

Annual Report

To The Community



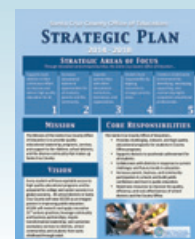
THE STATE OF EDUCATION IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY 2015-2016

Creating Pathways for ALL Students

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*Strategic Plan
back cover*





“Cabrillo College relies on the County Office of Education for its partnership and *commitment to ensuring the success of our students* throughout our local communities. The excellent staff and leadership provide support that reaches out to every educational entity in Santa Cruz County.”

—Dr. J. Laurel Jones,
Superintendent/President,
Cabrillo College

This annual report published in accordance with California law.

ON THE COVER: Students in Andrea Mollenauer's Culinary Arts & Food Service Management class serve a meal to Watsonville YWCA educators at a seminar at New Brighton Middle School. Students, standing, are Christian Cruz, Jessica Carrillo, Maya Martinez, Kayly Moriarty, and Eian Lopez. YWCA educators, seated, are Angeles Marquez, Susana Olivares, Ana Luz Lopez, Veronica Fernandez, and Angelina Gomez. See page 14 for story on the culinary class.

—Photo by Greg Pio

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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.santacruz.k12.ca.us

Letter from the County Superintendent



Working Together for Better Education

The 2014-15 school year was a momentous time for public schools in Santa Cruz County. Educators in all ten districts were heavily involved in several major areas:

- Full implementation of the Common Core state curriculum standards.
- The continuing development of a new school accountability model, in which more decisions will be made at the local level regarding what's best for students.
- A percentage increase in funding larger than anything seen in eight years.

In addition to these major issues, collaborations and partnerships were formed among local districts to ensure the long-term viability of Career Technical Education (helping students in their vocational path) and Beginning Teacher Support, to make sure new teachers succeed. Both programs are run by the Santa Cruz County Office of Education (SCCOE).

Among all districts, there was a renewed effort to ensure college and career readiness for all students through the Santa Cruz County College Commitment (S4C), which includes participation from post-secondary institutions in the area, as well as the ten Santa Cruz County school districts.

What does S4C focus on? In the current school year, improving student achievement in mathematics will be a priority, as well as increasing the number of students who enroll in two or four-year colleges.

Moving into the third year of local-control funding, the SCCOE will be keeping a close eye on the progress of student subgroups: English-language learners, foster youth, and disadvantaged students. This is done through the approval of districts' Local Control Accountability Plans (LCAP) and supporting them in the monitoring and evaluation of their Plans.

The coming year brings additional challenges. Congress has repealed the No Child Left Behind Act (long overdue, in our opinion) and replaced it with the Every Student Succeeds Act, which SCCOE will be working with districts to implement.

At the state level, the California Board of Education is expected to adopt LCAP evaluation rubrics, which will measure school accountability. We hope this evaluation process will reduce redundancy and lead to a single, aligned accountability system addressing both state and

federal educational requirements.

Finally, we will be working with local districts to address issues of teacher shortages and school facilities. These issues will not be solved by the educational community alone, and we look forward to working with local government and the private sector to achieve results.

In all these matters, and many more, the SCCOE is committed to continuing, in concert with the ten local school districts, a strong history of advocacy and leadership to ensure that all students receive the education they deserve. Thank you once again for your support of public education.

Michael C. Watkins
Superintendent,
Santa Cruz County
Office of Education

Exemplary Educators and Current County Trustees

Santa Cruz County Office of Education Recognizes Exemplary 2015 Educators



George Feldman
Teacher of the Year
Ohlone Elementary
Pajaro Valley Unified



Carla Miller
Teacher of the Year
Freedom Elementary
Pajaro Valley Unified



Colleen Martin
Principal of the Year
Shoreline Middle School
Live Oak District



Sheila Gamban
*Classified Employee
of the Year*
Green Acres School
Live Oak District



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.



George "Bud" Winslow - Trustee Area 4

Represents Mountain School District, portions of Soquel, Capitola, Live Oak, and Santa Cruz. Elected in 2008 and re-elected in 2012, his current term expires in November 2016.



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 will serve until the November, 2016 general election.



