



2022-23
ANNUAL REPORT
TO THE COMMUNITY



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



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SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

The 2022-23 year was a time of renewal, revitalization, and refocus on our profound commitments to student success. While public education faces serious – and in some cases, growing – challenges, our wider school community is not only back on track, we are accelerating full-steam-ahead with our mission to create equitable opportunities for all learners in Santa Cruz County.

At the start of the year, we identified three core areas of focus for the Santa Cruz County Office of Education: Safety, Wellness, and Equitable Achievement.

“We are accelerating full-steam-ahead with our mission to create equitable opportunities for all learners in Santa Cruz County.”



Subscribe to weekly news and updates.
sccoe.link/newsletter

Working closely with Santa Cruz County's 10 school districts and trusted community partners, I am pleased to report that we have achieved significant milestones in each of these areas – many of which are outlined in the pages that follow.

In the area of wellness, the COE released a roadmap detailing our plan to

work with school districts to open a Wellness Center on every comprehensive high school campus in the county to serve as a hub for services and meet every level of need. With support from Congressman Jimmy Panetta, we secured \$1 million in federal funding to fund the opening of the first two of these wellness centers [\[p. 9\]](#). With additional support from CalWell, our school community is already on track to open two additional centers — together representing half the comprehensive high schools in our county.

When it comes to safety, we debuted the Incident Command Academy for Schools in the fall of 2022 to train teams from all districts to more effectively respond to

any emergency situation [\[p. 11\]](#).

Equitable achievement, meanwhile, is at the center of our mission. This year we were able to put digital literacy into the spotlight, hosting a pilot program to train teams of educators from the wider Central California region on cutting-edge equitable

implementation, in partnership with the California Department of Education [\[p. 17\]](#). This year also brought milestones in our work to elevate student voice and support and empower student leaders, including the launch of a Student Trustee Academy [\[p. 16\]](#). Our Youth Led Leadership Alliance, meanwhile, expanded to include two new student groups focused on mental health and multilingual students, respectively [\[p. 16\]](#).

The 2022-23 Annual Report to the Community contains updated statistics and program highlights in each of these areas, and more. But it is far from an exhaustive recap of our work throughout the year. For those interested in learning more, each page contains a QR code and link offering a deeper exploration. We also release regular news and program updates through our website, santacruzcoe.org, and via our weekly newsletter (subscribe at sccoe.link/newsletter).

From serving students to supporting educators, none of what we do would be possible without our incredible school community and partners.

Whether you are an educator, parent, caregiver, student, partner, or community member, thank you for all that you do to support excellence and equity for our school community.



Dr. Faris Sabbah
County Superintendent
of Schools

WHO WE ARE



Santa Cruz COE staff at the 2023 Staff Picnic.

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education (Santa Cruz COE) is a public agency striving to support an equitable and innovative education system for all Santa Cruz County students. Our commitment is to support educators and ensure all learners have the educational opportunities they need to thrive. To accomplish this goal, we provide a wide range of services and programs geared at supporting our 10 public school districts, directly serving



Learn more about the Santa Cruz COE.
sccoe.link/aboutus

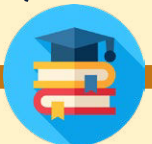
students, and expanding educational opportunities and outcomes for each of the 38,000 students who call Santa Cruz County home.

One of Three Levels

In California, public primary and

secondary education operate at three levels: state, county, and local. 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 middle 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.

1,603



Students

366



Staff

45



Sites

In 2022-23, 1,603 students were enrolled in COE programs, served by 366 staff across 45 program sites.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

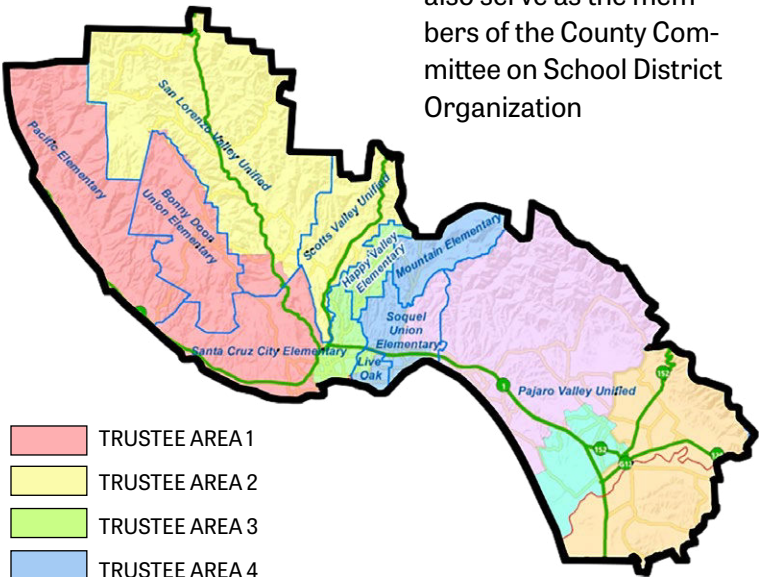
Meet the Trustees

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 their respective 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



