Continues in San Joaquin County**

*SJCOE awarded \$20 million grant to provide Head Start services across the county*

Head Start will continue to prepare children from low-income families in San Joaquin County for educational success through an annual \$20,109,294 grant awarded by the federal Office of Head Start (OHS) to the San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJCOE).

Head Start and Early Head Start support families while getting children ready to enter school through programs supporting their mental, social and emotional development from birth through age five. Through collaboration with its educational partners, SJCOE's Head Start San Joaquin strengthens the connection from preschool to kindergarten and beyond.

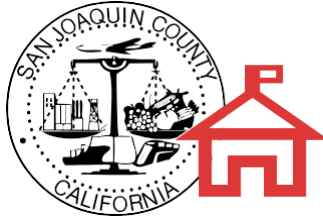
"The pathway to success in education begins long before a child steps foot inside a kindergarten classroom," San Joaquin County Superintendent of Schools James A. Mousalimas said. "The County Office of Education has a proven track record of providing quality educational programs, and we are excited with the opportunity to serve families and children from cradle to college."

Head Start San Joaquin will serve 2,029 children aged three to five. It will also offer 152 slots for children from birth to age three and pregnant women, for a total funded enrollment of 2,181 slots.

Programs will provide services for eligible low-income children and their families and will also target children with disabilities, children in foster care, homeless children and dual-language learners.

Head Start San Joaquin's partners have long histories providing services in the community, and they bring with them specific areas of expertise. They are:

- Child Abuse Prevention Council of San Joaquin County will provide center- and home-based services for children from birth to age five and pregnant women.
- Creative Child Care, Inc. will provide center-based services for children from birth to age five and pregnant women.



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- Lodi and Stockton unified school districts will provide center-based services to children aged three to five, both on- and off-campus within their school district boundaries.
- Family Resource & Referral Center of San Joaquin will provide countywide enrollment, recruitment, selection and eligibility services.

“This coordinated model fosters innovation, meets the unique needs of the community and ensures a seamless continuity of service,” SJCOE Director of Early Childhood Education Jamie Baiocchi said. “In addition, it maximizes existing funding from other early childhood programs in order to provide a high quality Head Start program.”

Students in full-day, full-year Head Start programs will continue to be able to report to their current preschools under the new grant, effective July 1. Sites on schedules that mirror the traditional school calendar will phase in later.

Minimizing disruption of services to returning students will be the focus during this transition period. Parents will have the opportunity to attend an informational meeting to learn about the changes that will be happening.

Current Head Start families as well as those wishing to enroll in the program can call (209) 468-4933 for more information. SJCOE will also post updates as they become available at [www.sjcoe.org/HeadStart](http://www.sjcoe.org/HeadStart).

For more information about Head Start and Early Head Start, please visit <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ohs/>.

### **About the San Joaquin County Office of Education:**

*San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJCOE) provides educational leadership, resources, and services to support schools throughout the county. With its highly regarded programs, innovative staff, and community partnerships, SJCOE ensures that every student in San Joaquin County has the opportunity of a quality education. For more information, visit [www.sjcoe.org](http://www.sjcoe.org).*