From: <u>Celine Krimston</u>
To: <u>Arguilez, Alethea</u>

Cc: rita.palet@sdcoe.net; Kristen Krauss; Britney Ogden; Sara Salazar; Barbara Saxton; Sara Hernandez; James

<u>Masias</u>

**Subject:** [External] First 5 Commission RE: SDQPI funding **Date:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 12:03:38 PM

Hello Alethea,

Thank you for allowing me, on behalf of EES, to submit a written comment to be shared with the San Diego First 5 commissioners. Due to scheduling, EES will be unable to attend in person.

Educational Enrichment Systems, Inc. (EES) has been honored to be part of the SDQPI since its beginning in 2006, when it was known as Preschool for All.

We commend First 5 San Diego for their solid commitment to supporting providers and collaborating with us to enhance the quality of programs across our county.

When EES first embarked on this journey, we operated 8 locations with the capacity to serve just over 500 children and families.

Over time, we've strategically expanded to better meet the needs of our communities. A key focus has always been the professional growth of our workforce, supported by the coaching and professional development opportunities SDQPI has been able to provide. In recent years, the stipends have proven invaluable, especially as we navigate the challenges of the early education workforce crisis and the increasing competition from school districts offering transitional kindergarten.

By the end of this fiscal year, EES will proudly operate 20 locations, with the capacity to serve nearly 1200 children and families.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to First 5 San Diego for their dedicated support of thousands of children, families, and early education professionals over the years.

We strongly encourage continued funding to further strengthen the early education system here in San Diego County.

On behalf of all EES employees, thousands of children and their families, and the EES Board of Directors, we invite you to enjoy this video highlighting the quality of our programs, along with the laughter, smiles, and the joy of lifelong learning they bring.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NWks9Tk1webDes0tleglC9\_BXcrT6CCY/view

In partnership,

## Celine Krimston (she, her, hers)

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