

## BACKGROUND

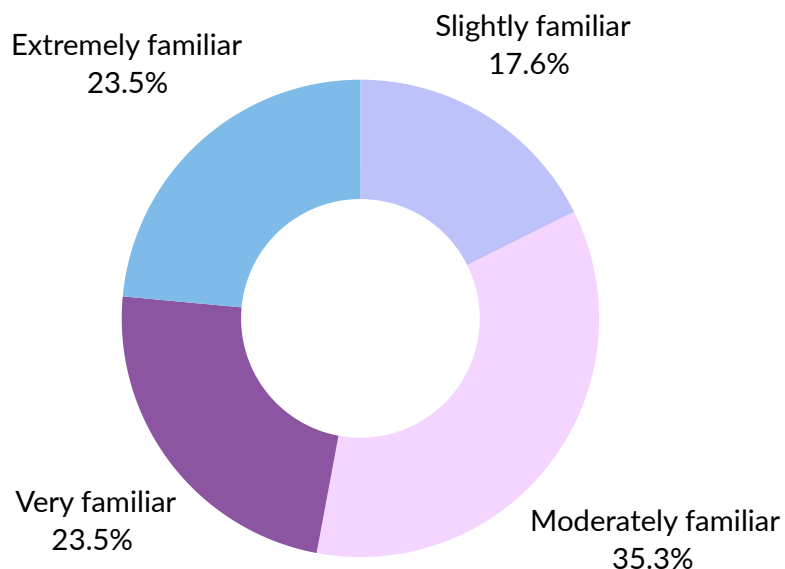
We asked candidates for Oakland City Council, OUSD School Board, City Attorney, and Alameda County Board of Supervisors to complete a questionnaire to learn about their experience and views on Oakland’s early childhood ecosystem, as a resource for our community to make informed decisions as voters. We received 17 responses from 41 candidates.

*Note: All candidates who were sent the questionnaire and their responses are listed on Page 2. A list of questions can be found on Page 3.*

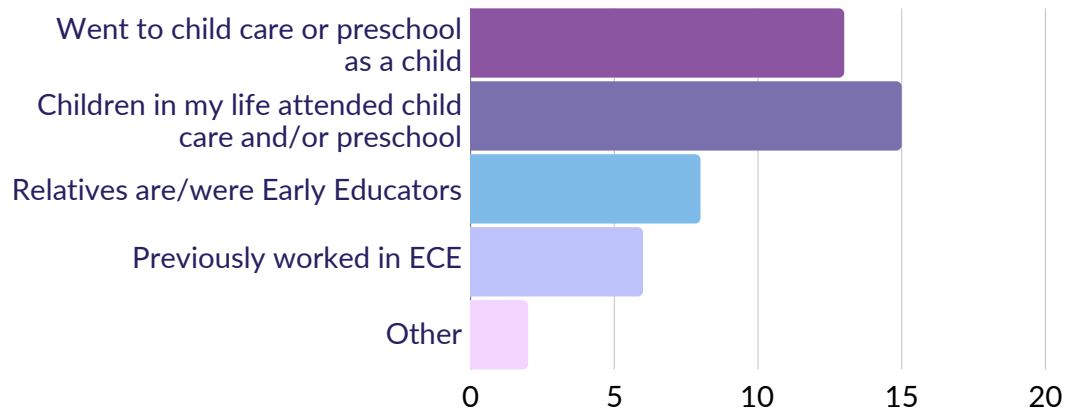
## SUMMARY OF MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

- **8 out of 17** respondents said they were very familiar or extremely familiar with the [Oakland Children’s Initiative \(Measure AA\)](#).
- **11 out of 17** respondents said they were very familiar or extremely familiar with [Measure C](#).

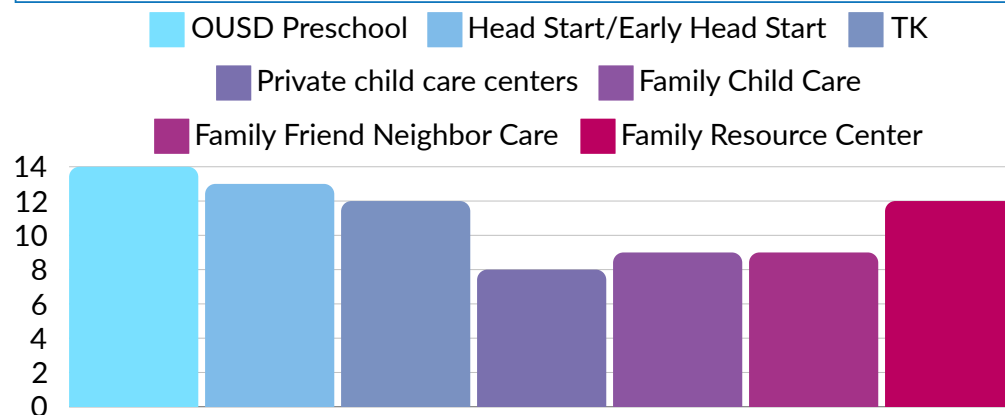
### How would you rate your understanding of how early education is funded?



