san diego county office of EDUCATION

FUTURE WITHOUT BOUNDARIES℠

ANNUAL REPORT to the Community

21'22

Inspiring and leading innovation in education

A MESSAGE FROM THE
Superintendent

Dear Partner in Education,

The San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) is pleased to share our latest annual report. The 2021-22 school year continued to challenge educators and school employees, but our resilience and strength helped us continue to make great strides toward educational equity.

We supported our county's districts and charter schools through new endeavors such as universal transitional kindergarten for our youngest learners and ethnic studies curriculum for high school students. Research is clear that high-quality education programs for four-year-olds greatly improves their chances for success in school. And our older students have consistently asked for representation in their curriculum and their educators. Our teams helped our educational partners plan and prepare to intentionally implement these significant program changes.

SDCOE also worked to keep students and staff members safe and in school this year through the distribution of millions of COVID-19 at-home tests and personal protective equipment to schools and districts across the county.

The County Office also invested in creating and launching a new website that prioritizes accessibility for all users. Regardless of device or ability, the new SDCOE website that debuted in January is responsive and focused on being usable by all community members. Equity isn't just something we talk about, but something we incorporate into all our efforts with the goal of ensuring that our students feel loved, valued, and respected with each held to the highest expectations and given the support to succeed.

SDCOE exists to empower students in the programs we operate as well as all of the students who attend schools throughout San Diego County. We build expertise among teachers, principals, and school staff members so they can serve our region's youth. We help parents become advocates for their children. We help break down the barriers that keep students from the success they deserve. And we engage the community as partners so all students thrive now and in the future.

In a rapidly changing world that's full of uncertainty, the role of public schools is more important than ever. From free meals to academics to a safe space where they can discuss important issues, schools provide our youth with access to opportunities so they can grow, learn, and thrive. Schools are an essential part of our communities with the power to bring people together in profound ways.

This new school year holds immense possibilities. SDCOE will continue to be a trusted partner to the districts and schools in San Diego County. We will also continue to strengthen relationships with our community partners, and we will build on the work within our own organization — looking at practices to ensure equity, recognizing the people who make SDCOE special, and doing all we can for the students we directly serve.

This year our annual report is expanding online with a website that includes more employee and student voices, and spotlight stories. Visit www.sdcoe.net/Annual-Report and follow @SanDiegoCOE on social media to stay up-to-date on county education news and information. If you would like to learn more about any subject that's addressed in the report, please don't hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Dr. Paul Gothold
San Diego County Superintendent of Schools
superintendent@sdcoe.net

THE ROLE OF COUNTY OFFICES OF EDUCATION

California has a three-level system of public education, which includes the California Department of Education, county offices of education, and local school districts. Regulations, funding, and policy decisions are generally established at the state level, while the day-to-day delivery of instruction is the responsibility of the more than 1,000 school districts throughout the state. The 58 county offices of education are the intermediate level of the public education system. County offices provide a support infrastructure for local schools and districts. They also fulfill state mandates to register teacher credentials, complete employee background checks, certify school attendance records, and develop countywide programs to serve students with special needs.

THE ROLE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

The San Diego County superintendent of schools, appointed by the County Board of Education, is the chief administrative officer, employer, and developer of programs and services as authorized by state statute or determined by needs or requests. The superintendent also provides educational leadership and administers mandated services. The superintendent has direct oversight responsibilities for approving and assuring school district budgets, calling school district elections, and assisting with school district emergencies by providing necessary services. The superintendent is also tasked with developing a three-year Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) for the schools operated by the County Office, and reviewing and approving the LCAPs for all school districts in San Diego County.

