Creating Pathways for ALL Students
Santa Cruz County Office of Education and Board

County Offices of Education
Play an Essential Role

California operates a three-level system of public education. Regulations, funding and fundamental policies are established at the state level, while the day-to-day schooling of children is the responsibility of more than 1,000 local school districts. At the third level are the 58 county offices of education, which provide an important support infrastructure for local schools and districts, both programatically and financially.

County offices of education also fulfill state mandates to audit school district budgets, register teacher credentials, complete employee background checks, certify school attendance records, and develop countywide programs to serve special student populations.

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education (SCCOE) is a public agency charged with providing educational leadership, resources, and services to schools to ensure quality educational opportunities for all students. This mission is accomplished through partnerships with teachers, school districts, nonprofits, parents, businesses and other governmental agencies.

Direct instructional programs are offered through special education, alternative education and Regional Occupational Programs. District services are provided in the areas of professional development and fiscal services. The SCCOE is also responsible for coordination of local services with the California Department of Education.

The Role of the County Board of Education

The primary responsibility of the Board of Trustees is to develop, adopt, and evaluate policies for programs administered by the SCCOE. The seven member board is responsible for:

- Approving the annual County Office budget;
- Acting as the appeals board for student expulsions and inter-district transfers;
- Establishing the County Superintendent’s salary;
- Serving as the County Committee on School District Organization, overseeing the reorganization of school districts and district boundaries through territory transfers or unifications;
- Collaborating with the elected County Superintendent of Schools so that the shared vision, mission, goals and policies of the SCCOE can be implemented.

County Board of Education meetings are normally held on the third Thursday of each month at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education Board Room, 400 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

Visit us at www.santacruz.k12.ca.us

“Santa Cruz City Schools deeply appreciates the support of the County Office of Education. The culture of service that the COE brings to school districts is critical to our continuous improvement efforts on behalf of students. Efforts to bring colleagues together to share best practices have had a positive impact on professional collaboration county-wide.”

—Kris Munro, Superintendent, Santa Cruz City Schools

This annual report published in accordance with California law.

COVER PHOTO: Students at Ponderosa Alternative High School in Ben Lomond get hands-on experience in a variety of skills, including boat restoration, sustainable agriculture, construction technology, and culinary arts. Working on boat are Michael Morrison and Fox Pettinotti. In middle ground, from left, Sam Chabot, Frank Cagle, Hana Yamamoto, Jessica Rogge, Katie Mohler, and Candice King. At arbor, background, are Michael Vilche (on ladder), Ona Stewart (plaid shirt) and Miguel Rosales.

—Photo by Greg Pio

Editorial Coordinator:
—Mary Anne James

Design:
— Deborah Karas

Writing/Editing:
— Mike Wallace
State funding of public education is now based not only on the number of students in a school district, but also on a weighted formula that takes into account the number of English language learners, foster youth, and low-income students.

At the same time, state funding for categorical programs, many of which addressed issues and support for the students mentioned above, has been transferred directly to local school districts. The goal is to encourage school districts to implement programs that are specific to the needs of their communities.

This new model shifts many of the decisions on how to best educate our students from the state to the local level and will require districts to increase the involvement of parents, community members, and students in the decision-making process.

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education (SCCOE) has a significant role to play in this process. We are involved in oversight of the accountability system, Local Control Accountability Plans (LCAP) and are in constant communication with local school districts to confirm where our expertise in these areas can be of strategic assistance.

At the same time local districts are being given greater autonomy on educational issues, they are being required to educate students to an increasingly rigorous and universal standard. Our office plays an important role in advancing those goals, particularly through professional training that prepares educators in all districts to address Common Core, Next Generation Science, English Language Development and other college and career readiness standards.

In addition to these issues, we remain committed to partnerships that involve the entire community in the educational process. Our partners in building a better educational future include the schools, the business community, law enforcement and nonprofit organizations.

We will be posting regular updates on these and other issues at our website, www.santacruz.k12.ca.us. We invite the community to follow and participate in these developments and in our children’s futures.