- TRUSTEE AREA 1
- TRUSTEE AREA 2
- TRUSTEE AREA 3
- TRUSTEE AREA 4
- TRUSTEE AREA 5
- TRUSTEE AREA 6
- TRUSTEE AREA 7



Abel Sanchez
Board President
Trustee, Area 7



Alyssa Alto
Vice President
Trustee, Area 5



Bruce Van Allen
Trustee, Area 2



Rose Filicetti*
Trustee, Area 4



Sue Roth
Trustee, Area 1



Sandra Nichols
Trustee, Area 3



Ed Acosta
Trustee, Area 6



Faris Sabbah
Secretary to the Board

*Trustee Filicetti departed from the Board in August 2023. Find updated trustee information at santacruzcoe.org.




Explore Board meetings,
policies & more.
sccoe.link/board

OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

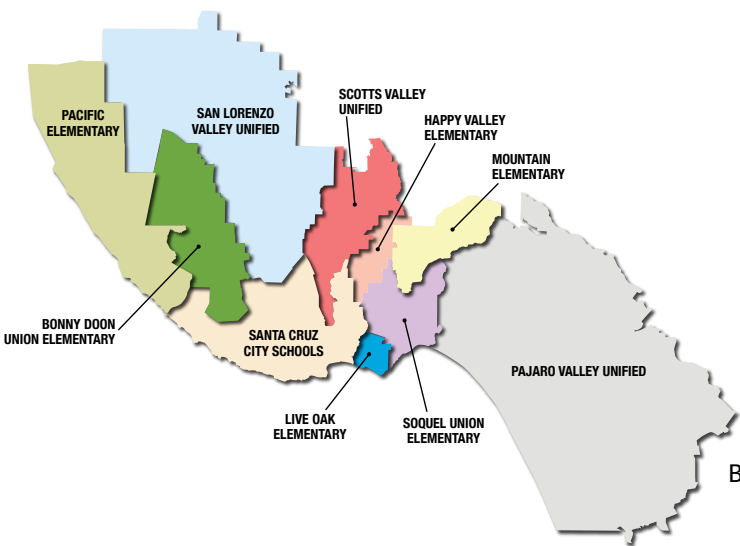
Located on the California Central Coast, Santa Cruz County is the second-smallest county in the state by land size and is home to about 264,000 residents. First incorporated in 1850, the land was inhabited for thousands of years prior by the Awaswas-speaking people whose descendants continue to actively 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 38,000 students in grades TK-12, 23% of whom are categorized as English Learners and 49% of whom qualify for free or reduced-price lunch. More than half of all students identify as Hispanic or Latinx.



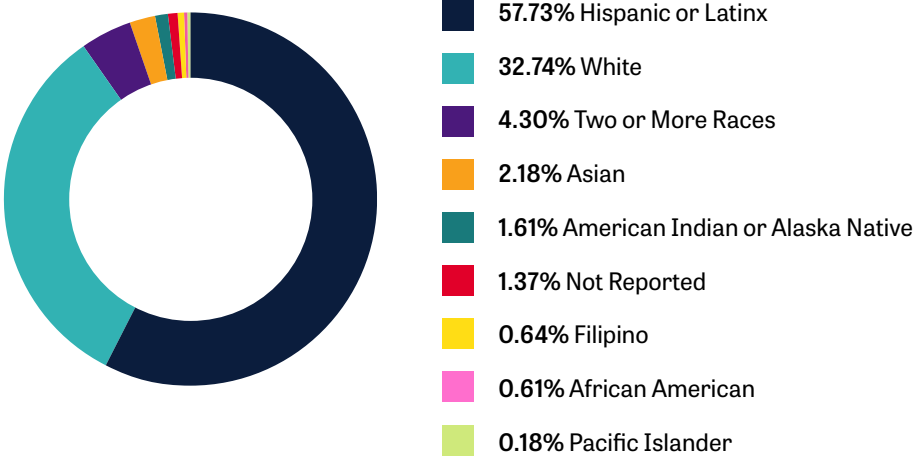
Access our school district directory.

