



# Rise Vallejo

## Early Education and Community Resource Center

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Presented to Solano County Board of Supervisors on April 7, 2026  
First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

Presenters:

Michele Harris, Executive Director, First 5 Solano

Lisette Estrella-Henderson, Chair, First 5 Solano

Juan Cisneros, Child Start, Inc. Executive Director



# Project Catalyst

## Project Catalyst/County Leadership

- Head Start Classrooms located at Vallejo H&SS Campus on Virginia St.
- Child Start Inc., tried to identify alternative location for over 10 years
- CAO staff requested First 5 Solano help Child Start try to relocate
- First 5 Solano contacted real estate brokers, city, school district

## Project Catalyst/First 5 Solano

- First 5 Solano its Strategic Plan Priority 2: Early Childhood Learning and Development
- A 2018 First 5 Solano study revealed #1 barrier to childcare and early learning expansion was a *"lack of appropriate facilities"*



# Exploration

- **School District – entire 18-classroom school available**
  - Developed Leadership Team
    - Solano County Office of Education
    - Child Start, Inc.
    - First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission
  - Hired Project Manager
  - Started fundraising
  - Began addressing issue after issue
  - Didn't get to "no"



# Details

## ■ The Property

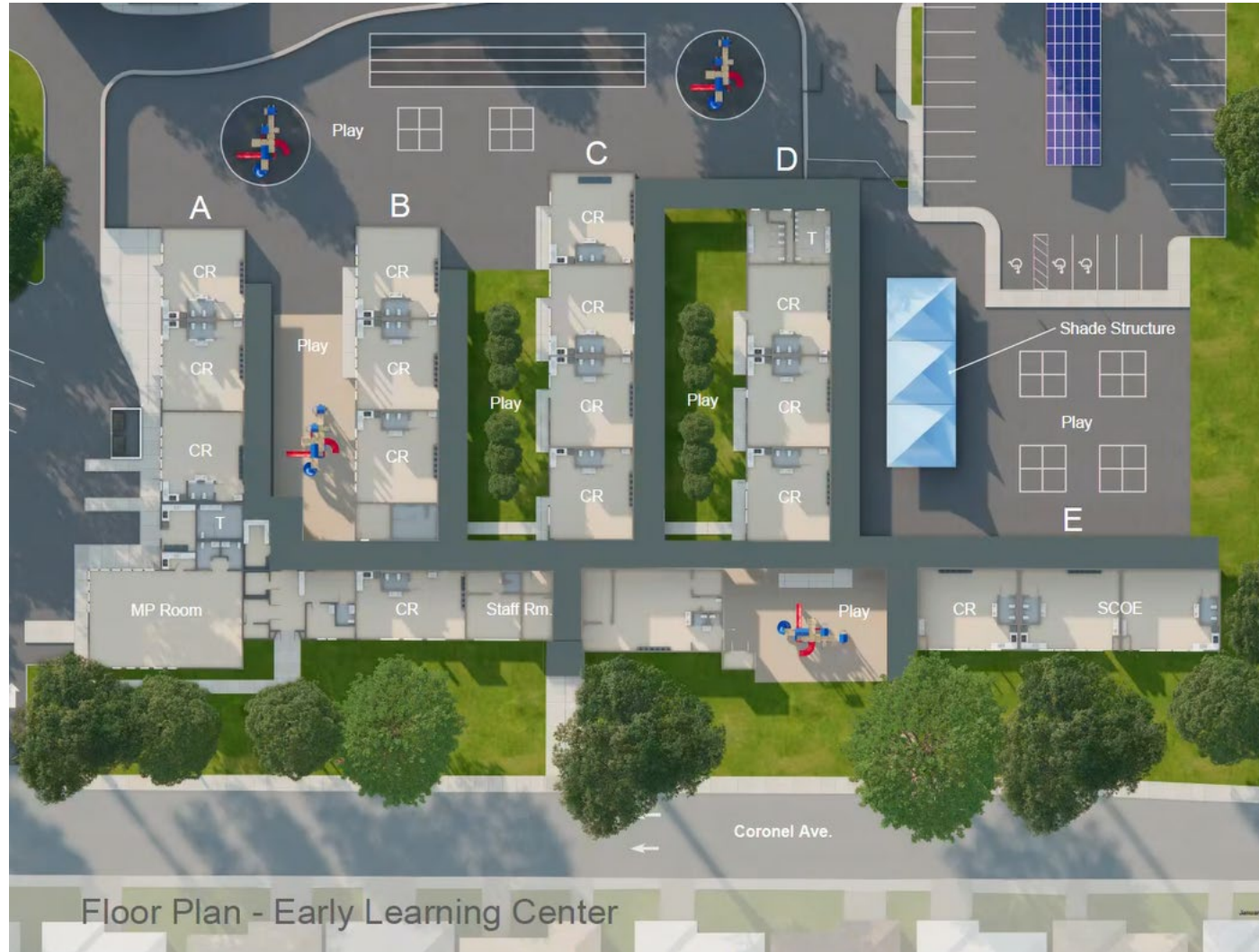
- 1450 Coronel Ave, Vallejo – 6.64 Acres
- 18-Classroom Facility - Operated by Child Start
- Under-resourced neighborhood
- Child Start aggregates facility costs (water, electric, janitorial, admin staff, landscaping, facility maintenance) and divides costs across the classrooms on a pro-rated basis – this serves as “rent” – no ongoing cost

