



Rise Vallejo

Early Education and Community Resource Center

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

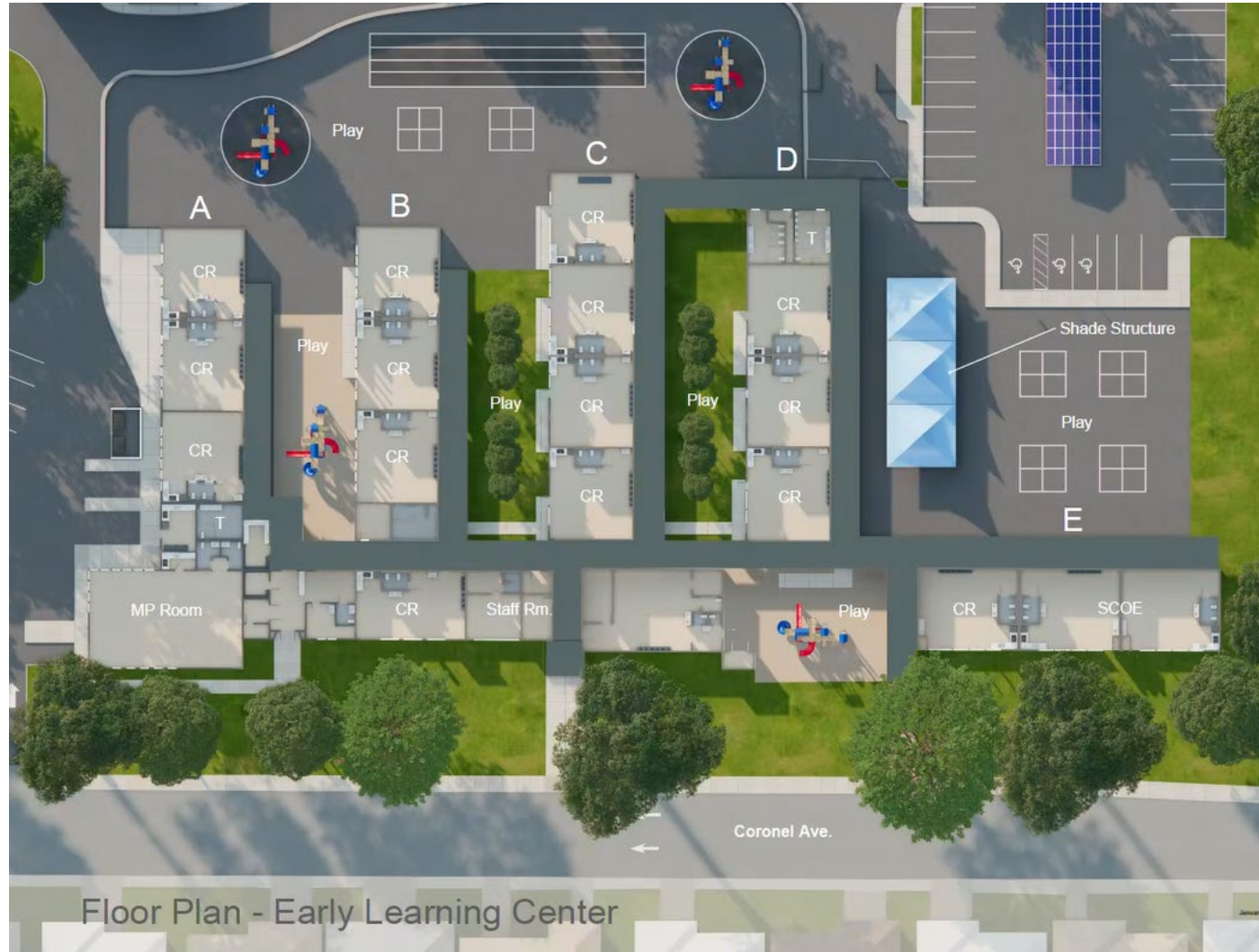
- 1450 Coronel Ave, Vallejo – 6.64 Acres
- 18-Classroom Facility - Operated by Child Start
- Under-resourced neighborhood
- Child Start aggregates facility costs (water, electric, janitorial, admin staff, landscaping, facility maintenance) and divides costs across the classrooms on a pro-rated basis – 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