sccoe.link/districts

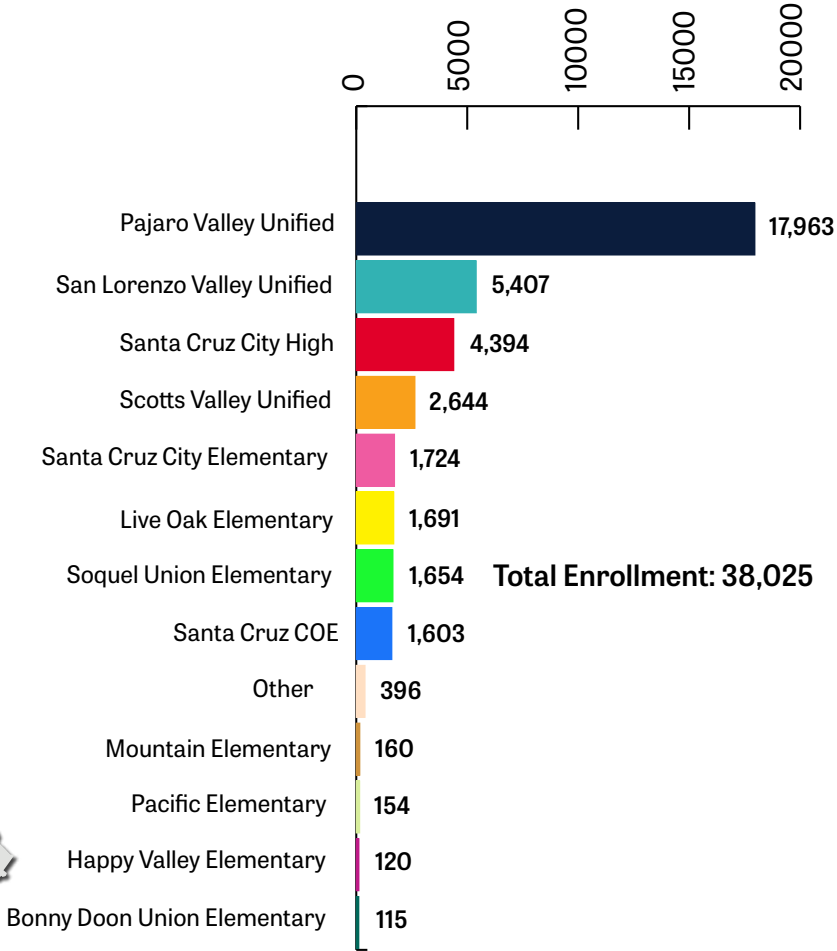


Santa Cruz County TK-12 Enrollment 2022-23

Demographics



District Enrollment





SUPPORTING SAFETY AND WELLNESS

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

—2019-2024 Strategic Plan, Strategic Priority 1

SUPPORTING SAFETY & WELLNESS

Centering Wellness

The Santa Cruz County School Districts and the County Office of Education are working together to enable each public high school in the county to open an on-campus Wellness Center that will offer universal, coordinated, and timely mental health-related services to all students through an easily accessible location. This inclusive environment reduces barriers to access services.

Research shows students are 10 to 21 times more likely to receive behavioral health services when they are provided on a school campus. These Wellness Centers will also serve as a key linkage point foundational to the




Congressman Jimmy Panetta (left) and County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Faris Sabbah speak at a roundtable on student wellness in February 2023.

success of all families and students in our region. Through this effort, we aim to destigmatize mental health, offering an open door to wellness for students

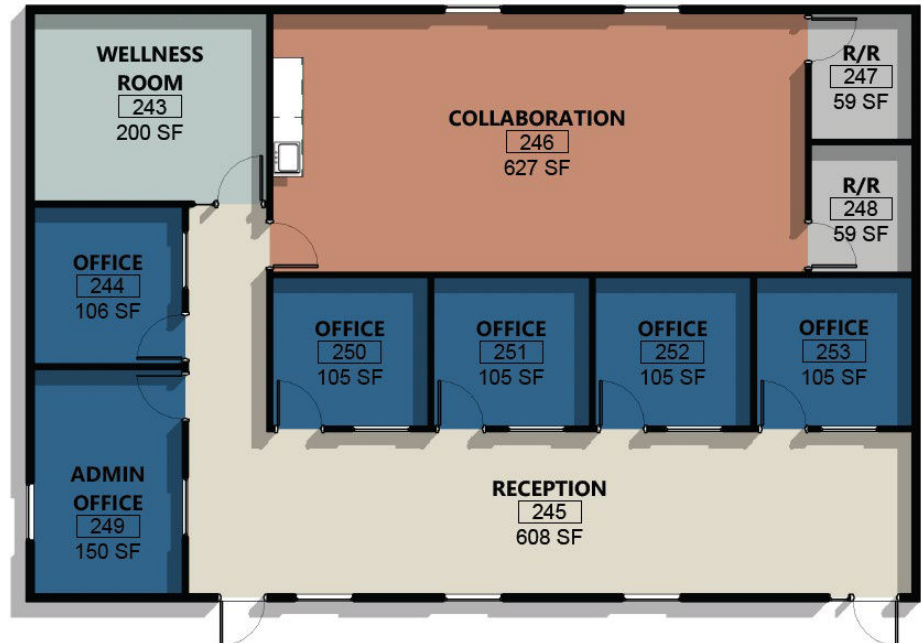
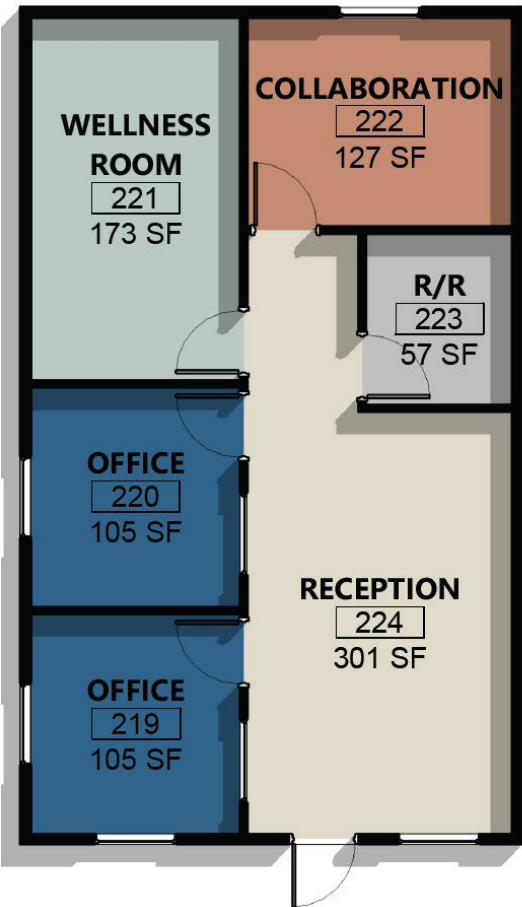
at all levels of need, and integrate a community of support between school staff and agencies to remove barriers to care.

