

# Annual Report To The Community



THE STATE OF EDUCATION IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY 2018-2019

## Creating Pathways for ALL Students

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Strategic Plan back cover



“Scotts Valley Unified School District often relies on the

### **support and expertise**

of the Santa Cruz County Office of Education. Leadership and support are provided in a variety of ways to the district administration, as well as to teachers, and **the COE staff work collaboratively with our districts to ensure needs are met academically and fiscally.**

Their student-centered focus flows to the districts with both personnel and the systems that are in place. We greatly appreciate the relationship and collegiality between the COE and SVUSD.”

—Tanya Krause

Superintendent,  
Scotts Valley  
Unified School  
District

This annual report published in accordance with California law.

**ON THE COVER:** Students get the hang of the equipment in Nehal Pfeiffer’s biotechnology class at Harbor High. Students, from left, are Brendan Bobo, Miles Potter, Grace Bailey, Maribel Ocaranza, and Trevor Hill. Standing behind are outgoing County Superintendent Michael Watkins and current Superintendent Faris Sabbah.

—Photo by Chip Scheuer

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# **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.santacruzcoe.org](http://www.santacruzcoe.org)

## Letter from the County Superintendent



**The SCCOE serves to bridge educational experience with professional opportunities, ensuring all students graduate prepared for college and a career, and actively engaged in their communities.**

**A**s I begin my tenure as the Superintendent of the County Office of Education, I want to thank Michael Watkins for his many years of service and leadership in our community. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve Santa Cruz County and look forward to finding a data-centric and systemic approach to educational advocacy, academic improvement and scholastic innovation. With this in mind, I am pleased to present the Santa Cruz County Office of Education's (SCCOE) 2019 Annual Report to the Community.

The SCCOE works to provide educational opportunities and support —

not only to the schools we directly operate, but also to each local school district — so that all students can achieve and thrive. This year's report highlights key initiatives our office has undertaken in 2018 that directly impact the students in our community.

Modern career opportunities require innovative **learning experiences**. We are committed to **responding** to the needs of our students and community, **providing the academic, technical, and social-emotional skills necessary to prepare for today's and future career landscape**.

The SCCOE serves to bridge educational experience with professional opportunities,

**ensuring all students graduate prepared for college and a career, and actively engaged in their communities.**

In this report, we'll explore these successes and learn how the SCCOE is supporting the long-term education of all students and ensuring that our youngest children have quality learning opportunities in the critical early learning years. As we look to the future, SCCOE continues to partner with school districts and community organizations to **create schools that are safe, responsive and that prepare our county's students for the challenges and opportunities they will face.**

*Dr. Faris Sabbah*  
Superintendent,  
Santa Cruz County  
Office of Education



# Exemplary Educators and Current County Trustees

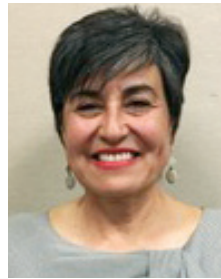
## Santa Cruz County Office of Education Recognizes Exemplary 2018 Educators



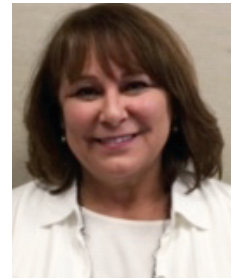
**Angelica Echevarria**  
*Counselor*  
Watsonville High  
School



**Jamie Andres-Larson**  
*Teacher*  
Monarch Elementary  
School



**Margarita Martinez**  
*Classified Employee*  
Santa Cruz Gardens  
Elementary School



**Dr. Tamra Taylor**  
*Former Superintendent*  
Live Oak  
School District



**Sue Roth** - Trustee Area 1

Represents portions of San Lorenzo Valley, Scotts Valley and Santa Cruz. Provisionally appointed in January 2017, she was elected in 2018 to a full term expiring in December 2022.



**Rose Filicetti** - Trustee Area 4

Represents Mountain School District, portions of Soquel, Capitola, Live Oak, and Santa Cruz. Provisionally appointed in May 2017, she was elected in 2018 to a full term expiring in December 2022.



**Bruce Van Allen** - Trustee Area 2

Represents Happy Valley, portions of Santa Cruz and Live Oak. Provisionally appointed in February 2015 to fill the Trustee Area 2 vacancy, he was elected in November 2016 to begin his first full term, which expires in December 2020.