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

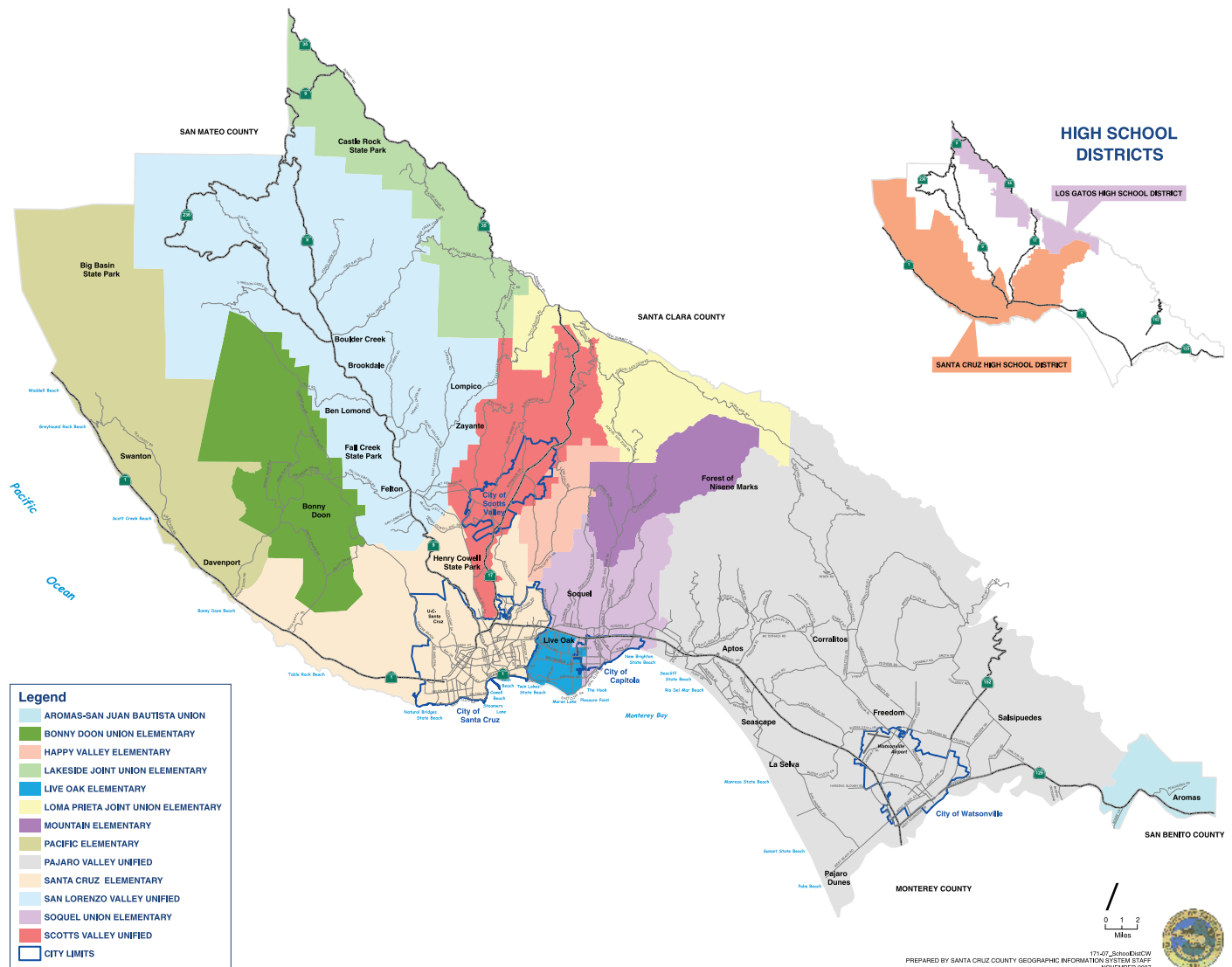
Represents a portion of the Pajaro Valley Unified School District. Elected in 1992, he is currently serving his sixth term, which expires in December 2016.



