

Annual Report

To The Community



THE STATE OF EDUCATION IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY 2014-2015

Creating Pathways for ALL Students

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*Strategic Plan
back cover*





“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 continu-

ous 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

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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



Sweeping Changes in Schools As Local Autonomy Grows

This past year we have seen the most sweeping changes to the California public education system since voters approved Proposition 13 in 1978. These changes affect not only school financing, but also other aspects of education such as local autonomy, accountability, and instruction.

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

Exemplary Educators and Current County Trustees

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



Rocio 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

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.



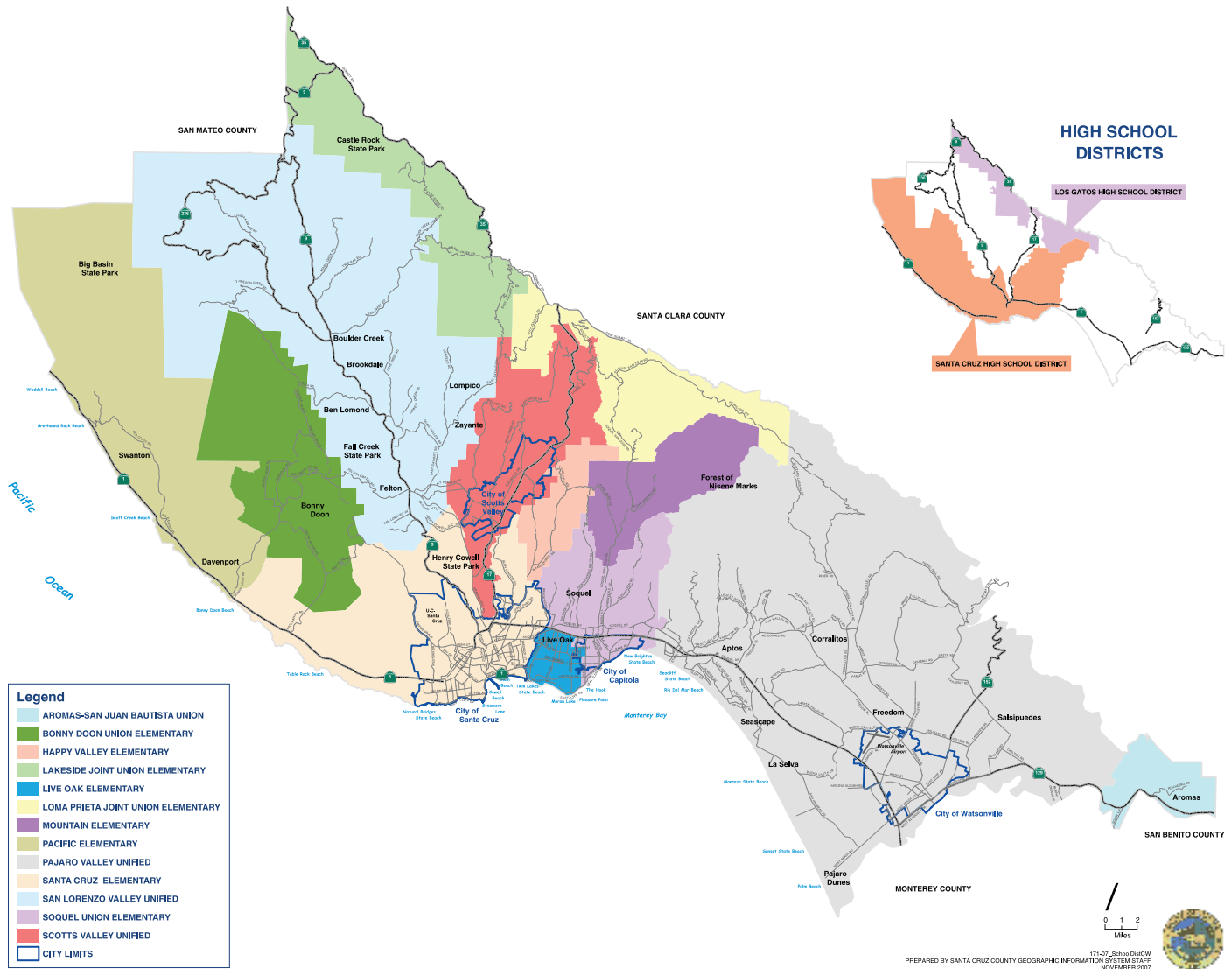
Abel Sanchez - Trustee Area 7

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



School Districts and Superintendents – 2014-2015 enrollment numbers are in parentheses

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.losd-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.scottsvally-ca.schoolloop.com>

Soquel Union Elementary School District (2,060)
Henry Castaniada 831-464-5630
<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 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.