Michael C. Watkins
Superintendent,
Santa Cruz County
Office of Education
Santa Cruz County Office of Education Recognizes Exemplary 2014 Educators

Jennifer Perry  
Classified Employee of the Year  
Instructional Aide  
Scotts Valley Middle School  
Scotts Valley Unified School District

Roci Pantoja  
Teacher of the Year  
Kindergarten Teacher  
MacQuiddy Elementary  
Pajaro Valley Unified School District

Sandy Mast  
Administrator of the Year  
Senior Director  
Alternative Education Program  
Santa Cruz County Office of Education

Jack Dilles - Trustee Area 1  
 Represents portions of San Lorenzo Valley, Scotts Valley and Santa Cruz. Appointed in November 2006, he is serving a third term expiring in November 2018.

Jane Barr - Trustee Area 5  
 Represents portions of the Pajaro Valley, Santa Cruz and Soquel School Districts. Elected in November 2012, she is serving her first term, which expires in December 2016.

Sandra Nichols - Trustee Area 3  
 Represents Bonny Doon, Davenport and North Coast, portions of Santa Cruz, and San Lorenzo Valley. Elected in November 2012, she is serving her first term, which expires in December 2016.

Dana Sales - Trustee Area 6  
 Represents a portion of the Pajaro Valley Unified School District. Appointed in 1992, he is currently serving his sixth term, which expires in December 2016.

George “Bud” Winslow - Trustee Area 4  

Abel Sanchez - Trustee Area 7  
 Represents a portion of the Pajaro Valley Unified School District. Elected in 2014, he is currently serving his first term which ends in November 2018.

TBD - Trustee Area 2  
 Represents Happy Valley, portions of Santa Cruz and Live Oak. The position will be filled by appointment, and the term for this trustee area ends in 2018.
SCHOOL DISTRICTS – Santa Cruz County, California

Local School Districts

Bonny Doon Union Elementary School District (147)
Stephanie Siddens 831-427-2300
http://www.bonnydoon.santacruz.k12.ca.us

Happy Valley Elementary School District (134)
Michelle McKinny 831-429-1456
http://www.happyvalley.santacruz.k12.ca.us

Live Oak School District (2,114)
Tamra Taylor 831-475-6333
http://www.lods-ca.schoolloop.com

Mountain Elementary School District (120)
Diane Morgenstern 831-475-6812
http://www.mountainesd.org

Pacific Elementary School District (108)
Kris Stanga 831-425-7002
http://www.pacific.santacruz.k12.ca.us

Pajaro Valley Unified School District (20,434)
Dorma Baker 831-786-2100
http://www.pvusd.net

San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District (4,638)
Dr. Laurie Bruton 831-336-5194
http://slvusd.org

Santa Cruz City School District (7,110)
Kris Munro 831-429-3410
http://www.sccs.santacruz.k12.ca.us

Scotts Valley Unified School District (2,490)
Penny Weaver 831-438-1820
http://www.scottsvalley-ca.schoolloop.com

Soquel Union Elementary School District (2,060)
Henry Castaniada 831-464-5630
http://www.soqueldo.santacruz.k12.ca.us

School Districts and Superintendents – 2014-2015 enrollment numbers are in parentheses
The SCCOE is one of the largest providers of educational services in Santa Cruz County, including many vital programs such as job training and green careers, special education, outdoor science school, and much, much more.

**Alternative Education**

Alternative Education Programs serve students in grades 7-12 at 19 school sites throughout the county. They offer standards-based instruction in safe, supportive and structured environments for students in need of a small school setting. Teachers meet students where they are and develop an academic program that is individually tailored. Program components include project-based, and inquiry-based learning, online/blended opportunities, seminar classes, supplemental college and career courses, as well as individual and whole class assignments.

**Special Education**

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education’s Special Education Programs serve the 13% of county students who face significant challenges. Offering these services at a countywide level to children is financially efficient and results in the ongoing development and refinement of best educational practices. This is a shared responsibility between the SCCOE and the districts within the county.

