



2021-22 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



SANTA CRUZ
COUNTY OFFICE OF
EDUCATION
DR. FARIS SABBABH • SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

*Out of necessity
has emerged the
opportunity for
even deeper
connection.*



When I was elected to the role of County Superintendent of Schools in 2018, I knew this job would be full of challenge and surprise. On both counts, that has proven even more true than I could have ever anticipated.

Truthfully, however, it is not the challenges that stand out in my mind now. Looking back on the 2021-22 school year, it is the determination, adaptability and persistence of our educators, families, and especially our students that shine brightly. Our school community came together in a time of need to achieve a shared goal: ensuring our schools remained open and safe in order for our students to have the resources they need to thrive.

So many partners have my gratitude and respect for their contributions to this work — many more than can be named here. They include our school districts, charter schools, families, students and staff, along with essential collaborators such as the Public Health Department of Santa Cruz County and Inspire Diagnostics, our health provider partner who enabled us to offer one of the most robust school-community testing and vaccination programs in our state ([p. 9](#)). This past year also enabled us to connect more frequently and deeply with our child care providers and leaders of our charter and private schools. The same has proven true with our connections with students and the impact and importance of student leadership and voice ([p. 11](#)). Out of necessity has emerged the opportunity for even deeper connection.

Within these pages are just some of the highlights from an incredibly fast-paced year. We have organized our efforts around our three strategic priorities — as outlined in our [2019-2024 Strategic Plan](#) — in recognition that it is these priorities, more so than our departmental structure, that best define our work and serve as our North Star. Knowing that this information is only scratching the surface of this work, we've included a QR code and link on each page as an invitation to "dive deeper."

Supporting equitable outcomes, achievement and wellness for all learners in Santa Cruz County is more than our mission. It's our promise. As we move forward and reconnect with a sense of (new) normalcy, it's those values along with our strengthened partnerships we must take with us and build on.

We must meet these needs with the same determination and focus with which we have met the past two years, buoyed by the knowledge that our school community is more committed, and more united, than ever before.



Dr. Faris Sabbah
Superintendent of Schools

WHO WE ARE

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education is a public agency striving to support an equitable and innovative education system for all Santa Cruz County students.

Catalyzing Change

At the Santa Cruz County Office of Education (Santa Cruz COE), we convene education leaders to catalyze systemic change. We provide support and oversight to 10 public school districts and offer a range of arts, environmental education, special and alternative education, career and technical education, child development, and instructional programs and services directly to students — from birth through age 24, and beyond.

We are also responsible for coordination of local services with the California Department of Education.

District services are provided in the areas of professional development and fiscal services.



Dive Deeper

Learn more about the Santa Cruz COE and our work.

santacruzcoe.org

Three-Level System

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 direct services to students alongside core support and oversight roles for local schools and districts.

1,493

Students

365

Staff

45

School Sites



Board of Education

The Santa Cruz County Board of Education is comprised of seven trustees, each of whom represents a designated trustee area within the County.

Each member is elected by the voters of his or her trustee area and serves a four-year term. The terms are staggered so that three members are elected in an even-numbered election year and the other four members are elected the next even-numbered election year. The County Superintendent of Schools serves in the capacity of Secretary to the Board.

The role of the board includes:

- Evaluating, updating and adopting policies
- Reviewing and approving the County Superintendent of Schools' annual budget
- Acquiring or disposing of real property
- Filling, by appointment, any vacancy that occurs during the term of the County Superintendent of Schools or individual trustees

- Hearing appeals of district expulsions and denials of inter-district transfers
- In Santa Cruz County, the members of the Board also serve as the members of the County Committee on School District Organization



Dive Deeper

Explore a map of trustee areas.
sccoe.link/3zmdltn

Meet The Trustees



Abel Sanchez
Board President
Trustee, Area 7



Alyssa Alto
Vice President
Trustee, Area 5



Sue Roth
Trustee, Area 1



Sandra Nichols
Trustee, Area 3



Bruce Van Allen
Trustee, Area 2



Rose Filicetti
Trustee, Area 4



Ed Acosta
Trustee, Area 6



Faris Sabbah
Secretary to the Board

WHO WE SERVE

Supporting All Learners

Located on the California Central Coast, Santa Cruz County is the second-smallest county in the state by land size and is home to about 276,000 residents. First incorporated in 1850, the land was inhabited for thousands of years prior by the Awaswas-speaking people whose descendants continue to actively steward the land with traditional practices today.