Planning is underway to open the first Wellness Centers in two Santa Cruz County school districts as soon as 2023-2024, with the goal to open additional Wellness Centers at every comprehensive high school in the county over the next several years. Santa Cruz COE has also received the Community Project grant with support from Congressman Jimmy Panetta. This grant will help us jumpstart these efforts through helping to fund positions and refurbishment of wellness spaces on school campuses.



Read the Centering Wellness roadmap for schools
sccoe.link/centeringwellness

Sample layouts for wellness centers suitable for different sized schools are included in the COE's Centering Wellness Roadmap for Santa Cruz County Schools.



SUPPORTING SAFETY & WELLNESS

COVID-19 Response

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education partnered with the county's 10 school districts and provider Inspire Diagnostics to provide COVID-19 screening and exposure testing for students, staff, and families, from August 2021 through

the sunsetting of the program in May 2023. Schools tested students weekly on-site, and drive-through and drop-in testing sites were available at five convenient locations across Santa Cruz County.

Following the end of Cali-

fornia's COVID-19 State of Emergency on February 28, 2023, and the end of the federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency on May 11, 2023, ensuring the health and safety of the Santa Cruz County school community remains a priority. The

Santa Cruz COE is continuing to work in partnership with school districts, the Public Health Department of Santa Cruz County, and the Pediatric Health Workgroup to provide resources and support to educators and families.

750.9K



Tested

17.3K



Vaccinated

14.7K



Boosted

School community COVID-19 tests and vaccinations performed from Aug. 2021-May 2023.

Fentanyl and Opioid Awareness

Opioids including fentanyl continue to pose a threat to the Santa Cruz County school community due to the high risk of accidental overdose.

In partnership with the Santa Cruz County school districts and SafeRx Santa Cruz County, the Santa Cruz County Office of Education promotes age-appropriate overdose awareness and prevention training for both staff and families as one way we work to ensure the safety of our school community. These efforts include:

- Distributing bilingual "Let's Talk" booklets to families of students en-

tering 9th grade county-wide in order to raise awareness and facilitate conversations about substance use and mental health

- Holding staff trainings on use of naloxone and establishing naloxone policies within all districts
- Participating in a youth-focused fentanyl town hall
- Co-hosting naloxone distribution events targeting teens and families across Santa Cruz County, in partnership with SafeRx Santa Cruz County



Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Faris Sabbah and a team of volunteers helping distribute naloxone and resources.



Find out more about our health initiatives.
santacruzcoe.org/health

SUPPORTING SAFETY & WELLNESS

The Companion Project



Cohort of educators who received certification in Youth Mental Health First Aid training in 2022-23.

The Companion Project provides students with meaningful support, referrals and connections to behavioral health and substance use services, working in partnership with Santa Cruz County Behavioral Health. The project broadens available responses to reduce stigma, while promoting resiliency, wellness and student engagement within the school setting.

The Companion Project began accepting referrals in the Spring of 2022. In its first year, it has served over 200 K-12 students and their families who appear to have become disengaged from school due to emotional well being, behavioral health or substance use concerns. Primary target groups include LGBTQ+ youth and those on the verge of experiencing truancy, homelessness, suspension or expulsion, and high acuity behavioral health issues.

Youth Mental Health First Aid

The Santa Cruz COE began offering Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) training to all Districts in 2022-23. YMHFA teaches adults how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among children and adolescents ages 12-18. The course introduces common mental health challenges for youth, reviews typical adolescent development, and teaches a 5-step action plan for how to help young people in both crisis and non-crisis situations. Topics covered include anxiety, depression, substance use, disorders in which psychosis may occur, disruptive behavior disorders, and eating disorders.

