



**2022 - 2023**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**TO THE COMMUNITY**



# What's Inside

## 2022-2023 Annual Report to the Community



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A message from  
**Dr. Deneen Guss**  
Monterey County Superintendent of Schools

Dear Monterey County Residents,

Thank you for taking the time to review the Annual Report to the Community to learn more about the Monterey County Office of Education (MCOE) and the important work we do to support educators, students, and families. I hope you find this report both informative and helpful in understanding the progress of public education in Monterey County.

As a vital component of the California public education system, MCOE provides both quality learning opportunities and support to the 24 school districts and eight charter schools in our county. We provide direct services to some of the county's most vulnerable students, including students who are homeless or in foster care, students who are incarcerated, students who have moderate to severe learning disabilities, and our youngest learners.

The past year in education has been about reestablishing normalcy, accelerating learning, improving students' health and wellness, addressing staffing shortages, and facing all obstacles head-on. I am proud of our local administrators, educators, and all school employees who are working together to support and provide the over 73,661 students in Monterey County with the knowledge, skills, and mindset necessary to become well-rounded individuals and lifelong learners.

This year's Annual Report to the Community highlights many of MCOE's services, programs, and initiatives that demonstrate how we strive to make a positive impact through our leadership, support, and service. We also celebrate some of the achievements and successes of students, schools, and educators across the county.

Our goal with this Annual Report is to raise community awareness around what we do as a county office of education and to offer a preview into the success of our programs and services. To learn more about how MCOE plays a vital role in supporting Monterey County school districts and the diverse needs of our students, please visit our website at [montereycoe.org](http://montereycoe.org).

Sincerely,



Deneen Guss, Ed.D.,  
Monterey County Superintendent of Schools

*The County Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Deneen Guss, is elected by the voters of Monterey County and is the chief executive officer of the Monterey County Office of Education. She administers all County Office of Education programs and facilitates cooperation among schools, colleges, universities, government, and community organizations. She is responsible for monitoring and approving all school district budgets. In addition, she serves as an advocate for education with the legislature and the public. She is responsible for all hiring and human resource decisions at MCOE.*



**Dr. Deneen Guss, Ed.D.**  
County Superintendent of Schools

### MCOE CABINET MEMBERS



**BRETT W. MCFADDEN**  
Deputy Superintendent



**DR. COLLEEN STANLEY**  
Chief Business Official



**DR. CARYN LEWIS**  
Assistant Superintendent  
Educational Services



**LEIGH BUTLER**  
Chief Human  
Resources Officer



**Dr. ERNESTO VELA**  
Assistant Superintendent  
Student Services



**TERRI DYE**  
Assistant Superintendent  
Special Education



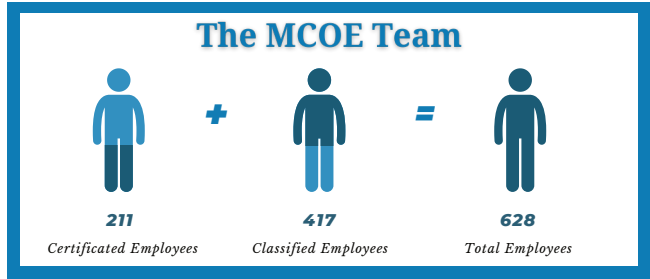
**ADAM GAVALLA**  
Chief Technology Officer

# About MCOE & Organizational Chart

## Divisions and Responsibilities

### What Does MCOE Do?

The Monterey County Office of Education (MCOE) provides leadership, support, and service to approximately 73,661 students and over 11,000 school staff members countywide. The strength of our county's educational system is derived from the vast diversity that can be found in our 135 schools, working to serve all students.



### Some of MCOE's Organizational Responsibilities:

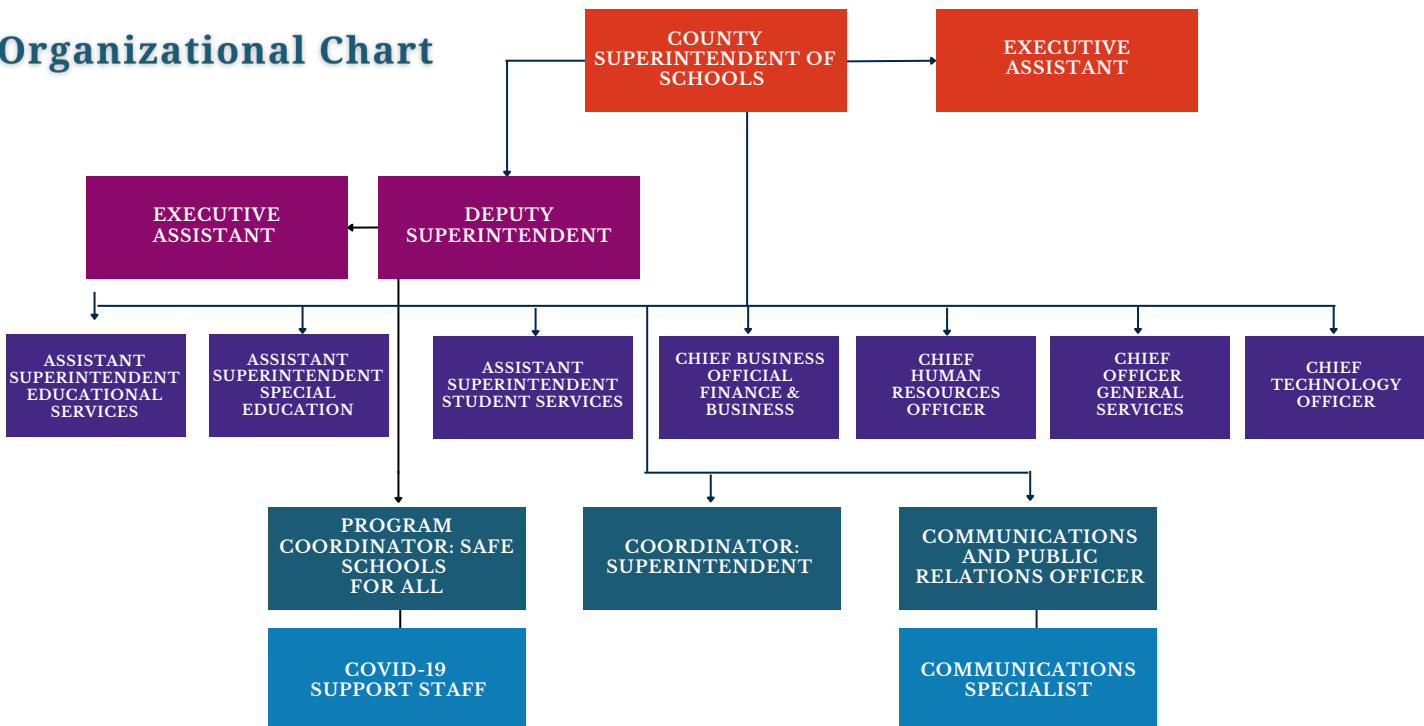


- Collaborates with school, industry, and community leaders to address countywide educational issues
- Organizes and facilitates professional learning opportunities
- Provides financial oversight for school districts
- Coordinates countywide student and staff safety and emergency preparation programs
- Supports school districts with their Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP)
- Hosts employment recruitment fairs
- Provides internet connectivity to school districts
- Processes paychecks for school employees throughout the county
- Educates our youngest learners through the Early Learning Program
- Supports teachers and administrators as they obtain their credentials
- Coordinates and provides services for migrant, foster, and homeless children and youth
- Provides direct instruction to Special Education, Alternative Education, and operates two charter schools.