## ■ The Program

- Classrooms “rented” (2-4 at a time) by existing providers looking to expand locations
- Providers use facility common areas during set schedule rotation
- Leadership team comes together to address issues, review data and evaluate future direction



# Rise Vallejo Aerial Layout



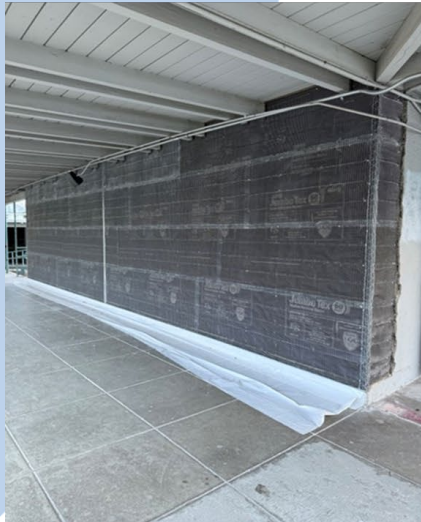


# Before





# During Construction



April 7, 2026

Rise Vallejo Early Education and Community Resource Center



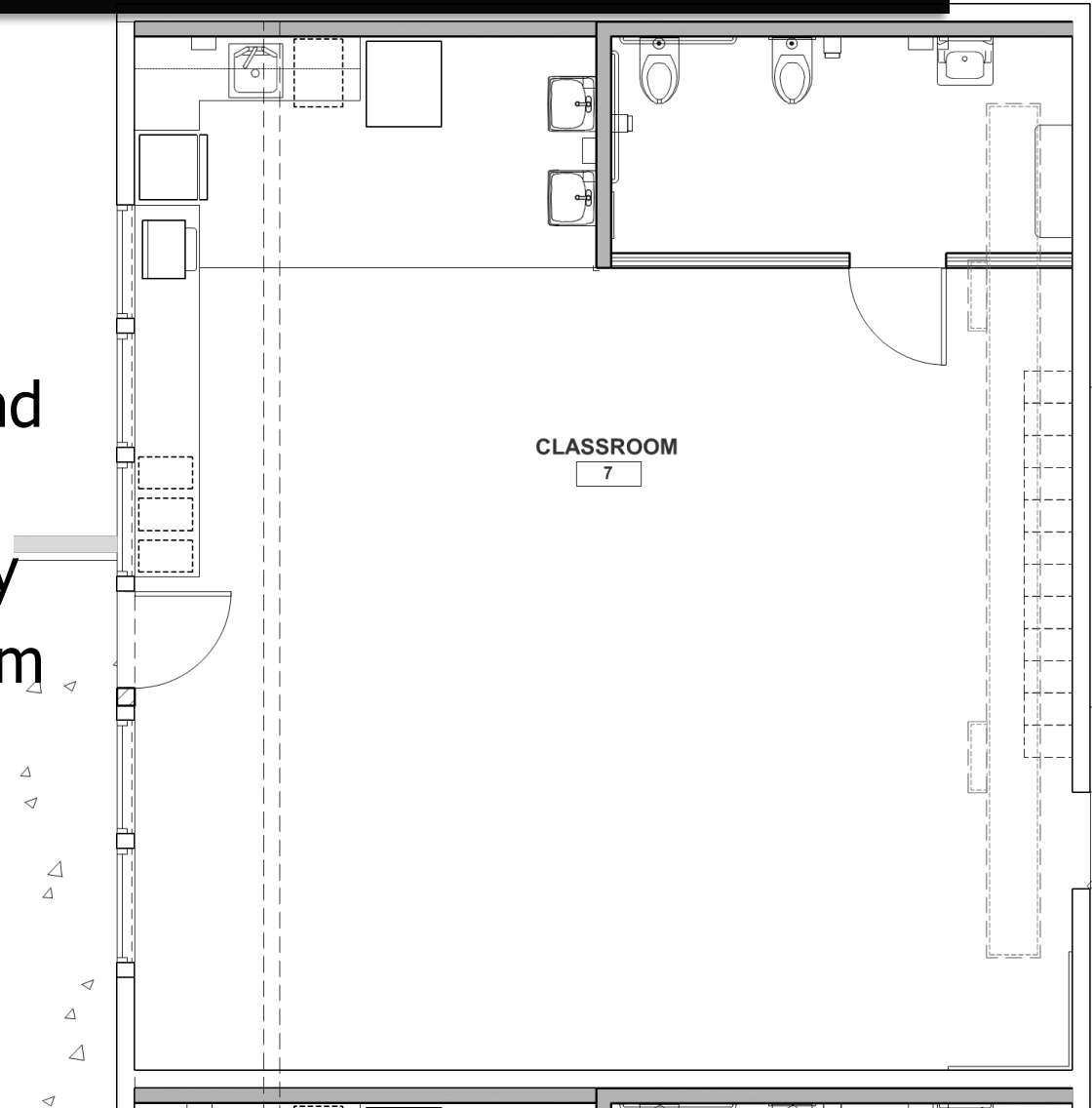
# Renovations

- Replace roofing systems
- Replace HVAC systems
- Plumbing for age-appropriate bathrooms
- Remove and demo portable classrooms
- Re-design/add parking
- Replace/add playground structures
- Install fencing for appropriate outdoor play and safety
- Update shared spaces, such as the laundry facility, multi-purpose room and adult bathrooms
- ADA upgrades
- Library
- STEAM Lab



