Opportunity for every child

2012 Data & Action Guide
Imagine the possibilities...
...when each child knows there are opportunities around every corner.

MarinKids is dedicated to building a community that has at its heart a belief that caring for all children is our collective responsibility – and that acts to realize that belief. MarinKids endeavors to be an effective, unifying voice and resource advocating for the general welfare of all children ages birth to twenty-one years in Marin County.

The Leadership Committee guides the work of MarinKids. Our members are business and government, political, healthcare and education, non-profit, faith-based, and philanthropic leaders who care about kids and care about the future. We believe that each child deserves the opportunity to succeed – that each child counts.

Our 10-Year Goals are to build the will of the community through public education, advocacy, collaborative action and leadership to achieve the following:

1. Put children at the top of the agenda in Marin
2. Eliminate the educational achievement gap
3. Provide all children access to comprehensive, quality healthcare
4. Eliminate childhood obesity

In striving to make kids a priority since 2010, MarinKids provides a resource-rich website and other social media forums to inform and engage the public about the health and education of all our children in Marin. We produce voter education guides and conduct candidate forums for school board and state and federal elections on issues important to the welfare of children. MarinKids also works in collaboration with community partners to increase resources and implement policies for change.

The MarinKids 2012 Data & Action Guide provides a look at how all our kids are faring on key indicators of academic performance, access to healthcare and childhood obesity. Benchmarks are tracked over time and include a deeper look at racial/ethnic and economic differences among children on these indicators. To promote opportunities for all children, the guide offers options and models for action.
Opportunity to learn, grow...
Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I invite you to commit to the notion that we, as a community, must ensure that every child in Marin County has the basics:

- **Quality healthcare**
- **Freedom from obesity, with good nutrition and physical fitness**
- **Access to quality early care and education, including preschool**
- **An exemplary education each and every year of school**
- **The opportunity and the support to attend college or learn a rewarding trade.**

Many of us in Marin have been able to provide these basics for our own children. But, not every child in Marin is so fortunate.

With the wealth of resources in this county, the incredible ingenuity and creative spirit among us, and the dedication to good causes that Marin is known for, surely we can provide basic opportunities for all of our children.

It’s not just the right thing to do, taking care of kids says something about us. It says we are smart enough, giving enough and gracious enough to take care of every youngster in our community.

It says that Marin is a place where there can be opportunity around every corner and that every child can, and will, have the chance to learn, grow, succeed and thrive here. Whether you’re a business person, political leader, parent, philanthropist, grandparent, community or school leader, we all have a role to play in providing these opportunities.

If you share my belief, I invite you to join MarinKids. We are dedicated to advocating for all the children in the community – not just your kids or my kids, but all our kids.

With best wishes,

DANA KING

News Anchor, KPIX, CBS Channel 5, San Francisco
Chair, MarinKids Leadership Committee

MarinKids invites you to join us, get informed, set goals for change, and take action to support success for all kids.

To learn more visit [www.marinkids.org](http://www.marinkids.org), join us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/marinkids](http://www.facebook.com/marinkids) and sign up to become a MarinKids partner at [www.marinkids.org/newsletter](http://www.marinkids.org/newsletter).
The story told in this guide is one of wide gaps in opportunity among children in Marin. Taken as a whole, the majority of children in Marin County are enjoying good health, living in safe and supportive homes, have access to quality health care, healthy foods, early educational opportunities and are progressing in their education. But, **many of our kids are not part of Marin’s positive statistics.**

Among children who are economically disadvantaged or Latino or African American, data shows the barriers to success are much greater. Even as Marin County ranks high among other counties in California on measures of child well-being, up to 60% fewer children who are poor or racially diverse meet state targets in math and English. Fewer graduate from high school on time, attend preschool, or are at a healthy weight.

**As a community, we can do better.**
Demographics
According to the 2010 U.S. Census, 52,214 children under 18 years of age live in Marin. This represents 20.5% of the total population of Marin. The racial/ethnic background of children under 18 is still predominately White (64%) with a growing population of Latino children (22%).