This year Special Education County classes are located in Soquel, Santa Cruz, San Lorenzo Valley, and Live Oak School District campuses. The SCCOE County classes serve moderate to severe students, with emotional disturbance, autism, physical and cognitive handicapping conditions. These students are referred to the Santa Cruz County Special Education Department from the ten surrounding school districts.

**Special Student Services Programs**

**BASTA – Broad-Based Apprehension, Suppression, Treatment and Alternatives** is a program hosted by the SCCOE to facilitate communication between law-enforcement, education and social services to help reduce gang and youth violence and crime, and increase student safety. It is comprised of multiple components: North County Operational Team co-chaired with senior law-enforcement personnel, an informational website, periodic trainings, a summer sports camp and an intervention group assisting youth directly with counseling, services and needed resources to pursue pro-social activities.

**FOSTER YOUTH SERVICES** – The SCCOE hosts a Foster Youth Services Local Advisory Board (FYSLAB) which coordinates educational advocacy with all partners involved in foster care and education. Additionally, Santa Cruz County was chosen as a statewide and national pilot site for The FosterEd Initiative, managed by the National Center for Youth Law, to increase the skills, knowledge and capacity of those who hold educational rights for foster youth, as well as to set up and manage goal teams for every youth with an active (open) dependency court case. Currently a sustainability effort is underway at the SCCOE to continue this work and stay ahead of the curve in the realm of educational services for foster youth.
The Santa Cruz County Regional Occupational Program (ROP) provides high quality Career and Technical Education (CTE). This year ROP will serve 3,000 students in 150 classes in 49 different subjects at 20 different sites. As a department of the SCCOE, ROP provides tuition-free programming to high school students 15 and older. ROP also offers fee-based programs for adults, including dental and medical assisting.

ROP is committed to providing a variety of opportunities for students to become college and career ready. It offers 20 college-prep courses at every comprehensive high school in Santa Cruz County. These courses help students complete minimum requirements for admission to a California State University or the University of California. ROP also offers 16 courses that are articulated with local community colleges. Students in these courses can earn college credit while they are in high school. Many courses offer an industry-recognized certificate upon completion, helping make the student immediately employable.

This year ROP will conduct the Fourth Annual ROP Expo to connect education and industry partners to Career and Technical Education programs. The event is always well attended by ROP staff, students, industry representatives and local educators and will help provide the highest quality career and technical education for the community. Some of the outcomes of the ROP Expo are that students and teachers connect with local business leaders to discuss employment and work-based learning opportunities; ROP teachers receive valuable information from industry representatives to ensure the relevance and rigor of programs; and the SCCOE engages in conversation with educational partners about CTE and core academic program integration. The ROP Expo will continue to provide CTE support and strengthen relationships among the business community, school districts and SCCOE.

In addition to providing essential Human Resources services internally to the SCCOE, the Human Resources Department provides leadership, guidance, training and technical assistance to all school districts within the county. To assist districts in complying with legal mandates relating to employment, fingerprinting, background clearances, teacher credentialing, substitute teacher services, and recruitment, the SCCOE regularly provides training and hosts monthly meetings for district human resources directors. Data in two of these services demonstrate a strong need for our services: last year the SCCOE processed a total of 2,500 fingerprints and kept current a database of 995 available substitute teachers. Human Resources also provides credentialing services and licensing expertise to the 10 school districts, as well as to the ROP in Santa Cruz County.
Helping Young Writers Find a Voice

It’s a simple equation: learning accelerates when students have individual attention. The Young Writers Program (YWP), begun in August of 2012, is a hybrid project co-sponsored by Santa Cruz County Office of Education and the nonprofit Santa Cruz Writes. Since its inception, the program has worked to support students in grades 4-12 with their writing skills, collaborating with teachers to inspire students to write. Trained Writing Project Volunteers meet individually with students to develop stronger skills and produce professionally designed publications.

The Young Writers Program’s project-based approach gives students ownership of their writing process, strengthening their ability to express themselves clearly and in their own voices. Classroom projects typically run six weeks, with volunteers in the classroom two to three hours a week.

