

Annual Report

To The Community



THE STATE OF EDUCATION IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY 2016-2017

Creating Pathways for ALL Students

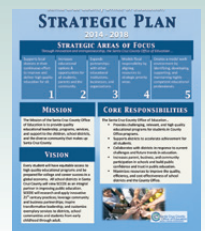
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*Strategic Plan
back cover*



Santa Cruz County
Office of Education





“The Santa Cruz County Office of Education is a **true partner** in educating students in Santa Cruz County. **From supporting college and career readiness** to preschool education, the county office takes a leading role in preparing students for the future.”

—Dr. Laurie Bruton
Superintendent,
San Lorenzo Valley Unified
School District

This annual report published in accordance with California law.

ON THE COVER: Students and staff in front of the new Sequoia Schools in Watsonville, which opened in the summer of 2016. Front row from left: Reyna Navarro, Ashley Perez, Denise Garcia, Carmen Ruiz, Alexa Cordero-Torres, Maddison Ruacho, and staffer Jessica Vargas. Back row from left: Keara Celestine, Principal Denise Sanson, Head Teacher Sarah Prescher, Abraham Limon, Esteban Urzua, Josue Trigo, Eliseo Guillen, Marcos Vidal, Louis De Haro. Story page 14.

—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



Making Sure All Students Succeed

The Santa Cruz County community expects local school districts to prepare every student for post-secondary success. To that end, each district has developed its own plan to ensure yearly progress of all students. These plans include provisions required by the new federal law, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The law gives more responsibility for accountability to states and local school districts.

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education (SCCOE) continues to partner with districts in providing technical assistance, professional development, coaching, and peer to peer support. We view this collaboration through the dual lens of equity and continuous improvement and believe that “all students succeeding,” truly means ALL STUDENTS. A key goal of the accountability system is to maximize transparency and simplify the structure and language of the Local Control Accountability Plans so that parents and community members can access and understand them. Toward that end, we are working with local districts to interpret and analyze student results in accordance with the standards

The SCCOE continues to promote college and career readiness for our county’s students through an ongoing

collaboration with the Santa Cruz County College Commitment (S4C). S4C involves all ten local school districts, UCSC, Cabrillo College, and CSUMB to ensure that students graduate from high school ready for college and career options.

The County Office of Education remains committed to career technical education programs (formerly ROP) to ensure career readiness through high school pathways for students. Our CTE leaders are working side by side with local high schools to finalize career pathways for students that lead to certification or connect directly with local community college programs. Services to special needs students are supported both in county-run classes as well as the North County Special Education Local Planning Area (SELPA). The SCCOE’s alternative programs serve

more than 800 students in 19 school sites throughout the county, creating safe havens for learning and thriving in a personalized setting. In addition to our mentoring work through the Santa Cruz Silicon Valley New Teacher Project, our office is developing other programs and seeking funding to address the acute teacher shortage. Young children in our county are served through SCCOE child development and Migrant Head Start programs.

The above programs and systems of support are just some of the ways SCCOE has long pursued the goal of helping every student on our county succeed.

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



Jane Wong
Teacher of the Year
Mintie White Elementary
Pajaro Valley Unified



Les Forster
Principal of the Year
Cypress Charter School
Live Oak District



Mary Gaukel Forster
Principal/CEO of the Year
Delta Charter School
Santa Cruz City Schools



Ana Martinez
*Classified Employee
of the Year*
Soquel High School
Santa Cruz City Schools



Vacant - Trustee Area 1

Represents portions of San Lorenzo Valley, Scotts Valley and Santa Cruz.



Bruce Van Allen - Trustee Area 2

Represents Happy Valley, portions of Santa Cruz and Live Oak. Provisionally appointed in February 2015 and elected in November 2016, serving his first term, which expires in November 2018.



Jane Barr - Trustee Area 5

Represents portions of the Pajaro Valley, Santa Cruz and Soquel School Districts. Elected in 2012, she is currently serving her second term, which expires in November 2020.



Sandra Nichols - Trustee Area 3

Represents Bonny Doon, Davenport and North Coast, portions of Santa Cruz and the San Lorenzo Valley. Elected in 2012, she is currently serving her second term, which will expire in November 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 November 2020.