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.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS – Santa Cruz County, California



School Districts and Superintendents – 2015-2016 enrollment numbers are in parentheses

Bonny Doon Union Elementary School District (167)	Pajaro Valley Unified School District (20,282)
Stephanie Siddens 831-427-2300	Dorma Baker 831-786-2100
http://www.bonnydoon.santacruz.k12.ca.us	http://www.pvUSD.net
Happy Valley Elementary School District (132)	San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District (4,647)
Michelle McKinny 831-429-1456	Dr. Laurie Bruton 831-336-5194
http://www.happyvalley.santacruz.k12.ca.us	http://slvUSD.org
Live Oak School District (2,106)	Santa Cruz City School District (7,084)
Tamra Taylor 831-475-6333	Kris Munro 831-429-3410
http://www.loSD-ca.schoolloop.com	http://www.sccs.net
Mountain Elementary School District (125)	Scotts Valley Unified School District (2,562)
Diane Morgenstern 831-475-6812	Penny Weaver 831-438-1820
http://www.mountainesd.org	http://www.scottsvally-ca.schoolloop.com
Pacific Elementary School District (119)	Soquel Union Elementary School District (1,997)
Eric Gross 831-425-7002	Henry Castaniada 831-464-5630
http://www.pacificesd.org	http://www.soqueldo.santacruz.k12.ca.us

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 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 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 at Soquel, Santa Cruz, San Lorenzo Valley, and Live Oak School District campuses. The classes serve moderate to severe students, with emotional disturbance, autism, physical and cognitive handicapping conditions. These students are referred to the 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 fifth year, 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: A North County Operational Team co-chaired with senior law-enforcement personnel, an informational website, periodic training, 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 the systems of foster care and education. Additionally, Santa Cruz County was chosen as a statewide pilot program site for The FosterEd Initiative, managed by the National Center for Youth Law, and implemented by the SCCOE to increase the skills, knowledge and capacity in the context of academic success of those who hold educational rights for foster youth, as well as set up and manage goal teams for every youth with an active (open) dependency court case. Currently a sustainability effort is underway to continue this work and stay ahead of the curve in the realm of educational services for Foster Youth.

Santa Cruz County Regional Occupational Program

The Santa Cruz County Regional Occupational Program (ROP) is providing high quality Career and Technical Education (CTE). This year it will serve more than 3,000 students in 143 classes in 37 different subjects at 18 different sites. As a department of the Santa Cruz County Office of Education (SCCOE), ROP provides tuition-free programming to all interested high school students in the five high school districts co-funding ROP (SLVUSD, SVUSD, SCCS, PVUSD and Alternative Education). ROP also offers fee-based programs for adults, including dental and medical assisting.

ROP is committed to providing different opportunities for students to become college and career ready by offering 20 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 a University of California. Another way ROP helps students prepare for college is by offering 11 courses that are articulated with local community colleges. Students in these courses can earn college credit while they are in high school. Some ROP courses also offer an industry-recognized certificate upon completion which will help in making a student instantly employable.

This year ROP will conduct an ROP Exposition (Expo) at every comprehensive high school. The purpose of this event is to connect education and industry partners to the CTE programs. The event is always well attended by ROP staff and students, industry representatives and local educators, all focused on providing the highest quality Career and Technical Education.

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 that ROP engages in good conversation with educational partners about CTE and Core Academic program integration. The ROP Expo will continue to provide CTE support and strengthen relationships between the business community, school districts and the SCCOE.

Human Resources

In addition to providing essential Human Resources services inter-nally 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.



Programs for Success

Helping Young Writers Find a Voice

The Young Writers Program is making an impact. With over 1,000 students served by 25,000-plus hours of volunteer service, a dedicated writing room in place at Branciforte Middle School, and student writing gathered in 26 publications, students all over the county are able to experience the process of writing, revision, and publication.

Now in its fourth year, and poised to expand its reach into an after-school writing center and storefront gallery at the Museum of Art and History, the Young Writers Program serves students in grades 4-12 throughout the county.

Projects include collaborations with organizations like Museo Eduardo Carrillo with whom the Young Writers Program worked to produce *The Art of Who I Am*. This full-color, hardbound book features the writing of Soquel High School students in Robyn Miranda's English class, accompanied by the artwork of Lorraine Garcia Nakata and José Lozano.

The book, along with other Young Writers Program publications, is on sale at Bookshop Santa Cruz and Crossroads Books in Watsonville.

Building Learning Relationships: Alternative Ed

Students adept at “not learning” master many strategies and skills. They disrupt class, work extra hard to be suspended, ditch school, refuse to complete or turn in assignments. It's not because they can't do the work or can't learn, but because successive poor experiences in schools where academic rigor was disconnected from educational relevance, have convinced them that maintaining their own agency requires refusing to learn from the teacher. In Alternative Education schools, Relationship is key to building academic success and to convincing “non-learners” to re-engage.