**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 second term, which expires in December 2020.



**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 second term, which expires in December 2020.



**Dana Sales** - Trustee Area 6

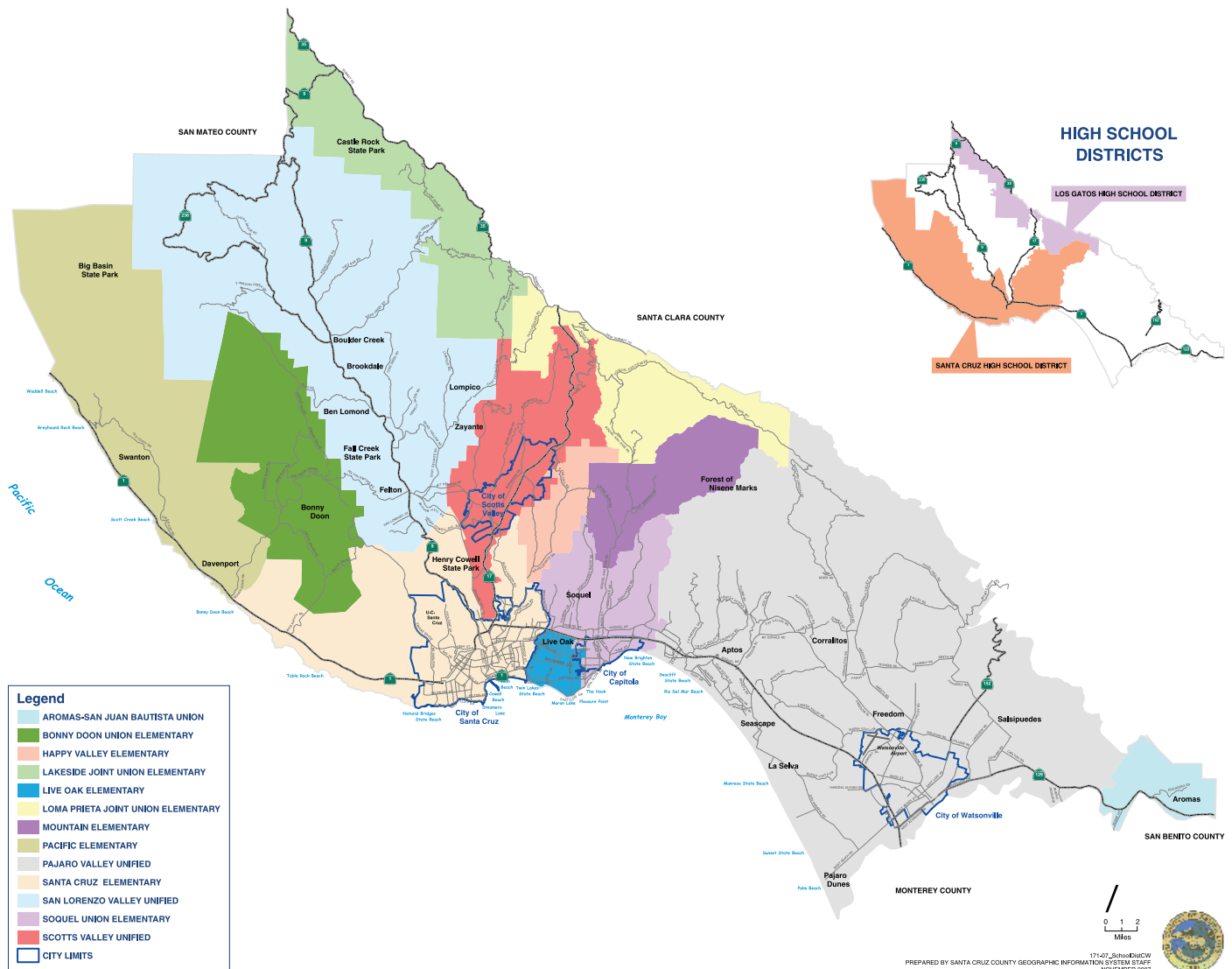
Represents a portion of the Pajaro Valley Unified School District. Elected in 1992, he is currently serving his seventh term, which expires in December 2020.



**Abel Sanchez** - Trustee Area 7

Represents a portion of the Pajaro Valley Unified School District. Elected in 2014, he was re-elected in 2018 to a second term which expires in December 2022.

