

Jorge Pacheco Jr.

Jorge was born and raised in the Oak Grove School District to two working-class parents who cleaned homes, cared for elders, and built cars to support their family. His mother escaped the Salvadoran Civil War and his Maya-Korean father left his whole family and ancestral village in Mexico to give Jorge and his four sisters a chance for a better life. Despite his parents' sacrifices, Jorge struggled in school and barely made it out of the K-12 system. De Anza Community College was his second chance. Thanks to his family and mentors, he worked hard and transferred to UC Berkeley where he graduated with a degree in Anthropology and Legal Studies as a first-generation college graduate. Jorge continued his studies and earned a master's degree in Urban Education: Educational Policy and Administration from Loyola Marymount University.

Having taught 2nd, 4th, 7th and 8th grade, Jorge, who is proudly indigenous, has been an elementary and middle school Native Studies and Spanish teacher in the Bay Area since graduating from UC Berkeley in 2013 and is now working as a 7th grade English Teacher at the Menlo Park City School District. Jorge served as president of the Oak Grove School District Board of Education and currently serves as president for the California Latino School Boards Association, where he leads an organization that represents and fights for Latino students and school board members across the state. Jorge is also a national award-winning teacher, having won the prestigious National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions 2021 Grosvenor Teacher Fellowship, was appointed by the California State Board of Education to help the California Department of Education create Ethnic Studies curricula for the state in 2019, and attended Parkview Elementary since kindergarten in 1995 and graduated Caroline Davis Intermediate in 2002. In his free time, Jorge enjoys traveling, playing video games, reading, boxing, and spending his weekends with his parents, sisters, friends, and cat.