More than 20% of Marin’s kids under the age of 18 live in households at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. This means an annual income of less than $44,000 for a family of four. Of those, nearly 12% live in households with an income below 100% of poverty – $22,050 or less annually for a family of four. (American Community Survey, 2011).*

30,574 students were enrolled in public schools in 2011. Of those, 25% were eligible for Free or Reduced Price Meals.**

Data on key indicators for Marin children’s academic achievement, health and well-being often are correlated with the economic status of their families.

The income gap in Marin is wide. This is problematic for many lower and middle income families. Median household income in Marin is estimated at $89,268 and the estimated median value of a home is $868,000. Monthly cost for a 3-bedroom unit is $2,678.

The Insight Center for Community Economic Development estimates that a family of three needs an income of $82,913 to meet their basic needs (housing, child care, healthcare, food, transportation). For a family of four in Marin, the self-sufficiency standard is $86,629.

*(U.S. Census American Community Survey 2010 data – Margin of Error +/- 4%).

**Family falls below 130% of the Federal Poverty Level ($29,055 for a family of four) for free meals and or below 185% FPL ($41,348) for reduced priced meals.
While not true for many children, Marin County students as a whole continue to fare better when compared to all students in California on standardized tests in English Language Arts (ELA), Math and Algebra, including the STAR test (CST) and California High School Exit Exams (CAHSEE).

**Academic Achievement: The Gap is Wide**

In Marin, scoring proficient or better on key measures is highly correlated with family economic status and race or ethnicity. The gap between children who are succeeding in school and those who are not is wide – as much as 60% on key indicators such as third grade reading proficiency when comparing children who are poor to those who are not, and White students to African American and Latino students.

**Early Childhood Education**

Longitudinal studies show children who enter kindergarten with specific academic and social readiness skills do significantly better on standardized tests of English and math in 3rd, 4th and 5th grades than children who do not begin school with these skills. (Applied Survey Research, 2008) A quality preschool experience can build these skills. (Karoly, 2009)

**Indicator: Percentage of three and four year old children attending preschool all or part of the year**

In 2011, 73% of 3- and 4-year-old children in Marin were enrolled in preschool all or part of the year. (Children Now Scorecard, 2012) This means that 27% of our children may enter kindergarten without preschool skills that can help them...
succeed in school. The educational opportunity gap begins here. Due to diminishing subsidized programs and the high cost of preschool, children from lower income families are less likely to attend.

• While 91% of White children in Marin attend preschool, only 32% of Latino children attend. (Children Now Scorecard, 2012)

Reading Proficiency
Reading well by the end of third grade is critical to later academic success and may predict high school graduation. (Musen, 2010) Students who fall behind early on often stay behind. (Child Trends, 2012)

Indicator: Percentage of 3rd grade students scoring at proficient or higher as measured on the California Standards Test for English Language Arts

In 2012, more Marin 3rd grade students (70%) scored proficient or higher on the California Standards Test for English Language Arts (ELA), a key indicator of reading proficiency – up 3% from 2010 and 1% from 2011. But, the achievement gap remained wide.

• Only 30% of economically disadvantaged 3rd graders scored proficient or higher compared to 82% of those not disadvantaged. (CDE, 2012)

• 37% of Latino and 49% of African American 3rd graders scored proficient or higher compared to 83% of White students.

Math Proficiency
Competency in mathematics is critical to functioning in everyday life, access to college and employment. (Child Trends, 2012, Math Proficiency) Successfully completing algebra is a high school graduation requirement for all California students, and algebra is foundational for acceptance into college preparatory courses.

Indicator: Percentage of 5th grade students proficient or higher in math as measured by the California Standards Test for Mathematics

Among 5th graders in Marin, 79% scored proficient or higher on the California Standards Test for Math.

• 60% of economically disadvantaged 5th graders achieved proficiency compared to 87% of those not disadvantaged.