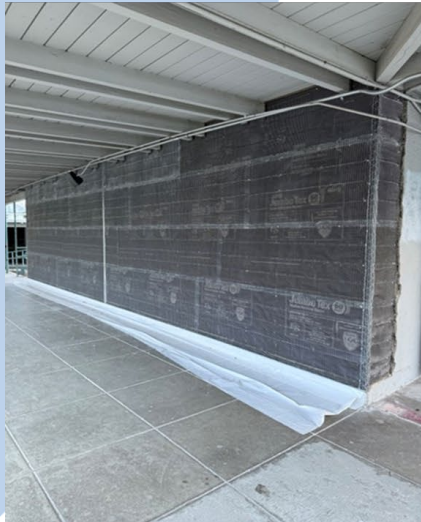


Before





During Construction





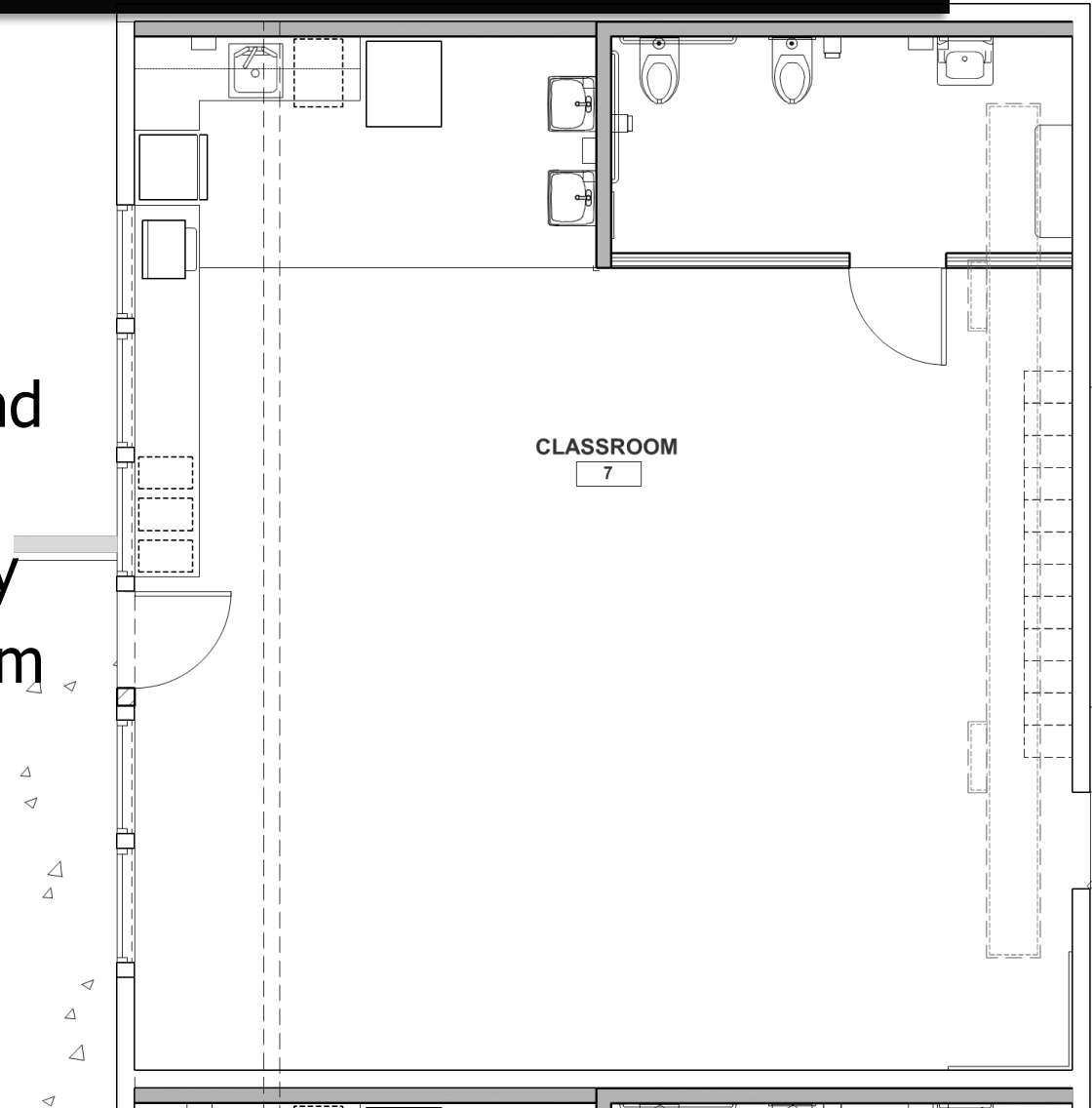
Renovations

- 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

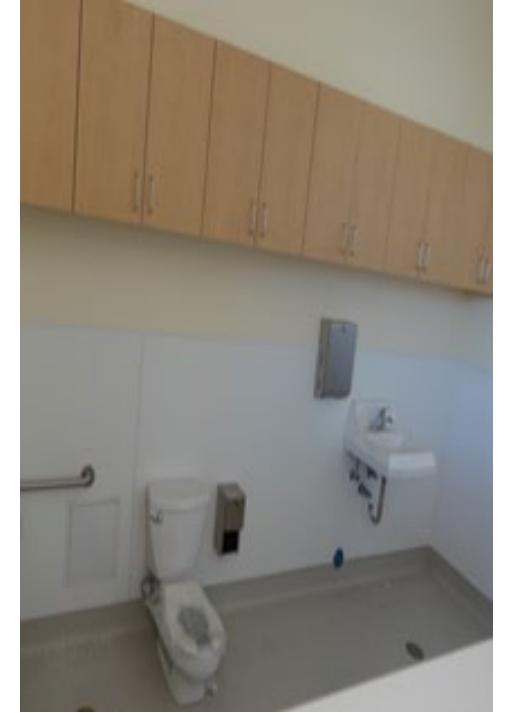
- New finishes: flooring, ceilings
- New cabinets with sink, fridge, hot box, InstaHot and microwave
- New restroom with 2 tiny toilets and diaper changing area
- New tackboard near the main entry
- A secondary exit from the classroom
- New window coverings
- New lighting
- New HVAC





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 dias
Good night --- Buenas noches
Yes --- Si
No --- No
Please --- Por favor
Thank you --- Gracias
Here you are --- De nada
What is your name? --- ¿Cómo se llaman?
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





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