No learning can take place if students do not feel safe and supported. This 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. This is why teachers arrive early to school to greet the students, and why most schools provide food before school begins. It is why all students have access to counseling, and why teachers recognize students for their unique talents.

Over time, placing highest priority on relationship-building pays off for even the most skilled not-learners and academic resistors.

Planting the College Seed at an Early Age

The Santa Cruz County College Commitment (S4C) was established four years ago with the goal of increasing career and college readiness and completion for every student. Over the past 20 years, high school graduation rates have steadily increased, both nationally and 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.

The S4C project began at Cabrillo College, where the Samper 4th Grade Experience brought every 4th grader in the county to Cabrillo for a college classroom experience and tour. S4C relocated to the County Office of Education, creating better alignment with the K-12 school districts and with a vision of improved student outcomes across all segments, including the four-year universities. 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 a UCSC open campus day and wrapping up with exhibits and presentations at Cabrillo College & Career Night, featuring over 60 four-year universities.



Changes in Standardized Testing

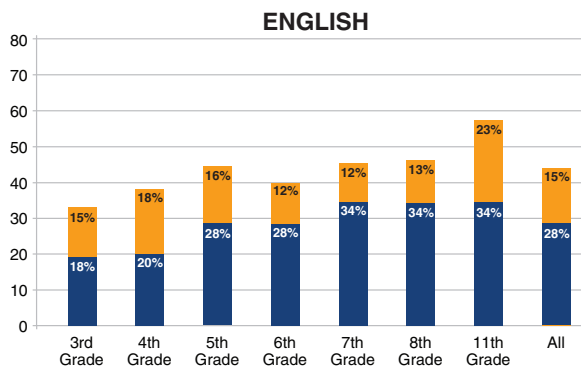
In order to grow a strong work-force of tomorrow, it is critical to accurately evaluate how schools are building students' potential today. The Smarter Balanced Assessments are a thoughtful remodel of the way we assess learning in California,

designed to address the reality of a changing world. They ask students to show deeper learning and to solve real world problems across disciplines. Students must provide written reflections that explain their reasoning and solve multi-step

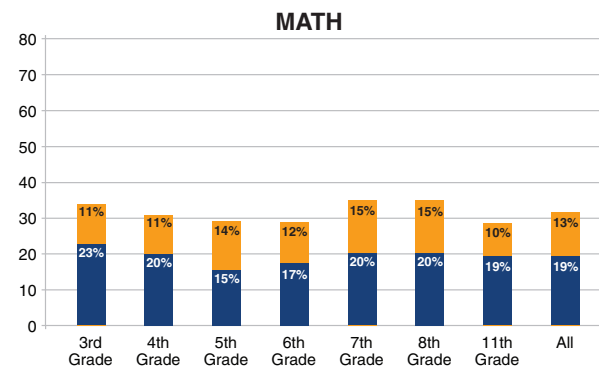
problems that require application of knowledge of how an equation works in one context to how it might work in another.

The results below provide baseline information on this first year of testing.

California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP)



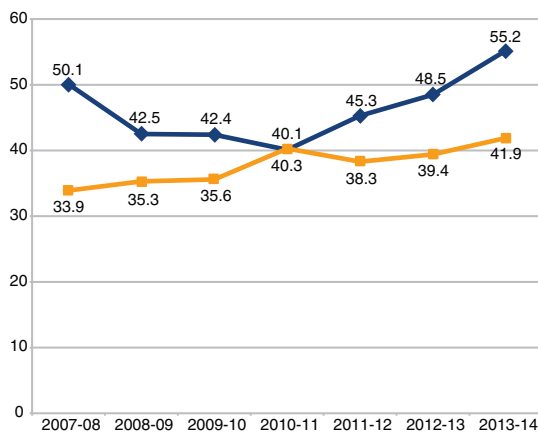
■ Standard Met
■ Standard Exceeded



College Ready Graduates

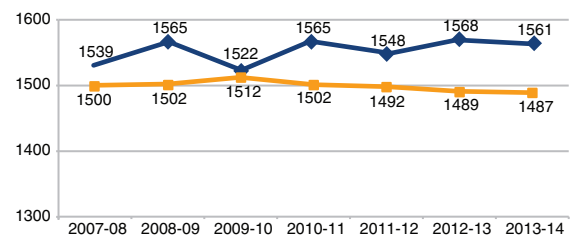
■ Santa Cruz County ■ State of California

Percentage of high school graduates completing all UC/CSU required courses.