• Only 44% of African American and 64% of Hispanic 5th graders scored proficient or higher on the math exam compared to 86% of White and 93% of Asian students. (CDE, 2012)
Indicator: Percentage of 7th-11th grade students proficient or higher in Algebra I as measured by the California Standards Test

In 2012, 52% of students in 7th through 11th grades passed the California Standards Test for Algebra I, up 4% from 2011.

• Only 25% of economically disadvantaged students scored proficient or higher compared to 64% of those not disadvantaged. (CDE, 2012)
• 64% of White students and 76% of Asian students scored proficient or higher, while only 23% of African American students and 26% of Latino students passed.

High School Graduation

Research shows that young people who drop out of high school are more likely to use drugs, alcohol, get involved in criminal activity, and become teen parents. High school dropouts also have higher unemployment rates and are more likely to receive public assistance. Youth of color are more likely to drop out. (Kidsdata.org)

Indicator: Percentage of high school students graduating from high school

The 2012 Marin County graduation rate was 90.9%. This means 196 of 2,163 students in Marin did not graduate. Rates for graduation varied by race and ethnicity. (Ed-Data, 2012)

• The graduation rate was 100% for Asian students, 94.7% for White students, 80.3% for Latino students, and 77.3% for African American students. Marin County’s dropout rate is 6.6%; 142 students dropped out of school. (Ed-Data, 2012)

College Eligibility

Students who meet the criteria for higher education are better prepared to benefit from academic and employment opportunities available to them.

Indicator: Percentage of high school students prepared for college as measured by the rate of students completing required courses for UC/CSU

In 2011, only 55.1% of Marin high school graduates completed requirements for UC and CSU. The opportunity gap among students was wide.

• 66.1% of White students, 69.6% of Asian students and only 23% of Latinos and 23.6% of African American students completed required courses. After gains in 2008 and 2009, rates of completion fell for Latino, African American and White students. (Ed-Data, 2011)
CALL TO ACTION | EDUCATION
What Marin Can Do for Marin’s Kids

- Hold our whole community accountable for progress in closing the academic achievement gap.
- Work toward universal access to preschool for all 4-year-old children in Marin.
- Increase the number of 3- and 4-year-olds in high quality preschools with well-trained teachers, and provide children and families support for transition to kindergarten.
- Support schools to provide an enriched curriculum and academic assistance programs in every school.
- Ensure that high schools provide a college preparatory curriculum for all students.
- Support disadvantaged students to aim toward college through scholarships, mentoring and outreach.

Models and Champions

COMMUNITY-WIDE EFFORTS TO IMPROVE ACADEMIC SUCCESS

A group of leaders in Marin is exploring a national model to support the drive for academic success for all our children. In Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky, STRIVE brought together local leaders to tackle student achievement. In the four years since the model was launched, indicators of student success have improved across three large public school districts, including high school graduation rates, fourth-grade reading and math scores, and the number of preschool children prepared for kindergarten. Using a Collective Impact framework, leaders of local organizations, including the heads of influential private and corporate foundations, city government officials, school district representatives, the presidents of universities and community colleges, and the executive directors of education-related nonprofit and advocacy groups, focus on a single set of goals, measured in the same way. They also created “Student Success Networks” to align efforts and monitor progress.

KINDERGARTEN PREPARATION FOR CHILDREN (AND PARENTS)

The Marin Summer Bridge Program prepares kids for kindergarten who have not had the opportunity of preschool. During the five-week free program, students receive high quality early learning and social development opportunities while parents are prepared for their child’s school transition. Kindergarten students who attended Summer Bridge without having had prior preschool were shown to be significantly more ready compared to their peers who had no early education experience. (First 5 Marin, Summer Bridge Readiness: Comparison Report 2011) Launched by First 5 Marin through their School Readiness Initiative, Summer Bridge receives additional support from Marin Country Day School and Marin Community Foundation’s Pre K-3 Initiative.
Investing in the health of all children makes sense. Healthy children are more likely to do well in school and have fewer health problems throughout their lives.