George "Bud" Winslow - Trustee Area 4

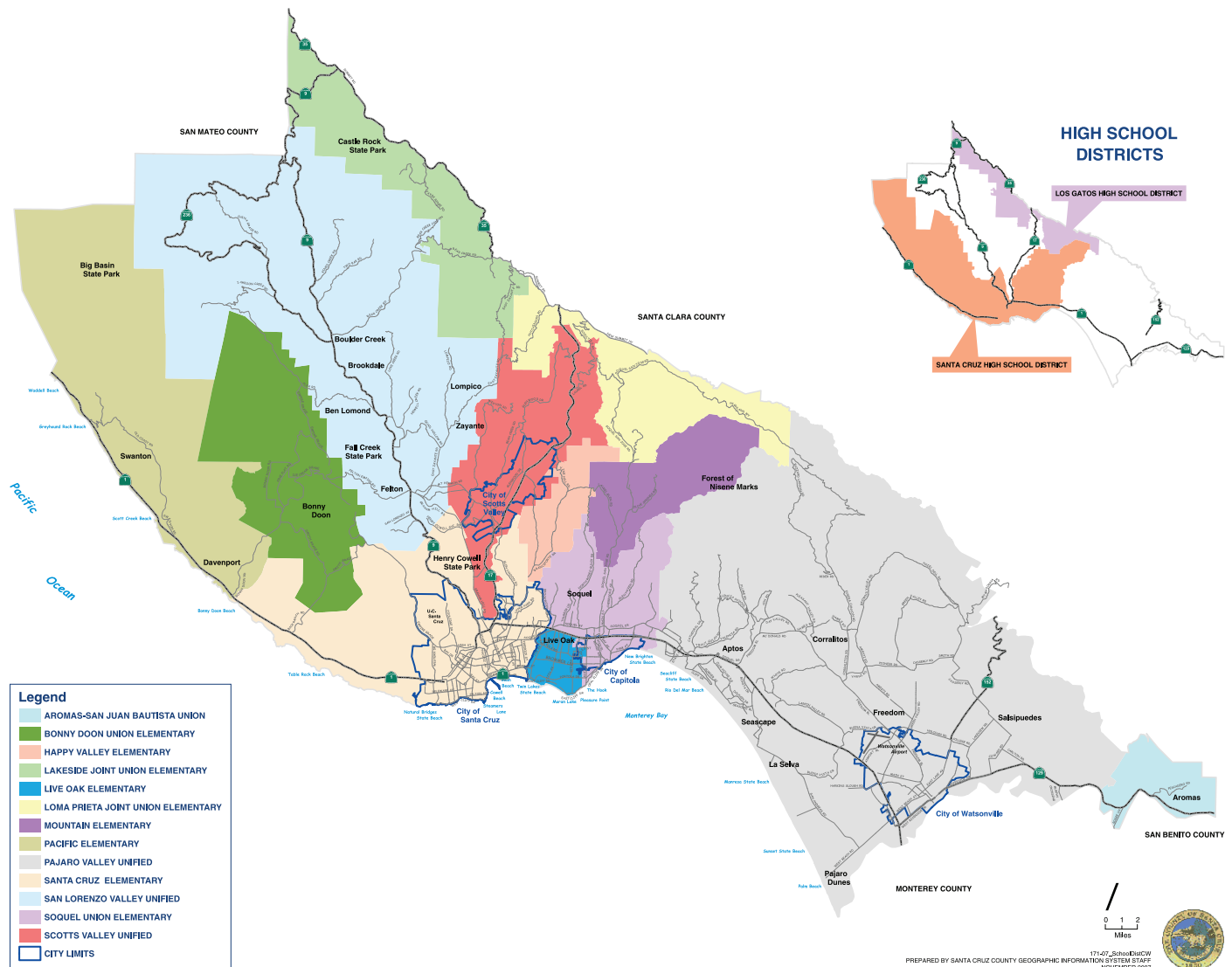
Represents Mountain School District, portions of Soquel, Capitola, Live Oak and Santa Cruz. Elected in 2008, he is currently serving his third term, which expires in November 2020.



