



Anne E. Campbell • County Superintendent of Schools

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 27, 2018
No. 9

SMCOE Selects IHSD to Operate State Preschool Program at Ravenswood Child Development Center

REDWOOD CITY, CALIF.–The San Mateo County Office of Education (SMCOE) has selected the Institute for Human and Social Development, Inc. (IHSD) to operate the California State Preschool (CSP) program located at the Ravenswood City School District’s Child Development Center (CDC). Several well-qualified preschool providers expressed an interest in taking over the CSP contract previously held by the school district. After carefully evaluating the proposals, SMCOE concluded that IHSD brought a unique approach to the table along with its long history of providing quality preschool programs in San Mateo County.

IHSD has operated in San Mateo County for 35 years and serves over 250 infants, toddlers, and preschoolers currently in CSP programs overseen by SMCOE. IHSD is also a federal grantee for Head Start and Early Head Start programs, serving more than 650 children in the county and participating in The Big Lift and Quality Counts. Ten of IHSD’s 13 sites in the county have been accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, a high honor for preschool programs.

“IHSD brings a long history of managing high quality programs in our county as well as an innovative approach that will be a great fit for the changing needs of the Ravenswood community. We look forward to working together with IHSD to provide quality preschool services at CDC that meet the needs of the children and families of East Palo Alto, East Menlo Park, and beyond,” commented San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools Anne E. Campbell.

IHSD, which already has three sites in East Palo Alto, plans to operate the full-day, full-year program at the CDC as a mixed model program that includes the participation of children funded entirely through the CSP program as well as those whose families will pay partial or full tuition.

Angel Barrios, IHSD’s Executive/Program Director, shared that “IHSD is thrilled to be expanding our services to the Ravenswood neighborhood in East Palo Alto. The Ravenswood Child Development Center is a beautiful facility and we look forward to continuing to provide high quality early care and education services to those children and families.”

As SMCOE has stated previously, all children currently enrolled in the CDC would be able to continue at the new preschool, and current CDC staff would have the opportunity to apply for positions with IHSD. SMCOE, the Ravenswood City School District, and IHSD will hold a meeting for preschool parents in May.

The implementation of this plan for the CDC is contingent on the completion of a facilities use agreement between SMCOE and the Ravenswood City School District.

For more information, please contact Jean-Marie Houston at jmhouston@smcoe.org or 650-802-5623.

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The San Mateo County Office of Education is committed to ensuring excellence and equity in education by inspiring students, investing in teachers, invigorating leaders and involving communities.