Explore more at

www.sdcoe.net/annual-report

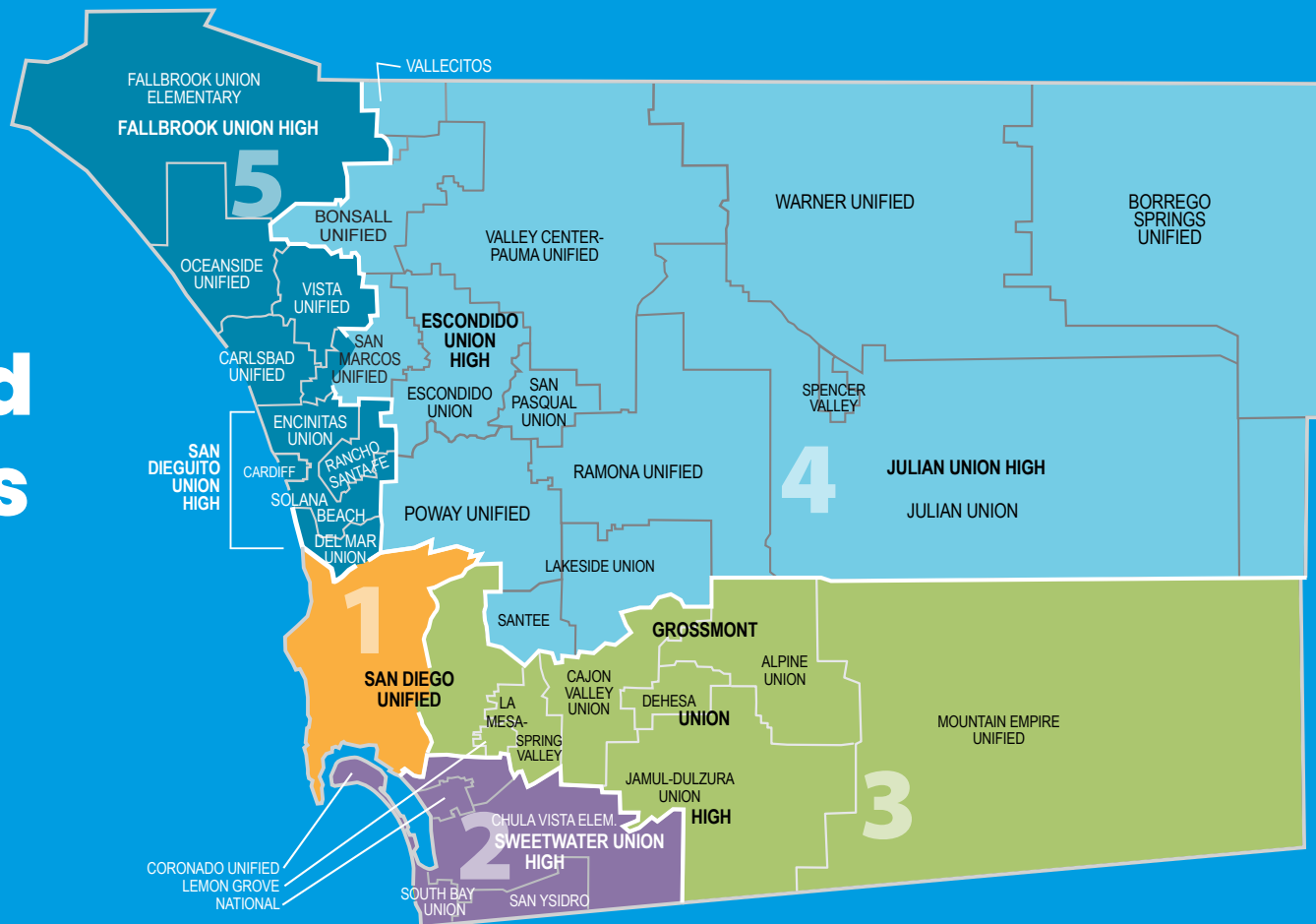| Gregg Robinson	Guadalupe González	Alicia Muñoz	Paulette Donnellon	Rick Shea
● DISTRICT 1	● DISTRICT 2	● DISTRICT 3	● DISTRICT 4	● DISTRICT 5

THE ROLE OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

The County Board of Education operates under the authority of the California Constitution, the state Legislature, California Education Code, and the State Board of Education. Among other duties, the board is responsible for:

- Adopting the annual County Office of Education Local Control and Accountability Plan and budget
- Adopting policies governing the operation of the board
- Acting as the appeals board for student expulsions, interdistrict transfers, and charter school petitions
- Acting as the County Committee on School District Organization to review and approve proposals to change the way school district governing board members are elected
- Hiring and evaluating the county superintendent and establishing the rate of compensation
- Serving as the landlord and owner of property

Through its role of long-range policy development and other critical functions, the board works with the county superintendent of schools to offer the most effective education programs and district support services. The board also encourages the involvement of families and communities, and is a vehicle for citizen access to communicate about SDCOE's programs and services.