## SCHOOL DISTRICTS – Santa Cruz County, California



## School Districts and Superintendents – 2017-2018 enrollment numbers are in parentheses

Bonny Doon Union Elementary School District (163)	Pajaro Valley Unified School District (20,400)
Mike Heffner 831-427-2300	Michelle Rodriguez 831-786-2100
<a href="http://www.bonnydoon.santacruz.k12.ca.us">http://www.bonnydoon.santacruz.k12.ca.us</a>	<a href="http://www.pvUSD.net">http://www.pvUSD.net</a>
Happy Valley Elementary School District (125)	San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District (4,998)
Michelle McKinny 831-429-1456	Laurie Bruton 831-336-5194
<a href="http://www.hvesd.com">http://www.hvesd.com</a>	<a href="http://www.slvUSD.org">http://www.slvUSD.org</a>
Live Oak School District (2,069)	Santa Cruz City School District (6,788)
Lorie Chamberland 831-475-6333	Kris Munro 831-429-3410
<a href="http://www.losd-ca.schoolloop.com">http://www.losd-ca.schoolloop.com</a>	<a href="http://www.sccs.net">http://www.sccs.net</a>
Mountain Elementary School District (118)	Scotts Valley Unified School District (2,505)
Diane Morgenstern 831-475-6812	Tanya Krause 831-438-1820
<a href="http://www.mountainesd.org">http://www.mountainesd.org</a>	<a href="http://www.scottsvally-ca.schoolloop.com">http://www.scottsvally-ca.schoolloop.com</a>
Pacific Elementary School District (106)	Soquel Union Elementary School District (1,981)
Eric Gross 831-425-7002	Scott Turnbull 831-464-5630
<a href="http://www.pacificesd.org">http://www.pacificesd.org</a>	<a href="http://www.soqueldo.santacruz.k12.ca.us">http://www.soqueldo.santacruz.k12.ca.us</a>

*“I am very proud of the **strong partnerships** that have been created to support youth who are at risk of gang involvement. Addressing the problems early makes a real difference”*

—Bryan Wall  
Interim Deputy Superintendent/  
BASTA Executive Director

## *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 individually tailored academic program. 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 Special Education programs serve students from birth to age 22 who have moderate to severe disabilities and whose unique needs cannot be met within their districts. This year Special Education classes are located at Soquel, Santa Cruz, San Lorenzo Valley, and Live Oak School District campuses. The SCCOE classes serve a variety of disabilities including autism, intellectual disabilities, and multiple disabilities. 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, now in its seventh year, hosted by SCCOE to facilitate communication between law enforcement,

education and social services to help reduce gang and youth violence and crime and to increase student safety. It is comprised of multiple components: A North County Operational Team co-chaired by senior law enforcement personnel; an informational website; periodic trainings for school staff and parents; 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 facilitates a Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program Executive Advisory Council (FYSCP EAC), which coordinates educational advocacy with all county partners involved in the systems of foster care and education. Additionally, SCCOE has implemented and is sustaining the FosterEd case management model, ensuring that all foster youth going to school in Santa Cruz County have an assigned education liaison, an education team, an education case plan, and an identified education champion. Outside evaluations have consistently shown that students in the FosterEd program show high rates of meeting their educational goals and increasing school attendance.





## *The Santa Cruz County Career Technical Education Partnership*

The Santa Cruz County **Career Technical Education Partnership** (CTEP) (formerly the Regional Occupational Program (ROP)) continues to provide high quality Career and Technical Education (CTE) for the community. This year it will serve more than 3,000 students in 142 classes in 38 subjects at 17 different locations.

As a department of the Santa Cruz County Office of Education (SCCOE), CTEP provides tuition-free programming to all interested high school students in five high school districts (San Lorenzo Valley, Scotts Valley, Santa Cruz, Pajaro Valley and Alternative Education). CTEP also offers fee-based programs for adults, including dental and medical assisting.

CTEP is committed to providing different opportunities for students to become college and career ready

by offering 21 CTE college prep courses at every comprehensive high school in Santa Cruz County. These courses will help students complete the minimum requirements to be admitted to a California State University or University of California campus.

Another way CTEP helps students prepare for college is by offering 15 CTE courses that are articulated with local community colleges. Students in these courses can earn college credit while they are in high school. Some courses also offer an industry-recognized certificate upon completion, which helps make a student instantly employable.

CTEP conducts an exposition (Expo) at most comprehensive high schools in the five districts. The purpose of this event is to connect education and industry partners to high school students and their

CTE programs. The event is always well attended by CTEP staff and students, industry representatives and local educators focused on providing the highest quality career and technical education.

Some of the outcomes of the CTEP Expo are that students and teachers connect with local business leaders to discuss employment and work-based learning opportunities; that CTEP teachers receive valuable information from industry representatives to ensure the relevance and rigor of their programs; and that CTEP engages in good conversation with educational partners about CTE and Core Academic program integration. The CTEP Expo will continue to provide CTE support and strengthen relationships between the business community, school districts, and the SCCOE.

## *Student Support Services*

The Student Support Services Department provides a variety of academic and supportive services annually to hundreds of students directly and thousands indirectly. Direct services include:

- **FosterEd and The McKinney-Vento Program (Homeless Education Support)** – with school advocacy and case management for students in foster care and “in-transition”
- **Restorative Justice Programs** – including Restorative Circles, Teen Peer Court, Real DUI Court in Schools, and Mock Trial
- **Youth Employment Development** – implemented through the Sueños Program serving 16-24 year olds in South County through work based learning experiences
- **SARB** – the county Student Attendance and Review Board, serving all but the largest districts.