## MCOE Divisions



## Organizational Chart



1



**Area 1**

Annette Yee Steck

2



**Area 2**

John McPherson  
*Vice President*

3



**Area 3**

Heather Owen

4



**Area 4**

Janet Wohlgemuth

5



**Area 5**

Jaime Fernandez

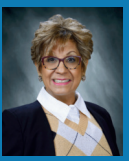
6



**Area 6**

Mary Claypool  
*President*

7



**Area 7**

Sandra Ocampo

## The Role of the Monterey County Board of Education

The Monterey County Board of Education (County Board) is comprised of seven members who represent individual trustee areas of the county. Each member is elected by the voters of their trustee area and serves a four-year term. The County Board supports and guides the Monterey County Office of Education (MCOE) in providing leadership and services to school districts.

The primary responsibilities of the County Board include:

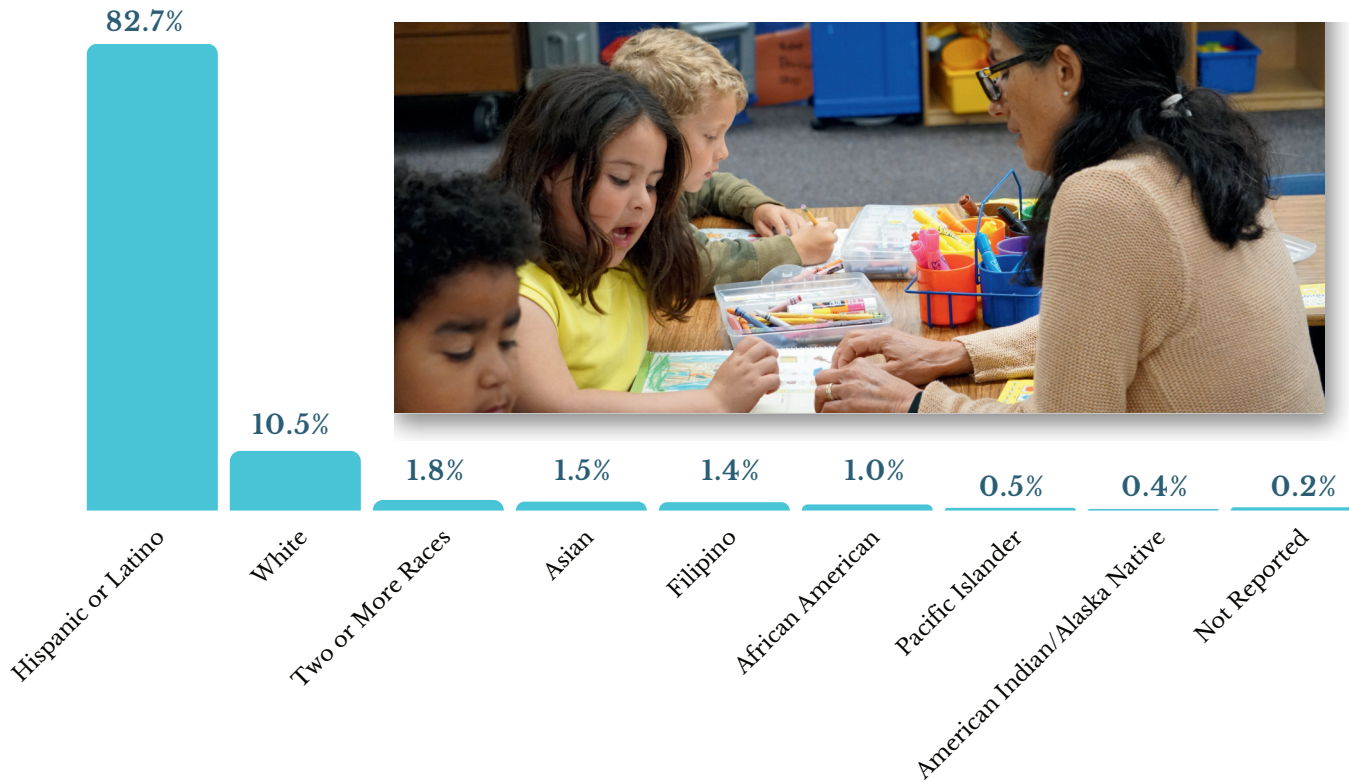
- Adopting, evaluating, and updating policies consistent with the law and the County Board's vision and goals
- Collaborating with the County Superintendent of Schools so that the shared vision, goals, and policies of MCOE can be implemented
- Providing community leadership on educational issues and advocating on behalf of students and public education at the local, state, and federal levels
- Adopting the annual budget and reviewing interim financial reports of the County Superintendent of Schools
- Approving the curriculum and maintaining accountability for student learning in schools and programs operated by MCOE
- Conducting hearings on student expulsion appeals and interdistrict transfer appeals
- Providing oversight for any County Board authorized charter school
- Conducting matters of school district organization