Social-Emotional Learning

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

As part of a CA statewide initiative, the COE continued to facilitate and support a SEL Community of Practice (CoP) to expand on educators' SEL knowledge and practices throughout the year. The 60 member group included assistant superintendents, principals, teachers, counselors, classified staff and partners from across our county.

In addition, the COE has been support-

ing three districts with a systemic SEL approach since January 2022, aligned and coordinated within a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS). Each district is developing and implementing a plan to teach social and emotional skills and strengthen conditions for thriving, incorporating and modeling practices that create more inclusive and compassionate school cultures. Two district teams attended training from the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence's "RULER Institute," known for its comprehensive approach to infusing SEL throughout a school community. The RULER trained teams, including teachers, school leaders, and classified staff, are now leading their staffs to strengthen adult SEL and promote SEL strategies for students, using the RULER tools. At the third site, we are support-

ing a plan for students, district-wide, to develop and encompass a selection of "Graduate Portrait Traits" that includes qualities such as active listening, empathy, and resilience.

R	Recognizing emotions
U	Understanding emotions
L	Labeling emotions
E	Expressing emotions
R	Regulating emotions



Learn more about
Student Support Services.
sccoe.link/sss

SUPPORTING SAFETY & WELLNESS

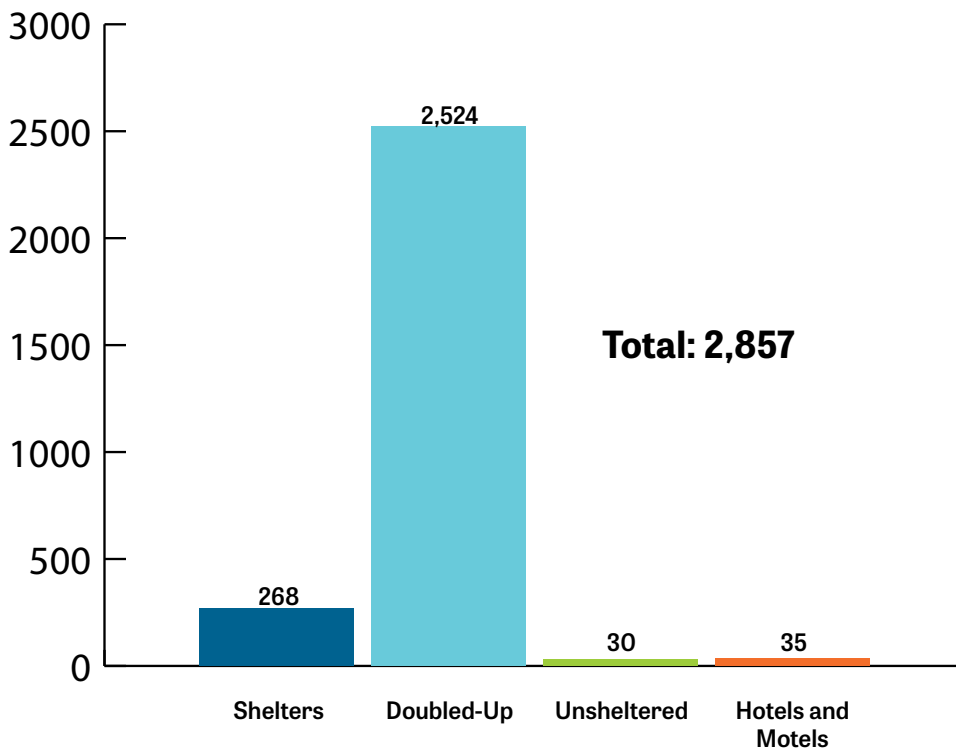
Stuff the Bus

Each year, the Santa Cruz COE and United Way of Santa Cruz County partner to send students back to school with the supplies they need to succeed as part of our Stuff the Bus supply drive. Backpacks filled with essential supplies and resource information are distributed among Santa Cruz County students experiencing homelessness and other hardships.

Teams of volunteers helped fill more than 1,500 backpacks during the 2022 Stuff the Bus Stuff-A-Thon, which were distributed to students directly and through school districts, COE programs, and community organizations.



21/22 Annual Count of Homeless Students in Schools



Data gathered during the 2021-22 Annual Count of Homeless Students in Schools, conducted by the COE's Student Services department, details the number of students experiencing homelessness as defined under the McKinney-Vento Act.

Incident Command Academy for Schools

The Santa Cruz COE convened the Incident Command Academy for Schools in Fall 2022 to facilitate and coordinate emergency response training for Santa Cruz County's 10 school districts. Teams of administrators from each district and the COE met monthly to review and assess protocols and best practices, participate in table-top activities, and strengthen tactics and systems in preparation for any range of emergency scenarios, facilitated by experts from policing and education. Due to the Academy's success, an additional session was provided in Spring 2023 for teams from private, charter and pre-school leaders and the Academy was renewed for the 2023-24 school year.