As families continue to lose employer-based health insurance, government programs and local support have helped fill the insurance gap for many children in Marin. Out of range for many lower income families, the average cost in California of an individually purchased family premium was nearly $5,000 annually with an average deductible of $3,321. (eHealth, 2011)

Health Insurance Coverage
Children who lack health insurance are less likely to receive routine preventive care and screening. As a result, they are more likely to be treated in an emergency room and less likely to have health concerns identified early. By the time they seek care, the problem is often more serious and more costly. An emergency room visit costs three times as much as a regular doctor’s visit.

Indicator: Percentage of children under 18 currently enrolled in health insurance

In Marin, nearly all children under 18 are covered by medical insurance. 99.5% of children under the age of 18 in Marin are currently insured. (CHIS, 2009) However, youth between 18 and 21 years of age in Marin are much less likely to be insured with only 74.5% insured. (CHIS, 2009)

An estimated 28% (15,000) of Marin’s children ages birth to 18 are insured through public and low-cost local programs available to lower income families. (Marin CHI, 2012) These braided public and private programs are essential to assuring access to healthcare for all children in Marin. But, the programs are vulnerable due to state and local budget concerns, the reduction in First 5 resources and dependence on discretionary charitable funds.

Source of Care
According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, every child should receive high quality, coordinated, comprehensive, and preventive health care. Children who have health insurance and a consistent provider of healthcare are more likely...
to have regular check-ups, care when needed, and screening that can lead to early identification and treatment of developmental delays, disabilities or other issues.

**Indicator: Percentage of children under 18 who did not receive needed healthcare or whose healthcare was delayed in the past 12 months**

Most children in Marin have excellent preventive care. According to the 2009 California Health Information Survey, only 3.5% of children (about 1,500) under 18 had delayed care or lacked needed medical care, markedly down from 6.6% of those surveyed in 2007. (CHIS 2009, 2007) However, low-cost healthcare providers are reaching capacity as more families seek care from them.

**Dental Care**

Dental problems are a serious concern, especially among low-income children who are less likely to have dental insurance and access to dental care. Untreated dental problems in children can lead to poor academic performance and behavior problems due to pain, problems with chewing or speaking, and reduced self-esteem. Dental infections can affect a child's overall health, causing sickness or even death. The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry recommends children get a dental check-up before their first birthday and regularly thereafter.

**Indicator: Percentage of children under 18 having seen a dentist within the past year**

The 2009 California Health Information Survey found **12.5% of children in Marin (about 6,500) had not seen a dentist in the past year or had never seen a dentist.** (CHIS, 2009) 82% of Latino and 90% of White children had a dental visit. Availability of low-cost dental care has increased since 2009, but still few providers accept MediCal coverage.

**Immunization Rate**

Immunizations for preventable diseases protect children who receive them and those with whom they come in contact. Vaccines have helped millions of children in the U.S. and internationally avoid contracting serious and potentially fatal infectious diseases. Without widespread immunizations, nearly unknown diseases could stage a comeback.

**Indicator: Percentage of children entering kindergarten with required immunizations**

The rate of kindergarteners in Marin with all required immunizations has steadily fallen from 86.9% in 2005 to 82.7% in 2011. Marin's immunization rate is significantly lower than the state rate of 90.7%. (Kidsdata.org) The decline in immunizations in Marin is correlated with the rise in families opting out of immunizations due to personal beliefs (up to 7% of children) rather than lack of access to regular preventive care.
CALL TO ACTION | HEALTHCARE  

What Marin Can Do for Marin’s Kids

- Support local community health clinics.
- Develop a sustainable local fund to provide affordable insurance for economically disadvantaged children.
- Advocate with state and federal legislators for affordable, universal healthcare coverage for all children.
- Provide volunteer medical, dental and mental health services.
- Implement universal early screening for developmental delays and disabilities.
- Provide access to low-cost coverage for youth 19-21.