The program has resulted in 17 projects in the first two years, including 13 books and two posters, and this year will be expanded into nine of the ten county districts. For more information, visit youngwritersprogram.santacruzwrites.org.

Relationship: The Key To Success in Alternative Education

It is a rare occasion that a student enters the Alternative Education Program having just experienced his or her best day, week, month, or year in school. Students often enter with a distaste for school, a profound distrust of adults, and a disbelief in themselves. They often show up determined to resist our best efforts.

In Alternative Education schools, “Relationship” is key to building academic success and to convincing previously resistant students to re-engage. Relationship is perhaps the greatest reason for maintaining small, alternative school environments, where over time, students and school staff come to think of their classrooms as home and of each other as family.

Many students arrive to school with high levels of need, a number of which, if unmet, become barriers to learning. This is why teachers arrive early to school to greet the students, and why most schools provide sustenance before school begins. It is why all of our students have access to counseling, and why teachers make the effort to display each student’s work and recognize students for their unique talents. It is why most teachers have adopted a “can’t fail” grading system. Alternative Education offers a personalized approach to learning. The school meets students where they are, in order to develop an academic program that is tailored to their needs, with relationship and trust at the forefront.

Over time, placing the highest priority on relationship-building pays off. No learning can take place if students do not feel safe and supported. This emphasis overcomes resistance, renews confidence, and restores hope for the future.

Planting the College Seed at an Early Age

Santa Cruz County College Commitment (S4C) was launched three years ago with a goal to increase career and college readiness and completion for every student. Over the past 20 years, high school graduation rates have steadily increased in Santa Cruz County. But assessment of incoming college students revealed that many were unable to perform at transfer level in English and math. Recognizing that no single institution could solve this alone, county educators formed S4C.

S4C is guided by a steering committee comprised of leadership from all county K-12 school districts, the County Office of Education, charter schools, and local colleges and universities.

The S4C project began at Cabrillo College, where the Samper 4th Grade Experience brought every 4th grader in the county to the Cabrillo campus for a college classroom experience and tour. Major events now include a 7th Grade Summit, hosted by CSUMB and UCSC, where every 7th grader explores potential careers and maps out college prep coursework for high school. For high schoolers and their parents, the focus is on College Awareness Week in the fall, beginning with presentations at Cabrillo College and Career Night, featuring over 60 four-year universities.
**Changes in Standardized Testing**

Owing to the passage of Assembly Bill 484, many of the standardized tests reported on in recent annual reports are no longer given. A replacement set of tests, known as the Smarter Balanced Assessments was given on a pilot basis in 2013-14 and results are not yet available. The graphs below indicate results on other student assessments that continue to be administered.

**California High School Exit Exam Results**

**MATHEMATICS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class of 2014</th>
<th>Class of 2015</th>
<th>Class of 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Santa Cruz County</td>
<td>State of California</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ENGLISH**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class of 2014</th>
<th>Class of 2015</th>
<th>Class of 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Santa Cruz County</td>
<td>State of California</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Advanced Placement Results**

Number of high school students receiving a passing score of 3, 4, or 5 on one or more Advanced Placement Exams.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Santa Cruz County</th>
<th>State of California</th>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>1338</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>1553</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>1733</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SAT Scores**

The total average SAT Score of Santa Cruz County high school students was 1568 in 2013, as compared to 1489 for the state. Maximum score possible is 2400 points.

Source: Santa Cruz County Community Assessment Project year 20
The SCCOE is helping local school districts adjust to the new Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), which gives them more control over how they expend funds.

The state and nation have had a year of recovery, accompanied by growth in tax revenues and employment. This fiscal year, districts across the state have implemented the new funding formula, the “Local Control Funding Formula” (LCFF) and developed their first “Local Control Accountability Plan” (LCAP). The districts will be educating their students and monitoring funds under these two programs together for the first time during 2014-15. The formula and the plan are meant to give districts more local control over the funds that they have to expend.