Find out more about school safety and emergency response.
sccoe.link/safety

A young woman with long blonde hair, wearing a blue graduation gown, is smiling broadly and holding a black diploma. She is surrounded by confetti, and other graduates are visible in the background.

EMPOWERING EQUITABLE ACHIEVEMENT

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.

-2019-2024 Strategic Plan, Strategic Priority 2

EMPOWERING EQUITABLE ACHIEVEMENT

Serving All Learners



A 2023 graduate from the Special Education Department's Post-Senior Program poses with his family.

The Santa Cruz COE provides direct education services to students from across Santa Cruz County with the highest levels of need, as well as to adult learners and students who benefit from a more individualized instructional program catered to their specific needs.

Alternative Education

Alternative Education is a pillar of the programs provided by the Santa Cruz COE, with 24 programs serving 969 students in grades 7-12 and 163 adult learners in the 2022-23 school year.

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, and

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.

Special Education

The Santa Cruz COE's Special Education Department is focused on providing students with highly effective individualized instruction and related support services so each student can achieve their full educational, social, emotional, and vocational potential.

In the 2022-23 school year, the department served 100 students with high needs through programs including the **Early Start Program**, for infants and toddlers, ages birth to three years of age in cooperation with San Andreas

Regional Center; **Chrysalis Autism Program**, providing services in special day classrooms to students in pre-school through 8th grade who have been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD); **Severe Handicapping Conditions Program**, integrating basic skills, life skills, and communication for students challenged by severe handicaps; and the **Post-Senior Students Program**, providing the opportunity for students 18-22 years of age who did not graduate from high school to receive vocational skill training and job experiences in the community.

Career and Adult Learning

Our **Career Advancement Charter (CAC)** works with adult students who haven't yet finished high school to ensure that they feel supported and connected, emphasizing relationships with staff. A Transition Specialist is available to support students with whatever they need as they start and complete our program.

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.

Our CTE program for high school students and adults provides the opportunity to acquire academic, career, and technical skills to prepare for life-long learning and success.



Explore more programs for students.
sccoe.link/student-services

EMPOWERING EQUITABLE ACHIEVEMENT

Engaging with the Arts

We continued to provide professional learning in the arts that includes our Arts Education Community of Practice and the annual Summer Arts Education Institute. We have continued to expand our offerings in the arts to include a collaboration between all the counties in Region V.

Collaborative events in 2022-2023 included the Arts and Literacy event where we partnered with Bookshop Santa Cruz who brought Dr. Ibram X. Kendi and Nic Stone to Santa Cruz; Poetry Out Loud; World Language Poetry Showcase; Santa Cruz Symphony and Santa Cruz COE Youth Concerts; FashionTeens; Tandy Beal Dance Residencies; and the Youth Art Exhibit.

One of the newest additions to our arts programming is the collaboration of the COE with UCSC. Together, we have revived the ArtsBridge program where we placed 12 UCSC visual and performing arts students in 12 classrooms around our county. In a recent celebration, both UCSC students and our inspiring teachers shared lessons learned and inspirations for the future of education. One student spoke eloquently about how the arts provide all students and all people to see the best of humanity.

We are also thrilled to be assisting districts with most effectively using the \$6 million in new arts education funding available for Santa Cruz County following the passage of Proposition 28 by California voters.

For the last six years, we have been in a partnership with the Arts Council Santa Cruz County to bring the Artist Teacher Partnership program to our



A student shows off an outfit crafted from reclaimed materials at FashionTeens 2023.

students in alternative education programs. With this new, annual funding, we will be able to support our students in studying diverse art forms such as storytelling through video production; the exploration of identity through photography; and the appreciation of music through learning to play an instrument.

Mastering Mathematics

In order to promote engagement and excitement around teaching and learning mathematics in our community, the COE works with a number of community partners. We believe that this collaboration will expand opportunities for all members of our community to participate in math teaching and learning in a more comprehensive and equitable manner.

The COE partners with organizations including the Monterey Bay Area Math

Project, the American Institute of Math, the Julia Robinson Math Festival, the Silicon Valley Math Initiative, and non-profit XAcademy to help bring a wide range of math-focused learning opportunities and events to our students, families, and staff. These events include a Family Math Night, Math Circles for both students and teachers, a statewide conference on Math Lesson Study, and hands-on professional learning opportunities for staff.

By providing these opportunities, we aim to inspire and motivate our community to appreciate the beauty and usefulness of mathematics in our everyday lives.

Equity Council Convenes Education Leaders

Made up of representatives from each Santa Cruz County school district as well as a variety of community partners, the Santa Cruz County Educational Equity Council engages in an ongoing cycle of continuous improvement to better elevate the strengths of those who have been historically marginalized, listen to their asks, and address their needs.

In 2022-23, the Council focused on the unique assets and needs of multilingual learners, black students, and students from the LGBTQ+ community, gathering every other month to share insights and experiences while maintaining a focus on the students and families with these identities.