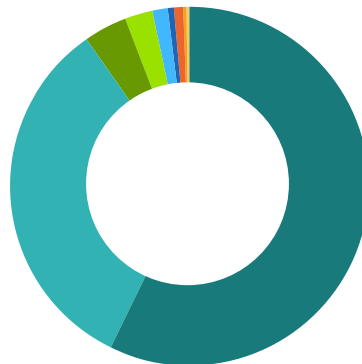
Santa Cruz County encompasses the four cities of Santa Cruz, Watsonville, Capitola, and Scotts Valley, as well as large swaths of unincorporated land ranging from agricultural fields to redwood forests. Its residents are served by 10 public school districts and the Santa Cruz COE with a total enrollment of about 39,000 students in grades TK-12, 22% of whom are categorized as English Learners and 52% of whom qualify for free or reduced-price lunch. More than half of all students identify as Hispanic or Latinx. Four of the county's school districts are small school K-6 districts, while the largest, Pajaro Valley Unified School District, serves roughly half the county's enrollment.



Dive Deeper

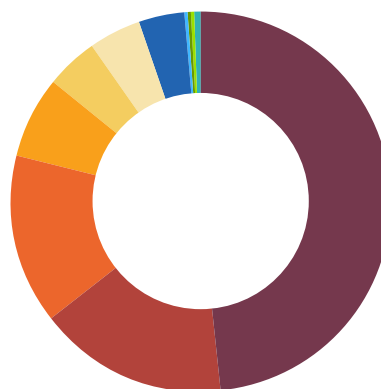
Learn more about our districts and schools.
sccoe.link/3AshRby

**Santa Cruz County
Students 2021-22**
Total: 38,895



22,311	Hispanic or Latino
12,851	White
1,551	Two or More Races
901	Asian
573	Not Reported
274	African American
267	Filipino
107	American Indian or Alaska Native
60	Pacific Islander

District Enrollment
Total: 35,587



18,675	Pajaro Valley Unified
6,297	Santa Cruz City Schools
5,534	San Lorenzo Valley Unified
2,660	Scotts Valley Unified
1,728	Live Oak Elementary
1,687	Soquel Union Elementary
1,493	Santa Cruz County Office of Education
145	Pacific Elementary
142	Mountain Elementary
117	Bonny Doon Union Elementary
109	Happy Valley Elementary

We envision a community with engaged learners and leaders who have the social, emotional, academic, and technical skills to thrive in a changing world.

Strategic Priorities

The Santa Cruz COE's programmatic work is focused on three key areas, as identified in our 2019-2024 Strategic Plan. These strategic priorities empower us to focus our efforts and gauge our progress.

- Safety, Engagement, Social-Emotional Wellness
- Academic Achievement & College/Career Readiness
- Sustainable Systems

Our strategic priorities emerged from a six-month planning process, which began in 2018 with comprehensive listening sessions, focus groups, surveys and other opportunities for input from hundreds of students, parents, guardians and educators.

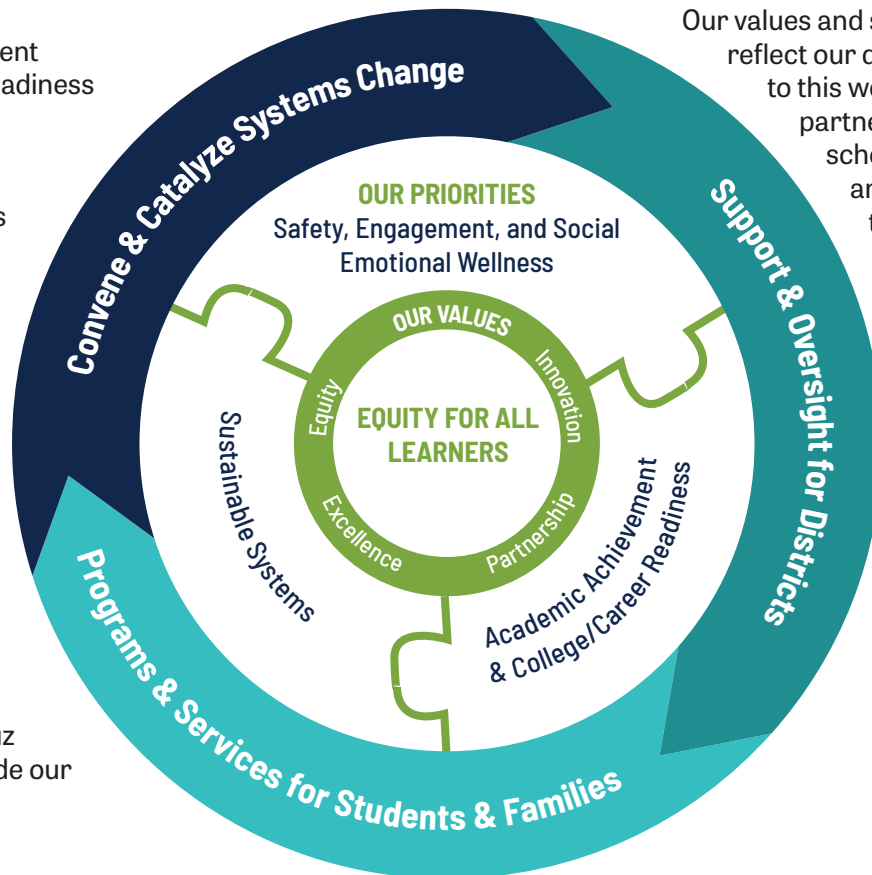
These priorities, and the plan as a whole, serve as the Santa Cruz COE's road map to guide our work.