The department serves county students indirectly via consultation, training and support to school districts regarding students in transition (homeless), school mental health resources, county contracts managed for Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), Diversity Center and Live Oak Community Resources as well as assistance to SCCOE's Alternative Education System and its varied site locations throughout the county.

# Programs for Success

## *S4C: Preparing Students for their College Educations*

Santa Cruz County College Commitment (S4C) is a collaborative of educators, administrators, and counselors. It strives to create opportunities for all students by improving students' access to and success in rigorous coursework and by supporting counselors, teachers and administrators in their learning and practice. S4C partners with educators and the community to ensure that all students graduate with numerous post-secondary options and a wide array of career choices.

Established in 2011, S4C guides and supports college and career readiness initiatives in the county. In this work S4C creates opportunities for district

collaboration and dialogue, provides an array of enriching opportunities for students and educators, and measures county progress through data collection and analysis. S4C provides students with college experiences in the early grades, professional development for school counselors, instructional support for math educators, and TK-16 articulation strategies.

S4C sponsors several large events, including the Fourth Grade Experience hosted by Cabrillo College, and the Seventh Grade College Summit hosted by CSUMB and UCSC. S4C also sponsors professional development for

teachers in Common Core mathematics instruction.

Additionally, in November 2018 S4C hosted the second annual School Counselor Symposium where over 150 counselors, administrators and students came together to learn best practices, with the shared goal of increasing student access and success in post-secondary education. Through these efforts S4C aims to provide students with lifelong opportunities after high school.

## *Supporting School Counselors to Improve Student Outcomes*

In a changing career landscape, public schools are increasingly focusing efforts to ensure all students graduate prepared for post-secondary education. School counselors can play a vital role in this effort, and SCCOE is taking several steps to provide them with support.

With caseloads of up to 945 students, local school counselors need the support. SCCOE is addressing this need by engaging school counselors in a variety of professional learning opportunities. This has included sending counselors to trainings, establishing a School Counselor Leadership Academy, and holding an annual School Counselor Symposium to bring regional and national experts to the county.

"I believe school counselors are the secret sauce of student achievement," keynote speaker Joyce Brown told attendees at the 2018 Santa Cruz

County School Counselor Symposium. Brown, a former Chicago school counselor and administrator believes school counselors should be integral members of school leadership teams. Among the day's sessions were workshops on how to better engage families, encourage student leaders, help students and families understand the financial aid process, and improve practice around meeting the diverse needs of LGBT and foster youth.

Teams of school counselors will meet again in February and April to collaboratively design school counseling curriculum for every grade level and determine how they will measure their impact. With this support S4C aims to reaffirm the importance of school counselors in the effort to provide students with every opportunity available and prepare them for success after graduation.

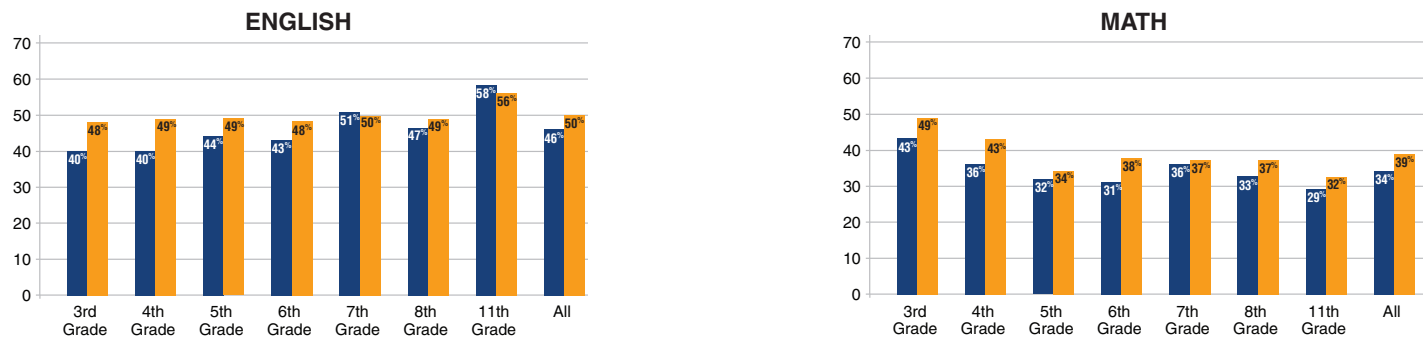
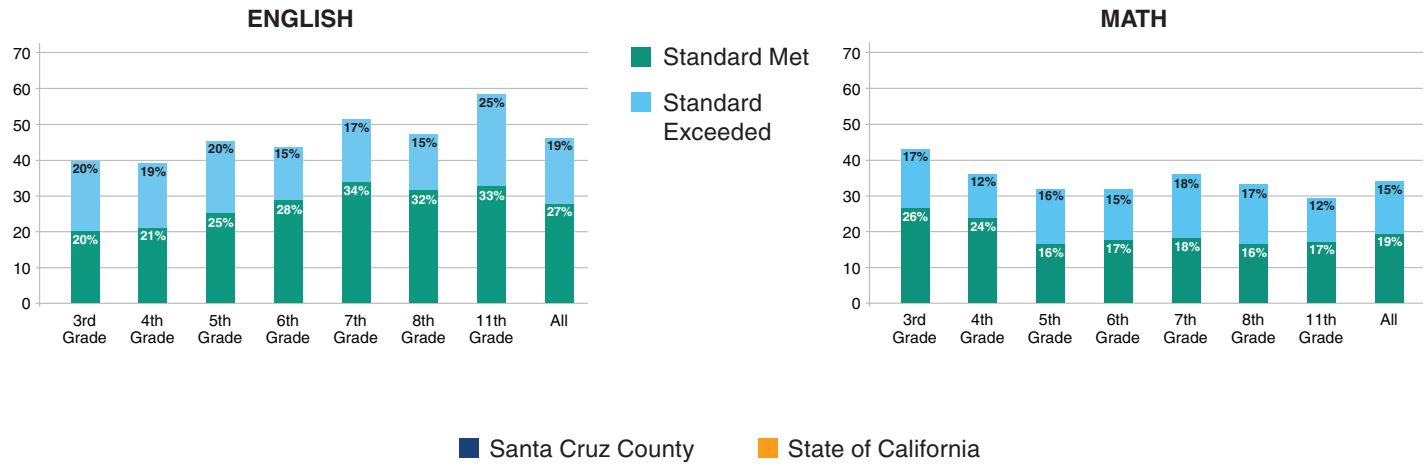
## *District Support and Leadership*