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 expires in November 2018.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS – Santa Cruz County, California



School Districts and Superintendents – 2016-2017 enrollment numbers are in parentheses

Bonny Doon Union Elementary School District (163)	Pajaro Valley Unified School District (20,434)
Stephanie Siddens 831-427-2300	Michelle Rodriguez 831-786-2100
http://www.bonnydoon.santacruz.k12.ca.us	http://www.pvUSD.net
Happy Valley Elementary School District (129)	San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District (4,847)
Michelle McKinny 831-429-1456	Laurie Bruton 831-336-5194
http://www.hvesd.com	http://slvUSD.org
Live Oak School District (1,923)	Santa Cruz City School District (6,688)
Tamra Taylor 831-475-6333	Kris Munro 831-429-3410
http://www.losd-ca.schoolloop.com	http://www.sccs.net
Mountain Elementary School District (124)	Scotts Valley Unified School District (2,512)
Diane Morgenstern 831-475-6812	Tanya Krause 831-438-1820
http://www.mountainesd.org	http://www.scottsvally-ca.schoolloop.com
Pacific Elementary School District (124)	Soquel Union Elementary School District (1,980)
Eric Gross 831-425-7002	Scott Turnbull 831-464-5630
http://www.pacificesd.org	http://www.soqueldo.santacruz.k12.ca.us

“Cabrillo College relies on the County Office of Education for its **partnership and commitment** to ensuring the success of our students throughout the local communities. The

Excellent Staff and leadership

provide support that reaches out to every educational entity in Santa Cruz County.”

—Dr. Laurel Jones
Superintendent / President
Cabrillo College



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 a small percentage of county students with disabilities whose local school district does not have an appropriate placement. Offering these services at a countywide level 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 classes are located at Soquel, Santa Cruz, San Lorenzo Valley, and Live Oak School District campuses. The classes serve moderate to severe students with a variety of disabilities including autism, intellectual disabilities, multiple disabilities, and post-seniors. 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 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 the 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 38 different subjects at 15 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 22 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 courses also offer an industry-recognized certificate upon completion, helping make a student instantly employable.

This year ROP will conduct a 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.

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. Directly via *FosterEd* – school advocacy and case management for students in foster care; *Restorative Justice Programs* – including Teen Peer Court, Real DUI 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* – as the county student attendance and review board serving all but the largest districts. Student Support Systems serves county students indirectly via consultation, training and support to school districts regarding students in transition (homeless), school mental health resources, Work 4 Youth referrals, county contracts managed for PBIS, Diversity Center and Live Oak Community Resources as well as assistance to SCCOE's Alternative Education System and their varied site locations throughout the county.



Programs for Success

Planting the College Seed at an Early Age - (S4C)

The Santa Cruz County College Commitment (S4C) was established five years ago with the goal of increasing career and college readiness for every student. Over the past 20 years, high school graduation rates have steadily increased, but many incoming college students were unable to perform at transfer level in English and math. Recognizing that no single institution could solve this, 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 the campus 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. Major funding for S4C comes from a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Helping Young Writers Find a Voice

The Young Writers Program greatly extended its reach this year with the creation of The Word Lab at the Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History. An after-school writing center fronted by the engaging, literacy-based gallery – Chamber of Heart and Mystery – the Word Lab was created with the help of a \$20,000 innovators challenge grant sponsored by the National Writing Project, John Legend's Show-Me Campaign, and the MacArthur Foundation.

Students from the Santa Cruz City Schools District currently benefit from the Word Lab with volunteer teachers and Writing Program assistants giving them one-on-one attention for their writing projects in after-school sessions three days a week. An anthology of

student work will be produced at the end of the year.

Now in its fifth year, the Young Writers Program continues to serve students with its in-classroom, dedicated writing room, and personal statement projects. More than 1,300 students in Santa Cruz County have received writing mentoring from trained volunteers. Since highlighting good writing works to support its mission, the program has published student writing in 27 books, three posters, one magazine, and one newsletter. Books are offered for purchase at Bookshop Santa Cruz.

Writing is essential to students' success. The Young Writers Program vision is that every student has a rich and rewarding writing life.

For more information go to youngwriterssc.org

A New Focus: Restorative Justice

Alternative Education is furthering its mission to create safe havens for learning by shifting from a traditional punishment based system to one that is restorative in nature. The programs are designed to hold responsible parties accountable, keep the school and community safe, and enhance student resilience for future success via a restorative justice approach. Restorative justice is an inclusive process that engages all stakeholders to focus on the root cause of the behavior so the student can learn from the incident, recognize the community impact, and repair harm.