Transforming Systems

The Santa Cruz COE is driven by a deep sense of urgency to transform educational systems and practices so that all learners, with diverse and unique backgrounds and circumstances, have opportunities and access to supports and resources that enable them to achieve and thrive, from birth through adulthood.

Our values and strategic priorities reflect our deep commitment to this work, and we invite all partners — learners, families, schools, districts, public and non-profit community partners, businesses, and our staff — to join us in fulfilling our vision.

By centering our values of equity, innovation, partnership, and excellence, our mission is to lead an equitable and innovative learner-centered educational system.



Dive Deeper

Explore the 2019-2024 Strategic Plan.

sccoe.link/3cWq4vi

SAFETY & ENGAGEMENT

We support an educational community in which every learner is safe, connected, supported, and socially and emotionally healthy.



SAFETY & ENGAGEMENT

Empowering a Safe Return to Classrooms



With all public schools in Santa Cruz County fully reopened to in-person instruction for the 2021-22 school year, enabling and empowering safe classroom instruction was central to our work.

The unprecedented challenge of COVID-19 was met with unprecedented levels of collaboration and support.

Through an innovative partnership with Inspire Diagnostics, each of the 10 Santa Cruz County school districts, and the Public Health Department of Santa Cruz County, the COE offered a robust testing and vaccination program available to all students, staff and families. We hired a COVID-19 Manager to oversee our response and met weekly with representatives from local hospitals and Public Health as part of the Pediatric Health Workgroup. By working together, closely following Public Health guidance, hosting town halls and distributing timely and consistent messaging, our partnerships enabled our school community to navigate a challenging winter surge without needing to close a single public school in the county during the 2021-22 year.

