



## **Memo**

**To:** Commissioners, First 5 Ventura County  
**From:** Petra Puls, Director of Countywide Strategies and Evaluation  
**Date:** September 19, 2013  
**Re:** Recommendation to Change Location of Ventura Unified School District Preschool Program, funded by First 5 Ventura County in FY 2012-13

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## **Background**

In September 2012, the Commission released a Request for Application (RFA) for Preschool/Childcare Expansion, designed to build on existing capacity. Through a competitive application and review process, the Ventura Unified School District was awarded funding for a preschool session at Portola Elementary School and began serving 24 children in January 2013.

As part of the FY 2013-14 State Budget, State Preschool program funding reduced in prior years was partially restored. The Ventura Unified School District was successful in requesting restoration funds for a previously eliminated State Preschool classroom at Portola Elementary.

Since the restored State Preschool funds are specific to the Portola site, an alternative location for the First 5 funded session has been sought and identified. The school district has an existing classroom at the Saticoy Elementary school that can accommodate the First 5 funded session, which would be co-located with the Ventura NfL's satellite FRC (Family Resource Center) and the district's special education services for children ages 3-5.

The new site would meet the RFA's priorities in selecting new spaces, including low performing school areas (API 1-5) and areas of low supply of preschool/child care.

## **Recommendation**

The recommended action would change the location of the previously approved preschool program from Portola Elementary School to Saticoy Elementary School, as State Preschool funding for the Portola preschool site has become available to the district. No new allocations would be needed.