Healthcare Models and Champions

MARIN CHILDREN’S HEALTH INITIATIVE (CHI)
Marin’s CHI is a success story. The goal of the Marin Children’s Health Initiative is to improve healthcare access for all of Marin’s low income children and youth by finding the uninsured, enrolling them, linking them to services, increasing retention, and providing funding to ensure children in families from 200% to 299% of the federal poverty level have access to affordable health insurance. The Initiative works because Marin County Health and Human Services, Kaiser Permanente, Marin Community Clinics, Marin Community Foundation, First 5 Marin, schools and others all joined together to implement a solution that can insure the greatest number of children. In 2012, 99.5% of children 0-17 years of age in Marin were insured.

EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL NEEDS/MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE
Early detection and connection to services lead to the best outcomes for children with developmental or behavioral challenges. Last year, 3,600 infants and young children in Marin were screened for early signs of developmental delays and disabilities. When issues were found, parents were provided education and linked to available services to address them. The Early Childhood Special Needs/Mental Health Initiative provides a coordinated and seamless system of outreach and information, and developmental screening for developmental delays, disabilities and social/emotional and behavioral issues. The effort involves healthcare providers (Kaiser Permanente and Marin Community Clinics) and early childhood education sites.
While Marin County children are doing better than their peers throughout California on measures of healthy weight and physical fitness, the number of children recognized as overweight or obese is far too high. Marin’s economically disadvantaged children and African American and Hispanic children are at significantly greater risk for obesity and poor fitness.

Healthy Weight
As a result of the obesity epidemic, children today belong to the first generation of Americans whose life expectancy is projected to be shorter than their parents. They are at higher risk for type 2 diabetes, high cholesterol, sleep apnea, heart disease and stroke. Being overweight can damage social and emotional well-being and interfere with academic achievement. (Children Now)

Indicator: Percentage of children under five years of age in Marin identified as obese

In 2010, nearly 10% of children in Marin under the age of 5 years were identified as obese according to the Pediatric Nutrition Survey. (CDC, Pediatric Nutrition Surveillance, 2010)

- 10.9% of Hispanic children under 5 were obese compared to 6.4% of White children. (CDC, 2010)

Nearly 20% of students in grades 5, 7 and 9 in Marin were not at a healthy weight according to the 2011 California Physical Fitness Test results – showing only slight improvement from 2009 rates.

- Only 50% of African American 7th graders and 66.5% of Latino students were at a healthy weight compared to 87.5% of White students and 90.4% of Asian students. (kidsdata.org)

Physical Fitness
Regular physical activity helps muscle development, bone and heart health and controls weight. Children who regularly exercise also tend to have a healthy lifestyle in adulthood. (CDC 2011)

Indicator: Percentage of students in 5th, 7th and 9th grades who meet fitness standards on the California Physical Fitness Test (PFT)

Less than 50% of 5th, 7th and 9th graders in Marin met all physical fitness standards on the 2011 PFT.

- Only 30.5% of Hispanic 7th graders met all standards compared to 52.2% of White 7th graders. (kidsdata.org, CDE, 2011)
• Promote healthcare and community policies and practices to encourage breastfeeding.
• Make sure school meals follow guidelines for nutritious, low fat, reduced-calorie choices.
• Promote regular physical education in schools and support afterschool physical activity programs.
• Adopt zoning policies that restrict fast-food restaurants near schools and public playgrounds.
• Build and maintain sidewalks and street crossings to create a safe walking environment, connecting neighborhoods to schools, parks and other places.
• Adopt community policing strategies to improve safety of streets in high crime neighborhoods.
• Work with school districts to allow playing fields and playgrounds to be used when schools are closed.
• Develop and maintain community gardens.
• Sponsor low-income children to participate on sports teams.