Santa Cruz County Regional Occupational Program

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.

Human Resources

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.

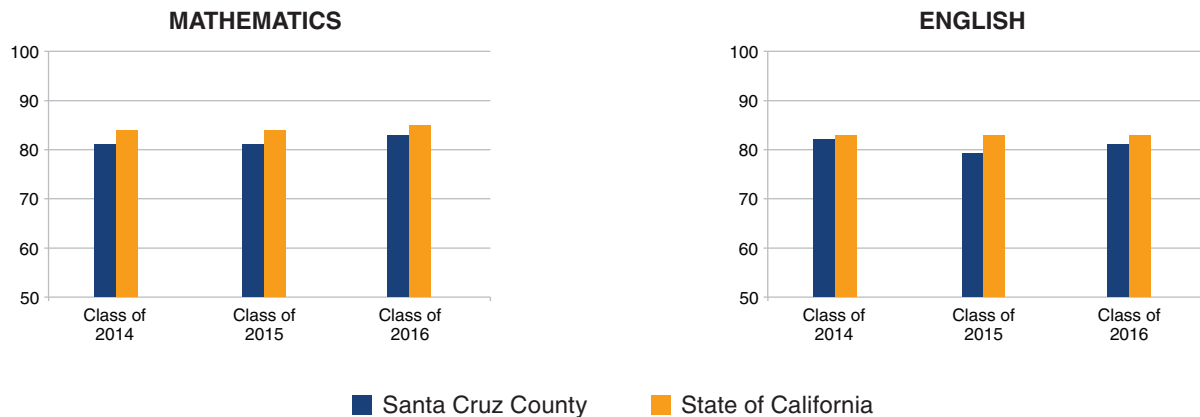
The S4C project began at Cabrillo College, where the Samper 4th Grade Experience brought every 4th grader in the county to the Cabrillo campus for a college classroom experience and tour. Major events now include a 7th Grade Summit, hosted by CSUMB and UCSC, where every 7th grader explores potential 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

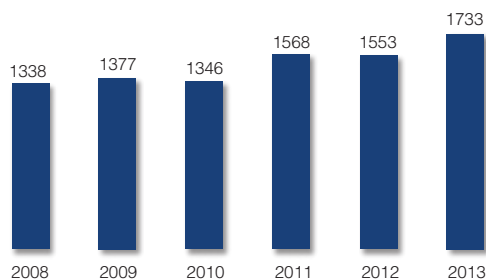
Owing to the passage of Assembly Bill 484, many of the standardized tests reported on in recent annual reports are no longer given. A replacement set of tests, known as the Smarter Balanced Assessments was given on a pilot basis in 2013-14 and results are not yet available. The graphs below indicate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

California High School Exit Exam Results



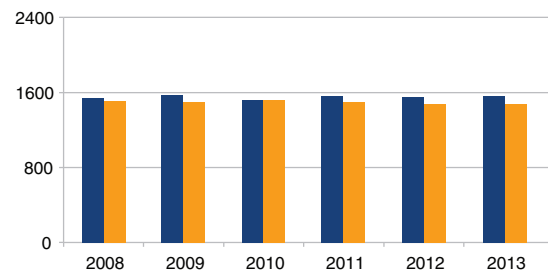
Advanced Placement Results

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



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.

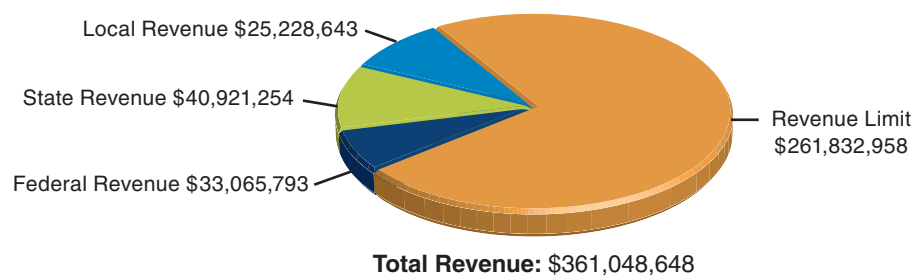
The state and nation have had a year of recovery, accompanied by growth in tax revenues and employment. This fiscal year, districts across the state have implemented the new funding formula, the “Local Control Funding Formula” (LCFF) and developed their first “Local Control Accountability Plan” (LCAP). 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.

