



**Yolo County Board of Education
Yolo County Superintendent of Schools**

Resolution #22-23/02

**In Support of the Countywide Roadmap to the Future of Yolo County
Children and Youth**

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that we have a collective responsibility to our communities that can only be met by acknowledging our joint responsibility to leverage the federal, state, and local opportunities before us; and

WHEREAS, although we have had successful county collaborative efforts in the past, the American Rescue Plan and other anticipated one-time funding provides a unique, once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in communities and build up our public health and economic infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has increased awareness around new and existing challenges faced by children, youth, and their families; and

WHEREAS, according to the California Department of Finance, Yolo County is home to just under 30,000 students in K-12 schools and a little more than 13,600 children prenatal through 5; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2020 County Health Rankings, approximately 15% of all children prenatal-17 live in poverty, a rate that rises 28% for local Black children and 20% for Latina/o children; and

WHEREAS, poverty, structural inequities, and the disproportional impact of the pandemic creates toxic stress in babies in utero, and prenatal care is an essential preventative measure; and

WHEREAS, according to First 5 Yolo, during the COVID-19 pandemic, only 47% of pregnant women on Medi-Cal in Yolo County received on-time prenatal care, compared to 2018, when 84% of mothers on Medi-Cal received on-time prenatal care; and

WHEREAS, pediatric well-child visits dropped by an estimated 24% from pre-pandemic baselines, and childhood vaccinations dropped by more than 40% since the start of the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, we are observing the greatest COVID-related impacts in areas of mental health and well-being, and public health statistics indicate that in 2018, 22% of youth accessing Medi-Cal mental health services in Yolo County did so at a crisis level, according to the California Department of Health Care Services; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 California Healthy Kids Survey found that 28% of Yolo County high school juniors were harassed or bullied in the previous year, and nearly 36% experienced chronic sadness/hopelessness while at school; and

WHEREAS, with urgency, we need to plan a new focus on the physical, social, educational, cultural, organizational, economic, and physical needs of every child and youth in our county; and

WHEREAS, this endeavor is intended to serve children, youth and families from prenatal to adulthood to enhance well-being and resilience in our community; and

WHEREAS, to make this a reality, we must make a commitment to one another and our community to plan together, to dream together, to rebuild and re-engage together; and

WHEREAS, we have an unprecedented opportunity to develop a comprehensive and coordinated roadmap to the future for all children and youth in Yolo County; and

WHEREAS, Yolo County is one interconnected community and we understand that when one community thrives, we all thrive together; and

WHEREAS, Yolo leaders convened for three Children, Youth and Family Convenings – held from August 2021 to March 2022 – which served as initial phase of this project and helped develop the principles and shared priorities to guide the future work of this project; and

WHEREAS, with the coordination of YCOE, Yolo County allocated funding from the American Rescue Plan in February 2022 to develop a comprehensive needs assessment entitled the ‘Roadmap to the Future for Yolo County Children and Youth’ – herein referred to as the ‘Roadmap’ – to effectively coordinate the services, supports and opportunities that children and youth need to thrive; and

WHEREAS, the Roadmap will provide asset mapping, community engagement, and a feasibility analysis, based on existing community assets and conditions within Yolo County, to better understand and allocate supports and services that enhance youth development; and

WHEREAS, the work of creating the Roadmap will include two phases, the first being asset mapping and the second being roadmap publication; and

WHEREAS, after the completion of the first phase (asset mapping), the creation of a youth framework will be developed in the second phase to outline the key milestones in child and youth development in Yolo County; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors has reserved \$2.2 million or 40% of its American Rescue Plan funding in the children, youth and families category for ‘priority needs implementation’, to be identified after the completion of the Roadmap; and

WHEREAS, the Roadmap will be used to better understand community partnerships, and to ensure that proposed community programs add fresh possibilities to the community ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, the Roadmap will be used to promote balanced economic development to create positive opportunities for our youth to enjoy increased civic engagement, leadership development, and a healthy environment to work, live, and play in Yolo County; and

WHEREAS, data from the Roadmap will be publicly available and can be utilized by cities, agencies, jurisdiction, and non-profit organizations to inform decision-making, as well as to secure additional state or federal funding, or competitive grants; and

WHEREAS, research by Nobel Prize-winning economist James Heckman showed that for every \$1 invested in quality early childhood programs can yield returns between \$4 and \$16; and

WHEREAS, this Roadmap should be transformative and leverage resources across the entire county and all sectors in such a way that prioritizes children, youth and families; and

WHEREAS, as evidenced by other cities and communities in California, when local educational and governmental agencies act in unison on a strategic agenda for children, youth and families, the community is greatly impacted and benefits from the partnership and collaboration; and

WHEREAS, it is only by working in a more intentional and collaborative way that the American Rescue Plan and other anticipated one-time funding will have a long-term, multi-generational impact in Yolo County; and

WHEREAS, the Yolo County Office of Education has committed \$75,000 in funding towards the Roadmap to ensure that the county continues to advance the resilience and strength of children, youth and families in Yolo County; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we the Yolo County Board of Education support the 'Roadmap to the Future for Yolo County Children and Youth' and call on our elected colleagues on the Board of Supervisors, city councils, and school boards to join us in this effort as we work collaboratively with our leaders in youth advocacy, higher education, nonprofit and private sectors to develop a roadmap to the future for children and youth; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Yolo County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools commit to do the following:

- As requested, participate in the collection of data to support Phase I of the Roadmap asset mapping project (May-December 2022).
- Send the County Superintendent and YCOE leadership to participate in the first round of community engagement sessions to review the initial Roadmap asset mapping and draft youth framework (August-September 2022);
- Send the County Superintendent and YCOE leadership to participate in the second round of community engagement sessions to finalize the draft asset map and report (October-December 2022);
- Promote opportunities for the public to engage and participate with the development of the Roadmap (May 2022-June 2023).

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Yolo County Board of Education and the Yolo County Superintendent of Schools on August 9, 2022.

AYES: Esquivel, Moreno, Souza Cole, Yip, Zendejas

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None



Melissa Moreno, President
Yolo County Board of Education



Garth Lewis
Yolo County Superintendent of Schools