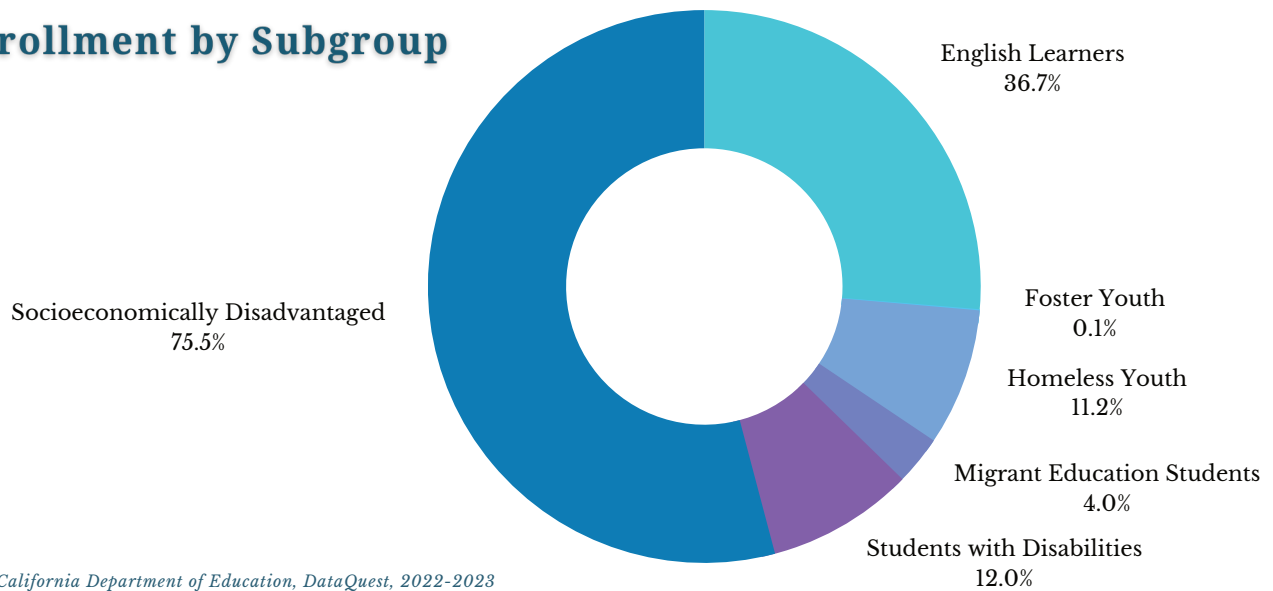
# Who We Serve

Enrollment by the numbers

## Enrollment by Ethnicity



## Enrollment by Subgroup



Source: California Department of Education, DataQuest, 2022-2023

# District Enrollment & Graduation Data Rates

Graduation data and achievement results

## DISTRICT ENROLLMENT

73,661 Total

Alisal Union .....	7,509
Big Sur Unified .....	104
Bradley Union .....	37
Carmel Unified .....	2,274
Chualar Union .....	278
Gonzales Unified .....	2,110
Graves Elementary .....	31
Greenfield Union .....	3,339
King City Union .....	2,578
Lagunita Elementary .....	76
Mission Union .....	122
Monterey County Office of Education .....	1,845
Monterey Peninsula Unified .....	9,809
North Monterey County Unified .....	4,483
Pacific Grove Unified .....	1,772
Salinas City Elementary .....	8,273
Salinas Union High .....	16,337
San Antonio Union .....	137
San Ardo Union .....	79
San Lucas Union .....	70
Santa Rita Union .....	3,231
Soledad Unified .....	4,748
S. Monterey County Jt. Union High .....	2,762
Spreckels Union .....	918
Washington Union .....	734

## CHARTER SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

2,070 Total

Bay View Academy .....	501
Big Sur Charter .....	85
International School of Monterey .....	424
Learning for Life Charter .....	128
Monterey Bay Charter .....	474
Monterey County Home Charter .....	241
Oasis Charter Public .....	162
Open Door Charter .....	55

Source: California Department of Education, DataQuest, 2022-2023

## GRADUATION RATES

Monterey County Compared to California

	Monterey County	California
All Students	88.5%	87%
African-American	91.5%	78.6%
Asian	97.9%	95.2
Filipino	95.6%	95.4
Hispanic	87.4%	84.7%
White	91.7%	90.6
Economically Disadvantaged	87.4%	84.5%
English Learner	68%	71.8%
Migrant Education Students	77.2%	85%
Students with Disabilities	73.2%	73.8%

## DROPOUT RATES

Monterey County Compared to California

	Monterey County	California
All Students	6.6%	7.8%
African-American	3.7%	13.8%
Asian	1%	2.4%
Filipino	1.5%	2.3%
Hispanic	7.1%	9.3%
White	5.8%	5.7%
Economically Disadvantaged	7.2%	9.1%
English Learner	18.8%	17.6%
Migrant Education Students	14.5%	9.4%
Students with Disabilities	10.9%	9.4%

Source: Adjusted Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rate 2021-22, [www.cde.ca.gov/ds/ad/filesacgr.asp](http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/ad/filesacgr.asp)



# MCOE Budget

## Who the budget supports

The Monterey County Office of Education (MCOE) provides service and leadership to 24 public school districts, eight charter schools, and 73,661 students in Monterey County. MCOE serves as an intermediary between the California Department of Education (CDE) and the school districts.

MCOE's wide range of programs and services support professional learning, leadership, and continuous improvement in our County's school districts and schools. MCOE facilitates classroom instructional support to special populations of students and offers support to educators and administrators countywide. Business and information technology services are also provided to the 24 school districts, eight charter schools, Community Colleges, and MCOE departments.

## 90% of our budget supports students, educators, and districts.



29% DIRECT INSTRUCTION (E.G., TEACHERS)

26% INSTRUCTION RELATED (E.G., CLASSROOM AIDS, BOOKS, SUPPLIES, AND SOFTWARE)

7% INTERNAL SUPPORT

10% FACILITIES & TRANSPORTATION

4% DIRECT PUPIL SUPPORT (E.G., GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING)

21% SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

3% CENTRALIZED DATA PROCESSING

Source: Monterey County Office of Education, Finance and Business Department 2022-2023





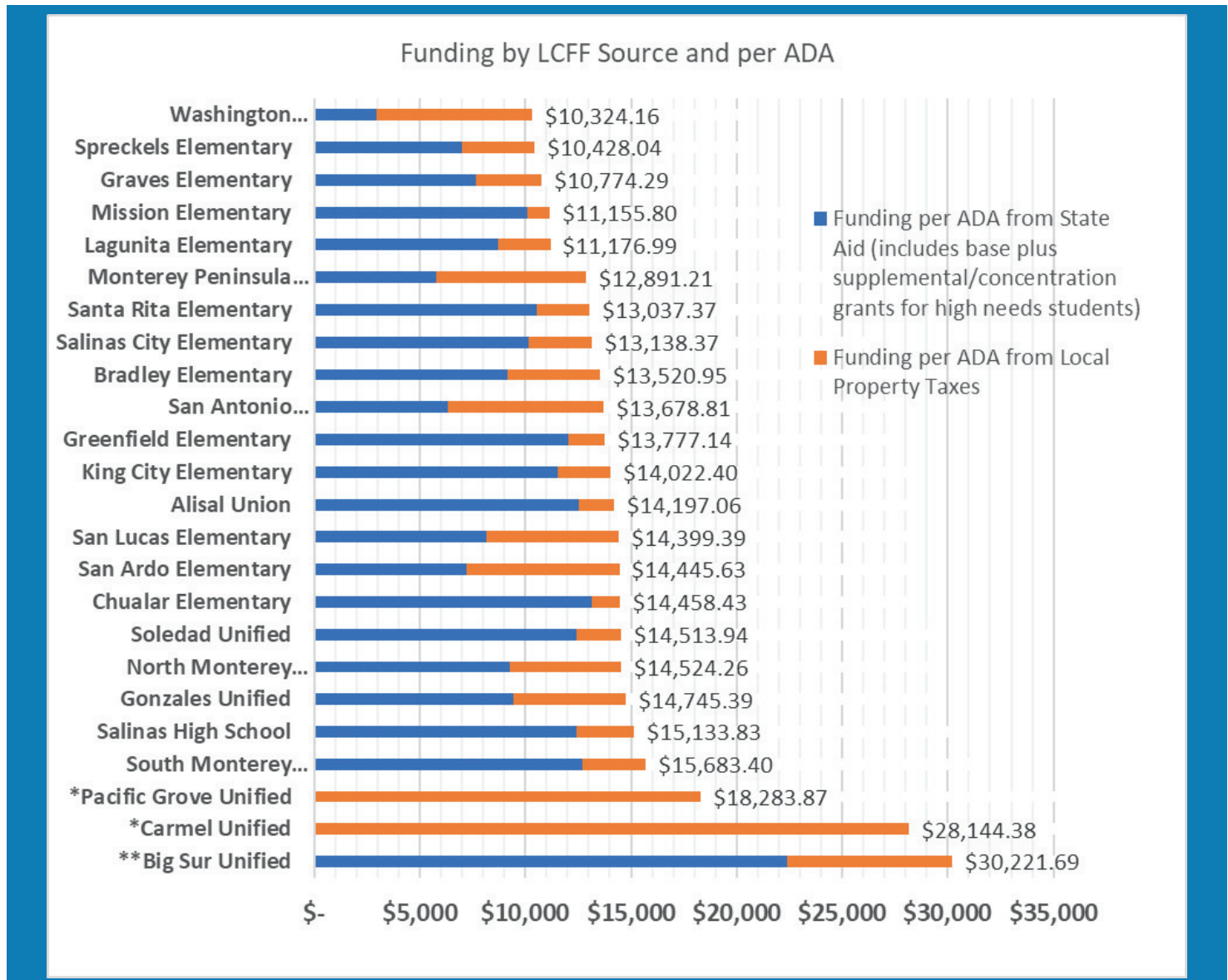
# How Schools Are Funded

## Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) for Monterey County

California public schools are funded through the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) with a focus on supplemental funding for high-needs students. The LCFF provides a base funding level connected to each district's average daily attendance (ADA). ADA is the number of student attendance days divided by the number of days in the regular school year. A student attending school every day equals one ADA. LCFF funding is allocated through the Principal Apportionment and is funded through a combination of local property taxes and state funding from the State School Fund and Education Protection Account.

