

Annual Report To The Community



THE STATE OF EDUCATION IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY 2017-2018

Creating Pathways for ALL Students

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Strategic Plan back cover



Santa Cruz County Office of Education and Board

“Soquel Union Elementary School District is very appreciative of the collaborative manner in which we receive support from the Santa Cruz County Office of Education. They often serve as the conduit through which school districts in the county learn from each other.”

SCCOE Staff are true partners

in helping us build quality educational programs and they always work from a student-centered approach. They embody a growth mindset in everything they do.”

—Scott Turnbull
Superintendent,
Soquel Union Elementary
School District

This annual report published in accordance with California law.

ON THE COVER: Reviewing college materials at the November Santa Cruz County Counseling Summit. From left, Josh Terrell (Soquel High); Samuel Solis, Santa Cruz High counselor; Cristine Chopra, SAC Director; Cash Adamson (Soquel); Annie Yu (Soquel); Benito Gonzalez (Soquel); County Superintendent Michael Watkins; Michelle Toro (Soquel); Briana Romero (Scotts Valley High); Yumery Salazar (Soquel); and Gabby Sandoval (Scotts Valley).

—Photo by Greg Pio

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County Offices of Education Play an Essential Role

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

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

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education

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

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

The Role of the County Board of Education

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

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

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

Visit us at www.santacruzcoe.org

Letter from the County Superintendent



Helping Students Pursue Excellence

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education (SCCOE) continues to support students as they strive toward excellence in the 21st Century. This year's report highlights key initiatives our office has undertaken and will undertake that directly impact students.

Recognizing the pivotal role that educators play in student success, much attention revolves around the hiring, developing, and supporting of all teachers. Santa Cruz County, with its extremely high housing costs, faces many challenges in this regard. Recognizing that talent can be developed within a school district, we are providing grants to assist more than 30 classified (non-academic) school employees complete the path to become a teacher. We are launching an internship program to develop teachers to provide instruction for students through Special Education. And we have entered into a partnership with a nonprofit group to provide housing loans for local teachers.

In an increasingly globalized and technological world, providing students with the best possible instruction in science, technology, engineering, math, and the arts is a high priority. SCCOE is working with local businesses to fund comprehensive vertical planning teams on the Next Gener-

ation Science Standards in local schools and to develop business sponsorships for coaching and mentoring programs in this area. (See story on page 14) We also have committed to two years of funding to provide a pilot program of supplementary science curriculum.

Once students have learned their subject matter, they need to know what options they have for investing this knowledge through post-secondary education and moving on to today's workplace. This is where school counselors play a vital role, and SCCOE together with the Santa Cruz County College Commitment (S4C) joined efforts to assist counselors in their critical work. We are particularly proud of our sponsorship of the first Santa Cruz County Counseling Summit, held last November, which brought together school counselors from throughout the county for training, networking, and sharing of best practices.

Our office continues to advocate for access for ALL students

to high quality, rigorous instruction. To assure that ALL students truly means ALL, the SCCOE has sponsored a two-year Equity Institute that brings together teams of administrators from districts to examine their missions, policies, beliefs, and practices in advancing cultural and racial proficiency. This work is particularly critical in light of the California accountability system, which sheds light on the performance and progress of all student groups on each of the eight state priorities. This coming year SCCOE plays a lead role in providing technical assistance to those districts whose students have not achieved sufficient growth.

SCCOE continues to lead the way in providing resources, programs, and partnerships on behalf of the educational community in Santa Cruz County.

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

Exemplary Educators and Current County Trustees

Santa Cruz County Office of Education Recognizes Exemplary 2017 Educators



Sheri Williams
Counselor of the Year
Santa Cruz City Schools



Sharon Espinoza
*Office Manager
of the Year*
Mountain Elementary
District



Cynthia Balthaser
Director of the Year
Santa Cruz / Silicon Valley
New Teacher Project



Ricardo Vasquez
Teacher of the Year
Pajaro Valley Unified
School District



Sue Roth - Trustee Area 1
Represents portions of San Lorenzo Valley, Scotts Valley and Santa Cruz. Provisionally appointed in January 2017 to fill the Trustee Area 1 vacancy, her term will expire in December 2018.