The District Support and Leadership office aids the ten county school districts in achieving continuous student improvement and strategic leadership. Expertise and guidance are provided from a site and district level on institutional issues, and elementary and middle school principal networks are offered for administrators to enhance their leadership skills and capacity. This office is a hands-on partner that tailors work to individual district needs throughout the year.

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education Educational Services Division leads a Professional Learning Network (PLN) through a grant from the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence (CCEE), partnering with five county districts focusing on core improvement work. The PLN will work together for two years, meeting twice a month, to improve student achievement through strategic leadership and high caliber technical assistance. This work focuses on building capacity and systems improvement.



## California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP)



*The Office of Educational Technology, under the leadership of Jason Borgen, was invaluable in guiding us through Board approval of our first ever District Technology Plan.*

*Their partnership is critical to the small districts that rely on the County Office of Education for both technology innovation and technical guidance.”*

—Diane Morgenstern,  
Superintendent/Principal,  
Mountain Elementary  
School District

## *Technology, Innovation, and Communication Building Mindsets for the Future*

Today’s kindergartners will be graduating from high school in the year 2031 and graduating from college in 2035. What will the work force be like? The Santa Cruz County Office of Education strives to support all districts in preparing students for the future of college and careers. Furthermore, through the recently created Tech+ Division (Technology, Innovation, and Communication), ALL work of the SCCOE is communicated through various media channels and aligned to organization principles.

The Tech+ Division aims to provide state-of-the-art programs and services to internal and external partners. The division work is divided into eight areas to build relevant and engaging environments for students, staff, the larger Santa Cruz County Educational community, and beyond.

### **Internal Informational Technology Services**

The division provides all networks, computing devices, and peripherals to SCCOE employees and board members from Internet access and file-sharing to laptops, tablets, and Phone Services as well as continued growth opportunities to stay current in efficient technology practices. SCCOE provides services and support to all county school sites.

### **Internal Growth**

Training staff is essential for today’s work force. Working to reduce paper use, increase ongoing communication and collaboration, and aligning more closely to the districts, Tech+ is creating a culture that fosters learning and appreciation of productivity tools.

### **Business Technology**

Working closely with the Business Information Technology Department, the Tech+ Division supports the local

infrastructure for the countywide school financial system, which includes payroll, budget, HR, and more for all districts.

### **Communications**

Communication efforts at SCCOE consist of varied internal and external channels managed by the Web Communications Department to create transparency and showcase the varied partnerships that develop student success. The foundation of the COE’s communication is the website at [www.santacruzcoe.org](http://www.santacruzcoe.org). Social media channels are also used to disseminate resources and COE information.

### **External Network Support**

Externally, Tech+ acts as the Internet Service Provider (ISP) for all 10 districts in the county.

