

# First 5 California Child Signature Program

## CSP Participation

### CSP 1

8 Counties  
1,301 Classrooms  
23,687 Children  
13,165 Dual Language Learners  
1,100 Special Needs

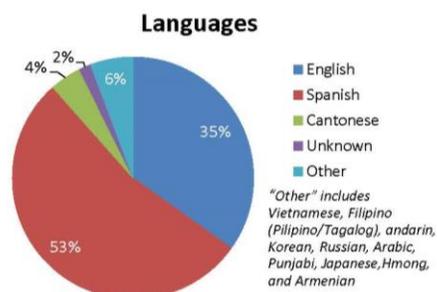
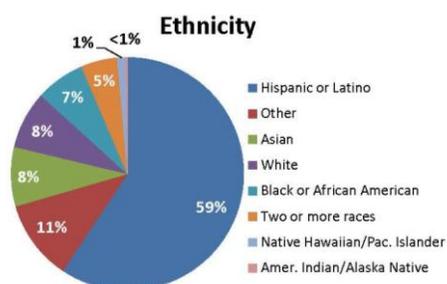
### CSP 2

34 Counties  
848 Classrooms

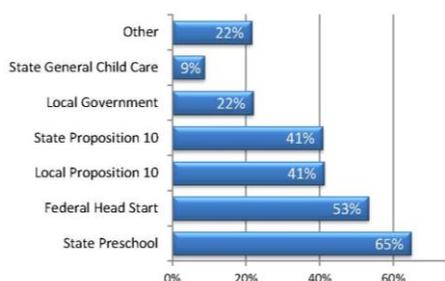
### CSP 3

2 Counties  
35 Classrooms  
686 Children

## Demographics of Children Served by CSP 2012-13



## Funding Sources for CSP Classrooms



## Child Signature Program History

In October 2011, First 5 California launched the Child Signature Program (CSP) in partnership with county commissions as an expansion of its previous early learning programs, such as the Power of Preschool (PoP) Program. In 2005, PoP was established by First 5 California as a demonstration program between First 5 California and 9 county commissions. It provided high-quality, free, voluntary preschool in nine counties targeting low-performing districts and underserved communities. While PoP initially focused on preschool, it expanded services to include infants and toddlers in 2010. During PoP's tenure, First 5 California invested \$128 million and generated local investments of more than \$270.5 million while reaching nearly 112,000 young children. Based on demand and results from the 2008 meta-analysis demonstrating improved child and teacher outcomes and improved parenting skills and knowledge, First 5 California built upon the success of PoP and developed CSP. In 2012, the Commission committed an investment of up to \$45 million per year for three years. The purpose of this current strategic investment is to increase the quality of early learning programs across the state and improve children's healthy development and readiness for life success.

## The Need

A growing body of research confirms the importance of quality early learning experiences to effectively prepare young children for school and for life. Studies conclude high-quality early learning programs improve school readiness and lead to better long-term academic achievement and adult health outcomes<sup>1</sup>. The evidence suggests early learning outcomes from programs can be stronger if quality is improved, particularly around engaging and well-organized learning tasks in the classroom. Furthermore, quality early learning helps reduce future unemployment, substance abuse, high school dropout rates, and crime. A 2008 RAND study<sup>2</sup> indicated a lack of quality early learning programs throughout California and the children who need them most have the least access.

## CSP Builds a Quality Early Learning System

CSP was envisioned to serve children ages 0 to 5 at greatest risk of school failure by ensuring they attend high-quality early learning programs that promote children's healthy development and school readiness. The design of CSP integrates proven elements of other First 5 California-funded programs, selected core components of Educare (a research-based national model), and continues to align with the California Department of Education Infant/Toddler and Preschool Foundations and Frameworks. CSP strongly links to implementation of California's Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge grant, which uses a unique approach to create sustainable capacity at the local level to meet the needs of our early learners with a focus on those with the greatest needs.

<sup>1</sup>Campbell, F., Conti, G., Heckman, J., Heyok Moon, S., Pinto, R., Pungello, E., and Pan, Y. (2014). *Early Childhood Investments Substantially Boost Adult Health*. Science.

<sup>2</sup>Karoly, L.A., GhoshDastidar, B., Zellman, G.L., Perlman, M., & Fernyhough, L. (2008). *Prepared to learn: The nature and quality of early care and education for preschool-age children in California*. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation.