Rose Filicetti - Trustee Area 4
Represents Mountain School District, portions of Soquel, Capitola, Live Oak, and Santa Cruz. Provisionally appointed in May 2017 to fill the Trustee Area 4 vacancy, her term will expire in December 2018.



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



Jane Barr - Trustee Area 5
Represents portions of the Pajaro Valley, Santa Cruz and Soquel school districts. Elected in November 2012, she is serving her second term, which expires in December 2020.



Sandra Nichols - Trustee Area 3
Represents Bonny Doon, Davenport and North Coast, portions of Santa Cruz, and San Lorenzo Valley. Elected in November 2012, she is serving her second term, which expires in December 2020.

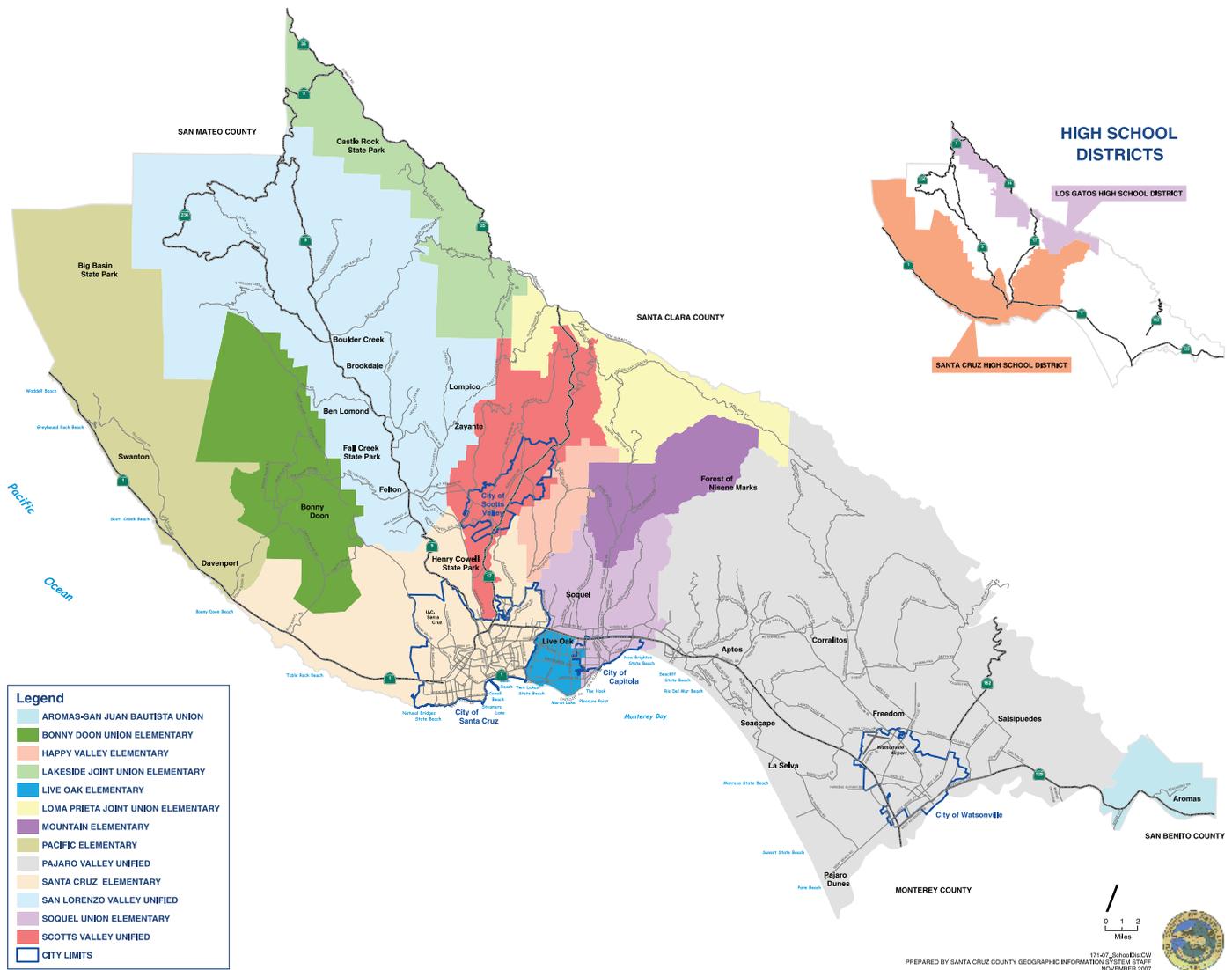


Dana Sales - Trustee Area 6
Represents a portion of the Pajaro Valley Unified School District. Elected in 1992, he is currently serving his seventh term, which expires in December 2020.