### **District Outreach**

Tech+ provides school districts with strategic guidance and expertise in technology planning aligned to infrastructure. This may include professional development, strategic planning, procurement guidance, and more.

### **Data Approaches**

Tech+ partners with districts and the Educational Services Division to assist in a systems thinking approach to data and ways to use data warehouse and assessment systems to develop a mindset toward analytics while ensuring student data is secure and private.

### **Statewide and Global Partnerships**

Tech+ includes housing the Technology Information Center for Administrative Leadership (<http://www.portcal.org>) – a statewide project that supports school administrators’ effective use of technology focused on student achievement. Tech+ also serves on statewide and national committees to support and network with leaders in the field.





The Santa Cruz County Office of Education (SCCOE) Business Services Division provides both internal services and external services in support of the ten school districts in the county. Services include: budget approval and monitoring, revenue distribution, payroll assistance, retirement reporting, fiscal assistance to the four small school districts, Special Education Regional Program finances, countywide attendance reporting, audit reviews, financial system support, workshops and financial accounting services. The state continues to fund schools using the Local Control Funding

Formula (LCFF) which was implemented in 2013-14. The County Office and the school districts in the county are funded on a base allocation per ADA and additional funds based on demographics. Full implementation of LCFF funding is occurring this fiscal year, in 2018-19. SCCOE will be “flat funded” through at least 2021-2022 and likely further into the future. This means that it will not receive any additional funds in the future and will need to cover the costs of step and column raises, retirement funding increases, health and welfare increases, cost of goods increases and any other salary

increases that may be negotiated with no statutory cost of living adjustment (COLA).

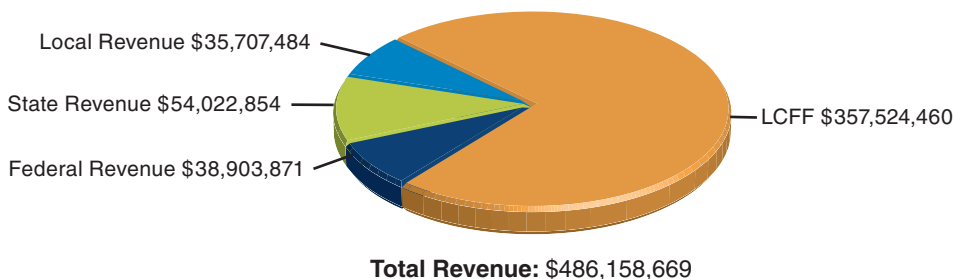
Local school districts are all now “fully funded” based on the formula and will receive only the statutory COLA in the future. This means they will need to cover the cost of step and column raises, and the other costs previously noted with just the annual nominal statutory COLA. When combining the cost of all these items, the COLA will not cover the increases and school districts will need to make reductions in the future.

Displayed at left are the General Fund revenues and expenses for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. The revenues reflect those received under the LCFF and include Proposition 55 funds generated through increased personal income taxes on incomes over \$250,000 to temporarily sustain schools through 2030, at which time the temporary taxes will expire.

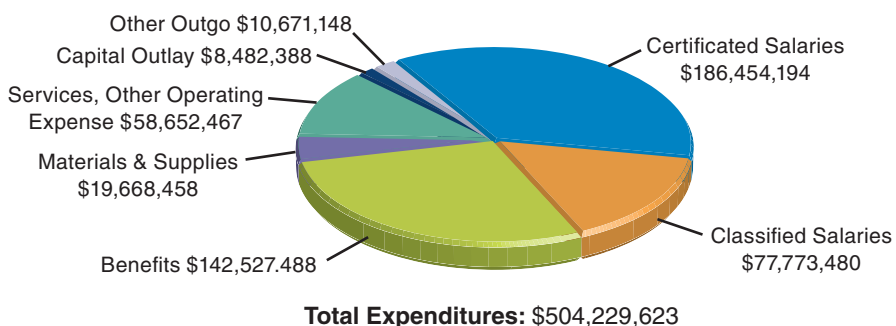
Illustrated in the revenue chart are the different sources which allocate funds to schools. By far the State LCFF funding is the largest contributor with countywide state revenues totaling \$357 million. The second chart displays how the funds are expended by the districts. As illustrated in the chart, school expenditures are primarily in salaries and benefits to support students in the classrooms. Over the past few years some school districts, due to demographics, have received additional funds under the new funding model (supplemental and concentration funding) based on demographics and have been able to put additional money into the classrooms.

The third chart attached shows the 2017-2018 enrollment percentages in the county by school district.

