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**Cesar Chavez Early Learning Center Receives State Expansion Grant**

\$7M from California State Preschool Program will support first year of CCELC operations

San Jose, Calif. (Sep 21, 2022) – The California Department of Education (CDE) Early Education Division (EED) has awarded \$7 million in California State Preschool Program (CSPP) funding to support the expansion of the Cesar Chavez Early Learning Center (CCELC), a first-of-its-kind campus in the Mayfair community designed to transform the educational landscape in East San José.

A partnership between Alum Rock Union School District (ARUSD) and Kidango, the CCELC will provide early care and education services, including full-day infant, toddler, and preschool care in a safe, nurturing learning environment where children can develop social, emotional and academic skills. The center will also provide after school care and summer school for children in transitional kindergarten (TK) and kindergarten. Local nonprofit community organization Somos Mayfair will continue to operate an independent Family Resource Center on the site, providing an additional layer of support.

The grant award from CDE will provide funding to expand early care and education programs at the site through the 2022-23 school year.

“We are delighted to receive this commitment of support for a unique program that will be a game changer for families in our district,” said ARUSD Superintendent Dr. Hilaria Bauer. “It’s clear that the State shares our vision for educating and nurturing the whole child.”

As California public schools transition to serving all four-year-olds over the next three years through TK, ARUSD has embraced this unprecedented opportunity to expand services to serve children starting at birth, a critical period of development that has been neglected by traditional education programs.

“The type of care and nurturing that we provide to children when they are very young can determine the course of their lives,” said Kidango CEO Scott Moore. “We are thrilled to partner with ARUSD to expand access to quality early care and holistic child development services in the Mayfair community for our youngest learners to support them in getting what they need to thrive in their early years of life.”

The CCELC opened for students in TK and kindergarten in August 2022 and will expand this fall for families who need childcare for their infants and toddlers so they can attend school, secure employment, and support their families.

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About Alum Rock Union Elementary School District

The Alum Rock Union Elementary School District is a family-oriented district community committed to its children and schools. Our Early Learning system ensures all children have access to high-quality early education experiences. We believe that Early education quality experiences play an important role in preparing children for school success and lead to higher levels of educational attainment, career advancement, and future earnings. For more information, visit www.arusd.org.

About Kidango

Kidango is an early learning nonprofit committed to setting every child on a path to thrive in kindergarten and in life. We believe that every child has unlimited potential if we empower our children, families, and communities with the best opportunities and resources. As the largest childcare provider in the San Francisco Bay Area, we provide 4,000 children with safe, healthy, nurturing environments and relationships, so that every child has the social, emotional, and academic skills they need to learn, grow and realize their potential. For more information, visit www.kidango.org.