\*Some districts, known as “basic aid” or “community funded” districts, are funded entirely through property taxes and receive no general purpose state aid. They also retain any excess property taxes within their district. In Monterey County two districts are basic aid – Pacific Grove Unified and Carmel Unified.

\*\*Under the LCFF legislation, elementary schools in one-school school districts are required to meet distance requirements (EC Section 42280-42286) in order to qualify for Necessary Small School (NSS) funding. A necessary small high school qualifies for NSS if the district has 50 or fewer pupils per square mile of district territory. Currently only Big Sur Unified is funded as a Necessary Small School.



# Introducing Modern Designs

Embracing the future

## MCOE's Transportation Department Embraces Electric Vehicles

MCOE's Transportation Department is making strides in the transition to electric vehicles (EVs) and leading the way toward sustainable transportation and reducing overall operating and maintenance costs.



This past May, MCOE purchased two all-electric International wheelchair school buses that have variable seating. These purchases were made possible by utilizing a Community Air Protection Program (CAPP) grant through MBARD (Monterey Bay Air Resources District) and a HVIP (Hybrid and Zero-Emission Truck and Bus Voucher Incentive Project) voucher. Prior to these purchases, MCOE acquired a Micro Bird G5 Ford 200 all-electric wheelchair bus with variable seating, utilizing an awarded HVIP and Zero Emission School Bus Program Grant.

MCOE also owns an all-electric truck and is currently working to obtain an all-electric transit school bus to use for field trips. Additionally, MCOE was invited to participate in the PG&E EV Fleet Electrification Program that has assisted with the installation of four charging stations.

## MCOE Unveils New Logo

The Monterey County Office of Education unveiled a new logo to reflect our vision for educational excellence throughout the county.



**MONTEREY** —  
— **COUNTY**  
OFFICE *of* EDUCATION



MCOE launched a new logo to personalize and modernize the organization's identity. This new logo embodies our core values of accountability, collaboration, innovation, diversity, and equity. The logo's vibrant colors and design scheme, reflecting our entire county, signifies our efforts to empower and inspire learners across the county to reach their full potential. "Our new logo represents a transformative era for the Monterey County Office of Education," said County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Deneen Guss. "It reflects our ongoing dedication to fostering a culture of educational excellence, innovation, and inclusivity. We believe it will inspire and engage our educational workforce, students, and community partners while also symbolizing and elevating our shared commitment to shaping the future of education in Monterey County."

# Safe and Healthy Schools and Communities Coalition

Working to address the fentanyl crisis in Monterey County

## MCOE Launches Safe and Healthy Schools and Communities Coalition

In August of 2022, MCOE launched the Monterey County Safe and Healthy Schools and Communities Coalition. The Coalition is a countywide, multi-agency collaborative of school districts, charter schools, first responding agencies, community-based organizations, and county departments that aims to provide comprehensive resources and services to address school safety needs and challenges countywide. The Coalition is working to standardize policies, practices, and protocols, and promote synergies with community partners in order to improve communication and respond to student mental health and safety needs.



Over the course of the 2022-23 school year, MCOE and its Coalition partners hosted more than 20 workshops and trainings focusing on a wide array of violence prevention and emergency preparedness best practices for Monterey County schools and education agencies. In addition, the Coalition and MCOE staff held six COVID-19 and flu vaccine clinics, hosted regional Narcan administration training, and distributed personal protective equipment and COVID-19 test kits to school districts and charter schools.

The Coalition has a bold agenda for the 2023-24 school year. It will host a complete menu of services focused on behavioral and digital school violence threat assessment, active shooter prevention and response, situational awareness, incident command, CPR and Stop the Bleed training, and “Big Five” school safety protocol and program implementation.

## Opioid Epidemic and Fentanyl Crisis Devastating Our Communities



Monterey County, like our entire nation, has been experiencing a troubling rise in teen overdoses and deaths due to the opioid epidemic and fentanyl crisis. Users are unaware that a counterfeit pill may contain fentanyl, and that it only takes a very small amount of fentanyl to cause an overdose.

MCOE is working alongside multiple agencies across Monterey County to help address this crisis with initiatives to make long-term and sustained changes in substance use, addiction, and drug overdoses in youth.

These partnerships are helping to facilitate referrals, provide resources, and enhance prevention and intervention efforts, with programs aimed at educating students, teachers, and parents about the risks, signs of opioid misuse, and the importance of seeking help.

This past year, MCOE brought together community partners to educate students, teachers, and family members about the risks, signs of opioid misuse, and the importance of making safe and healthy choices. MCOE also led efforts to train school staff on the administration of Narcan, an opioid antagonist that reverses the effects of an opioid overdose, and provided free Narcan kits to schools.

# Honoring Classified School Employees

Annual Classified School Employees of the Year (CSEY) & Teachers of the Year (TOY) Awards



The Classified School Employees of the Year Program highlights nine significant categories that serve Monterey County's education system. The purpose of this honorable recognition is to bring attention to employees who go above and beyond to make a positive impact in their categories of service. Classified school employees are selected based on work performance, school and community involvement, leadership and commitment, local support, school image enhancement, and willingness to go above and beyond.

MCOE wishes to recognize and thank Chevron for their generous donations of funds to recognize each awardee with a cash prize. Each CSEY and TOY received a \$500 cash prize, while the overall TOY received a \$1,000 cash prize. We also recognize and thank the various businesses that sponsored the CSEY and TOY Awards Ceremony event. These businesses can be found on page 27 of this report.



## 2023 Classified School Employees of the Years



CLERICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

**KENYA HOBSON**

*Monterey Peninsula Unified School District*



HEALTH AND STUDENT SERVICES

**ARACELI CONTRERAS**

*Greenfield Union School District*



SKILLED TRADE SERVICES

**FELIPE OVIEDO**

*Monterey Peninsula Unified School District*



CUSTODIAL AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES

**ANGEL TORRES**

*King City Union School District*



PARAPROFESSIONAL SERVICES

**ARACELI GODINEZ**

*San Lucas Union School District*



TECHNICAL SERVICES

**JIM WALLACE**

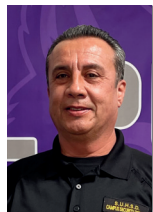
*Gonzales Unified School District*



FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES

**CHRISTINA CONTRERAS**

*Monterey County Office of Education*



SECURITY SERVICES

**HERIBERTO GARCIA**

*Salinas Union High School District*



TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

**SILVIA LUNA-GUTIERREZ**

*North Monterey County Unified School District*

# Educators Honored & Teacher Recruitment

Annual Classified School Employees of the Year (CSEY) & Teachers of the Year (TOY) Awards

## Monterey County Overall Teacher of the Year

Tiffany Lewis, Teacher at Del Rey Elementary School in the King City School District, is the MCOE Countywide Teacher of the Year and winner in the category of Elementary School Teacher. Ms. Lewis believes that her struggles in school, along with the amazing teachers that she has had in her life, have taught her to be the perseverant person that she is today. She understands that some people struggle with learning more than others, and that is perfectly fine. Ms. Lewis feels that her greatest contribution to being a teacher is her belief that all students have the ability to learn and grow no matter where they begin when entering a classroom. It is Ms. Lewis' belief that students learn best when they are in a safe and loving environment. She feels it is important that we think about the whole child, rather than only the academic part of them, and that the teacher building healthy relationships with their students is the most important part of teaching.