Learn more about how we serve the needs of educators.
sccoe.link/edservices

EMPOWERING EQUITABLE ACHIEVEMENT

Supporting Student Leadership



Youth for Environmental Action students present at the 2023 YEA Summit.

Youth Led Leadership Alliance

Founded in 2020, the Youth Led Leadership Alliance works to build bridges and foster collaboration and shared learning between students at different schools from across our county, who may otherwise only interact in limited ways such as through competitive sports.

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 model of the alliance is to empower students to create and lead projects and initiatives that matter most to them through a grassroots process of discussion, participatory budgeting, and voting, a process that fosters civic engagement skills and prepares youth to step into leadership roles of all kinds.

Student Trustee Academy

Launched in summer 2022, the Student Trustee Academy is a summer workshop provided by the Santa Cruz COE that aims to prepare high school students from across the county to step into the roles of student trustees on their respective school boards — or simply deepen their knowledge of the functioning of district governance and how to amplify student voice.

Students participated in six sessions to study topics such as the Brown Act, Robert's Rules of Order, public speaking, ethics, and more under the direct mentorship of Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Faris Sabbah. Students then addressed the Santa Cruz County Board of Education to share their experience and goals as student leaders and advocates.

College and Career Collaborative



High school students visit Cal State University Monterey Bay on a trip organized by S5C.

The Santa Cruz County College and Career Collaborative (S5C) supports districts to ensure that all students graduate college and career ready with every opportunity and a wide array of postsecondary options available. Each year S5C collaborates with districts and postsecondary partners to offer all 4th grade and 7th grade students visits to regional colleges and universities.

The S5C Counseling Collaborative also provides school counselors with yearly professional learning opportunities to ensure every student receives timely and accurate advising.

Through the Grading for Equity Project, S5C partners with teachers and schools to implement equitable grading practices that focus on teaching and learning. Teachers and administrators in the project collaborate within schools, districts and across the region to shift traditional grading structures to those that more accurately reflect student mastery of academic standards.



Dive deeper into student leadership and engagement.
sccoe.link/student_leadership

EMPOWERING EQUITABLE ACHIEVEMENT

K-12 Computer Science Initiative



A student gets hands-on at a Computer Science Playground event in December 2022.

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education K-12 Computer Science and Information Technology Initiative works to build awareness and provide students and educators the tools, exposure, and opportunity to discover the enjoyment and benefits of computer science. Our continuing focus is to develop and expand:

- **Information Communications and Technologies (ICT) Pathways:** 50 students from 12 local high schools completed a new IT essentials course as part of this work in 2022-23, in partnership with Cabrillo College.
- **Community partnerships and events:** An array of clubs and programs such as our CyberClubs, Amazon DeepRacer Esports Club, and Student Tech Clubs reached hundreds of students throughout the year, including more than 100 students and family members who attended a new, hands-on CS Playground event in December 2022.
- **Personal Learning Communities:** 17 teachers participated in the 2022-23 CS Community of Practice, exploring the latest developments in CS education.

ShiftED Empowers Digital Literacy

In partnership with the California Department of Education and the California Department of Education Foundation, the Santa Cruz COE was commissioned to develop a cadre of educators to implement and create strategic plans to integrate digital literacy skills into the core curricula.

The pilot program, ShiftED, launched in the 2022-23 school year. Teams of educators from Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, and Sacramento counties developed a customized road-map featuring comprehensive plans detailing visions, self-assessments, needs, and committed actions to bolster digital literacy and train educators within their respective districts and schools.



Code For Congress



Toma Brasoveanu, a 7th grader at Pacific Collegiate School and Congressional App Challenge winner.

The Santa Cruz COE's Tech+ Computer Science Initiative created a Code For Congress after-school program for Santa Cruz County students interested in participating in the Congressional App Challenge. Students from across the County in grades 6-12 worked together to design an app with the support of COE. An app created by participating student, Pacific College School 7th grader Toma Brasoveanu, went on

to win the 19th Congressional District's App Challenge. He designed his app, Pill Alarm, to provide people a better way of monitoring personal medication, and offer scheduled reminders based on their specific medical needs.



Find out more about the K-12 Computer Science Initiative
cs.santacruzcoe.org



BUILDING SUSTAINABLE SYSTEMS

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

—2019-2024 Strategic Plan, Strategic Priority 3

BUILDING SUSTAINABLE SYSTEMS

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 few years, we have refined our program goal and our commitment to educational equity by developing antiracist educators who focus on student outcomes. In 2022-23, 176 teachers received Induction support. In surveys, 95% reported they are having conversations about what it means to be a culturally responsive teacher, while 96% share their teaching has improved with the support of their mentor.

Green Business Certification

Building on the Green Ribbon Schools Recognition from last year, the COE achieved Green Business Certification in December 2022. Working closely with the California Green Business Network (CAGBN), the COE completed reviews and audits of 58 measures of environmental sustainability related to energy, solid waste, wastewater, pollution pre-

vention, transportation and water conservation. The COE is now positioned to better support schools and districts in their greening efforts and have partnered with CAGBN to build capacity for schools to accomplish Green Schools Certification.