SAT Scores

The total average SAT Score of Santa Cruz County high school students was 1561 in 2013/14, as compared to 1487 for the state. Maximum score possible is 2400 points.



Source: Santa Cruz County Community Assessment Project year 21



The SCCOE supports local school districts in meeting the goals of their Local Control and Accountability Plans with funding from the Local Control Funding Formula.

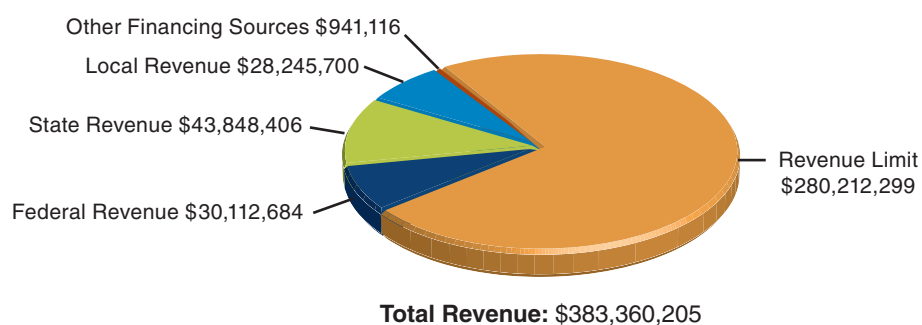
The Santa Cruz County Office of Education (SCCOE) Business Services Division provides both internal services to support the SCCOE and external services in support of the ten school districts in the county. These include budget approval and monitoring, revenue distribution, payroll assistance, retirement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

The state continues to fund schools as promised under the new funding model implemented in 2013-14 and has provided one-time funds as well. The funding formula is meant to fund schools more equitably in relation to student needs, and appears to be doing just that. Even in a diverse community such as Santa Cruz County, the extent of the diversity and the differences in student population and how that impacts school funding is becoming more and more apparent. Over time it is expected there will be a large disparity in the cost of salary and benefits although cost of living will be the same for all.

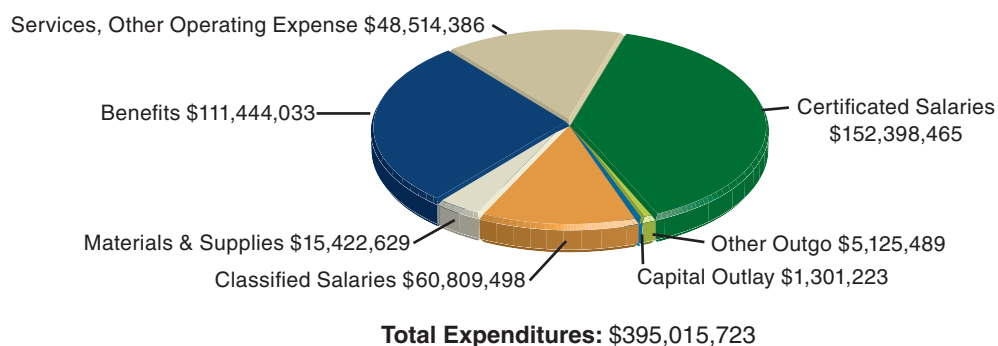
Displayed below are the unaudited general fund revenues and expenses for the 2014-2015 fiscal year. Revenues reflect the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and include the Proposition 30 funds which were generated through increased sales and income taxes to temporarily sustain schools through 2018-19, 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 is the largest contributor, with countywide state revenues totaling \$383 million.