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

SCHOOL DISTRICTS – Santa Cruz County, California



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

Bonny Doon Union Elementary School District	(168)	Pajaro Valley Unified School District	(20,283)
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	(120)	San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District	(4,992)
Michelle McKinny	831-429-1456	Laurie Bruton	831-336-5194
http://www.hvesd.com		http://www.slvUSD.org	
Live Oak School District	(2,043)	Santa Cruz City School District	(6,745)
Tamra Taylor	831-475-6333	Kris Munro	831-429-3410
http://www.losd-ca.schoolloop.com		http://www.sccs.net	
Mountain Elementary School District	(128)	Scotts Valley Unified School District	(2,467)
Diane Morgenstern	831-475-6812	Tanya Krause	831-438-1820
http://www.mountainesd.org		http://www.scottsvally-ca.schoolloop.com	
Pacific Elementary School District	(120)	Soquel Union Elementary School District	(1,970)
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 Special Education programs serve students from birth to age 22 who have moderate to severe disabilities and whose unique needs cannot be met within their districts. This year Special Education classes are located at Soquel, Santa Cruz, San Lorenzo Valley, and Live Oak School District campuses. The SCCOE classes serve a variety of disabilities including autism, intellectual disabilities, multiple disabilities, and post-seniors. These students are referred to the Santa Cruz County Special Education Department from the ten surrounding school districts.

Special Student Services Programs

BASTA - Broad-Based Apprehension, Suppression, Treatment and Alternatives, is a program, now in its sixth 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 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.

The Santa Cruz County Career Technical Education Partnership

The Santa Cruz County Career Technical Education Partnership (SCCCTEP) (formerly the Regional Occupational Program (ROP)) continues to provide high quality Career and Technical Education (CTE) for the community. This year it will serve more than 3,000 students in 130 classes in 38 different subjects at 18 different locations. As a department of the County Office of Education (SCCOE), SCCCTEP provides tuition-free programming to all interested high school students in five high school districts: (San Lorenzo Valley, Scotts Valley, Santa Cruz, Pajaro Valley and Alternative Education). SCCCTEP also offers fee-based programs for adults, including dental and medical assisting. SCCCTEP is committed to providing different opportunities for students to become college and career ready by offering 22

CTE college prep courses at every comprehensive high school in Santa Cruz County. These courses will help students complete the minimum requirements to be admitted to a California State University or a University of California. Another way SCCCTEP helps students prepare for college is by offering 20 CTE courses that are articulated with local community colleges. Students in these courses can earn college credit while they are in high school. Some courses also offer an industry-recognized certificate upon completion, which helps make a student instantly employable. SCCCTEP conducts an 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 SCCCTEP 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 SCCCTEP Expo are that students and teachers connect with local business leaders to discuss employment and work-based learning opportunities, SCCCTEP teachers receive valuable information from industry representatives to ensure the relevance and rigor of programs, and to ensure that SCCCTEP engages in good conversation with educational partners about CTE and Core Academic program integration. The SCCCTEP 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.



S4C: Preparing Students for their College Educations

Santa Cruz County College Commitment (S4C) is a collaborative of educators, administrators, and counselors including ten K-12 school districts, three colleges, and the Santa Cruz County Office of Education. It aims to create opportunities for all students by supporting students in rigorous academic courses and by supporting counselors and teachers in their learning and practice.

Programs supported by S4C include the Math Articulation and Teacher Advisory committees. The Teacher Advisory Committee reviews teaching initiatives and provides recommendations regarding implementation strategies. The

Math Articulation Committee works collaboratively using current curriculum, intervention practices, testing results and college level math data to improve math placement and success for students.