VACCINES

1/27/21-6/30/22

16.2K

Fully Vaccinated

10.3K

Students

3.9K

Educators & Staff

2.0K

Community

TESTS

8/29/21-6/30/22

531.0K

Tests Administered

441.1K

Students

85.2K

Educators & Staff

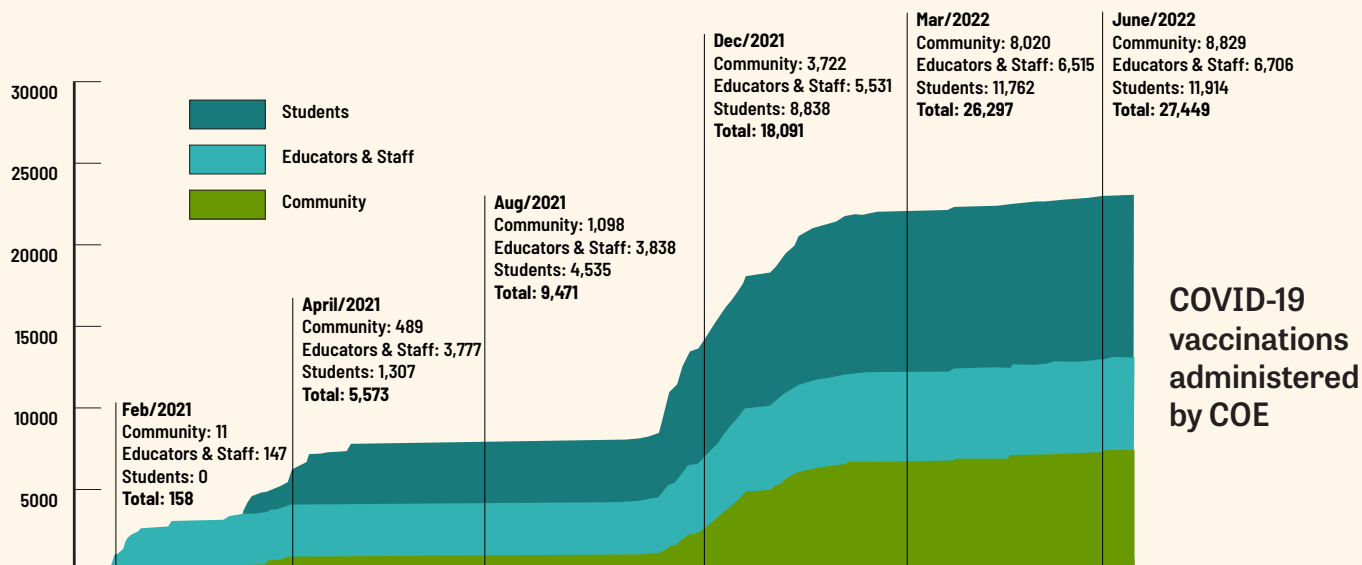
4.7K

Community



Dive Deeper

Find the latest data on our COVID-19 dashboards.
sccoe.link/3COohzS



SAFETY & ENGAGEMENT

Supporting Wellness and Equity for All

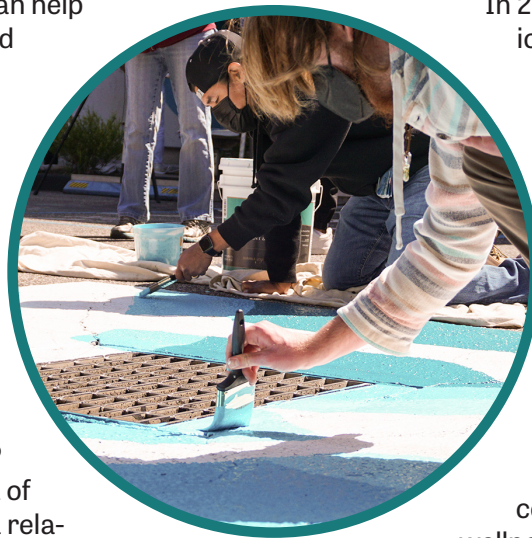
Emerging from remote learning, the need for wellness and social-emotional support for all youth and educators was more clear than ever before in the 2021-22 school

year. One of our top priorities over the past year was to build and bolster systems to surround students and staff with equitable support.

Social-Emotional Learning

Social-Emotional Learning, or SEL, can help address various forms of inequity and empower young people and adults to co-create thriving schools and contribute to safe, healthy and just communities.

We convened a Community of Practice (CoP) to expand on educators' SEL knowledge and practices in February 2021. Its 65 members include assistant superintendents, principals, teachers, classified staff and partners from across our county. This year, the CoP dove into transformative SEL — a set of competencies necessary to ensure a relationship-based partnership between students and teachers.



The Companion Project

In 2021-22, the Schools Integrated Behavioral Health Initiative (SIBHI) expanded its scope with the creation of the Companion Project in partnership with County Behavioral Health. The Companion Project is a team of six who provide support, referrals and connections for behavioral health and substance use services to students in Santa Cruz County schools. We co-hosted trainings for over 250 educators and youth-serving community members, shared resources, and deepened partnerships between educators and community agencies to support mental wellness and substance-use prevention and intervention for youth.

Initiative for Racial Equity and Justice

For the past two years, we have convened a Racial Equity and Justice Community of Practice (REJ CoP), serving educators and students across the county. Led by Dr. Kofi Akinjide, this CoP enables educators to focus on being more equitable in their teaching and professional practices. It aims to allow educators and students to explore their social identities and the various ways they influence the TK-12 educational experience, examine the social construction of whiteness and its perpetuation in the TK-12 system, and acquire the practical tools to take meaningful action around racism in one's own domain of influence.

Educators and students participated in an end of the year event on May 5, 2022, to share the plans that they created and implemented based on their work in the CoP.

As part of our Racial Equity and Justice Initiative, we maintain an online portal providing resources for educators and a platform for student voice. With materials respective to our Latinx, African American, Asian American, Indigenous and Jewish American communities, the portal is continually evolving as a way to support educators in their equitable practices.



Dive Deeper

Explore Racial Equity and Justice resources.
sccoe.link/3Jc5iUa

SAFETY & ENGAGEMENT

Student Leadership and Engagement

Our student leadership initiatives provide the means for students to develop essential leadership skills such as strategic and critical thinking, clear communication, and how to set measurable goals. The Santa Cruz County Student Leadership and Engagement Programs demonstrate to students the value in being of service to others, commitment to growth, honesty, and being responsible and thoughtful decision makers.