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

2014-15 Countywide General Fund Revenues K-12 Public Schools

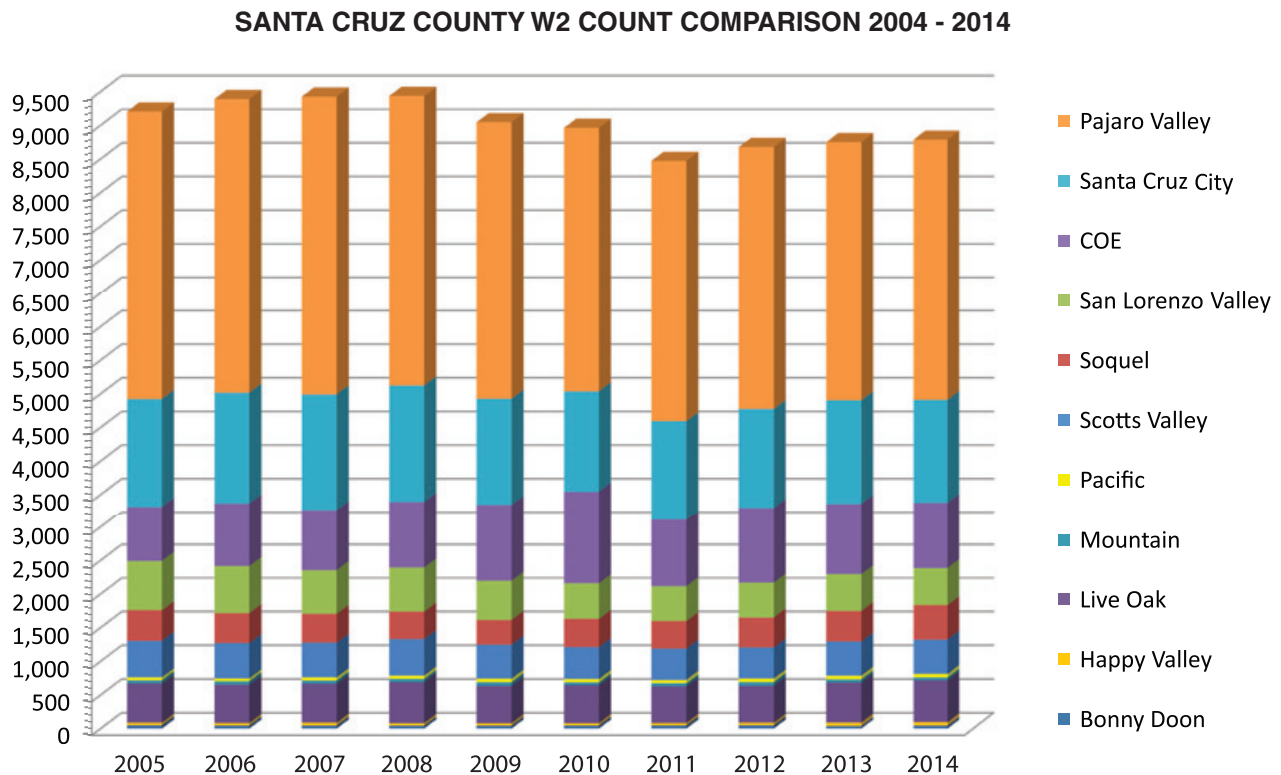


2014-15 Countywide General Fund Expenditures K-12 Public Schools



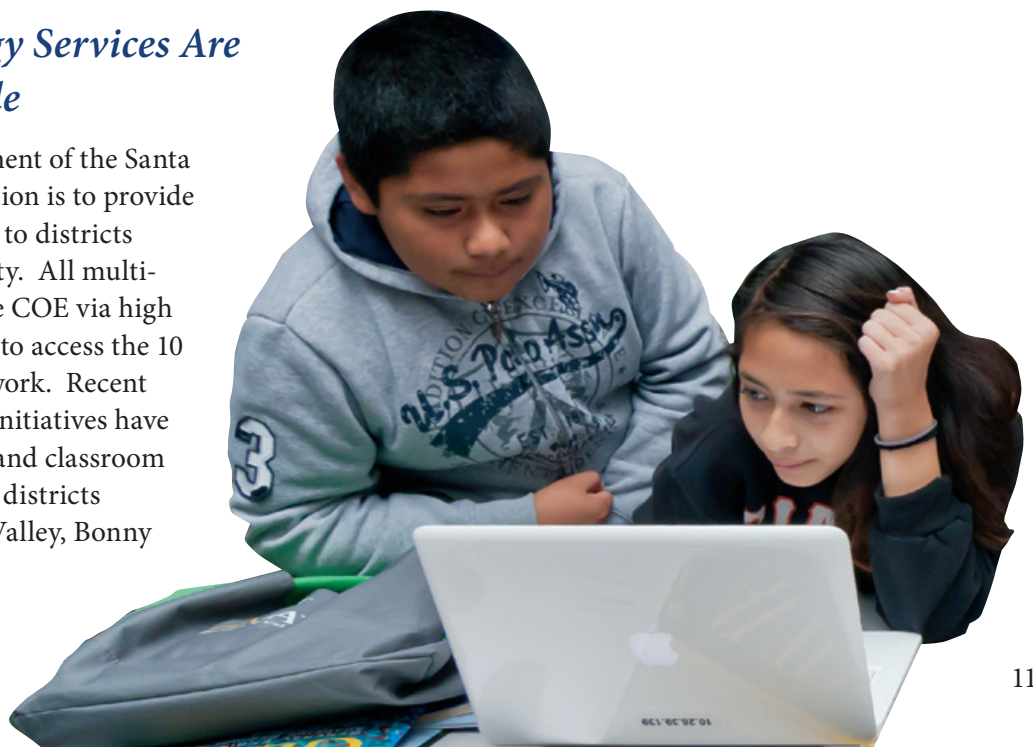
students in the classrooms. Over the past year some school districts have received additional funds under the new model and have been able to put additional money into the classrooms.