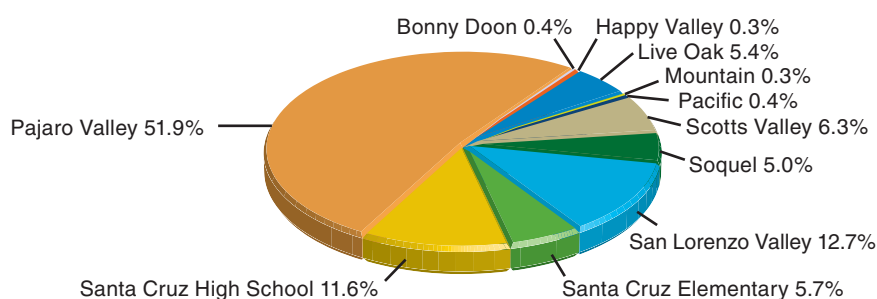
## 2017-18 Countywide General Fund Revenues K-12 Public Schools



## 2017-18 Countywide General Fund Expenditures K-12 Public Schools



## 2017-18 Enrollment Percentage by Districts





## *Migrant/Seasonal Head Start*

Migrant/Seasonal Head Start provides the services of a typical Head Start program for the youngest children of farm workers in Watsonville. It supports the health, education and nutrition needs of 170 children and supports their parents' continuing involvement in education.

Child care services are offered during peak harvest season (typically May-November) at 20 family child care homes run by independent providers with extensive experience and training. Monthly evening training meetings for parents cover such subjects as literacy, math and English skills, nutrition, and the repercussions on education of too much screen time with electronic devices.

The program succeeds through a two-pronged approach of making students school-ready and encouraging parents to take a strong role in their child's education.



## *Child Development Programs*

The Child Development Department supports early learning so children will be ready socially, emotionally and academically to succeed in school. It advocates that quality child care be accessible and affordable for all families. The Child Development Resource Center (CDRC) helps families find child care through free individualized referrals to child care and preschools as well as counseling on choosing child care. CDRC also supports child care providers through a variety of programs by offering assistance with start-up, continued training and quality improvement resources.

## *The Santa Cruz/Silicon Valley New Teacher Project*

The Santa Cruz/Silicon Valley New Teacher Project (SC/SVNTP) is a collaborative effort involving the Santa Cruz County Office of Education and more than 35 school districts and charter schools in Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, and San Benito counties. The SC/SVNTP is a California Commission on Teacher Credentialing-accredited induction program for both general education teachers and education specialists holding a preliminary credential.

Each year, nearly 80 educators are identified by their districts and are released from their classrooms to become mentors who provide support for approximately 700 participating teachers. The focus is to provide new

The Childhood Advisory Council (CAC) is a unified voice that plays a leading role in helping policy makers invest in the care and education of children birth through 12. The CAC actively supports the countywide and statewide quality improvement early education movements, by offering program planning and research-based professional development for state-funded early educators and transitional kindergarten teachers. To ensure adequate funding and equitable access to child care, the CAC develops countywide five-year master plans and needs assessments and has developed the Child Care Subsidy Individualized Child Care Pilot Plan.



teachers with intensive coaching and support and training during their credential-clearing process.

Through weekly, job-embedded support, teachers deepen their knowledge and skill as well as developing effective habits of practice that will help them continue to learn and grow beyond their induction experience.

## *Environmental Programs*

The premise behind SCCOE's environmental programs is that using the local environment to teach core subjects provides a more meaningful learning experience for students and motivates them to take action on issues

directly affecting their lives.

Environmental programs offered through SCCOE include Outdoor Science School, Science Outside!, the County Science Collaborative, and the Field-Based Learning Initiative.

## *Supporting teaching and learning in mathematics*

SCCOE is working with local educators to ensure that students from across the county have access to the rich and engaging math content necessary to thrive in life, college and career. In collaboration with districts, schools, community groups and organizations, it helps inspire and empower students, and the teachers and principals who support them – to be confident, capable and collaborative in mathematics and problem-solving.

During both the Summer Math Institute and the ongoing Twilight

Math Series, educators from across the county collaboratively strategize on ways to build mathematically powerful students, who have strong conceptual understanding of the content as well as the procedural skills needed to persevere and solve challenging problems.

SCCOE professional development builds on the latest research in learning and provides practical opportunities for teachers to work together to share their expertise and to apply new instructional practices in their classroom contexts.

In addition to working with

local districts and schools, SCCOE partners with the Santa Cruz County College Commitment (S4C), the Monterey Bay Area Math Project (MBAMP), Xacademy, Local Math Circles, the California Mathematics Council (CMC) and others, to bring the power, the beauty, the value of mathematics to Santa Cruz County students and their families.

Finally, every spring, SCCOE sponsors a county-wide Math Contest for students grades 5-8 to showcase and celebrate their ability tackle a diverse set of problems, both individually and as part of a team.