Displayed below are the unaudited General Fund revenues and expenditures for the 2013-2014 fiscal year. These charts reflect revenues under LCFF and include the Proposition 30 generated funds which increased sales and income taxes temporarily to sustain schools through 2018-19, at which time the temporary taxes will expire.

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education (SCCOE) provides both internal services to support the COE and external business services in support of the ten school districts in the county. The services provided include: budget approval, monitoring, revenue distribution, payroll, retirement reporting, assistance to the four small school districts, attendance reporting, audit reviews, financial system support, workshops and financial accounting services.

The following charts display the total General Fund revenues and expenditures that flowed through the Santa Cruz County school districts in fiscal year 2013-2014. Illustrated in the revenue chart are the different sources that allocate funds to schools. The state is the largest contributor, providing more than $302 million in general and revenue limit funds. The second chart displays how the funds are spent by the districts. As illustrated in the chart, school expenditures are primarily in salaries and benefits to support the students in the classrooms. Over the past year some school districts have received additional funds under the new funding model and have been able to put more money into the classrooms to support the educational system.
The bar graph shows the number of W-2’s processed by the SCCOE for all local school districts over the past ten calendar years. (Unlike revenues and expenses, W-2 data is reported on a calendar-year basis.) In recent years there had been a decline in the number of W-2’s countywide, but there was a slight increase in 2012 and again in 2013, an indication that the economy continues to recover.

**Integrated Technology Services Are Provided Countywide**

Technology Services Department of the Santa Cruz County Office of Education is to provide network services and support to districts throughout Santa Cruz County. All multi-school districts connect to the COE via high speed fiber optic connections to access the 10 gigabit K-12 High Speed Network. Recent infrastructure enhancement initiatives have brought broadband, wireless and classroom technology upgrades to small districts including Mountain, Happy Valley, Bonny Doon and Pacific elementary school districts.
Educational Services Division

**Arts in Education Activities** during the 2013-14 year included: *The Arts Institute*, a full week in the summer and three follow-up Saturdays where K-8 teachers were immersed in two arts disciplines; *Artist-Teacher Partnership Project*, in which four artists partnered with four Institute teachers to teach in different schools; *Kindergarten Art Project* used a similar on-site model of artists mentoring teachers; and *Countywide Specialist Professional Development*, a peer-teaching model for K-12 arts specialists.

**Early Education Development Programs** The Child Development Department supports early learning to prepare children to be socially, emotionally, and academically ready to succeed in school. This includes addressing unmet child care needs by advocating for accessible and affordable child care for all families. *The Child Development Resource Center* helps families find child care that meets their needs and offers professional development to child care providers. *The Child Care Planning Council* plays a leading role in helping policy makers invest in early childhood care and education.

**Environmental Programs** The best way to learn about nature is by being there. This principle has sent more than 100,000 students through *Outdoor Science School* since the program began in 1973. Students from schools in five counties attend the week-long residential Outdoor Science School in the Santa Cruz Mountains, exploring the relationship between plants, animals and humans through scientific inquiry. *The California Regional Environmental Education Community (CREEC)* network enhances environmental literacy through a fully searchable online directory of environment-based education, field trips, curriculum, classes, grants and workshops aligned with state standards.

**Migrant Head Start** This program provides comprehensive services for more than 100 farm worker families. The children, all under the age of five, receive child care while their parents work in the fields from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Parents participate in workshops and home visits to learn about health, nutrition, and how to support their children’s learning. The goal is to ease the transition of farm worker families into the community and encourage a love of learning.

**New Teacher Project** *The Santa Cruz/Silicon Valley New Teacher Project (SC/SVNTP)* is a collaborative effort among the Santa Cruz County Office of Education and more than 44 school districts and charter schools in Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, North Monterey and San Benito counties. The focus is to provide new teachers with intensive coaching support and training during their credential-clearing process. Through weekly mentoring, teachers’ classroom practices improve to ensure academic success focused on the California Common Core State Standards, while being responsive to the diverse cultural, social, academic and linguistic backgrounds of all students.