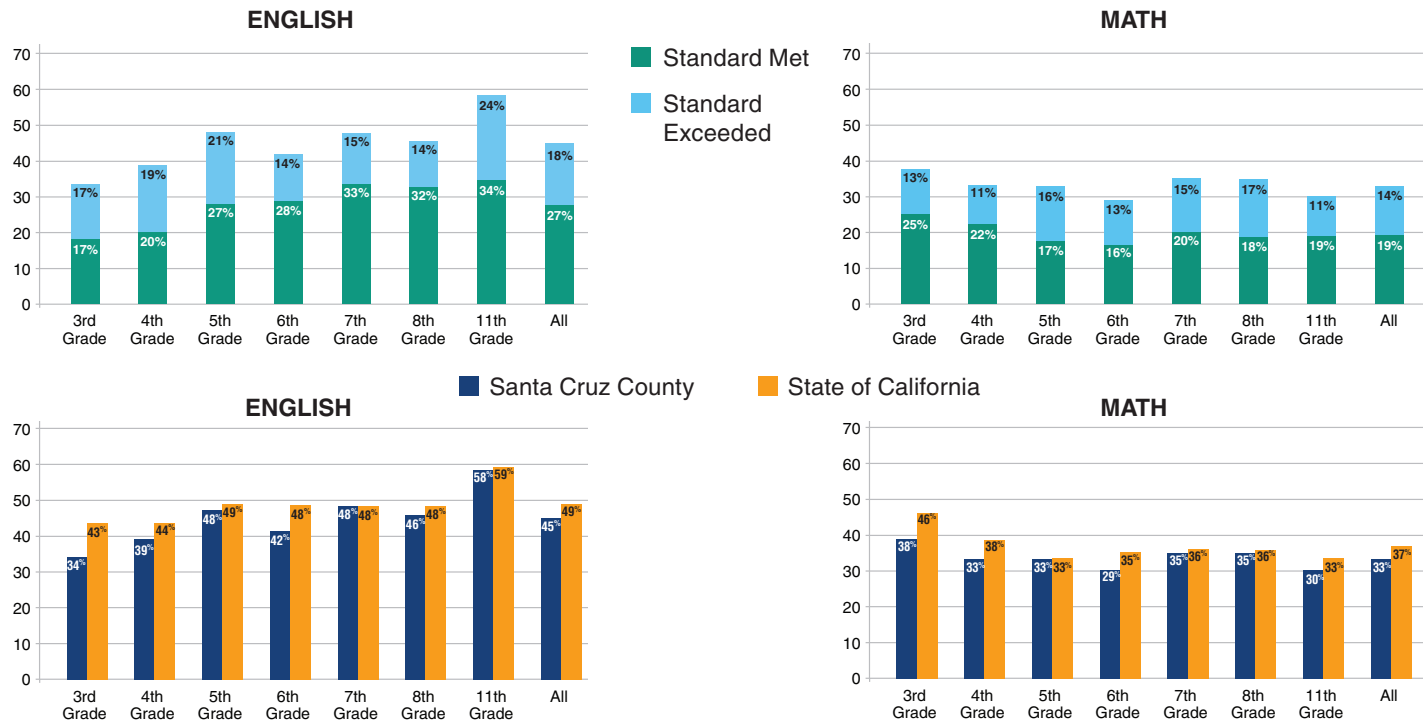
Restorative practices support building a safe, respectful, and inclusive school climate. Such practices have been proven effective in preventing and reducing suspensions, which are known to occur more frequently among students of color, and have been linked to increased negative encounters with law enforcement and adults in positions of authority.

Creating safe havens for learning is at the heart of Alternative Education, and implementing restorative justice is another step in the right direction.



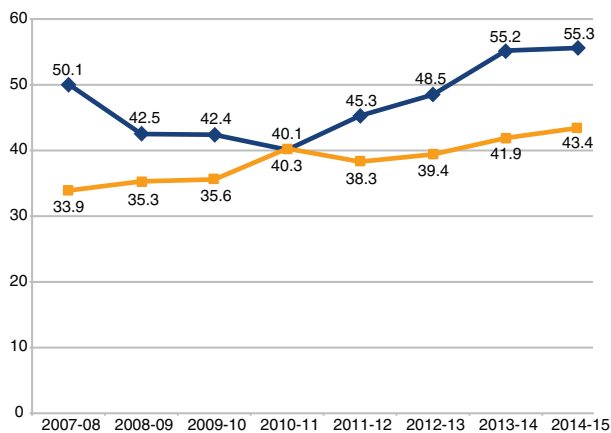
Academic Performance

California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP)



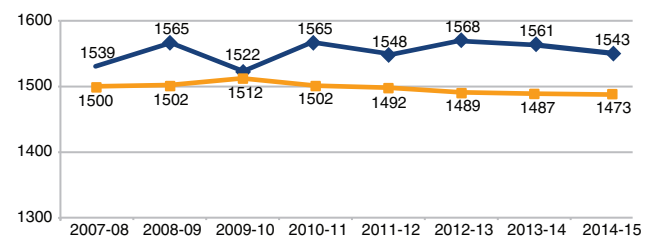
College Ready Graduates

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 1543 in 2014/15, as compared to 1473 for the state. Maximum score possible is 2400 points.