**TIFFANY LEWIS**

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER  
DEL REY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## Monterey County Teachers of the Year by Category



HIGH SCHOOL  
TEACHER

**JASON  
NICHOLSON**

*Monterey Peninsula  
Unified School District*



MIDDLE SCHOOL  
TEACHER

**MILTON  
HAMBLLY**

*King City Union  
School District*



SPECIAL EDUCATION  
TEACHER

**VIANNA  
ESPINOZA**

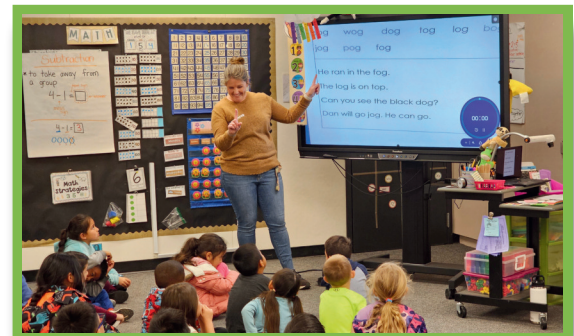
*North Monterey County  
Unified School District*

## Teacher Recruitment

Public school teachers play a crucial role in educating and shaping our future generation. They are essential for providing quality education and preparing students for their academic and personal growth. While teaching can be a rewarding and fulfilling career choice, public schools across the nation continue to face an ongoing teacher shortage. The teacher shortage is at all levels but is most significant in subject areas such as math, science, special education, and bilingual education.

MCOE continues to implement initiatives to battle the teacher shortage, including hosting teacher recruitment fairs and active social media campaigns. MCOE also provides an affordable path to this rewarding career through teacher residency grants with CSUMB and Alder.

Teachers have the opportunity to make a positive impact on the lives of their students, inspire a love for learning, and help students develop important skills and knowledge. Thus, we need the best and the brightest to teach our children. Current educator career opportunities can be found on [edjoin.org](https://edjoin.org).



# Celebrating School District Excellence

Recognitions for Monterey County schools



*Featured are Arianna Feng and Madison Benes, 5th graders at Washington Union School*

## California Distinguished Schools

Washington Union Elementary School in the Washington Union School District was honored with the 2023 California Distinguished School Award for their performance and progress on state indicators specified in the California School Dashboard and the State's accountability and continuous improvement system to include assessments results, suspension rates, and school conditions and climate. Schools honored were selected by analyzing data from 2022, including test scores, chronic absenteeism, suspension rates, and socioeconomic data. Washington Union Elementary was the only school in Monterey County to earn the recognition in 2023.

Washington Union Elementary offers a rich array of programs, engaging instruction, and extracurricular activities that are challenging students to learn the skills, acquire the knowledge, and develop the insight necessary for a productive and rewarding life.

Washington Union Elementary held a community celebration luncheon in April 2023 to honor the accomplishment and proudly unveil and hang their 2023 California Distinguished School flag.

Congratulations to Washington Union Elementary School, home of the Oaks, for leading the way with achieving exceptional student performance through model programs, a positive school environment, and building a student-centered culture of learning.

## Carmel High School Earns Exemplary Arts Education Recognition

Carmel High School in the Carmel Unified School District was honored as a 2023 California Exemplary Arts Education School by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond at a California School Recognition Program in February.

One of 19 schools honored throughout California, Carmel High School offers vibrant Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) classes, including Art, Drawing, Concert Choir, Chamber Singers, Concert Band, Jazz Workshop, Orchestra, Digital Music, Graphic Design, Photography, and many more VAPA offerings have strategically grown at Carmel High School to provide unique student experiences.

Through Carmel High School's VAPA program, instructors look to inspire, educate, and prepare students to become exceptional artists, all while promoting strong ethics and professionalism. Carmel High School has also built strong community partnerships that provide students with connections to art professionals that inspire them to celebrate their creativity, individuality, and innovation.

MCOE congratulates Carmel High School for this recognition and for offering model courses that support students' creativity, growth, and success.



# Celebrating Achievements

Recognizing excellence in education

## SUHSD Builds Affordable Housing Units for Educators

The Salinas Union High School District (SUHSD) announced in May the opening of the Alameda Luxury Apartments on Abbott Street in Salinas as part of their mission to support and retain exceptional educators. The affordable housing complex includes 50 units, ranging from studio to one and two bedroom and two bathroom apartments, and allows school employees to live locally and potentially save for a down payment on a home.

SUHSD held a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on May 10, inviting school board members, school administrators, and local dignitaries to celebrate and honor the community leaders and partners who contributed to the realization of this project and to welcome the new tenants. SUHSD is the first school entity in the county to make this possible for their staff.

MCOE recognizes the importance of providing affordable housing options and this new development is a significant step towards being able to recruit and retain outstanding educators. Congratulations to the trailblazing SUHSD for its innovative solution to the workforce housing challenges.



## MCSBA Excellence in Education Award

Each year, the Monterey County School Boards Association (MCSBA), an organization consisting of all school board members throughout Monterey County, honors a local organization with its Excellence in Education Award.

The Greenfield Community Science Workshop was selected as the recipient of the 2023 Excellence in Education Award in recognition of their inspirational spaces, fascinating exhibits, and hands-on activities that they provide to students through after-school and mobile science programs and interactive field trips.

The MCSBA held a dinner in March to honor the Greenfield Community Science Workshop team members and present them with the 2023 Excellence in Education Award.



*Pictured from left to right: School Boards Association President David Gaboni, Greenfield CSW Director José S. Sánchez, Greenfield CSW Technician Omar Vigil, Greenfield CSW Student Assistant Elizabeth Acevedo, Greenfield CSW Science Instructor Fabian Chacon, School Boards Association Vice President Irma Lopez, Monterey County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Deneen Guss.*

# Human Trafficking Symposium & Foster Youth

Helping to end human trafficking and support foster youth in Monterey County

## Leading Efforts to End Human Trafficking



Human trafficking is growing at an alarming rate, with Monterey County youth being highly vulnerable due to the high percentage of immigrants, the large number of trucking and agricultural businesses, and many gang-infused communities.

Human trafficking has devastating effects on youth, both physical and psychological, and impacts their overall well-being and development.

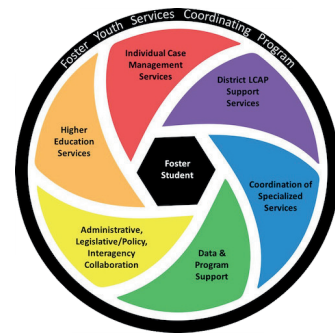
Statistics show that the average age of a child trafficked for sex is 12-15, with traffickers often using social media, gaming, and dating applications to find their victims. Insufficient education and awareness programs contribute to their vulnerability and make it easier for traffickers to operate undetected.