The bar graph below shows the number of W2 forms that have been processed by the SCCOE for all districts across the county for the previous ten years.



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

Educational Services Division

Child Development Programs The Child Development Department supports early learning so children will be ready socially, emotionally and academically to succeed in school and advocates that quality childcare be accessible and affordable for all families. The Child Development Resource Center helps families find child care that best meets their needs and provides professional development to child care providers. The Child Care Planning Council provides a leading role helping policy makers invest in the early care and education of young children.

Environmental Programs The best way to learn about nature is by being there. This principle has sent over 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 interrelationships between plants, animals and humans through scientific inquiry. In just a short time, the Outdoor Science School gives students a richer understanding of their natural surroundings and helps prepare them for the ecological and environmental decisions they will make as adults. Outdoor Science School is a powerful and memorable experience where students learn about the world around them and create memories that last a lifetime. The California Regional Environmental Education Community (CREEC) network enhances the environmental literacy through a fully searchable online directory of environment-based education, field trips, curriculum, grants and workshops aligned with state standards.

Migrant Head Start This program provides comprehensive services for over 100 farmworker families. The children – all under five years old – 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 child's learning. The goal is to ease the transition of farmworker families into our 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 approximately 32 school districts and charter schools in Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, 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 practice improves to ensure student academic success with a focus 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 a variety of academic and supportive services to more than 4,000 students annually. Services are provided 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** focused on creating a comprehensive system of mental health services. 2) **Law-Related Education Programs** — Teen Peer Court; DUI Court in Schools; and Mock Trial. 3) **Student and District Support Services** — Students in Transition serving homeless students; School Attendance Review Board serving 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.

New to the Educational Services division is the District Support and Leadership Office. This office focuses on supporting the ten county districts towards continuous improvement and strategic leadership to advance meaningful, goal driven work in closing the achievement gap. Expertise and guidance are provided to site and district level administration on Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) development, monitoring and implementation, Categorical Programs

Implementation and Regional Systems of District and School Support (RSDSS.)

The director of this office is a hands-on partner who tailors work to the individual district needs throughout the year.

Sueños Staff



Curriculum and Instruction

Curriculum and Instruction staff provides 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 provide direct assistance and professional learning experiences for teachers and administrators. Encouraging academic achievement and showcasing outstanding student scholars is

the annual theme 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 to support and sustain implementation. Regular meetings of educator networks facilitate collaboration and professional learning. Professional learning series emphasize topics such

as building academic language, collaboration, English language development, mathematics, and curriculum/technology integration. Curriculum and Instruction supports teachers, schools, and district leadership as they move forward with implementing the California Common Core State Standards, the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress, and their Local Control Accountability Plans.

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 are designed to support teachers on a yearlong journey of professional learning organized around foundational topics in education technology. Five days of instruction on effective research strategies, collaborative projects, digital storytelling, website creation and ePortfolios, and flipped teaching and learning are combined with ongoing lesson development support, a resource website, and online learning modules.

Computer Initiatives: Implementing the Common Core State Standards and Computer Adaptive Testing requires providing access to tech devices throughout the curriculum. The SCCOE has been supporting, advising, and working with districts and the Alternative Education Department at the SCCOE as they deploy chromebooks to students for use during school and at home. 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 provides professional development to help K-12 leaders in the use of technology to improve education.

