



May 19, 2021

## STAFF REPORT

**MEMO TO: SUTTER COUNTY CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

**COMMISSION FROM: MICHELE BLAKE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**SUBJECT: APPROVE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO SIGN CONTRACT WITH APPLIED SURVEY RESEARCH TO CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL READINESS ASSESSMENT**

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**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve and authorize the Executive Director to execute an agreement between Applied Survey Research and Sutter County Children & Families Commission to provide a comprehensive school readiness assessment in FY 2021-2022.

**BACKGROUND:** The [2018 Sutter County School Readiness Assessment](#) provided valuable information that helped county stakeholders understand the readiness gap and which investments help the most in closing this gap. As COVID-19 significantly impacted many of the factors associated with readiness, an updated profile of children and families is needed for our county. A 2021 county-wide assessment will help understand how COVID-19 may have impacted children's readiness and what is needed to help the community recover from its effects. The School Readiness Assessment will provide rich information for our initiatives and valuable data to support our advocacy efforts.

The assessments help to:

1. Gather baseline data on children's kindergarten readiness in the community;
2. Understand which children are fully ready for kindergarten, and which children are less ready, so future intervention measures can be strategic in determining effective methods in targeting children and families in the future;
3. Link readiness data to service data to identify which programs are related to higher readiness levels; and
4. Test collective impact "recipes" to see which combinations of services matter most.

**CURRENT PROPOSAL:** There are many potential reasons to assess kindergarten readiness in Sutter County. The Kindergarten Observation Form (KOF) that is proposing to be utilized is designed to be a summative assessment that describes the range of child, family and community experiences that shape children's preparedness to transition to kindergarten; the items are leveled

at desired proficiencies for children as they enter kindergarten, and not end-of-year kindergarten standards. In sum, typical purposes for doing a kindergarten readiness assessment are to:

To gather a snapshot of children's readiness as they enter school.

To understand and evaluate which local community, demographic and family factors contribute to children's readiness, as well as the benefit of local preschools and other interventions.

To track trends in the school readiness levels in targeted communities over time.

To build bridges between the ECE and K-12 community by providing a common framework and indicators for readiness.

The Executive Director is proposing to work with Applied Survey Research to implement a comprehensive school readiness assessment for fall 2021 and receive a comprehensive report. The 2021 kindergarten readiness assessment will create a representative portrait of readiness across Sutter County. The data gathered will tell us the characteristics of children most (and least) ready for kindergarten, and how kindergarten readiness varies across the county. We will also learn which child and family factors are linked to greater readiness, which will give the Commission a platform for coordinated action to help children and families who need support. Kindergarten readiness predicts third grade achievement, and thus this data will help school and their partners coordinate resources to help those students who are at-risk for not being on target by third grade.

**IMPACT ON COMMISSION RESOURCES:** Amount not to exceed \$14,075.00. FY2020-2021 budget lines: Professional Special Services and Strategic Plan Support Contingency.