The Youth Alliance for Action included five student-led groups in 2021-22: The Countywide Black Student Union, the Queer & Trans Youth Council, Racial Equity and Justice, Youth Artists Taking Action, and Youth for Environmental Action.

Youth Artists Taking Action painted two murals at the Santa Cruz COE this year to highlight the impacts of climate change. Youth for Environmental Action hosted an Environmental Summit attended by more than 160 students from across Santa Cruz County, featuring numerous speakers and hands-on workshops led by local organizations. "To be surrounded around such a large community of people my age doing such positive change has been so inspiring because it shows me that it's possible to do things as a high school student, whereas so many people in my life have told me something different," said one student attendee.



Dive Deeper

Learn more about our student leadership initiatives.
sccoe.link/3JX8Rhp

Supporting Our LGBTQ+ Community



We work to make Santa Cruz County into a model of safe and inclusive schools for all students and families, including LGBTQ+ students who face persistent inequities. We know that when students feel safe, supported and included in school, their learning increases, their engagement increases and more students graduate from high school who are college and career ready.

In 2021-22, we hosted a town hall exploring issues impacting LGBTQ+ students and families, commemorated Harvey Milk Day with our 2nd Annual Rainbow Flag raising in May, and convened a task force releasing the "Top 40 LGBTQ+ Books that Every School Library Should Have" book list.

The final list of 40 books includes fiction, nonfiction, graphic novels, anthologies and picture books. Ten titles were selected for each of the grade spans of PreK-2, 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12.



ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

We uplift all learners to ensure they have the academic and non-academic skills and supports to be actively engaged and successful in careers, further education, and their communities.



ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

Alternative Education

Alternative Education is a core component of the services provided by the Santa Cruz COE, with programs serving students in grades 7-12 at 24 school sites throughout the County.

Our Alternative Education schools provide 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. High school students are able to earn credit towards graduation, develop life and employment skills.

Students who enroll in our programs may recover credits to transfer back to their district school for graduation, graduate from one of our programs, and then attend college or find success in the world of work. More than 300 students graduated from Alternative Education programs in 2022.



Special Education

Our Special Education Department is focused on providing each student with highly effective individualized instruction and related support services to achieve their full educational, social, emotional, and vocational potential.

Highly trained specialists in the areas of teaching, speech/language, nursing, adapted physical education, psychology, vision, hearing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, orthopedics and work experience serve these students. Some of these specialists also serve students in various district operated special education, and general education programs.

Continuing communication and collaboration with parents, school districts, agencies, and local businesses who provide student employment opportunities is essential to our programs.

Due to growing need within our community, our Special Education programs are continuing to expand. Next year, the department anticipates expanding from 14 to 15 classrooms across 7 sites.

Outdoor Science School Serves 4000

At the Santa Cruz County Outdoor Science School, 5th and 6th grade students experience a four- or five-day residential, hands-on science program.

This year, the more than 4,000 students had the opportunity to connect with peers and the natural world in a safe setting, absent of screens and technology. Trained Outdoor Science School staff support students as they practice teamwork in their cabin and on the trail.

Science Fair Back In-Person

For the first time since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Santa Cruz County Science & Engineering Fair returned in-person to the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds in Watsonville in March 2022.

K-12 students from across Santa Cruz County showcased 141 projects at the Fairgrounds' Harvest Building. The 164 students represented at the fair spanned grades K-12, representing public, private and charter schools from across Santa Cruz County.

Math Contest Marks 55th Year

The Santa Cruz COE held its 55th annual Math Contest in 2022, drawing participation from 130 students from across Santa Cruz County.

The contest provides students with both a team competition and an individual competition – and students are required to participate in both.



Dive Deeper

Explore our educational services.
sccoe.link/3AEbvWv

ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

Career and Adult Learning

Our Career and Adult Learning Services Department offers high school diploma and equivalency services for adult learners, a workforce development program for 16-24 year olds (Sueños), magnet high school programs, and career training programs for adults. We work closely with district and industry business partners to stay up to date with industry and workforce trends.

Career Advancement

Our Career Advancement Charter (CAC) works with adult students who haven't yet finished high school, ensuring that they feel supported and connected, emphasizing relationships with staff. We also have a Transition Specialist available to support students with whatever they need as they start and complete our program. This May over 50 adult students will graduate from the CAC.