Models and Champions

HEALTHY FOODS AT SCHOOL
Novato Unified School District has made significant strides toward making school lunches more healthful, reducing access to sodas and banning junk food vendors near schools. One of the partners working with the district is the Marin Organic School Lunch and Gleaning Program. The program is helping to transform the school lunch choices by offering a combination of purchased and gleaned food from Marin Organic farms to participating schools throughout the county. “Gleaned” food is produce that would otherwise be left in the fields because it doesn’t meet the strict aesthetic requirements of restaurants and retail markets. This can account for up to 20% of what is grown, and throughout the year may include potatoes, squashes, spinach, leeks, beets, carrots, arugula, lettuces. In addition, the program offers meats, eggs, yogurt, ice cream and more. Each week the program enables 12,000 children to eat organic foods grown from Marin soils.

A COUNTYWIDE APPROACH TO PREVENTING CHILDHOOD OBESITY
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends communitywide approaches to reducing childhood obesity. The Marin Healthy Eating, Active Living (HEAL) Framework developed in 2011 is bringing together community members and leaders throughout the county to implement strategies laid out in the plan. Three implementation workgroups have formed: one directed at active living across the lifespan; one targeted early childhood, schools and afterschool, and a group focused on food systems. HEAL is actively recruiting community members to get involved in developing programs, policies and accountability measures.
## MarinKids Data Summary

### Goal Areas

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<td>Gap is wide and at further risk</td>
<td>Rate of preschool attendance is unequal: 32% of Latino children compared to 91% of White children. At risk of widening gap due to cuts in subsidies for low-income families.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Small gains, but gap remains wide</td>
<td>3rd graders scoring proficient or better on 2012 CA Standards Test (CST) in English Language Arts: • 30% economically disadvantaged; 82% not disadvantaged • 49% of African American (46% in 2011); 37% Latino (32% in 2011); 83% White students (83% in 2011)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>Gap is wide</td>
<td>Students scoring proficient or better on 2012 Algebra I CST: • 25% economically disadvantaged; 96% not disadvantaged • 23% of African American; 26% of Latino; 64% White; 76% Asian On the 2012 California Exit Exam in Math, 73% of African American and Latino 10th graders passed compared to 94% of White and 96% of Asian students. The trend over time shows some uneven improvement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduation</td>
<td>Gap remains</td>
<td>In 2012, a lower rate of African American (77%) and Latino (80%) students graduated from high school than White (94.7%) or Asian (100%) students. (2012)</td>
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<tr>
<td>College Eligibility</td>
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<td>23% of Latinos and 23.6% of African American graduates completed UC/CSU requirements in 2011 compared to 66.1% of White and 69.6% of Asian graduates.</td>
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<td>Significant progress for all children 0-17; risks to program</td>
<td>99.5% of children 0-17 are insured. 74.5% of those ages 18-20 are insured. (2009) Marin insurance program is vulnerable.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Care</td>
<td>Significant progress for all children 0-17</td>
<td>96.5% of those ages 0-17 did not delay medical care.</td>
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<td>Dental Care</td>
<td>Some gap remains</td>
<td>Despite low rates of insurance (69%), 13% of children 0-17 had not seen a dentist within one year. 82% of Latino and 90% of White children had. (2009)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immunizations</td>
<td>Declining rate</td>
<td>Rate of immunizations among kindergarten students (82.7%) is declining and lower than state rate (90.7%).</td>
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<th>Childhood Obesity</th>
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<tr>
<td>Healthy Weight</td>
<td>Gap is wide</td>
<td>Nearly 10% of children ages 0-5 identified as obese. 10.9% of Latino children compared to 6.4% of White children 0-5. (2010) 20% of 5th, 7th, &amp; 9th graders are overweight – 50% of African American and 33% of Latino 7th graders compared to 13% of White students. (2011)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical Fitness</td>
<td>Progress needed for all children</td>
<td>Less than 50% of 7th graders met all physical fitness standards. (2011)</td>
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Join us to work for all Marin’s kids
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