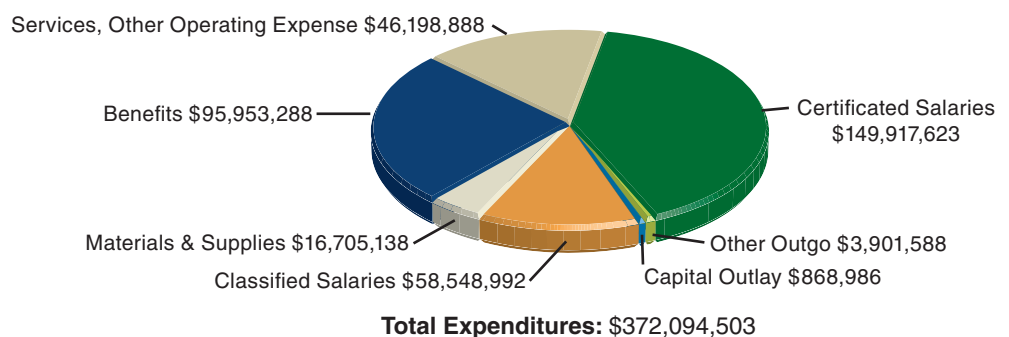
The Santa Cruz County Office of Education (SCCOE) provides both internal services to support the COE and external business services in support of the ten school districts in the county. The services provided include: budget approval, monitoring, revenue distribution, payroll, retirement reporting, assistance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

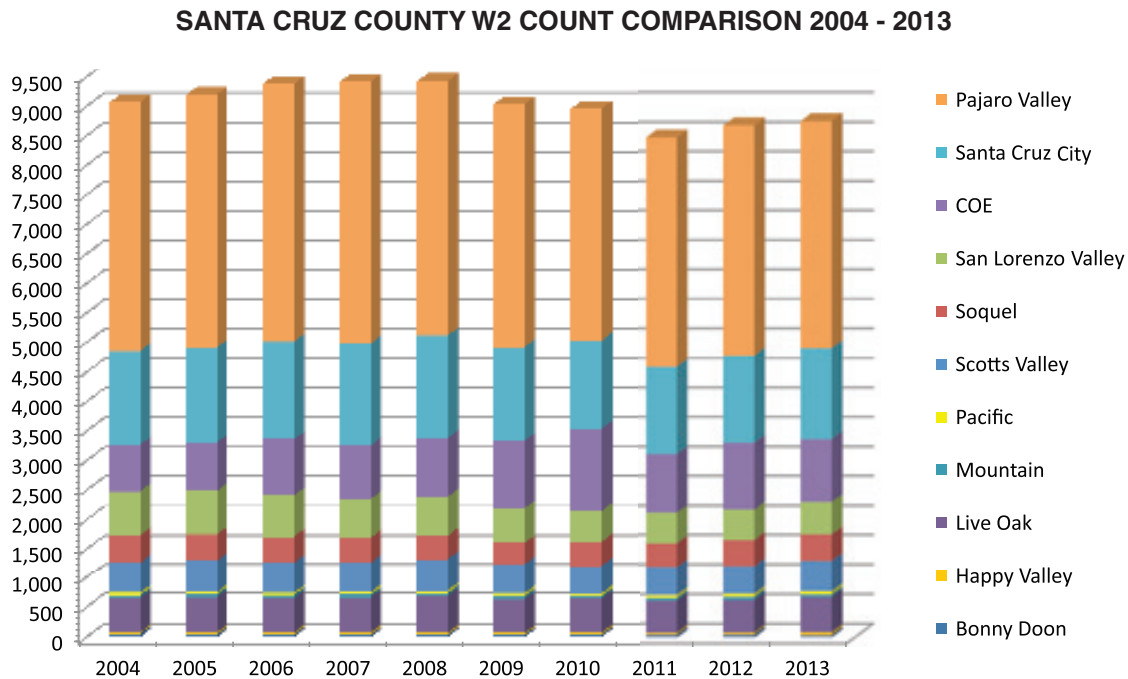
2013-14 Countywide General Fund Revenues K-12 Public Schools



2013-14 Countywide General Fund Expenditures K-12 Public Schools



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

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/>



Foster Ed

Santa Cruz County

was chosen as a statewide and national site for the FosterEd Initiative, managed by the National Center for Youth Law.

220 foster youth are in grades K-12 in Santa Cruz County



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.



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.



Technology 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.



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.

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).

Business Partners in Education

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

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

* 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 ...

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.