Sueños

The Sueños Program is funded by the Santa Cruz County Workforce Development Board under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Sueños helps teenagers and young adults (ages 16-24) access employment, education, training and support services to succeed in the labor market.

Building Trades

This year we started our Building Trades Pre-Apprenticeship Program for adult students. We are pleased to share that all students from our first cohort who started the program completed. Students achieved three different certifications: Multi-Craft Curriculum, OSHA 10, and First Aid/CPR.



K-12 Computer Science Initiative

In an effort to better prepare students for future careers in specific sectors, we are proud to support and promote courses under the California Career Technical Education Program.

By participating in Career Technical Education Pathway (CTE) courses, students can focus on areas of personal interest, build necessary skills, and potentially develop a passion in various technical areas. Students have the opportunity to take CTE courses and earn college credit through our partnership with Cabrillo College in Cybersecurity/Networking or Information Support and Services.

IT Essentials

A partnership between the Santa Cruz COE, Cabrillo College, DigitalNEST, and several school districts, our IT Essentials course is the foundational course offering of all our Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) Career Pathways.

The goal of this course is to introduce the student to computer hardware and software, as well as operating systems, networking concepts, mobile devices, information technology (IT) security, and troubleshooting.

Cybersecurity Club

Launched this past year in partnership with Cabrillo College, this club offers students the opportunity to learn and practice cybersecurity concepts, as well as hear from experts in the field. It is an excellent opportunity for students interested in starting a career in cybersecurity and our ICT Career Pathways.



Dive Deeper

Connect with pathways into technology.
sccoe.link/3AGHXr6

Empowering Educators

Mastering Mathematics

Working with superintendents from all school districts in Santa Cruz County, we coordinated a continued partnership with the Silicon Valley Math Initiative (SVMI). This partnership created opportunities for every teacher to engage in communities of practice to learn about, implement, and reflect on:

- High quality, math-focused instructional strategies focused on equitable and engaging learning such as building and using mathematical models based on real-world contexts, making generalizations, and creating convincing arguments.
- High-quality resources and tools, such as MARS Tasks (Mathematics Assessment Resource Service), Problems of the Month, and protocols for engaging in Lesson Study.

In addition, we collaborated with other COEs and partners to develop and facilitate a series of Math Framework Feedback Forums, providing opportunities for educators from across California to learn more about our new draft Math Framework.



New Teacher Project

The Santa Cruz/Silicon Valley New Teacher Project (SC/SVNTP) believes that every student deserves a quality teacher. To achieve this goal, we partner highly trained mentors with teachers in order to earn their California Clear Teaching Credential. Mentor teacher collaborations occur weekly, for no less than an hour, throughout the school year. Based on teacher and mentor perception data from the past four years, we have refined our program goal and our commitment to educational equity by developing anti-racist educators who focus on student outcomes. This year, 167 teachers received Induction support. In surveys, 88% reported they are having conversations about what it means to be a culturally responsive teacher, while 92% share their teaching has improved with the support of their mentor.

Engaging the Arts

In May 2022, the Santa Cruz COE released the Arts Plan for Equity — a 5-year road map for arts education in our community. This plan was created in partnership with arts organizations, teachers and administrators, parents, students, arts funders, district and county personnel and leaders from local businesses.

Professional learning in the arts includes our Arts Integration Community of Practice and the annual Summer Arts Integration Institute. We have also expanded our offerings in the arts to include a collaboration between all the counties in Region V.

Sponsored events in 2021-22 included the Watsonville Arts and Literacy event; Poetry Out Loud; World Language Poetry Showcase; Santa Cruz Symphony and Santa Cruz COE Youth Concerts; FashionTeens; Youth Art Exhibit; Tandy Beal Dance Residencies; Artist Teacher Partnership Program with our Alternative Education programs.

Ready for Universal Pre-K

The Educational Services division is supporting districts to meet new Universal Prekindergarten requirements to be implemented in the 22-23 school year. We have applied for a grant to support districts with recruiting teachers and providing them with professional development. We also contracted with a consultant, who has been updating all of the superintendents and early childhood educators throughout the year to ensure that all schools will be ready to implement new enrollment requirements and add Extended Learning opportunities for all students who need them.



Dive Deeper

Learn more about professional development.
sccoe.link/prof-learn

ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

Pathways From Preschool to College

Child Development

The Child Development Resource Center (CDRC) is a Resource and Referral Agency, funded by the CA Department of Social Services. Focused on assisting families as they search for child care, and supporting child care providers in maintaining high quality care, CDRC was essential in helping providers stay operational during the second year of the pandemic. Through frequent distributions of PPE, outreach to providers and constant communication and support most facilities returned to active status. Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Faris Sabbah offered weekly Zoom meetings to the child care and early education field to discuss the latest COVID-19 safety guidance and other important topics.