Source: Santa Cruz County Community Assessment Project year 22



“Our District greatly appreciates the County Office of Education’s ongoing support for critical programs

that make a significant difference for our local school districts.”

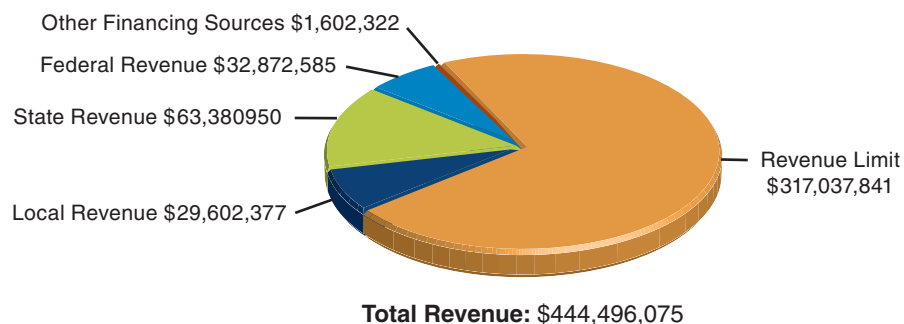
—Dorma Baker,
Former Superintendent,
Pajaro Valley Unified
School District

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 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.

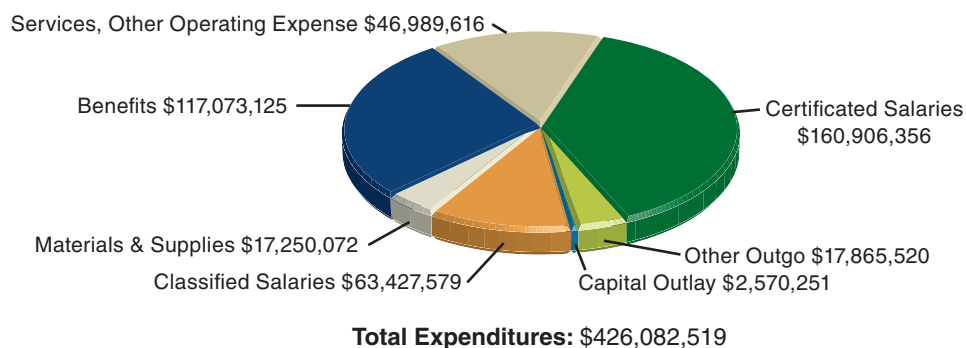
The State continues to fund schools as promised under the Local Control Funding Formula implemented in 2013-14. SCCOE and the school districts in the county are funded based on Average Daily Attendance (ADA) and additional funds based on demographics. The full implementation is expected to occur within the next two years for the local school districts. The SCCOE is expected to be flat funded through 2018-19. In prior years, local school districts were able to compare salary, benefits and other expenditures when doing research for various projects or retaining staff. Disparities between neighboring districts are becoming more evident under these criteria as one district’s demographics may enable it to spend additional dollars by adding instructional days or other work days, or through salary and benefits increases, while other districts are not able to do so at the same level.

Displayed below are the pie charts showing general fund revenues and expenses for all districts in the county for the 2015-16 fiscal year. The revenues reflect those allocated under the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and include the Proposition 30 funds which were generated through increased sales and income taxes to