Board Areas

FALLBROOK UNION ELEMENTARY
FALLBROOK UNION HIGH

VALLECITOS

5

BONSALL UNIFIED

OCEANSIDE UNIFIED

VISTA UNIFIED

WARNER UNIFIED

BORREGO SPRINGS UNIFIED

VALLEY CENTER-PAUMA UNIFIED

ESCONDIDO UNION HIGH

SAN MARCOS UNIFIED

CARLSBAD UNIFIED

ESCONDIDO UNION

SAN PASQUAL UNION

ENCINITAS UNION

SAN DIEGUITO UNION HIGH

CARDIFF

RANCHO SANTA FE

SPENCER VALLEY

SOLANA BEACH

DEL MAR UNION

RAMONA UNIFIED

4

JULIAN UNION HIGH

JULIAN UNION

POWAY UNIFIED

LAKESIDE UNION

1

SANTEE

GROSSMONT

ALPINE UNION

SAN DIEGO UNIFIED

LA MESA-SPRING VALLEY

CAJON VALLEY UNION

DEHESA

UNION

MOUNTAIN EMPIRE UNIFIED

JAMUL-DULZURA UNION

HIGH

3

CORONADO UNIFIED
LEMON GROVE
NATIONAL

2

CHULA VISTA ELEM.
SWEETWATER UNION HIGH

SOUTH BAY UNION

SAN YSIDRO

SDCOE Revenue and Expenditures

*2021-22 Unaudited Actuals

Revenue and Sources
$775,403,990

State Revenue	$332,208,685
Local Control Funding Formula	$135,551,086
Other	$150,812,076
Federal Revenue	$96,686,218
Special Funds	$33,126,436
Fees	$23,116,629
Interest	$3,634,973
Lottery	$267,887

43% State Revenue

17% Local Control Funding Formula

12% Federal Revenue

4% Special Funds

19% Other

3% Fees
0% Interest
0% Lottery

Expenditures by Classification
$716,694,441

Transfers to Districts	$332,426,827
Contracted Services	$187,015,782
Classified Salaries	$58,224,862
Employee Benefits	$55,562,054
Certificated Salaries	$53,287,044
Capital Outlay	$21,613,363
Books and Supplies	$8,564,509