TICAL's 3-pillared professional development approach:

1. Local: A core group of 20-plus educational leaders representing all geographic regions of California and Arizona receives training and regional support. (TICAL Leadership Cadre)
2. Statewide: A statewide technology leadership symposium and an online, global conference for NO-COST (School Leadership Summit) are offered.
3. Online: Offerings include a website of resources (including tutorials, templates, and promising practices of technology integration and leadership) as well as an online community for ongoing discussions and resources sharing and monthly webinars on trending 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.. There are currently four areas of LEC certification offered by the SCCOE (Online and Blended Teacher, Administrator, Professional Learning Leader, and Digital Educator Certifications). For more information, visit: <http://www.leadingedgecertification.org/>

Giving Students A Chance to Work



FIRST JOBS: Amanda Mullenix and Anders Timmons at Pizza My Heart.

Workability, administered locally by SCCOE, was launched by the state three decades ago to help develop—mentally delayed students get a first job.

Students are trained in practical issues, such as filling out job applications and are placed with private employers, with SCCOE paying their salary. In some cases an impressed employer will later hire the student as a regular employee.

Workability students Amanda Mullenix and Anders Timmons were at Pizza My Heart in Capitola recently, helping set up for opening. Both attended Soquel High School, and said they like the real-life work experience. Amanda adds that in addition to job skills, she's learned to banter and give and take with her fellow employees.

Sally Beck, who administers the program for SCCOE, said it's about opportunity: "Every kid needs to be allowed to work, and society needs to open up to that.

Most people want to be useful, and most people have a talent or skill that they can impart in the workplace."

Ready for Employment in the Food Business

Now in its ninth year and third location, with 85 high school students enrolled, Culinary Arts and Food Service Management (also known as Cooking with Chef Andrea) has become one of the many success stories of the County Office of Education's hands-on Regional Occupational Program (ROP).

The year-long course offers students a broad overview of the world of commercial food preparation. Each week instructor Andrea Mollenauer takes three different classes through the basics not only of cooking, but also sanitation, safety, professional conduct and ingredient selection.

Mollenauer, owner of a successful catering business and owner of the Food Lounge in downtown Santa Cruz (where classes are held), knows her subject and how to communicate it to a diverse group of students with varying skills.

"Some of them know a lot coming in, and some of them don't know how to boil water," she said. "We start with the basics of food and cooking technique and have the students who are more advanced help the others to take advantage of the full range of their skills."

The class is open to students at any Santa Cruz County high school as an elective course and meets once a week from 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Students report getting a range of benefits from the class.

"It taught me to be more confident in my cooking skills and to try putting different things together," said Jessica Carrillo, one of this year's students.

"I like the class," said her classmate Alvaro Vieyra. "I'm hoping to get into culinary school, maybe Cordon Bleu, and open my own café some day."

Mollenauer said that probably three quarters of the students in the class will work in the food business at some time in their lives, and that the class can give them a leg up in applying for a job at one of the county's many food establishments.

"We try as much as possible to have a real-world commercial food setting here," she said. "We try to get the students to open their eyes, look around, visit farmers markets, talk to chefs — to use this as an opportunity to decide what they want to do."



*SOMETHING'S COOKING:
Culinary Arts students crowd around the table for a lesson in food preparation. From left, students Portia Simmons, Jorge Vera, Jessica Carrillo, Instructor/Chef Andrea Mollenauer, Lily Powell and Haley Hackbarth.*

Business Partners in Education

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



The Galileo Circle

(Science Fair Major Contributors)

SEAGATE TECHNOLOGIES
SYNOPSIS FOUNDATION

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
Capitola Book Café
Capitola 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
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
George 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
La Manzana Community Center
Leadership Santa Cruz
Lifestyle Catering
Looker
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 Aquarium*
Monterey Bay Horsemanship Therapeutic Center
National Center for Youth Law
Nob Hill Foods
Nolasco's Day Care
Odwalla
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 Agriculture

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 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 County Human Services Department
Santa Cruz Credit Union
Santa Cruz Fire Department
Santa Cruz Gem & Mineral Society*
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's Center
Santa Cruz Warriors
Santa Cruz Weekly*
Scotts Valley Police Department
Scotts Valley Senior Center

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
UCSC Monterey Bay Science Project*
UCSC Baskin School of Engineering
UCSC Lifelab
UCSC-Ed Options and STARS Programs
United Way
University of Florida*
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 2015-2016*

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 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.

