RESOLUTION 18-13
TO IMPROVE AND EXPAND CHILD CARE AND EARLY EDUCATION SERVICES IN ALAMEDA COUNTY:

WHEREAS, the children of Alameda County are our future and will provide the leadership, creativity, and productivity to strengthen and sustain the quality of life in our County; and

WHEREAS, research shows that a child's brain develops most dramatically during the first five years of life, and this critical period is a window of opportunity to lay the foundation for all of the years that follow; and

WHEREAS, children need access to quality early educators and child care programs that will give them the very best start in life during this critical period of their development; and

WHEREAS, County desires to provide the children living in Alameda County with every possible opportunity to be successful in school and beyond; and

WHEREAS, each student in Alameda County deserves to be supported by qualified, caring adults in safe and nurturing environments; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, only 44% of Alameda County children entered kindergarten fully ready for school, according to the most recent School Readiness in Alameda County report; and

WHEREAS, only 31% of Alameda County children with working parents have access to a space in a licensed child care or early education setting according to the most recent California Child Care Portfolio; and

WHEREAS, child care and early education is more expensive than college, with average, full-time infant care costing more per year than tuition at the University of California Berkeley and almost three times the annual cost of California State East Bay, according to Parents and the High Cost of Child Care 2017 report; and

WHEREAS, the growing homeless population in Alameda County includes hundreds of children and their families who cannot get access to quality child care and early education services; and

WHEREAS, 75% of Alameda County child care providers and early educators worry about paying monthly bills, and 54% worry about putting food on the table, as early educators' pay has not kept up with the rising cost of living in the Bay Area, according to a 2016 report from the Center for the Study of Child Care Employment; and

WHEREAS, low compensation and limited work supports disproportionately affect low-income women, as early educators are almost exclusively female, with large numbers of older women, women of color, recent immigrants, and first-generation college students and mothers; and;

WHEREAS, low compensation of early educators drives turnover and hampers the ability to attract and retain skilled educators, which in turn undermines stable, continuous relationships essential to children; and

WHEREAS, in 2016-17, the state of California only reimbursed providers on average less than 70% of the true cost of providing high-quality preschool for 3- and 4-year-olds, per child per year, according to the 2016 San Francisco Office of Early Care and Education Comprehensive Fiscal Analysis; and

WHEREAS, a study by Nobel Laureate Economist James Heckman shows that investing in high quality early education yields a high return on investment up to 13%, or $8.2 billion over 10 years for the new local investment proposed herein; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the San Leandro Unified School District deems it necessary to support county efforts to a provide additional support for high quality child care and early education services to low- and middle-income children and families in Alameda County and to improve wages for participating child care providers and early educators with appropriate adjustments for the cost of living.

RESOLUTION 18-13 Passed and Adopted by the Governing Board of the San Leandro Unified School District on this 6th day of March, 2018.

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Monique M. Tate, Board President	Mike McLaughlin, Ed.D., Superintendent