S4C sponsors several large events including the Fourth Grade Experience hosted by Cabrillo College and the Seventh Grade Summit hosted by CSUMB and UCSC. Additionally S4C sponsored professional development for teachers in the area of Common Core Mathematics. Over the course of the 2016-2017 year hundreds of teachers participated in one or more Summer Institute or the series of six workshops throughout the year.

In November 2017 S4C convened over 100 school counselors and administrators for the first annual Counselor Summit, bringing counselors together with the shared goal of increasing student access and success in post-secondary education. The event provided a much needed opportunity for counselors to engage in professional learning with local colleagues. (Related story page 14)

Trauma-Informed Care Initiative

It's difficult for students to learn when they are stressed, fearful or traumatized, so recognizing and treating those issues is critical to providing a good education.

This year Sequoia Schools in Watsonville received a grant in collaboration with Encompass Community Services and Kaiser Permanente to continue work on trauma-informed care and restorative practices. This grant is unique in that its vision is to develop a trauma-informed culture campus-wide, expanding beyond direct counseling services.

The goals of the project include ensuring that students have access to trauma-informed mental health services, providing teachers and staff with support to cope with stress and and vicarious trauma, and developing a trauma-informed culture on campus.

With this grant, school staff will receive interactive training and learn to identify signs of stress as well as how to implement teaching strategies to enhance resilience and self-care. Additionally, a Wellness Center has been created for students when time is needed outside the classroom to refocus and get back into class.

The Right Words for Getting Into College

This October SCCOE's Young Writers Program hosted its third annual Personal Statement Workshop for students writing college application essays. Twenty-five community members including Watsonville City Council Member Rebecca Garcia and Santa Cruz Mayor Cynthia Chase and Vice Mayor David Terrazas volunteered as writing mentors.

The workshop began in 2015 after Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Martha Mendoza had been helping high school students develop college essays. She realized there was a need for the service, one she couldn't meet on her own.

Mendoza approached Julia Chiappella, director of the Young Writers program, and the two of them, along with retired high school English teacher Connie Bertuca, set about creating a workshop that brought in 95 students in 2015.



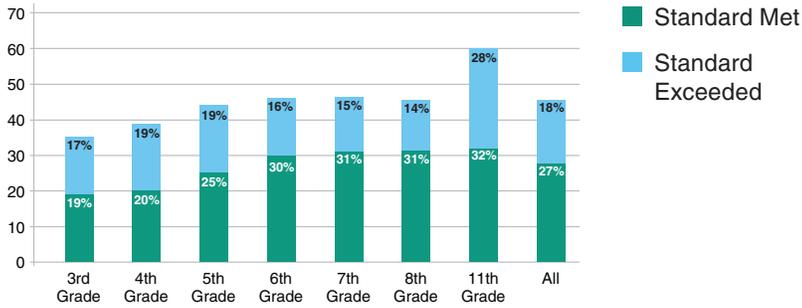
Yesim Yilmaz was one of those students. "I ended up getting into my top choice school, Reed College!" Yilmaz wrote. "I am absolutely sure that the workshop helped me get in, as I came in with no idea what to write and left with a focused, expressive, almost completely formed essay."

The free, three-hour workshop is offered in hour-and-a-half sessions with a half hour lunch break between. Food and drink are provided to students and writing mentors.

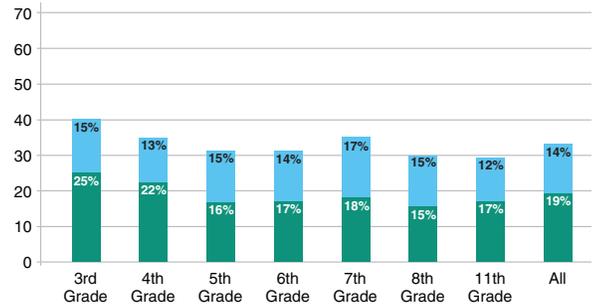
"Most striking to me is the change that happens," said Mendoza. "Students arrive nervous, crabby, unsure. On their way out they are so appreciative because they know they've got this piece of their college application process underway."