2015-16 Countywide General Fund Revenues K-12 Public Schools



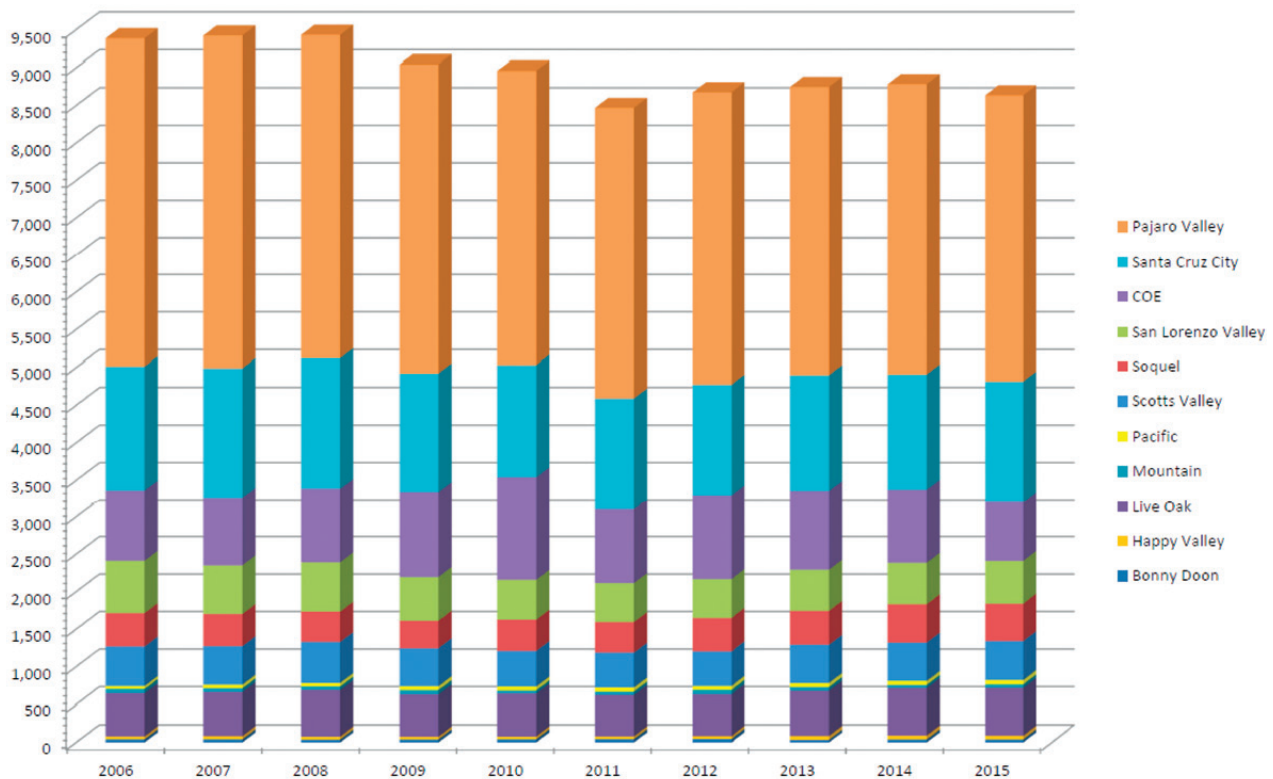
2015-16 Countywide General Fund Expenditures K-12 Public Schools



temporarily sustain schools through 2018-19, at which time the temporary taxes will expire. Should there then be a shortfall at the state level, the effect would mean cuts to schools similar to those that school districts experienced during the last recession.

The bar graph below shows the number of W2 tax forms that have been issued by the SCCOE for all districts across the county for the previous ten years, an indicator of the county's educational employment.

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY W2 COUNT COMPARISON 2006 - 2015



Integrated Technology Services Are Provided Countywide

Technology Services Department of the Santa Cruz County Office of Education provides network services and support to districts throughout Santa Cruz County. All multi-school districts connect to the SCCOE 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

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 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 environmental literacy through a fully searchable online directory of environment-based education, field trips, curriculum, grants and workshops aligned with state standards.

New Teacher Project

The Santa Cruz/Silicon Valley New Teacher Project (SC/SVNTTP) 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.

District Support and Leadership

The District Support and Leadership Office supports 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.

Arts in Education

The Visual and Performing Arts are supported by the COE in three ways: professional learning for district arts specialists in their specific domains, integration of the arts standards for general education teachers, and coordination of visiting artists in the schools and community. During the 2016-17 year, support has been focused on building teacher capacity through the Summer Arts Institute, the Artist Teacher Partnership, and countywide specialist professional development including alignment of arts instruction with Cabrillo College faculty.

Migrant Head Start



This program provides comprehensive services for over 100 farm-worker 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 farm-worker families into the community and encourage a love of learning.



Curriculum and Instruction

Curriculum and Instruction (C&I) 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 customized support and professional learning experiences for teachers and administrators.