**Student Support Services** The Department provides academic and supportive services to more than 5,000 students annually through: 1) *Safe and Supportive Schools* — staff development in safe-school planning bullying prevention, violence prevention, teen dating violence prevention, emergency response for schools, and the *School Mental Health Partnership*, which provides a comprehensive system of mental health services.

2) *Law-Related Education Programs*, including Teen Peer Court, Mock Trial, and DUI Court in Schools. 3) *Student and District Support Services* — Students in Transition for homeless students, School Attendance Review Board for truant youth, and Healthy Girls/Santa Cruz. 4) *Youth Employment Development* — Subsidized jobs for 16-24 year old at-risk youth through the Sueños Program in South County and Work4Youth summer employment program countywide.
Curriculum and Instruction

Curriculum & Instruction leaders provide expertise and leadership for programs and services supporting the success of all students, educators, and learning communities in Santa Cruz County. The focus is on working closely with local schools and districts to offer direct assistance and professional learning experiences for teachers and administrators. Encouraging academic achievement and showcasing outstanding student scholars are annual themes of the countywide student academic competitions, which include the Spelling Bee, the Science & Engineering Fair, and the Math Contest.

C&I is an active member of the educational community, building ongoing relationships necessary to support and sustain program implementation. Regular meetings of educator networks facilitate collaboration and professional learning. Networks for 2014-2015 include: elementary principals, middle school principals, high school principals, curriculum and instruction administrators, and instructional coaches. Workshop series emphasize topics such as building academic language, collaboration, project-based learning, and curriculum/technology integration. With statewide, computer-based testing and new standards for English language arts, mathematics, English language development, and science, the support of Curriculum & Instruction staff is more important than ever.

Education Technology

Teaching and learning today require students and teachers to have a higher level of technology proficiency and digital literacy. Education Technology provides students with relevant, authentic, and engaging learning opportunities. The SCCOE is a local, regional, statewide and national leader in education technology advocacy, policy, and practice. Here are just a few examples.

Technology Integration Cadres: The Technology Integration Cadres support teachers in professional learning organized around foundational topics in education technology. Five days of instruction focus on effective research strategies, collaborative projects, digital storytelling, website creation and ePortfolios. This is combined with ongoing lesson development support, a resource website, and online learning modules. For more information, visit: http://www.santacruz.k12.ca.us/ed_services/technology_integration.html

Computer Initiatives: Implementing the Common Core State Standards and Computer Adaptive Testing requires strong technology-related skills. The SCCOE has been supporting, advising, and working with the Pajaro Valley Unified School district and the Alternative Education Department at the SCCOE as they deploy Chromebooks to students. This support includes training teachers on designing engaging lessons using interactive and collaborative web-based tools to create an anytime/anywhere learning environment.

Technology Information Center for Administrative Leadership (TICAL): TICAL offers professional development to help K-12 leaders in the use of technology to improve education.

TICAL’s three-pillared professional development approach:

1. Local professional development: A core group of 20-plus educational leaders, representing all geographic regions of California and Arizona, receives training and regional support
2. Statewide professional development: A statewide technology leadership symposium and an online, global conference for NO-COST (a school leadership summit).
3. Online professional development: A website of resources including tutorials, templates, and promising practices of technology integration and leadership, as well as an online community for discussions and resource sharing and monthly webinars on leadership topics.

Leading Edge Certification: Leading Edge Certification (LEC) is a national certification program in educational technology and curriculum innovation. Created by an alliance of nonprofits, universities and educational agencies, LEC is the first national certification program of its kind, and is platform and vendor neutral. There are currently three areas of LEC certification offered by the SCCOE (online and blended teacher, administrator, and digital educator certifications). For more information, visit: http://www.leadingedgecertification.org/
Child Development Resource Center

New brain research is clear: quality early learning environments for young children shape the foundation for future school success.

Child development programs provided 115 hours of professional development to over 1,606 early educators serving low-income children on topics such as: math, science, history, literacy and social-emotional health.

Techonology Integration Cadres

target professional learning in education technology.