In April, MCOE hosted its 6th Annual Human Trafficking Symposium to raise awareness and promote ways in which we can better educate students and families about the risks and illegal practice of human trafficking. Partnering with Set Free Monterey Bay to help educate participants, Symposium presenters shared facts, touching survival stories, and resources that informed educational leaders on the issues surrounding human trafficking and the sexual exploitation of children in Monterey County.

## Monterey County is Home to Over 250 Foster Youth

Children and youth who grow up in the foster care system face unique challenges and are in need of many support systems as they grow. Foster youth often move from place to place and do not have the secure family support structure that is needed for academic achievement.

The MCOE Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program (FYSCP) offers support to students in foster care, school districts, child welfare agencies, and community organizations to ensure these students receive the necessary educational support and opportunities to succeed in school and life. The FYSCP team offers professional development opportunities to school personnel on the unique needs of foster youth. Training topics include educational rights, trauma informed practices, reduced credit waivers, and higher education transitions.



The FYSCP also provides educational case management directly to foster students which includes ensuring students are enrolled in school, arranging transportation when needed, tracking academic progress, and addressing student concerns. MCOE's FYSCP team members also serve as liaisons between school districts and child welfare agencies.

Annually, the FYSCP collaborates with community partners to host a Central Coast Foster and Homeless Education Summit aimed at raising awareness about the challenges faced by foster youth and promoting understanding within our community.



# ELP Inclusion Grant & Universal PreKindergarden (UPK)

Supporting youth from the early stages of child development

## Early Learning Program Inclusion Grant

The Monterey County Office of Education (MCOE) held a groundbreaking ceremony in February to launch the building of a new Early Learning Program (ELP) center, to be named the MCOE ELP Hartnell STEAM Academy. The facility is being built on Hartnell College's East Campus in Salinas, with a focus on the use of science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics (STEAM) to guide student inquiry, dialogue, and critical thinking, the MCOE ELP Hartnell STEAM Academy will provide families with high-quality care and education for their children, ages 2-5 years old. The new ELP center is expected to be completed in 2024 and will consist of three Head Start classrooms and a State Inclusion classroom, and will offer services to approximately 80 children. The MCOE ELP Hartnell STEAM Academy is made possible by a Federal Head Start Grant.



Striving to be a leader in child and family development, MCOE's Early Learning Program, funded by Head Start and California State Preschool Program, offers part-day and extended daycare options with services that help prepare children intellectually, socially, emotionally, and physically for success in school and in life. The program currently serves more than 700 children at 16 sites and offers a variety of services, including child development education, referral to mental health services, access to nutrition information, assessments, and health services. Early Learning Program Head Start services are available at no cost to income-eligible families in Monterey County, including families participating in CalWORKS, working full-time, attending school, or enrolled in job training.

## Universal PreKindergarden in Monterey County

Universal PreKindergarden (UPK) is an essential part of transforming California's schools and providing every student in California with a strong and healthy start in education and in life. UPK is the expansion of the State's mixed delivery system to meet the early education needs of 3 and 4-year-old children and their families and includes transitional kindergarden, which will be available to all 4-year-olds by 2026.

UPK offers multiple early care models so families have more choices of high-quality learning programs that meet their needs, and also connects before and after school programs so families have options for a full day of care. Regardless of the UPK program a family chooses, young children should experience play-based learning activities to build the skills they need to succeed in preschool-3rd grade subjects and an environment that creates a sense of belonging for all children and provides a strong foundation for academic success.

MCOE, through its Early Care and Education Department, provides services to support and accelerate UPK efforts in Monterey County, including a Quality Matters Monterey County program that offers professional development opportunities to early care educators in order to support their ability to provide children and families access to high-quality early learning experiences. Utilizing an Early Education Teacher Development Grant, MCOE is providing higher education counseling services and professional development and leading school districts in building a robust workforce to support the implementation of UPK and the success of our young students.



# Expanded Learning

Creating programs that lead the way in academic growth

## Robotics Program Prepares Students for Lift Off



The Region 5 Expanded Learning Partnerships, based at MCOE, hosts the Summer Zero Robotics Program, a 5-week computer programming camp inspiring and introducing middle school students to robotics and space engineering. Working as a team, students program autonomous satellites to complete game challenges like navigating obstacles, while conserving resources such as fuel. Between working to perfect their programming strategy, students tour the NASA Ames Research Center in Mountain View and meet with aerospace engineers and scientists. The Zero Robotics

journey ends with students' programming strategies from across the nation being judged live by astronauts aboard the International Space Station (ISS)!

The Region 5 Expanded Learning Partnerships brokers the opportunity each summer and orchestrates the local Field Day experience at NASA. The Zero Robotics Program is made possible through generous partnership with the MIT Space Enabled Research Group, Innovation Learning Center, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and others dedicated to cultivating the next generation of scientists.

Region 5 After School Partnerships provides support to existing and potential state and federally funded before, after school, and summer programs to ensure school-age children achieve academic and social success.

## Science of Reading Academy Improves Literacy



The Monterey County Office of Education (MCOE) launched a Science of Reading Academy with 65 teachers, from 16 school districts in Monterey County participating in the first cohort. The professional development series provides teachers with research-based tools and strategies to accelerate literacy in classroom settings serving students ages 4-8. Co-designed with state and local literacy experts, the Academy provides teachers with the knowledge and skills to implement structured literacy and accelerate student outcomes in the area of early reading. By understanding the

cognitive processes involved in reading, and the skills and strategies that are most effective in promoting reading development, educators are able to design instruction that is tailored to the specific needs of their students.

With a strong commitment to generating learning environments that support the diverse needs of the children in Monterey County, Taylor Farms CEO Bruce Taylor committed to a \$1,000 sponsorship for each participating teacher advancing their understanding of vocabulary and language development. The Science of Reading Academy is offered on a year-round cycle with the goal of serving 300-500 teachers annually.

# Specialized Educational Experiences

Programs designed to inspire creativity and a pathway to success

## Mobile Fab Lab Offers Experiential Learning Opportunities

The Central Coast Mobile Fab Lab is dedicated to fostering STEM education and practical technical skills among students across Monterey County. This mobile lab is fully equipped with cutting-edge technology, including 3D printers, laser cutters, and CNC routers, all designed to challenge students in acquiring CAD (computer-aided design) and CAM (computer-aided manufacturing) expertise, which are highly transferable to modern industry sectors. These foundational skills are accessible to even our newest learners, while our more advanced students can explore innovative possibilities beyond traditional workshop environments.



MCOE's Mobile Fab Lab is firmly rooted in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) and focuses on providing students with hands-on technical experiences. The program collaborates with MCAET (Media Center for Arts, Education, and Technology) to bridge the gap between lab participants' work and integration into various media forms, including project documentation, showcases, stage performances, and film productions.

The Mobile Fab Lab allowed MCOE to establish an after-school residency program during the 22-23 school year where students engaged in a Game Design program, utilizing online CAD software to design components for board games, which were subsequently 3D printed using lab resources.