## *Multilingual Programs*

SCCOE's Curriculum and Instruction Department believes that all students deserve access to rich and rigorous educational experiences that prepare them for 21st century career, college and civic life. Over forty percent of the county's entering kindergarten students speak a language other than English at home with their families, and the County Office multilingual programs seeks to celebrate and leverage this linguistic diversity for the benefit of the

students and the community. In an increasingly interconnected global economy and society, cross-cultural and multilingual skills are increasingly important. All of the county's public high schools participate in the state's Seal of Biliteracy program for graduating seniors with over 270 student recipients graduating with proficiency in English and at least one additional language.

The County Office also sponsors a Language Ambassadors program

for elementary and middle school students to encourage interest in learning languages in addition to English. In 2018, over 277 elementary school students were recognized as language ambassadors for sixteen different languages in two ceremonies. In 2019, a Language Ambassador Student Expo will be added. The Expo will be student-to-student learning opportunity for students to use the languages they are learning to perform, present and teach others.

## *Visual & Performing Arts*

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education has had a productive and inspiring year in the Arts, offering many programs and arts opportunities to students. With a focus on access and equity in the Arts, SCCOE to strive to meet the federal guidelines supporting the Every Student Succeeds Act by developing sustainable programs through school, district,

and county programs. SCCOE continues to partner with many community arts organizations, and collaborates with the **Arts Council of Santa Cruz** to bring the **Youth Visual and Performing Arts Exhibit**, the **Poetry Out Loud competition**, **fashionTeens 2019** and extraordinary events such as the **Carmela Full of Wishes author talk and book signing** to

the community. Collaborations with the **Arts Council** and the **Santa Cruz County Alliance for Arts Education** bring professional development opportunities such as the **Summer Arts Institute**, **Integrated Arts Learning Studio Labs**, and the **Artist Teacher Partnership** to general education teachers and arts specialists.

*“Plantronics and SCCOE have partnered to grow capacity and improve equity and access to STEM programs for all children in Santa Cruz County.*

*We are also excited to be sponsoring and hosting the Science and Engineering fair in March. Many of our employees will be volunteering to mentor and help advance students skills.”*

—Helen Wight, lead,  
Global Philanthropy  
Plantronics

## *Rethinking How Science Is Taught*

The key word in modern science teaching is engagement. Gone are the days of the lecture, which is being phased out in favor of putting students in contact with natural phenomena, and encouraging them to explore and think about what they are observing.

As an example, in the summer of 2018, SCCOE brought together 90 county teachers for a five-day program at the Seymour Center, affiliated with UCSC's Long Marine Lab. Four curriculum trainers from Lawrence Hall at UC-Berkeley worked on showing teachers how to engage students in science and be facilitators. Three follow-up sessions were held during the school year.

## *Creating a Passion for Science*

In Santa Cruz County, all ten public school districts get together three times a year for a day and a half to successfully implement the new Next Generation Science Standards. It's part of the County Science Initiative (CSI), sponsored by SCCOE, and aimed at preparing students for careers in an increasingly technical environment.

“The idea is to build energy, share successes and challenges, and help each school district develop a comprehensive plan for implementing the new science standards”, says Nehal Pfeiffer the CSI program director.

In elementary grades, schools are trying to ignite that fire and help students develop a passion for science that can lead to a rewarding career. The goal in middle school is to keep that sense of curiosity and awe going so that in high school students can be ready to pursue STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) careers.

Several initiatives in local schools are associated with CSI. There are specially designed classes with a strong science focus; Latino graduate students who are the first in their families to go to college and study science are recruited to teach these classes so that they can mentor and encourage the next generation of students to pursue STEM opportunities.

CTEP, the Career and Technical Education Partnership offers a Biotechnology course that students in middle school are hearing about. This gets them motivated to take the class in high school and now with Cabrillo College offering two additional biotechnology courses of its own a pathway has been created. “We have brand new biotech businesses starting in Santa Cruz County. They need technicians, engineers, and other scientifically skilled employees, and there's no reason they can't be hiring local talent if we can grow our own,” Pfeiffer said. “It's something our industry partners want.”

Local businesses are brought on board to support science programs. Plantronics, for example, sponsors the county's Science and Engineering Fair, which SCCOE organizes.





# Business Partners in Education

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

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



# Santa Cruz County Office of Education

# STRATEGIC PLAN

## 2014 - 2018

### STRATEGIC AREAS OF FOCUS

*Through innovation and entrepreneurship, the Santa Cruz County Office of Education ...*

Supports local districts in their continuous effort to improve and deliver high quality education for all.

1

Increases educational options & opportunities for all students, parents and the community.

2

Expands partnerships with other educational institutions, businesses, and organizations.

3

Models fiscal responsibility by aligning resources to strategic priority areas.

4

Creates a model work environment by identifying, developing, supporting, and maintaining highly competent educational professionals.

5

### 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