California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP)

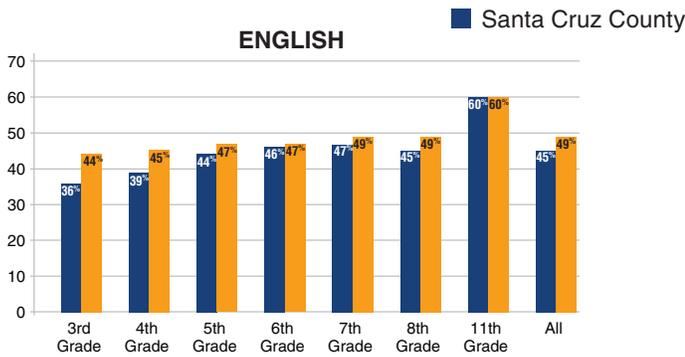
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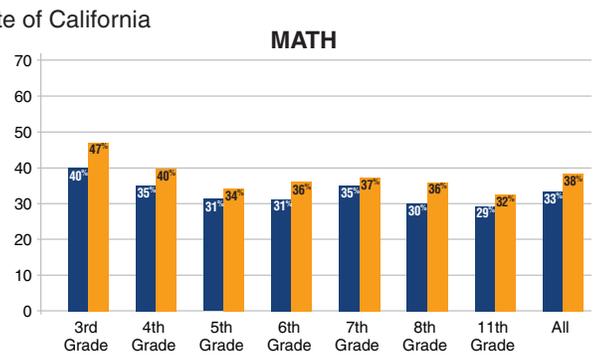
MATH



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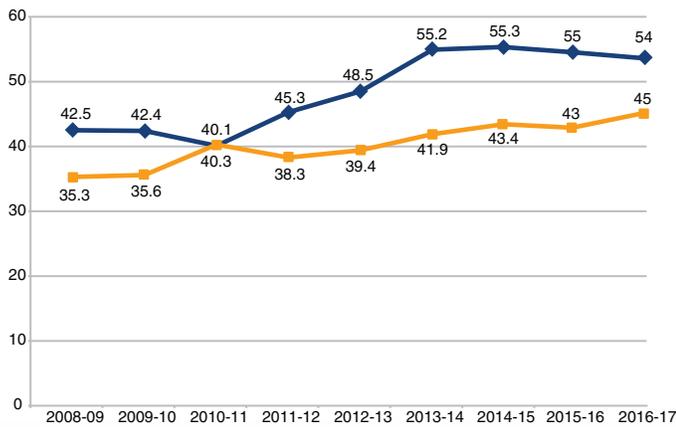


MATH



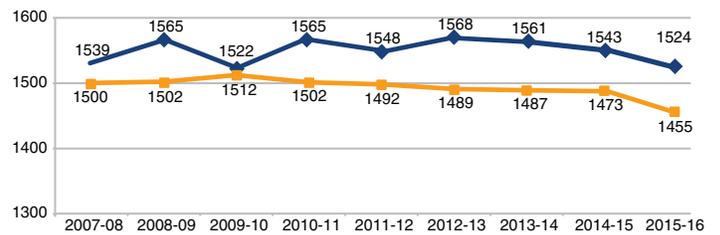
College Ready Graduates

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 1524 in 2015/16, as compared to 1455 for the state. Maximum score possible is 2400 points.



Source: Santa Cruz County Community Assessment Project year 23



District Support & Leadership

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

—Kris Munro,
Superintendent,
Santa Cruz City Schools

District Support and Leadership

The District Support and Leadership office aids the 10 county school districts in achieving continuous student improvement and strategic leadership. Expertise and guidance are provided from a site and district level on institutional issues, and elementary and middle school principal networks are offered for administrators to enhance their leadership skills and capacity. This office is a hands-on partner that tailors work to individual district needs throughout the year.

The Santa Cruz County Office of

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

New Teacher Project

The Santa Cruz/Silicon Valley New Teacher Project (SC/SVNTP) is a collaborative effort involving the Santa Cruz County Office of Education and more than 30 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 monitoring, teachers' classroom practice improves to

ensure student academic success with a focus on California Common Core State Standards, while being responsive to the diverse cultural, social, academic and linguistic backgrounds of all students.