46% Transfers

26% Contracted Services

8% Classified Salaries

7% Certificated Salaries

8% Employee Benefits

3% Capital Outlay
1% Books and Supplies

481,102 K-12 Public School Enrollment

42 School Districts

129 Charter Schools

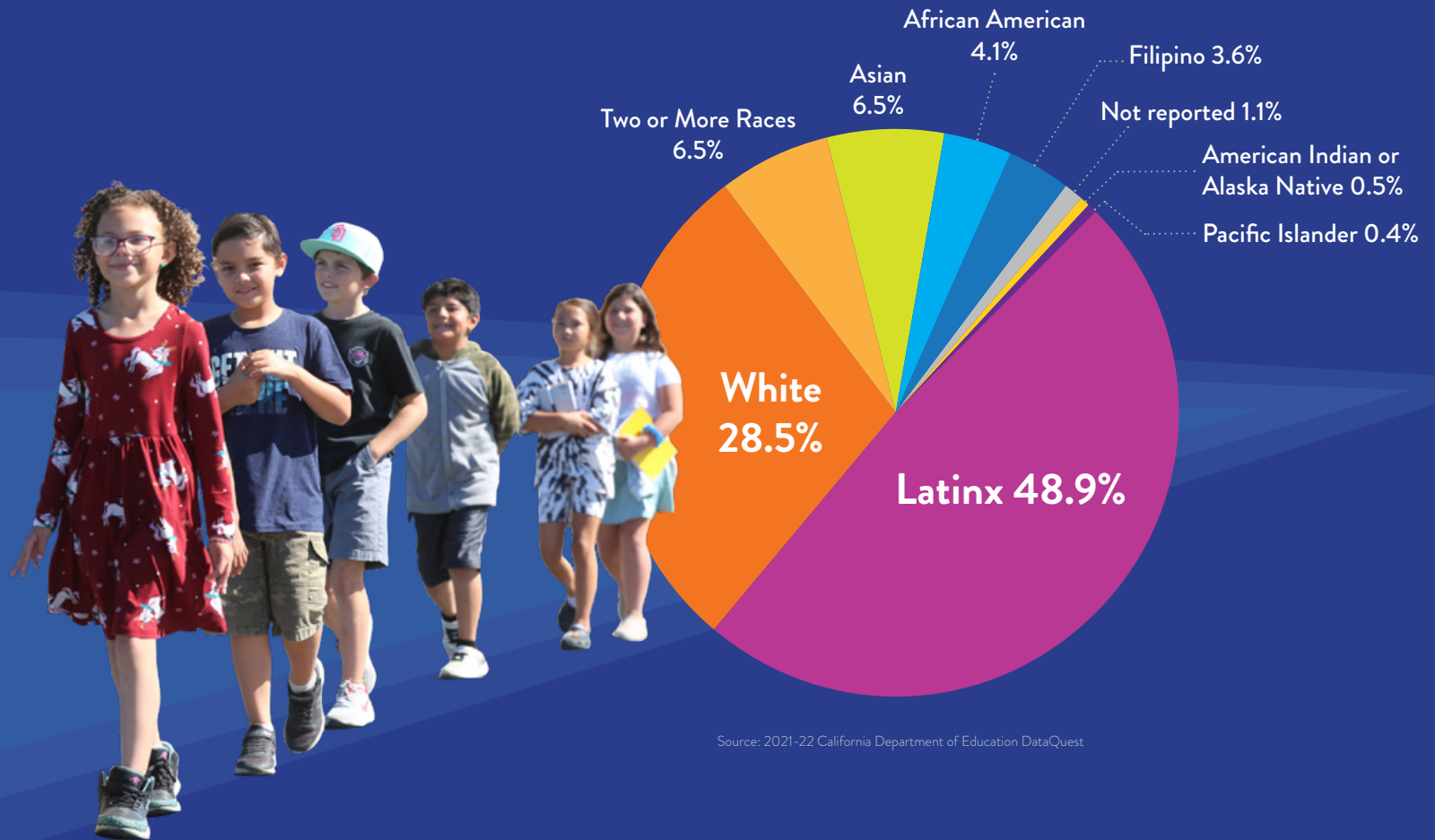18.8% Students who are English Learners

50.2% Students who Qualify for Free or Reduced-Price Meals

San Diego County Demographics

Source: 2021-22 California Department of Education DataQuest

San Diego County Demographics

Two or More Races 6.5%

Asian 6.5%

African American 4.1%

Filipino 3.6%

Not reported 1.1%

American Indian or Alaska Native 0.5%

Pacific Islander 0.4%

White 28.5%

Latinx 48.9%

Source: 2021-22 California Department of Education DataQuest

Accreditation Process Highlights Whole Child Supports in JCCS

During an accreditation renewal process, visiting committee members commended SDCOE's Juvenile Court and Community Schools (JCCS) staff members for their efforts to support all students academically, emotionally, and physically.

JCCS renewed its Accrediting Commission for Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, or WASC accreditation, this year, which included a visit from WASC representatives to our school sites.

The accreditation team praised JCCS staff members on multiple levels, and said it was one of the most powerful visits they've ever been involved in.

The chair of the visiting committee stated, "I pride myself on high standards, and I have to tell you, I have never rated a district/county office this high."

WASC accreditation is a school improvement process that serves as the foundation for quality education. Being accredited is a statement to the community and educational partners that a school is a trustworthy institution for student learning and committed to ongoing improvement.

Praise from the visiting committee members helped to validate the hard work of our teachers, classified staff members, principals, site and central office leaders, and everyone at SDCOE on behalf of our students.

Specific compliments from the WASC members focused on addressing the needs of the whole child, SDCOE's commitment to professional development, and our strong community partnerships that have introduced students to visual and performing arts, college classes, career opportunities, and more.

"We know we still have work to do, but we're getting better each day. I believe — and the JCCS team has demonstrated — that we are on the right path in our efforts to support all students and provide a future without boundaries," said Dr. Paul Gothold, San Diego County superintendent of schools.

Explore more at

www.sdcoe.net/annual-report

Helping Students and Employees Stay Safe

In the 2021-22 school year, SDCOE employees managed the delivery and distribution of more than 1.7 million at-home antigen COVID-19 test kits to K-12 public schools, including our own campuses.

"At times when at-home test kits were difficult to find or buy, we were thankful to have received tests from the state and help distribute this additional layer of protection to our region's K-12 students," said Mark Cavassa, executive director of maintenance and operations.

Over winter break, a team of SDCOE employees created a system to ensure quick delivery of the kits to schools, showcasing an attitude of willingness to help that has been true throughout the pandemic.