Migrant Head Start

The Migrant/Seasonal Head Start program has provided childcare, social services, and parent workshops for over two decades. A directly operated program now serves 170 farmworkers' children who are cared for in 25 family childcare homes in Watsonville from May until February.

The Santa Cruz COE provides health, nutrition, and social services plus monthly parent workshops in a partnership with Santa Cruz County Parents Association, Inc.

District Graduation Rates 2021-22

PVUSD

94.1%

SCCS

94.5%

SLVUSD

97.4%

SVUSD

99.4%

Multilingual Learners

We provide direct support, professional development and technical assistance to empower English Learners and all Multilingual Learners across Santa Cruz County.

Over this past year, we facilitated a Multilingual Leadership Network focused on gathering student experience data. School district teams used tactics such as student shadowing to learn about how multilingual learners are participating in academic conversations in their classrooms — understanding that if the student experience doesn't change, neither will outcomes.

We also facilitated a Language Ambassadors Program, including at-home activities and an online expo, and hosted a World Language Poetry Showcase to celebrate the richness and diversity of language.

College and Career Collaborative

The Santa Cruz County College and Career Collaborative is a partnership of educators, administrators, and counselors including 10 school districts, three colleges, and the County Office of Education. The goal of S5C is to increase post-secondary access and attainment for students in Santa Cruz County.

Semillitas

All newborns born after December 31, 2020, to Santa Cruz County parents now automatically receive a gift of up to \$50 towards their college or vocational education expenses as part of Semillitas, a partnership with Santa Cruz Community Ventures.

The savings, which grow with the children, can later be used for children to go to college or vocational programs.



Dive Deeper

Find college and career resources.
sccoe.link/3bUVNNO

SUSTAINABLE SYSTEMS

We empower an education system in Santa Cruz County that is cohesive, effective, and equitable.



SUSTAINABLE SYSTEMS

Budgeting and Business Services

The Business Services Division is responsible for managing the Santa Cruz COE's financial activities and provides business support services for local school districts.

In addition to our State mandated services of school district budget review, fiscal oversight, and pupil attendance accounting, we help school districts save money by providing regional services such as information technology services, payroll processing, vendor payments, data compilation and other countywide financial support services.

Funding Formula

School districts receive funding from different sources: state funds under the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), other state funds, local funds, and federal funds. LCFF funds include a base level of funding for all local educational agencies (LEAs) and extra funding — called “supplemental and concentration” grants — based on the enrollment of high-needs students such as foster youth, English learners, and low-income students.

In 2020-21, the most recent year for which all budgeting information was finalized, the COE received \$52,327,500 in revenue, out of which 58% was from the Local Control Formula.

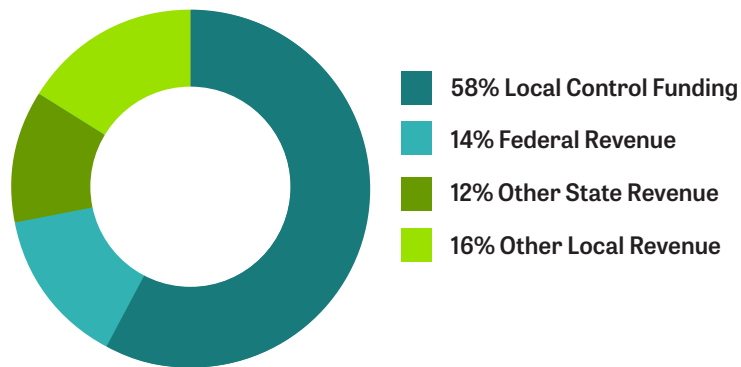


Dive Deeper

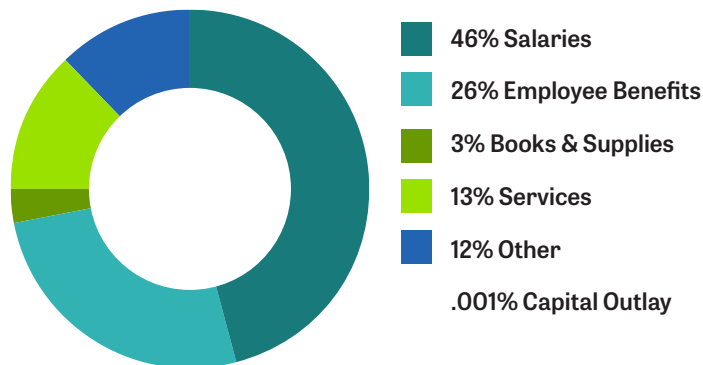
Explore our budget and business services.
sccoe.link/3TbCxfe