# Flexible Classrooms

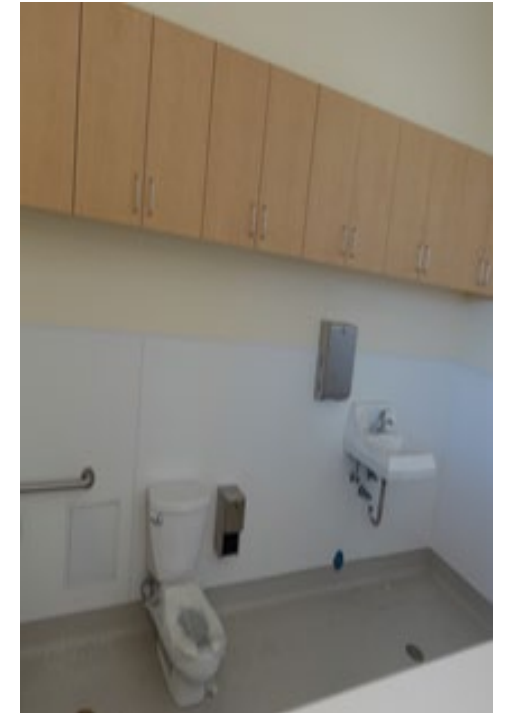
- New finishes: flooring, ceilings
- New cabinets with sink, fridge, hot box, InstaHot and microwave
- New restroom with 2 tiny toilets and diaper changing area
- New tackboard near the main entry
- A secondary exit from the classroom
- New window coverings
- New lighting
- New HVAC





# Rise Vallejo

EARLY EDUCATION & COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER



# 9 Playgrounds

“Play is the  
work of the  
child.”  
-Maria  
Montessori



English --- Spanish  
Inglés --- Español  
Hello --- ¡Hola!  
Goodbye --- ¡Adios!  
Good morning --- Buenos días  
Good night --- Buenas noches  
Yes --- Sí  
No --- No  
Please --- Por favor  
Thank you --- Gracias  
Here you are --- De nada  
What is your name? --- ¿Cómo se llama?  
My name is --- Mi nombre es  
I want to meet you --- Mucho gusto



## Staffing

- Center Director
- Family Navigator
- Facilities Maintenance/  
Janitorial &  
Groundskeeping

**Solano County Office of Education** – Will provide quality support for onsite providers, including coaching, professional development, child behavioral/mental health support, etc.

## Providers

- 5 onsite providers
- Business plan, instructional approach, operational readiness
- Staffing readiness/retention, enrollment strategy, opening timeline





# Why This Project Matters for Solano County

- Expands access to high-quality early learning in an under-resourced Vallejo neighborhood
- Removes the #1 barrier to childcare expansion: lack of appropriate facilities
- Demonstrates cross-sector collaboration between County, education partners, and community organizations
- Serves as a regional model for shared early learning campuses.
- **Supports Solano County's long-term economic and community health**

## Why this matters for Solano County...the Agency

*The Virginia Street facility has been vacated, resolving a 15-year challenge*



# Funding

**Funding Total:  
\$20,177,000**

## County Investment \$8,653,000

First 5 Solano – \$4,753,000  
ARPA Solano County – \$1,870,000  
Solano County Purchase – \$2,000,000  
Solano County Office of Education – \$30,000

## State & Federal Investment \$6,500,000

Dodd Earmark(s) – \$6,000,000  
Garamendi Earmark- \$500,000

## Philanthropy \$1,250,000

Syar Foundation – \$1,000,000  
Irwin Foundation – \$200,000  
Caymus Winery - \$50,000

## Community Partners \$3,774,000

Child Start – \$3,164,000  
City of Vallejo – \$610,000



# Summary

- 5 Years
- 3 Key Partners
- Over \$20 million
- Over 200 kids served annually
- Services committed for 25 years
- Shuttered school transformed!
- Next Steps.....Phase II -Community Resource Center





April 7, 2026

**Rise Vallejo**  
EARLY EDUCATION & COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

# RIBBON CUTTING & CARNIVAL!

**Save the Date!**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2026**

**1450 CORONEL AVE, VALLEJO**

**FORMAL RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

**FAMILY CARNIVAL 12:00PM - 2:00PM**

**Free Event!**

**Join Rise Vallejo for a Day of Fun, Food & Celebration:**

- Activities for kids
- Food Trucks
- Arts & Crafts
- Meet the Providers
- Tours of the Site
- Resources & More!

**INFORMATION & REGISTRATION:**

- Scan the QR code to register for event
- For questions call First 5 Solano at (707) 784-1332

[www.RiseVallejo.com](http://www.RiseVallejo.com)



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