Warehouse staff received the pallets of test kits from the state and broke them down into allocations for each eligible district and charter school, which then sent trucks and vans to pick up the shipments.

Test kits continued to be delivered and distributed throughout the school year along with personal protective equipment, such as masks and hand sanitizer.

Russ Grant, chief information officer at The Classical Academy charter schools in North County, said he appreciated the SDCOE team's willingness to work on weekends and holidays in order to distribute the test kits. "Thank you to you and your awesome team for working over the weekend to make the test kits available," he wrote. "We appreciate you!"

3 million
at-home test kits

150,000
face masks

3,000 bottles
of hand sanitizer

1,200 cans
of sanitation wipes

SDCOE team members in Human Resource Services have been hard at work to create spaces and conditions that encourage interested people to make a difference as school employees.

Over the year, SDCOE hosted two countywide job fairs with dozens of educational employers to connect hundreds of job seekers with open positions. We also hosted job fairs for specific programs such as Cuyamaca Outdoor School, which connects 5th and 6th graders with science through nature, and Monarch School, which serves students experiencing homelessness.

Strengthening Efforts to Recruit New School Employees

At the Monarch School job fair, seven family members of students received help to complete recruitment documents. They then were able to take care of other pre- employment requirements like having their fingerprints taken and getting tested for tuberculosis. Four also attended a course to get a food handler certificate.

In addition to in-person events, the Educator Pathways section of the SDCOE website is part of a bigger effort by Human Resource Services' Teacher Effectiveness and Preparation team to help school districts hire qualified, passionate educators and support employees who reflect the diversity of their communities at a time when there is a shortage of educators in many areas.

"The teaching population isn't reflective of the student population, and yet we know that this has a powerful impact on student learning and the likelihood of going to college," said Dr. Sheiveh Jones, executive director of Teacher Effectiveness and Preparation.

The website continues to expand and add information on different jobs to consider, options to prepare for those careers, ways to find financial support, and opportunities to connect with organizations that are hiring.

"The pandemic has shown us the importance of schools in their community, and having the right people in place to help our young people and families is more important than ever," Jones said.

21 22

SOUL Academy Central to Encanto Community

SOUL Academy exemplifies the community school concept in which conditions are created for students to thrive by establishing partnerships with community stakeholders to care for the whole child. SOUL stands for strength, opportunity, unity, and liberation.

"It's difficult to address the needs of the student without addressing the needs of the student's family and the entire community," said JCCS Executive Director Tracy Thompson. "If a student is coming to school hungry, or is homeless, scared, or traumatized — if you don't address those things, it will hinder academic growth."

SOUL Academy also includes the only licensed infant/toddler child care center in the Encanto community, a collaborative effort with SDCOE's Early Education Programs and Services department. The state-funded center serves community families, parenting teens, and children with special needs through the HOPE Infant Family Support program. All attendees must meet eligibility requirements based on income and need. The center accepts up to 28 infants and toddlers from birth to 3 years old.

Establishing the infant/toddler center at SOUL Academy was a collective effort between multiple SDCOE departments, including JCCS Food Services, which was instrumental in setting up the California Adult and Child Food Program.

Multi-Factor Authentication Decreases Cyber Threats
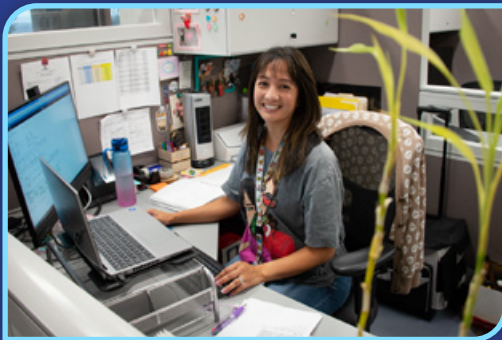
This year, SDCOE became the first county office of education in California to fully implement multi-factor authentication (MFA) and increase its protection of sensitive student and staff information from cyber threats.

In 2021, the education and research sector was reportedly the most attacked nationwide, making it more difficult for local educational agencies to keep running the networks and systems that are essential to support students and school staff members.

While there's no fool-proof way to remove all threats of cyberattacks, implementing multi-factor authentication is a proven safeguard that can reduce attacks, such as data breaches, malware, ransomware, denial of service and other attacks. Multi-factor authentication is when you use two or more authentication factors to verify your identity, such as a password or PIN and something you have such as a smart card or fingerprint.