2013-2014: 58 teachers participated, with 62% of these teachers creating a digital portfolio.

2014-2015: 126 teachers joined this year.

Outdoor Science School

Over 100,000 students have attended week-long, residential Outdoor Science School, following qualified naturalists through the redwood forest, exploring the interrelationships between plants, animals and humans. Outdoor Science School helps prepare youth for the ecological and environmental decisions they will make as adults.

Advancement Via Individual Determination

AVID program prepares under-served students for success in college. Through AVID, students have equal access to college preparatory curricula. Last year 86% of California’s AVID students completed their UC and CSU “A-G” subject requirements. All districts in Santa Cruz County have AVID programs in middle and/or high school.

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Regional Occupation Program

serves more than 3,000 students, offering 150 classes in 49 unique subjects at 20 locations in Santa Cruz County

20 ROP classes meet the UC/CSU “A-G” Requirements.

Articulation agreements exist for 16 ROP classes.

Countywide work-based learning program ROP has served Santa Cruz County since 1968.

Santa Cruz County Science & Engineering Fair

Over 400 students from schools across the county showcased independent research projects to more than 100 volunteer judges representing local scientists, university research staff, educators, graduate students and community partners.

40 of the top junior and senior division students competed in the California State Science Fair and the two top high school projects attended the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF).

Santa Cruz County

is a countywide collaborative aimed at getting every Santa Cruz County elementary, middle, and high school student college-ready.

2,843 4th graders visited Cabrillo College.

2,500 high school students and parents participated in College & Career Night.

2013-2014: 58 teachers participated, with 62% of these teachers creating a digital portfolio.

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Business Partners in Education

We thank the following businesses for their continued support of the youth in Santa Cruz County

