



County of Santa Cruz

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PRESS RELEASE

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The County of Santa Cruz is pleased to announce a gift from the Silicon Valley Leadership Group that expands the availability of fresh fruits and vegetables for schoolchildren across the county.

Through the generosity of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group and its donors, the “Let’s Move Salad Bars to Schools” program will nearly double the number of local schools with salad bars available to students. Currently, Boulder Creek, DeLaveaga, Gault, Bay View, Rio Del Mar and Starlight elementary schools have salad bars, and five more will soon be added.

“Providing salad bars to schools throughout Santa Cruz County ensures greater access to locally grown, healthy fruits and vegetables for every child, all at no local cost,” Santa Cruz County Supervisor Zach Friend said.

Under direction from the Centers for Disease Control and in support of State Superintendent for Public Instruction Tom Torlakson’s “Team California for Healthy Kids” initiative, the Silicon Valley Leadership Group has provided 122 salad bars cost-free to schools in Alameda, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties, serving 98,000 children.

“It’s very clear that if young children are put on the right path to a healthy lifestyle - eating right and getting plenty of exercise - they will be better students and will receive a quality education. This is an opportunity to make a difference in children’s lives,” said Casey Beyer, a senior advisor at Silicon Valley Leadership Group.

The five new schools to receive salad bars have not been determined. One will be chosen from each of the county’s five supervisorial districts.