

## **RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION**

**WHEREAS**, 52,000 children live in Marin County and assuring a quality education for all of them is an investment in the future which ensures future employment, self-sufficiency, better health and opportunity for everyone; and

**WHEREAS**, studies show children who enter kindergarten with specific academic and social readiness skills do significantly better on standardized tests than children who do not begin school with these skills; and

**WHEREAS**, the Marin Countywide Plan directs attention to policies and programs dealing with identified scholastic weaknesses in the County. In particular, this includes addressing educational inequities based on income, geography, and race; and

**WHEREAS**, MarinKids conducted an analysis of statewide data pertinent to Marin and concluded:

- **Preschool:** While 91% of White 3-4 year old children attend preschool, only 32% of Latino children attend.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> grade English Language Arts/Reading:** Only 30% of economically disadvantaged students scored proficient or higher compared to 82% of non-disadvantaged students.
- **5<sup>th</sup> grade math:** only 44% of African American and 64% of Latino students scored proficient or higher compared to 86% of White and 93% of Asian students.
- **Algebra I (7-11<sup>th</sup> graders):** 64% of white students and 76% of Asian students scored proficient or higher compared to only 23% of African American and 26% of Latino students.
- **Graduation rates:** 100% for Asian students and 94.7% for white students compared to 80.3% for Latino students and 77.3% for African American students.

**WHEREAS**, Governor Jerry Brown recently stated "equal treatment for children in unequal situations is not justice", and President Barack Obama recently announced his plan to make high-quality preschool available to all American children; and

**WHEREAS**, the children of Marin require a wide range of skills and competencies in order to achieve productive and positive lives. These competencies include basic life skills, social skills, communication skills, job readiness skills, vocational skills, financial literacy, health information, and academic skills. As such, education is widely defined as including all the competencies necessary for the people of Marin to reach their maximum potential; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors focuses on the three "E"'s for Sustainability: Economy, Environment, and Equity and will include a fourth "E" of Education as a priority when applicable, supporting initiatives such as:

- Working towards universal access to quality preschool for all 4-year-old children in Marin
- Providing an enriched curriculum and academic assistance programs in every school
- Ensuring that high schools provide a college preparatory curriculum for all students
- Supporting disadvantaged students to aim toward college through scholarships, mentoring, and outreach
- Ensuring quality nutrition of healthy foods in school programs to build healthy bodies and minds
- Supporting summer enrichment programs

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors will add language to our Federal & State Legislative Programs & Policy Guidelines to support State and Federal Legislative efforts to improve and enhance education and the goals outlined here.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin will hereby advocate for a sustainable early childhood, K-12 and higher education system and promote quality, accessible, and affordable education for all.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin held this 12th day of March 2013.