

The Children's Agenda for Solano County

California's new leadership should pursue the following top ten high-priority, high-impact goals to improve children's well-being and rejuvenate the state. Further detail is provided for each in the pages that follow.

1

Adopting a comprehensive P-to-12 education revenue and reform package that establishes an equitable and adequate finance system, ensures transparency, enables greater local decision-making flexibility, and strengthens human capital and accountability.

2

Clarifying the state's role in the education system by focusing it on developing standards for student success and holding districts accountable for meeting those standards, including a greater emphasis on knowledge and skills in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

3

Implementing a comprehensive, high-quality early learning and development system for all children from birth to age five to ensure children's life-long success, and improving the system alignment with early elementary through the use of such tools as a kindergarten readiness observation assessment.

4

Strengthening the state's afterschool infrastructure and building summer programs to deliver high quality expanded learning opportunities and to support the preparation of future teachers.

5

Establishing a comprehensive, longitudinal data system that connects early learning and development through higher education, health, juvenile justice, child welfare and other data in order to better track and address the educational outcome as long as the family can opt out and the well-being of children throughout their lives.

6

Better coordinating and streamlining the state's delivery of children's services, establishing a children's cabinet and promoting health homes as well as integrated, school-based health centers and other students supports to improve access, cost efficiency and effectiveness.

7

Providing every California child with affordable health coverage and access to quality care.

8

Decreasing the number of children with dental caries to achieve better health outcomes and improve school attendance and student achievement.

9

Significantly reducing obesity rates among California children by implementing a more coordinated, multivariate approach.

10

Providing children at risk of entering the child welfare system with the supports and services they need to remain safe and stable.

11

Ensuring all children who enter the foster care system find legal permanence and are supported to become thriving adults.

This agenda was compiled by Children Now and reflects the knowledge of the many children's health and education coalitions in which the organization is involved.