SC/SVNTP also aims to place participating teachers in situations that offer the most opportunity for success (avoiding split grade levels, limiting movement to classrooms and assigning thoughtful prep periods with colleagues).

Integrated Technology Services

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.



The Santa Cruz County Office of Education (SCCOE) Business Services Division provides both internal services and external services in support of the ten school districts in the County. The services provided 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 using the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) implemented in 2013-14. SCCOE and the school districts in the county are funded based on average daily attendance (ADA), with additional funds based on demographics. The full implementation is expected to occur within the next two years for the local school districts. SCCOE is expected to be flat-funded through 2020-2021. Local School districts in the past used to compare salary, benefits and other expenditures when doing research for various projects or retaining staff.

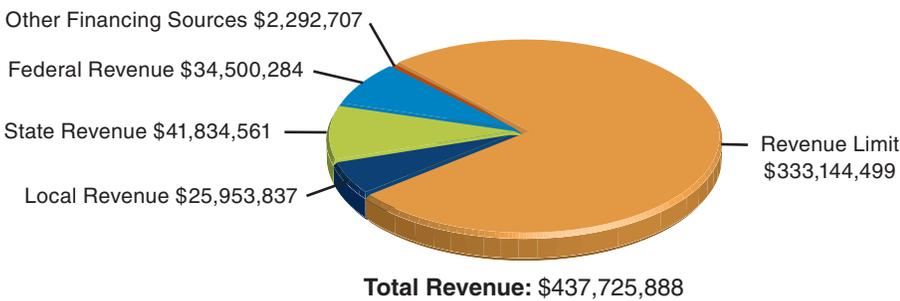
Disparities between neighboring districts are becoming more evident under these criteria as one district's demographics enable it to spend additional dollars by adding instructional or work days, or through salary and benefit increases while other districts are not able to do so at the same level.

Displayed below are the General Fund revenues and expenses for all county school districts for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. The revenues reflect those received under the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and include Proposition 55 funds generated through increased taxes on incomes over \$250,000 to temporarily sustain schools through 2030, at which time the temporary taxes will expire.

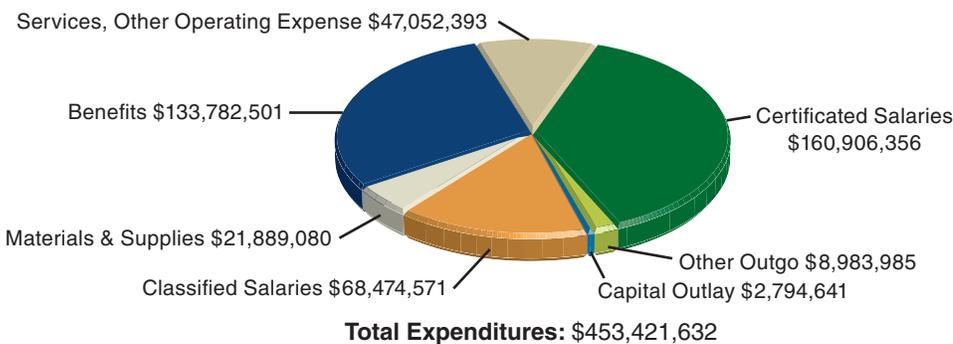
The following charts display the total General Fund revenues and expenditures that flowed through Santa Cruz County school districts in fiscal year 2016-2017. Illustrated in the revenue chart are the different sources that allocate funds to schools. By far the state is the largest contributor, with countywide state revenues totaling \$333 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 students in the classrooms. Over the past few years some school districts, due to demographics, have received additional funds under the new funding model and have been able to put additional money into the classrooms to support our educational system.

The third chart attached shows the 2016-17 enrollment percentage in the county by school district.