24 Hour Fitness
A Touch of Elegance
AAA Insurance
Ace Hardware
Administrative Office of the Courts
Annie Glass
Aptos Coffee Roasting Company
Bank of America
Bar Association
Bay Federal Credit Union
Bay Tree Book Store
Bayview Hotel
Best Buy
Bike Trip & Project Bike Trip
Bill Schultz Construction
Bookshop Santa Cruz
Boys’ and Girls’ Club
Brinks Awards & Signs
Cabrillo College
Cabrillo College Horticulture
Café Cruz
Café Ella
California Center for Excellence for Trauma Informed Care*
Capiotla Mall
Capitola Police Department*
CASA
Cece Pinheiro - SPIN
Chaminade Resort and Spa
Chardonnay Sailing Charters
Child Care Ventures
Children’s Mental Health Chili’s
Choi’s Tae Kwan Do
Cinelux
City of Watsonville
Claire’s
Coleman Company
Community Bridges/La Manzana
Community Printers, Inc.
Community TV- Santa Cruz
Compass Rose Media
Costco
County of Santa Cruz
County-wide BASTA Operations Teams 1 & 2
Darco Paper & Printing
Del Mar/Nickelodeon Theatres
Digital Media Factory
Driscoll’s
Dominican Hospital
Easton Bell
Erik’s Deli
Encompass Community Services – Youth Services*
Encompass Head Start HM*
Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising
First 5 Santa Cruz
Five Star Catering
Food, What?!
Fringe Salon
FTC Family of Companies
Gayle’s Bakery
Georgia Wilson Company
Graniterock
Grey Bears
Habitat for Humanity
Head Start Santa Cruz County
Hidden Gardens Nursery
Homeless Garden Project
Human Resources Agency
Jia Tella’s Cambodian Cuisine
JumpStart Day Care
Kaleidoscope Parent Teacher Store
Karl Brose, DDS
Kelly’s French Bakery
Koinonia Conference Grounds
Leadership Santa Cruz Lifestyle Catering Lookey
Makers Factory
Marini’s Candy*
Marinovich Community Center
Mark Chandler Automotive
Martinelli’s
Mary Altier Photography
Mattress Factory Outlet-Santa Cruz*
Mexico Produce
Michael’s on Main
Migrant Education/Watsonville High
Mission Hill Creamery
Monterey Bay Horsemanship
National Center for Youth Law*
Office Max
Orion Telescopes and Binoculars
Pacific Cookie Company
Packard Foundation
Pajaro Dunes Association
Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance*
Palace Art & Office Supply
Peet’s Coffee
Photoflex
Pizza My Heart
Plantronics
Poetry Santa Cruz
Polar Bear Ice Cream
PowerProductions Software
Pro Build Lumber
Product Ops
Ray’s Upholstery
Roaring Camp*
Safeway
Salud Para La Gente
Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk
Santa Cruz Community Credit Union
Santa Cruz County Bank
Santa Cruz County Criminal Justice Council*
Santa Cruz County District Attorney’s Office
Santa Cruz County Fair
Santa Cruz County Family and Children’s Services
Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency
Santa Cruz County Human Services Agency
Santa Cruz County Independent Living Program
Santa Cruz County Juvenile Court
Santa Cruz County Juvenile Probation
Santa Cruz County Probation
Santa Cruz County Sheriff’s Department
Santa Cruz Credit Union
Santa Cruz Fire Department
Santa Cruz Head Start
Santa Cruz Mountain Brewing Company
Santa Cruz Parks and Recreation
Santa Cruz Police Department
Santa Cruz Public Defenders
Santa Cruz Roller Palladium
Santa Cruz Seaside Company
Santa Cruz Sentinel
Santa Cruz SPCA
Santa Cruz Visitor Center*
Santa Cruz Warriors
Scotts Valley Police Department
Scotts Valley Senior Center
Seagate Technologies
Second Harvest Food Bank
Second Street Café
Second Street Stereo
Simcha Preschool
Specialized Helicopters
Sports Design
St. Michael’s Church
Staff of Life
Starbucks
Street Light Records
Superior Court of California, Santa Cruz
Taco Bell
Tamara’s Beauty Salon
Target
The Abbey
The Markkula Center for Applied Ethics at Santa Clara University
Tony and Alba’s
Trader Joe’s
Trial Lawyers Association
UC Santa Cruz
UCSC Baskin School of Engineering
UCSC Lifelab
UCSC-Ed Options and STARS Programs
United Way
UPS
Vicky’s Produce
Vista Verde Head Start
Watsonville Community Hospital
Watsonville Fire Department
Watsonville Police Department
Watsonville/Aptos Adult Education
Wells Fargo Bank
West End Tap*
Whole Foods*
William James Association
Woodstock’s Pizza
YMCA of Watsonville Thrift Store
Your Future is Our Business
YWCA of Watsonville

* New Partner 2014-2015
Santa Cruz County Office of Education

STRATEGIC PLAN
2014 - 2016

Strategic Areas of Focus
Through innovation and entrepreneurship, the Santa Cruz County Office of Education...

1. Supports local districts in their continuous effort to improve and deliver high quality education for all.
2. Increases educational options & opportunities for all students, parents and the community.
3. Expands partnerships with other educational institutions, businesses, and organizations.
4. Models fiscal responsibility by aligning resources to strategic priority areas.
5. Creates a model work environment by identifying, developing, supporting, and maintaining highly competent educational professionals.

Mission
The Mission of the Santa Cruz County Office of Education is to provide quality educational leadership, programs, services, and support to the children, school districts, and the diverse community that makes up Santa Cruz County.

Vision
Every student will have equitable access to high quality educational programs and be prepared for college and career success in a global economy. All school districts in Santa Cruz County will view SCCOE as an integral partner in improving public education. SCCOE will research and apply innovative 21st century practices; leverage community and business partnerships; inspire transformative leadership; and customize exemplary services to districts, school communities and students from early childhood through adult.

Core Responsibilities
The Santa Cruz County Office of Education...
- Provides challenging, relevant, and high quality educational programs for students in County Office programs.
- Supports districts to accelerate achievement for all students.
- Collaborates with districts in response to current challenges and future trends in education.
- Increases parent, business, and community participation in schools and build public confidence and trust in public education.
- Maximizes resources to improve the quality, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness of school districts and the County Office.