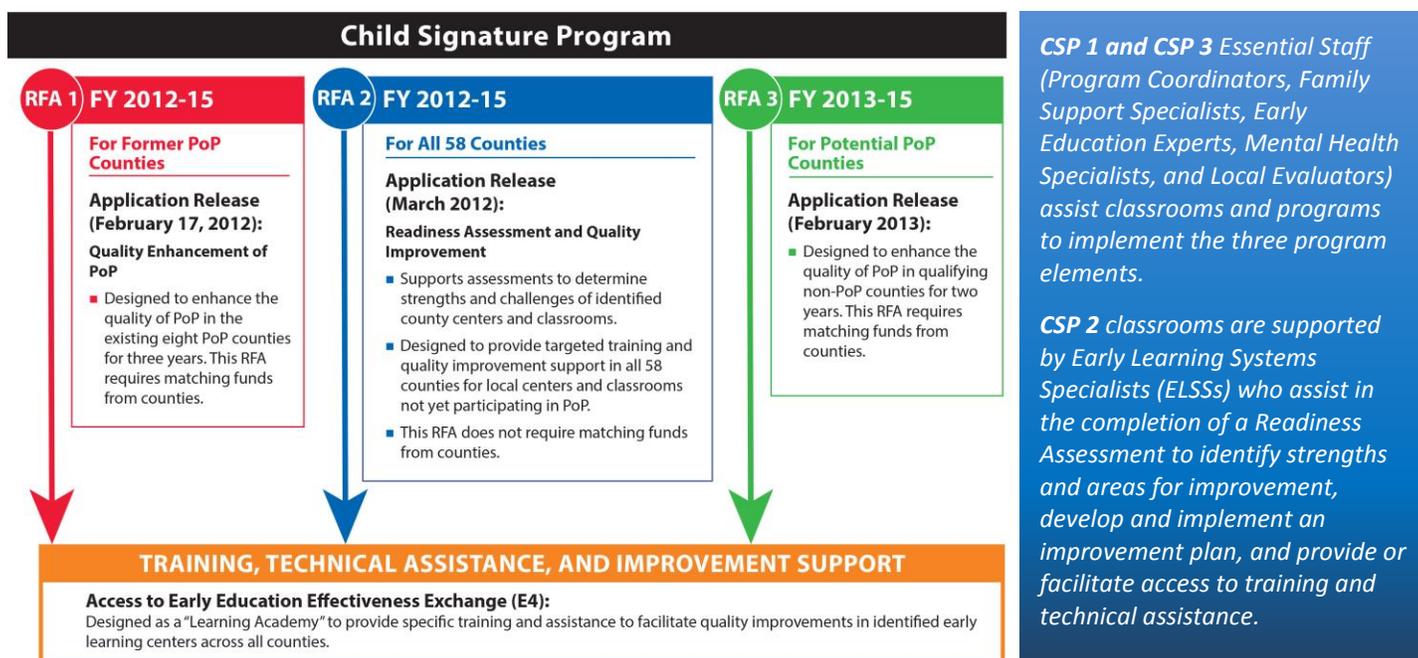
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## CSP Program Design and Implementation

In 2012, CSP was launched in three phases, as described below, via Requests for Application to First 5 county commissions. All three focus on increasing quality in early learning programs. CSP includes three research-based Program Elements:

- Instructional Strategies and Teacher-Child Interactions
- Social-Emotional Development
- Parent Involvement and Support

Essential Staff with specific expertise help programs and classrooms improve quality and implement the three program elements by coordinating and delivering training and professional development. An important feature of CSP is the implementation of CSP's Early Education Effectiveness Exchange (E4), which provides quality enhancement training and support to all three CSP phases.



## CSP Benefits Children and Families

Children and families enrolled in CSP classrooms have access to:

- High-quality environments that enrich learning and healthy development
- Highly trained and educated teachers
- Low staff/child ratios and small class sizes
- Effective teacher-child interactions
- Culturally sensitive care
- Support for family engagement
- Developmental and health screening, assessment, and follow-up
- Evidence-based school readiness curricula
- Nutritious meals and snacks

Participation in CSP provides children the experiences needed to help them succeed and families the support they need to enrich and optimize their child's overall development.

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