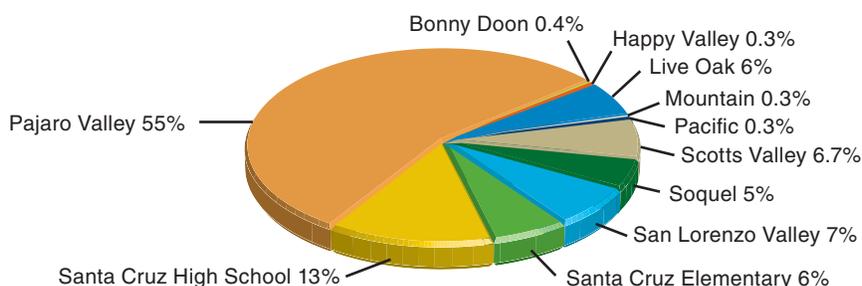
2016-17 Countywide General Fund Revenues K-12 Public Schools



2016-17 Countywide General Fund Expenditures K-12 Public Schools



2016-17 Enrollment Percentage by Districts



Migrant Head Start

Migrant Head Start provides all the comprehensive services of a typical Head Start program for the young children of farm workers: health, nutrition, education, social services and parent engagement in a home setting. Twenty-six children with special needs are carefully integrated into multi-age child care homes.

Services are offered only while the parents work in the harvest, typically May through November, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. At monthly evening meetings, parents practice strategies to support their children's language, literacy and math skills.

Farm worker families also set personal goals and learn about community resources. Over the past ten years Migrant Head Start has adopted a variety of innovative strategies: Raise a Reader, Cognate Alphabet, Abriendo Puertas and the SEEDS Literacy program.



Child Development Programs

The Child Development Department supports early learning so children will be ready socially, emotionally and academically to succeed in school. It advocates that quality child care be accessible and affordable for all families. The Child Development Resource Center helps families find child care that best meets their needs and provides professional development to child care providers. The Childhood Advisory 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.

Supporting Arts In the Schools

At a time when the arts are being viewed as an integral part of every child's right to a well-rounded education, SCCOE is working to develop sustainable support for the arts, creating partnerships with artists and arts organizations throughout the county.

SCCOE helps this happen by:

- Working with **Arts Council of Santa Cruz** and the Santa Cruz County Alliance for Arts Education to bring professional development opportunities such as the **Summer Arts Institute** and the **Artist Teacher Partnership** to general education teachers and arts specialists.
- Bringing the national program **Poetry Out Loud**, to county competitions.
- Collaborating with **Santa Cruz County Symphony** and **Carnegie Hall** to bring the **Link Up Music Program**, which enables fourth and fifth grade students to be active participants in Youth Symphony programs. SCCOE also partners with the Symphony on three additional programs: **Classical Music in the Classroom**, **Youth and Family Concerts**, and **Musicians in the Classrooms**.
- Partnering with world-renowned musicians, including Prince Lawsha, to celebrate International Jazz Week, sponsored by UNESCO.
- Bringing musical artists with international reputations to classrooms through the **Distinguished Artist Concert & Lecture Series**.
- Sponsoring **Tandy Beal & Company** in bringing "**ArtSmart, Dance Around the World!**" classroom residencies to over 20 classrooms in Santa Cruz County and to Young Audience and Family Concerts.

Curriculum and Instruction

This year the Curriculum and Instruction Department (C&I) is focusing on integrating programs and service and will be working closely with a wide range of county educators to fulfill its mission of ensuring a rich and rigorous educational experience for all county students to prepare them for college, career and civic life.

Implementation of educational standards is a key focus, with the

emphasis on history/social studies and science. C&I will support districts in selecting materials and will be working with districts as they conduct a field test of a new, computer-based online science assessment (CAST). The department will also be supporting districts as they transition to a new English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPAC) in 2018.

C&I offers many opportunities for students to expand and challenge their educational experiences: the Spelling Bee, Math Contest, Science and Engineering Fair, Language Ambassadors, and Student Authors' Fair. The newest opportunities are the Carnegie Hall Link Up music program for all fourth and fifth grade students and the Poetry Out Loud Contest for high school students.

Education Technology

Common Core State Standards, Next Generation Science Standards, and new assessments require students to have a higher level of technology proficiency and digital literacy. Education Technology plays an increasingly important role in providing students with relevant, authentic, and engaging learning opportunities. Santa Cruz County Office of Education is working locally, regionally, statewide and nationally in education technology practice, leadership, and advocacy.