## Bob Hoover Academy at Monterey County Office of Education

The Bob Hoover Academy (BHA) at Monterey County Office of Education (MCOE) is a unique aviation program that helps struggling high school students meet graduation requirements and gain STEM-based knowledge and hands-on experience in aviation. While the program's theme is aviation, the objective is not all about molding students into pilots and airplane mechanics. This program is designed to capture the imagination and enthusiasm of students from diverse backgrounds and provide them with the tools and desire to pursue advanced education, aviation careers, or other related technical careers that they may not previously have considered. The program offers students small class sizes, core credits, credit recovery options, social-emotional supports, work-study options, concurrent enrollment with local community colleges, and college and career transition support. The program also helps students to develop prosocial behaviors and obtain essential life skills. The motivation, discipline, and perseverance that students derive from this program have even led to flight lessons and solo flying. As taught in the program, passion and purpose can drive students to overcome their hurdles and successfully define their path forward.



# Migrant Education

Closing the divide for migrant youth

## Migrant Education Region 16



MCOE's Migrant Education Program Region 16 remains one of the largest programs in the state, identifying more than 8,000 eligible students in the 2022–23 school year. A dedicated team provides a wide range of services to students between the ages of 3 and 21, including out-of-school young adults and parents. Through high-quality and consistent professional development for the identification and recruitment team. The program seeks to ensure that all eligible migrant students who move into Monterey County are promptly identified. The

program ensures that eligible children are provided with appropriate educational services that address their unique needs and help them overcome the challenges of educational disruption in order to meet California's challenging academic and graduation standards and requirements.

## Migrant Education Parent Conference

MCOE's Migrant Parent Conference took place in May 2023 at Gonzales High School with a theme of "Migrant Education is Communication, Collaboration, and a World of Fun!" Parents took part in activities, presentations, workshops, and a community resource fair, and were inspired by special guest speaker and renowned author, Reyna Grande.



The event emphasized how parents play a vital role in their child's education and how studies show that students are more successful in school when their parents take an active role in their education.

This conference is just one of MCOE's many efforts to provide migrant family members with knowledge and resources to help their children succeed at every step of their educational journey.

## BioJam Summer Program

This year, the BioJam program offered migrant teens from throughout the county a three-week, hands-on summer program that introduced them to bioengineering and human-centered design. The BioJam program engages teens through their own creativity and culture in bioengineering and biomaterial design and focuses on growing biomaterials, biomaterial recipes, circuitry components, and live plants. The teens participate in engagement activities and share what they learn with elementary-aged students.

BioJam is a Stanford University-based project, spearheaded and created by Stanford Ph.D. students in a variety of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) fields, committed to ensuring a place for under-represented communities in STEM (and STEAM, which includes art as well) and making their voices, knowledge, and concerns central to what science is and what questions and concerns science addresses.



This year's program included an overnight educational trip to the University of California, Santa Cruz, where students participated in workshops at the Agro-Ecology program and visited an aquaponics farm in Halfmoon Bay.

# Fiber Expansion & Cyber Security

Decreasing technology hurdles in schools

## Fiber Brought to Rural School Districts

Throughout and following the pandemic, it became clear that many of our small rural school districts were challenged with insufficient bandwidth to support the modern learning tools that are required for 21st century education. With chromebook and tablets now commonplace in the classroom, schools require much greater connectivity than was previously available.

Many of our small rural schools had received connectivity from fixed microwave wireless solutions, which relied on outdated equipment. With age, these systems began experiencing increased outages and were no longer able to provide sufficient bandwidths to allow all students simultaneous internet access. It was made clear that it was time to modernize and provide fiber connections where possible.

MCOE expanded its collaborative efforts to help meet the demands of high-speed internet for all of our county's rural school districts, which came to a fiber expansion expense of approximately \$7 million. Under the consortium, MCOE applied for Federal E-rate discounts that covered \$5 million, and the rest came from private donations.

The expansion is well underway, and upon completion, MCOE will have helped to bring fiber to the following districts: Bradley, Graves, Lagunita, Mission, and San Lucas. This leaves only two school districts without fiber and to further address solutions, which are San Antonio and Big Sur.



## Increasing Cyber Security Efforts

MCOE continues to be proactive in measures to prevent potential cyber-attacks and implement strategies to address new and continuing threats and vulnerabilities. In addition to multi-factor authentication, regular security assessments, and data encryption, MCOE has increased its employee training efforts to raise awareness about common threats, such as phishing, password protection, data handling, and incident reporting. In addition, all employees must complete an annual online training at the beginning of the school year.

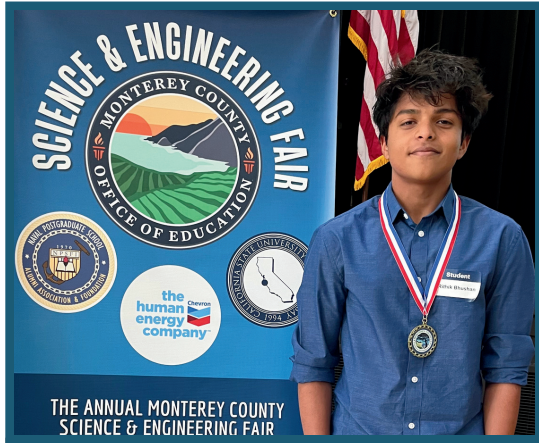
Ransomware attacks have had significant and devastating impacts on educational institutions worldwide. The severe consequences of these attacks have included significant operational disruptions and financial losses. As cyber threats evolve, MCOE's Information Technology Services team remains committed to helping schools implement security measures to disrupt these threats.

MCOE continually looks for ways to improve security for all our technology systems and seeks resources to shore up the cyber defenses for our local school districts.



# Countywide Events

## Monterey County Science and Engineering Fair



MCOE's annual Countywide Science and Engineering Fair transitioned back to an in-person event in March 2023, and featured over 100 participating middle and high school students drawn from public, private, parochial and homeschools in Monterey County. Through the annual competition, the county's students are challenged to go beyond their classroom studies to do independent project-based research. They work independently or in teams to address questions in a wide-variety of scientific fields including Computer Science, Environmental Science, Medicine and Health, Chemistry, and Plant Science. Students present their findings orally and through data journals to a team of scientists who volunteer as judges. The judges often offer practical and positive feedback regarding the students'

application of the scientific method to a problem, encouraging them to improve their future scientific research efforts.

## 26th Annual Countywide Spelling Bee

The Monterey County Countywide Spelling Bee brings together the best middle school spellers in the county for an afternoon of competitive spelling. This year, one winner outspelled 24 other competitors and walked away with a trophy and the grand prize: An invitation to compete in the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. After six intense rounds of contestants spelling words like exercise, performance, mortician, heiress, quota, innovator, illusionist, windbaggy, commerce, vaccine, squander, and steppe, a winner was determined: Morgan Harms from All Saints Day School in Carmel. The winning word: Campanology.



## Monterey County's Farm Day



Farm Day is an annual educational enrichment program provided by Monterey County Agricultural Education, a non-profit organization of agriculturalists, educators, and dedicated community members. Farm Day, held at three different locations and dates (Salinas, Monterey, King City), provides third-grade students with learning experiences on food safety and processing, as well as experiencing all sorts of animals first-hand. The collaborative efforts of Farm Day, where local agriculture businesses come together to showcase their industry, help to increase our students' level of agricultural literacy and awareness. Monterey County Agricultural Education has been an active advocate for agriculture since the mid-1980s. It has gained local, state, and national recognition for the quality and extent of its programs. This

program is a successful example of business, industry, and community volunteers joining with education for the benefit of students.