SDCOE implemented its MFA program with more than 1,000 employees while many were still working remotely, creating best practices that can be followed by others.

"Implementing multi-factor authentication is a significant cultural change of processes and technologies, which has resulted in very few K-12 local education agencies implementing MFA nationally," explained SDCOE's Chief Information Officer Terry Loftus. "However, SDCOE's efforts are now aiding other districts and schools in their own MFA journey."

SDCOE's cybersecurity efforts have been hailed across the state as a model for other educational agencies. Our Integrated Technology Services team has led MFA workshops for all California county offices of education and plans to expand to local districts and charter schools to share best practices.

"Our team is proud to work behind the scenes every day to secure and defend our data systems," Loftus said. "By protecting our student and employee data, we're helping to ensure that students and educators can keep their focus on the classroom and are maintaining public trust."

Explore more at

www.sdcoe.net/annual-report

System of Supports Focuses on Students

Taking a whole-child approach and making sure that all students have the resources they need to develop their academic and social potential is a key focus and one of our board goals.

SDCOE helps districts and charter schools look at their student data and current programs to see if there are unmet student needs in academic, mental, emotional, and social supports. The work is the core of the Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) framework, where supports expand as the need grows.

"Equity is a key component of the MTSS framework when providing support to meet the needs of the whole child; understanding that every student does not need the exact same resources or support," said Program Specialist Jenée Peevy.

Support to districts and schools includes training, coaching, and technical assistance in MTSS and positive behavioral interventions and supports, as well as training and technical assistance in restorative practices, social and emotional learning, and the value of authentic student voice.

"The goal of this department is to build capacity," said Director Felicia Singleton. "We really want to leave the knowledge and the skills with the districts so that the climate and culture shifts positively. Essentially, we strive to work with educators to create the conditions for both students and adults to thrive."

SDCOE has supported efforts in Oceanside Unified School District (OUSD) over the past four years to train more than 750 staff members in restorative practices, which has resulted in a dramatic decrease in student suspensions and expulsions.

"We are really grateful for the partnership from SDCOE and look forward to continuing to grow our understanding, implementation, and application of restorative practices in OUSD," said Dr. Jordan Sparks, OUSD's director of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

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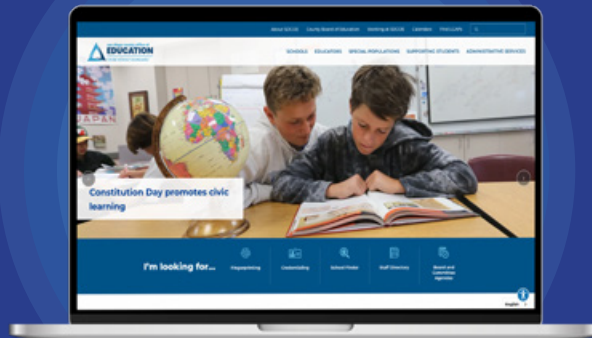
SDCOE's new website platform was designed to be accessible for all users, regardless of ability or device, and its content easily found by search engines, which helps get the timely tools in the hands of those who need them.

Timely Resources Support Educators Through Challenges

The day after Russian forces invaded Ukraine in February, SDCOE teams acted quickly to gather resources to support students, families, and educators through an online guide. Within a month, the webpage had been viewed nearly 80,000 times by people in more than 150 countries.

Just a few hours after news of the horrifying violence against teachers and students at Robb Elementary in Uvalde, Texas, SDCOE published resources to help educators and families process events with their students. The webpage quickly received more than 55,000 pageviews by people in all 50 states and dozens of countries.

Challenging topics come up often, whether it's a current event or a recognition month or day with political considerations. Our students want and need to talk about what they feel and see in a safe, welcoming environment. Schools and classrooms can play an important role in creating those spaces.

SDCOE's online resource guides developed by curriculum and instruction experts and student wellness and mental health professionals helps educators and other adults prepare and respond quickly and in an age-appropriate way.

Impact At A Glance

Software Trains School Employees to Recognize Cyber Threats

The Red Herring Phishing Training Platform, created by SDCOE to address a need for low-cost, effective cybersecurity training, has grown to nearly 177,000 users in 115 local educational agencies across California. This system enables schools, districts, and county offices of education to simulate phishing attacks and help train staff members to better identify suspicious emails and other security threats.