Among these efforts are:

Integrating 3D Technology SCCOE is part of a \$1.2 Million National Science Foundation grant in partnership with the University of Florida, called iDigFossils. The grant, a three-year initiative that involves eight teachers from local schools, is focused on integrating 3D technologies into science & math instruction. The Santa Cruz COE is assisting with the professional development and ongoing support and will work with the University of Florida on the overall implementation of the grant. Teachers will design and execute activities that allow students to



engage with technology and engineering applications while learning science and math concepts, and exploring STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) careers.

1:1 Computer Initiatives As local schools begin to implement the Common Core State Standards and Computer Adaptive Testing, it is essential to provide access to devices throughout the curriculum. SCCOE supports the One Device, One Student (1:1) concept and has been advising and working with districts and the Alternative Education Department at the SCCOE to 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 provide informed and effective leadership in the use of technology to improve education. TICAL's 3-pillared professional development approach includes local, state, and online blended learning cadres.

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>

Beefing up Math, Science Programs

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education is launching a major effort to build up its STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) program by developing corporate partnerships in 2017-18.

“Santa Cruz County has a diverse array of STEM-based corporations that need a skilled and educated workforce. They should have a vested interest in local community education revolving around STEM,” said Nehal Pfeiffer, director of SCCOE’s STEM program.

This school year she has been reaching out to companies and their CEOs, explaining STEM and business partnership options. “We’ve gotten a warm reception so far, and going into 2018, we’ll be asking for specific proposals and specific sponsorships.”

A major part of STEM is the annual Science and Engineering Fair, which can attract up to 500 student entries. County students also participate in the Intel Science Fair, where they compete against students in 14 countries.

Plans to improve STEM education include:

- Getting more female students involved.
- Helping elementary school teachers (who are generalists by training) strengthen their science curriculum.
- Growing curriculum in areas such as coding and robotics.

“The Science and Engineering Fair is the capstone of the county’s STEM educational offerings,” Pfeiffer said. “It demonstrates a mindset that says we can use reason and logic and inquiry to reach new conclusions and solve really big problems.”

Helping Counselors Help Their Students

Public schools have redoubled their efforts to ensure that students get the rigorous classroom education they need to compete in the 21st Century, but sometimes students could have used more support and encouragement to access and succeed in the right classes.



Santa Cruz County Office of Education (SCCOE) is addressing that by working with school counselors and providing them with the tools and support they need to ensure that all students graduate with an education that has prepared and qualified them for the next opportunity.

“Counselors are a key piece of the education equation,” said Cristine Chopra, director of the Santa Cruz County College Commitment (S4C). “It’s important for counselors to help students be advocates for themselves so they can take authority and power over their own education.”

SCCOE is supporting local school counselors largely through professional development activities that recognize the counselors’ value and help them understand and implement professional best practices.

This has included setting up a counselor collaborative involving the county’s public schools, sending counselors to training and development seminars, and hosting, in November 2017, the first Santa Cruz County Counseling Summit.

“The summit was very inspiring,” said Samuel Solis, a Santa Cruz High counselor. “It helped us see the big picture of what we need to be doing for all students in terms of school, career, and personal life. It’s motivating us to keep doing what we’re doing and do it better.”

Students at the event attested to the importance of counselors. “The college application process is complicated, and the counselor really helps keep you focused as you go through it,” said Gabby Sandoval of Scotts Valley High.

Chopra said that in a society that is moving toward a point where 90 percent of jobs will require some level of post-secondary education, school counselors play a vital role.

“Counselors can help students graduate with every opportunity available, so that whatever the students choose to do in life, they’ll have a viable pathway that will get them there.”

Business Partners in Education

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

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



Santa Cruz County Office of Education

STRATEGIC PLAN

2014 - 2018

STRATEGIC AREAS OF FOCUS

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

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

1

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

2

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

3

Models fiscal responsibility by aligning resources to strategic priority areas.

4

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

5

MISSION

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

VISION

Every student will have equitable access to high quality educational programs and be prepared for college and career success in a global economy. All school districts in Santa Cruz County will view SCCOE as an integral partner in improving public education. SCCOE will research and apply innovative 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.