2020-21 FISCAL YEAR DATA

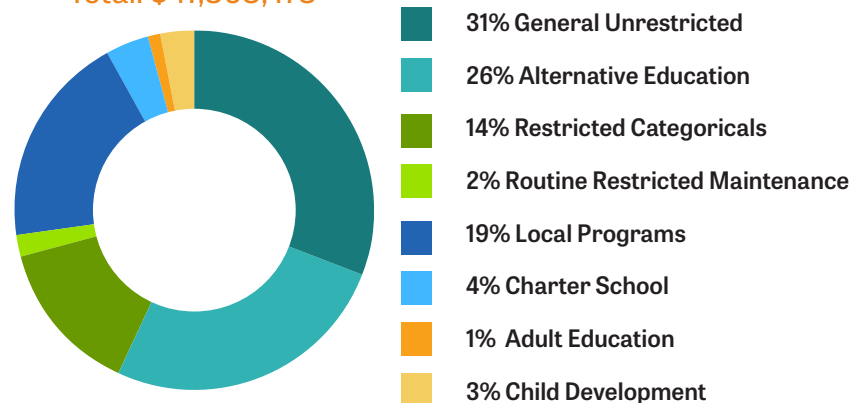
Where Funds Come From Total: \$52,327,500



How Funds Are Used Total: \$51,332,130



2021-22 Projected Expenditures by Program Total: \$47,868,478



SUSTAINABLE SYSTEMS

District Support and Oversight

We work closely with the Santa Cruz County school districts, and in some cases charter schools, to provide a range of support and oversight services.

These include:

- Reviewing, approving, and processing district payrolls
- Providing assistance to school districts and compiling student enrollment and ADA reports
- Coordinating and assisting school districts in the development of annual budgets and the completion of year-end financial reports
- Providing assistance to Charter Schools on fiscal-related matters and may also provide payroll and budgetary-related services as part of service agreements
- Recording revenues received by the school districts and forwarding to the County Treasurer's Office for deposit in district accounts



Building a Diverse Workforce

We strive to build and support a thriving and diverse community of educators who reflect the learner communities we serve.

Because of staffing challenges related to the pandemic, recruiting and streamlining the path to becoming a substitute teacher was a major priority for us in 2021-22. By waiving fees, streamlining the process and launching a major outreach campaign across our community, we were able to recruit more than 70 new substitute teachers to our Countywide Sub-List — helping ensure districts have the staffing flexibility they need

Representation is another focus for our work. Teachers of color remain significantly underrepresented within our schools. Our Race & Equity Affinity Action Groups, convened by the Santa Cruz/Silicon Valley New Teacher Project, provide a system for the ongoing support and leadership development for ethnically diverse educators. We work to sustain and develop educators who impact equitable student outcomes.

Sustainability

As part of our commitment to sustainability and environmental literacy, we provide districts, schools and partners with environmental education programs, resources, and professional learning experiences.

The Santa Cruz COE plays a statewide leadership role in the California Environmental Literacy Initiative, building the capacity of COEs across the state.

Our commitment to the environment was recognized this year with a 2022 California Green Ribbon Schools award — at the highest recognition level among California's 58 COEs to date.

Technology Services

Through our Tech+ Division, we offer a variety of services to help all schools connect to the Internet via high speed digital lines. As part of this gateway, we offer web services, email, domain name service and firewall protection. These services not only provide schools a path to the Internet, but a safe and secure Intranet for transmission of data.

Additional services include hosting school websites and providing districts with technical assistance and training. During the pandemic, we partnered with Internet service provider Cruzio to bridge the digital divide, launching the Equal Access Santa Cruz County initiative.

School Safety

Ensuring schools are safe is a top priority. We provide leadership for the development of school emergency and safety plans through the convening of the Santa Cruz County Safe Schools Consortia. The consortia is comprised of local fire and law enforcement agencies, Office of Emergency Services, Health Services Agency (health and mental health), the Red Cross, Emergency Communications Center (911), and representatives from the ten Santa Cruz County school districts.



Dive Deeper

Find out more about our safe schools support.
sccoe.link/3pmt4Up



SANTA CRUZ
COUNTY OFFICE OF
EDUCATION
DR. FARIS SABBABH • SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



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