Teacher Leadership Institute for Sustainability

The COE launched the Teacher Leadership Institute for Sustainability, a three-year NOAA funded program supporting teachers to connect core classroom curriculum to real-world issues in our local environment and schools. Students engage in identifying and taking action on an environmental issue relevant to their community. The inaugural cohort of 39 teachers, representing grades across TK-12, engaged over 1,400 students in action projects ranging from food waste reduction, student designed efficient irrigation, watershed protection, alternative energy plans, habitat restoration and more while making connections to classroom curriculum and integrating outdoor learning. Each teacher tells their story in a Green Classroom Profile (found at teacherleadershipinstitute.santacruzcoe.org/home), helping to demonstrate how we can reach our goal of "Every Classroom a Green Classroom."

I was amazed by the enthusiasm and commitment by students and staff to engage in proposed sustainable projects. The goal of having projects student lead and manage has created agency and purpose. And, hopefully, a new culture in the classroom, at school, and in their home.
—TLIS Participant



Learn more about our environmental programs.
sccoe.link/environment

BUILDING SUSTAINABLE SYSTEMS

Recognizing Outstanding Educators

One of the ways that the Santa Cruz COE celebrates the accomplishments of teachers, classified employees and administrators is through our Outstanding Educator Recognition Program, which honors educators and community partners who exemplify educational excellence and embody the values of our school community. Congratulations to these incredible recipients of the 2023 Santa Cruz County Educator of the Year Awards!

2023 Educator of the Year Award Honorees

Teacher of the Year



Maria Ferreira, Special Education Teacher, Post Senior Class, Santa Cruz County Office of Education

Counselor of the Year



Jose G. Morelos, Academic Counselor, Pajaro Middle School, Pajaro Valley Unified School District

Administrator of the Year



Craig Broadhurst, Principal, Santa Cruz Gardens Elementary School, Soquel Union Elementary School District

Administrator of the Year



Melissa Nix, Assistant Principal, Live Oak Elementary School, Live Oak School District

Classified Employee of the Year



Paige Lynd, Administrative Assistant, Happy Valley Elementary School, Happy Valley Elementary School District

2023 Community Partner of the Year



NAMI Santa Cruz County, a nonprofit offering education, support, and advocacy to those affected by mental health conditions. Learn more at namiscc.org.



Find out more about our Outstanding Educator Recognition Program. sccoe.link/recognition

Budgeting and Business Services

The Business Services Division is responsible for managing the Santa Cruz COE's financial activities and provides business support services to 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 2021-22, the most recent year for which all budgeting information was finalized, the COE received \$53,897,271 in revenue, out of which 55% was from the Local Control Formula.

2021-22 FISCAL YEAR DATA

Where Funds Come From

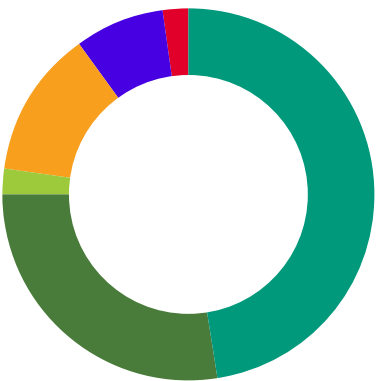
Total: \$53,897,271



- 55% LCFF Revenues 29,633,184
- 10% Federal Revenues 5,617,229
- 18% Other State Revenues 9,726,540
- 17% Other Local Revenues 8,920,318

How Funds Are Used

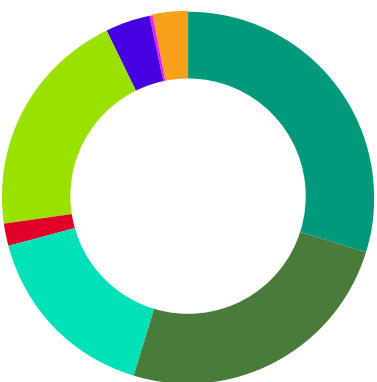
Total: \$53,897,271



- 48% Salaries 24,806,866
- 28% Employee Benefits 14,640,358
- 2% Books and Supplies 1,151,978
- 13% Services 6,692,180
- 8% Other 3,984,885
- 2% Capital Outlay 829,629

22-23 Proposed Expenditures by Program

Total: \$54,366,190



- 30% General Unrestricted 16,364,387
- 25% Alternative Education 13,519,326
- 16% Restricted Categoricals 8,715,790
- 2% Routine Restricted Maintenance 938,210
- 20% Local Programs 10,836,090
- 4% Charter Schools 2,243,748
- 0.2% Adult Education 91,871
- 3% Child Development 1,656,768



Learn more about district and financial services.
sccoe.link/business



Thank You

*to our students, families, districts,
educators, support staff, and partners
for all you do to support Santa Cruz
County's school community.*



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