### What forms of early care and education have you or your family participated in?



### Which ECE programs/options would you like to learn more about?



## COUNTY SUPERVISORS: DISTRICT 5

- Nikki Fortunato Bas  
Responses
- John J. Bauters  
No response

## OAKLAND CITY ATTORNEY

- Brenda Harbin-Forte  
No response
- Ryan Richardson  
No response

## OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

### AT-LARGE

- LeRonne Armstrong  
No response
- Fabian Robinson  
Unable to contact
- Rowena Brown  
Responses
- Nancy Sidebotham  
No response
- Shawn B. Danino  
Responses
- Selika Thomas  
No response
- Kanitha Matoury  
Responses
- Cristina Tostado  
Responses
- Mindy Penchenuk  
Responses
- Charlene A. Wang  
Responses

### DISTRICT 1

- Edward C. Frank  
Responses
- Debra B. Sherman  
No response
- Leonard S. Raphael  
No response
- Zac Unger  
No response

### DISTRICT 5

- Erin Armstrong  
Responses
- Dominic L. Prado  
No response
- Noel Gallo  
No response

### DISTRICT 3

- Baba A. Afolabi  
Responses
- Shan M. Hirsch  
No response
- Carroll Fife  
Responses
- Warren M. Logan  
No response
- Michelle Hailey  
No response
- Meron Y. Semedar  
No response

### DISTRICT 7

- Lere L. Garrett  
Unable to contact
- Kenneth Houston  
Responses
- Merika Goolsby  
Responses
- Iris Merriouns  
Responses
- Marcie Hodge  
No response

## OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

- D1: Rachel E. Latta  
Responses
- D1: Benjamin Salop  
No response

- D3: Dwayne A. Aikens  
Responses
- D3: VanCedric Williams  
No response

- D5: Patrice A. Berry  
No response
- D5: Sasha Ritzie-Hernandez  
Responses

- D7: Clifford W. Thompson  
No response
- D7: Dominic J. Ware  
Unable to contact

## QUESTIONS

We asked candidates for Oakland City Council, OUSD School Board, City Attorney, and Alameda County Board of Supervisors, these questions:

- *What forms of early care and education have you or your family participated in?*
- *Early childhood education takes place in a wide range of private, public, and non-profit settings called the mixed-delivery system. Please rank your understanding of the different early care and education options available to families in Oakland.*
  - *Would you like to learn more about any of these options?*
- *The City of Oakland and Alameda County have new funding sources that support early childhood: Oakland Children's Initiative and Measure C. Oakland families have different needs and preferences for early childhood education and child care. Some of these considerations include cost of care, schedules, transportation, and cultural/linguistic relevance. Please rank your understanding of early education and Measure C funding.*
- *In the 2025-26 school year, every four-year-old child in California will be able to enroll in Transitional Kindergarten (TK) at public schools. Adding this new grade has radically changed the early childhood ecosystem in Oakland and across the state. Please share what you know about TK and its impact on child care providers, families, and children.*
- *Given a wide range of early childhood funding needs, how will you center Oakland parent and family leadership in budget and policy decisions?*
- *The early childhood education workforce is predominantly women of color who are underpaid. According to [First 5 Alameda County](#), 82% of early educators are considered very low income. What are your ideas for connecting early childhood education to Oakland's economic development strategy?*
- *There are over 43,000 households in the City of Oakland with children under 18. What are three programs and policies that you will support or propose to ensure families are safe and thriving, the workforce who takes care of these families is supported, and that Oakland is a child-friendly city?*

**Want to know your City, County, and State Assembly Districts?  
Look them up here:**

- [City of Oakland Districts](#)
- [Alameda County Board of Supervisors Districts](#)
- [California State Assembly Districts](#)

Ballots have already been sent to Oakland voters. Make your voice heard by [registering to vote](#), [choosing your way to vote](#), and [tracking your ballot](#).

## ABOUT OSSS

Oakland Starting Smart and Strong (OSSS) is a citywide cross-sector collaborative that advances racial justice, develops and amplifies community-driven solutions, and advocates for changes in policy and resources to create an early childhood ecosystem that effectively serves children 0-5, their families, caregivers, and educators. Our collective vision of success is that all children, families and early educators flourish in Oakland.