C&I is an active member of the educational community, building ongoing relationships with

schools and districts to improve student outcomes. Educator network meetings facilitate collaboration and professional learning across the county. Professional learning emphasize implementation of California content standards in language arts, English language development, math, science, and visual and performing arts. C&I supports teachers, schools, and district leadership as they use the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) and the

Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) to focus their resources to provide a quality education for all students.

Encouraging academic achievement and showcasing outstanding student scholars are the focus of countywide student enrichment opportunities, which include the Spelling Bee, the Science & Engineering Fair, the Math Contest, and the new Language Ambassadors program.

Education Technology

New state and federal standards require students 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 working locally, regionally, statewide and nationally in education technology practice, leadership, and advocacy. 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 are combined with ongoing lesson development support, a resource website, and online learning modules to create a transformative experience for teachers and their students. Subjects covered include critical thinking for digital literacy, collaboration with Google Apps, digital storytelling, and creation of websites and digital portfolios.

Computer Initiatives: Implementing Common Core and Computer Adaptive Testing requires access to computer devices throughout the curriculum. The SCCOE has been supporting, advising, and working with districts and the Alternative Education Department 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): The Technology Information Center for Administrative Leadership (TICAL), provides professional development to help K-12 leaders in the use of technology to improve education.

iDig Fossils, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Initiative. See story page 14. The SCCOE is part of a \$1.2 million National Science Foundation grant in partnership with the University of Florida. Called iDig Fossils, the grant is focused on integrating 3D technologies into science and math instruction. This is a three-year initiative involving eight teachers from local schools. SCCOE is assisting with professional development and ongoing staff support, as well as working with the University of Florida on implementation of the grant. Teachers will design and implement activities that allow students to engage with technology and engineering applications, while learning science and math concepts and exploring STEM careers.

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 certification.

A New School, A New Attitude



Sequoia Schools opened in summer of 2016 on Green Valley Road in Watsonville, offering students a range of alternative education opportunities in a new, modern facility.

The new school houses a traditional day school program, personalized learning courses, independent studies, a junior high and an academy course. In a small-school setting, teachers and students mingle freely in and out of class, and administrators have an open-door policy.

“The students want to do a good job,” said Principal Denise Sanson. “They want to succeed in academic and life challenges. There’s a real improvement in attendance and the students seem happy. What we’re doing here is powerful and transformative.”

Sequoia has a strong career emphasis with courses in bike repair, construction, medical terminology and landscape design. Students are required, at graduation, to have a post-secondary plan detailing their education and/or employment goals.

Sanson said the new facility has engendered great pride among students, who get after each other about keeping the facilities in shape. School T-shirts, with the motto “*Stand tall; strength in your roots; keep growing*” are proudly worn on and off campus.

Fossils in the Classroom – “How Cool”

Over a three-year period, thousands of students in Santa Cruz County will have an opportunity to use 3D technologies in a pioneering science and engineering project that will enable them to reconstruct parts of actual prehistoric fossils to study evolution and climate change in the classroom.

Through a \$1.2 million National Science Foundation grant, local schools are teaming up with professors and students at the University of Florida in the iDigFossils program. Students in Santa Cruz County are able to upload profiles of actual fossils in the University of Florida collection and replicate parts of them using 3D printers and scanners.

For example, students in Gail Alaimo’s biology class at Soquel High School have been recreating a full set of teeth from a Megalodon, a prehistoric shark that grew to be up to 50 feet long.

“They’ve shown unabashed eagerness to make their 3D tooth and to learn about these sharks,” she said. “Student partners load ‘their’ tooth onto the computer platform, and nearly all become mesmerized watching the printer add each layer to the growing 3D model.”

Santa Cruz County Office of Education is a lead agency in bringing this program to local schools. SCCOE provides professional training, which included sending teachers to fossil digs in Central America and elsewhere to gain an experience of actual paleontology field work. The County Office is working with the University of Florida on continuing implementation of the grant.

Initially, eight teachers at three middle schools and three high schools in the county are involved in iDigFossils. The goal is to develop teaching abilities in STEM (Science, Technology Engineering and Math) programs and get students excited about the subjects, with an eye to future careers.

The getting excited part is definitely happening, Alaimo said. “The most common comment from our students is , ‘How cool. I can’t believe we have this at our school!’”

*Grant coordinator
Claudia Grant of
the University of
Florida and an
iDigFossils student
at Soquel High
School*



Business Partners in Education

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

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



** New Partner 2016-2017*

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.