COPES Connects Youth to Mental Health Supports

SDCOE and the San Diego County Behavioral Health Department were awarded a four-year, $6 million dollar grant through the Mental Health Services Act. Creating Opportunities in Preventing and Eliminating Suicide, or COPES, will build the capacity of 17 school districts and 17 charter schools to support suicide prevention, intervention and postvention, mental health promotion and stigma reduction, and coordinate referral pathways to better connect youth in need with timely help.

Equity Conference Grows Collective Efforts

The annual Equity Conference was the largest yet this year with more than 1,500 in-person attendees coming from across the country. They gathered at the San Diego Convention Center to learn more about educational equity and grow the region's collective efforts to ensure every student has the opportunity and access to thrive regardless of their race, ZIP code, or ability. The Equity Conference featured students from across the county who shared their experiences in schools and how adults can work to create welcoming, safe spaces for everyone.

SDCOE Chosen to Lead Homeless Education Technical Assistance Center

SDCOE was awarded a $4.5 million grant by the California Department of Education to operate one of three statewide Homeless Education Technical Assistance Centers. These centers were selected to provide support and technical assistance to other county offices of education. This regional approach will ensure the offices have the capacity, resources, and tools required to support their local educational agencies with the implementation of the Education for Homeless Children and Youth Act, which was designed to improve the identification, educational stability, access, support, and academic achievement of children and youth experiencing homelessness.

Risk Management Helps Districts and Schools Run Smoothly

SDCOE's Risk Management department inspects school playgrounds, organizes contracts for pre-placement physicals for new employees, supports Employee Assistance Service for Education, conducts required testing for bus drivers, trains employees, holds retirement workshops, manages on-the-job injuries, and creates year-end financial statements for member districts and schools. Most of the team's work is split between two independent agencies: the Risk Management JPA, which supports six local educational agencies in San Diego and Imperial counties, and the Fringe Benefits Consortium with 116 members in six California counties.

By the Numbers

Explore more at

www.sdcoe.net/annual-report

4,535 credential applications processed by Human Resource Services to support educators

$5 million grant awarded to SDCOE to accelerate student literacy and learning

12,617 students and educators supported with career pathways education through 270 work-based learning activities with employer partners across all 15 industry sectors

323 pounds of food and nearly $700 in donations collected by SDCOE employees to provide about 3,700 meals to families in need through the San Diego Food Bank

4,000 fluorescent lights with LEDs relamped at SDCOE campuses, representing a savings of 82 kilo-watt-hours per hour of operation

50 episodes of the *Sum of It All* podcast have had more than 32,000 plays, connecting listeners to topics in math education

54 educators graduated from the Administrative Services Credential Program

7,977 backpacks with 340,000 individual supplies provided to students experiencing homelessness through the annual Stuff the Bus campaign

Enrollment By District

21**22**

District	Enrollment		District	Enrollment
Alpine Union Elementary	1,539		Mountain Empire Unified	4,042
Bonsall Unified	2,209		National	4,820
Borrego Springs Unified	2,823		Oceanside Unified	18,671
Cajon Valley Union	16,812		Poway Unified	35,192
Cardiff	631		Ramona City Unified	5,128
Carlsbad Unified	11,027		Rancho Santa Fe	589
Chula Vista Elementary	28,878		San Diego County Office of Education	7,071
Coronado Unified	2,747		San Diego Unified	114,467
Dehesa	9,697		San Dieguito Union High	12,704
Del Mar Union	3,895		San Marcos Unified	19,735
Encinitas Union	4,813		San Pasqual Union	499
Escondido Union	17,224		San Ysidro Elementary	4,264
Escondido Union High	9,458		Santee	6,309
Fallbrook Union Elementary	4,921		Solana Beach	2,820
Fallbrook Union High	2,128		South Bay Union	6,119
Grossmont Union High	22,094		Spencer Valley	3,905
Jamul-Dulzura Union Elementary	728		Sweetwater Union High	38,026
Julian Union Elementary	1,960		Vallecitos	178
Julian Union High	96		Valley Center-Pauma Unified	3,826
La Mesa-Spring Valley	11,204		Vista Unified	22,092
Lakeside Union	4,854		Warner Unified	2,510
Lemon Grove	3,249		Statewide benefit charter schools	5,148

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