## Monterey County Office of Education's Field Day

MCOE's Annual Field Day is a unique opportunity for over 130 special education students to enjoy physical activities with their peers and gain a sense of self confidence and pride. The event starts off with a student and staff parade to demonstrate their team spirit. The ball throw, turbo javelin, standing long jump, and running events fill the rest of the morning. Students from Carmel High School serve as outstanding volunteers assisting MCOE adapted physical education (APE) teachers and other MCOE staff with all of the scheduled events. The event ends with an awards ceremony for each classroom, and with individual medals given to each student participant.



## Regional Migrant Education Speech and Debate Tournament

In March 2023, MCOE's Migrant Education Region 16 hosted the 12th Regional Migrant Education Speech and Debate Tournament at Salinas High School. Over 200 migrant students participated from three regions (Region 16 - Monterey



County, Region 11 - Pajaro Valley, and Region 1 - Santa Clara, San Mateo, San Francisco, Alameda, San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties). Preparatory work included in-depth research into assigned topics, preparing and refining multiple iterations of written statements and essays, and extensive practice delivering their positions orally. Competitions were held in English and Spanish, and broken out by age groups. Over 40 trophies were awarded to students competing in Prepared Speech and Extemporaneous Speech, and in Team Debate. Taking home top awards for the high school debate competition was Alisal High School Team #2 for Spanish and Gonzales High School Team #1 for English.

## Pebble Beach Authors & Ideas Festival

Thanks to the tremendous generosity of the Carmel Ideas Foundation, Monterey County students enjoy the unique opportunity to connect with authors and innovative thinkers from around the world through the Student Ideas Festival. Students are exposed to new concepts and groundbreaking research which opens their minds to new worlds and unique career opportunities. The Festival motivates students to think in unique and innovative ways. It ignites their imagination to be creative and empowers them with inspiration to make our world a better place. This past year, thousands of students were able to enjoy the festival in a virtual format. In addition, the Festival 2 Schools program extends the experience by bringing assembly programs to students and educators throughout the county.



# Annual Events

## California Rodeo Salinas Special Buckaroos



Monterey County Special Education students are invited to saddle-up for the Special Buckaroos Rodeo event. This annual event, held each July during the Rodeo, shares the sport of professional rodeo with children with disabilities. Students are paired up with a cowboy or cowgirl and learn a variety of adapted rodeo activities. This past year, 24 MCOE students rode on live horses, lassoed a 'dummy' steer, pet a 4-day old calf, and received a trophy and goody bag. Special thanks to the California Rodeo Salinas for hosting such a memorable event for these precious children.

## MCOE in Collaboration With United Way's Stuff the Bus

Calculators, pens, pencils, notebooks, and binders are all basic necessities for success in the classroom, but for more than 11,000 students across Monterey County who are homeless or are living in near homeless conditions, these essentials can be far out of reach. To address this need, MCOE partners with the United Way Monterey County to help organize the annual Stuff the Bus backpack drive and send children to school fully prepared to succeed. Each year in July, volunteers come together at MCOE for a full week to stuff backpacks, which are then delivered to school district liaisons to distribute to students in need prior to the start of the



school year. This annual event fulfills a critical need in Monterey County and helps students feel confident and empowered to thrive by being prepared for school. This partnership is a great example of how working together toward a common goal can make a significant impact in the lives of children and families. Thank you to the United Way and the many volunteers who participate every year to help Stuff the Bus!

## Annual Math Festival



MCOE's Educational Services Division hosts an annual Math Festival for middle and high school students across Monterey County. The Math Festival includes math games, activities, math art, collaborative problem-solving, and more. Math competitions and a math art poster contest are also part of the day's event. The Math Festival is both fun and educational and provides a diverse range of experiences to engage students with mathematics in creative and enjoyable ways. Through the Math Festival, MCOE promotes that a solid foundation in mathematics is essential for understanding the world, solving problems, making informed decisions, and driving progress in various fields.



## Graduation Milestones for Special Education Students

Each year, the MCOE Special Education Department is honored to hold Graduation and Certificate of Completion Ceremonies. MCOE Special Education students are offered programming through the age of 22, at which point they will have successfully completed their public education journey. Many of these students have been enrolled in MCOE programs since preschool, or even since they were infants. The ceremonies are exciting and emotional celebrations, and signify a new beginning for each student. Staff that have worked with students throughout the years attend and give recognition of the hard work the students and families have applied to the program over the years. Congratulations to the MCOE 2022-23 Graduating and Completing Class!



## Binational Teacher Exchange Program



This past year, MCOE's Migrant Education Program Region 16 hosted six fully credentialed and experienced binational teachers from Mexico who provided summer services to migrant students throughout Monterey County. These teachers worked with students and parents and collaborated with American teachers to provide academic and cultural instruction and increase pride in students' binational, bicultural, and bilingual heritage. The visiting teachers served over 600 students and 300 parents and worked with 47 local teachers at nine different school districts in Monterey County. During their stay, the binational teachers lived with host

## MCOE's Health and Wellness Fair

MCOE's annual Health and Wellness Fair is a space for MCOE staff and Monterey County district employees to engage in a day of health screenings and insight into their health benefits. The Health and Wellness Fair occurs on-site at MCOE every September, where the general parking lot is converted into rows of educational resource booths and activities involving health-related topics. During this event, attendees may have their blood pressure taken and glucose levels read, and receive Flu and COVID-19 vaccines, while additional information about nutrition, fitness, and vision care is offered. The event also offers fresh vegetables, fun giveaways, and raffle prizes are given away to those who navigate the event.



# Inside Education & MCOE Newsletters

Inviting the community to learn more about education first-hand

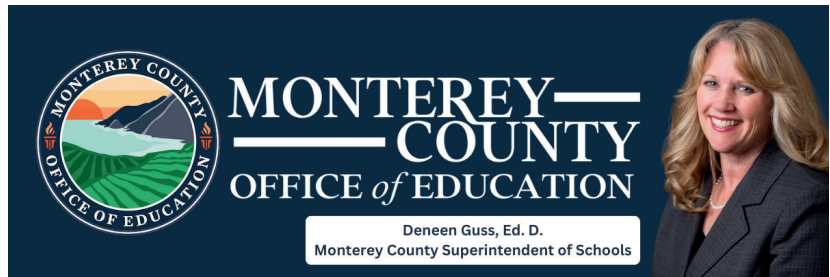
## Inside Education Monterey County



Inside Education Monterey County offers a unique opportunity for community members to learn about the current challenges, intricacies, and the remarkable work educators and school administrators are doing to improve the education and well-being of students. During the 2019-2020 school year, and again following COVID-19 during the 2022-2023 school year, MCOE provided community participants with a first-hand, interactive look at local educational programs, services, and partnerships made possible through a collaborative effort alongside our local school districts and charter schools. Starting in September and ending in April, over a dozen community members participated in half-day tours that focused on a specific curricular area and provided them with an opportunity to speak with education leaders, visit different school sites, and learn about what is happening day-to-day in classrooms, as well as the most pressing challenges facing educators.

MCOE looks forward to offering this community engagement program on an annual basis. Visit the Monterey County Office of Education website at [montereycoe.org/inside-education](https://montereycoe.org/inside-education) to learn more about this enlightening opportunity.

## MCOE e-Newsletters



Learn about school community events and opportunities by signing up for MCOE Newsletters. If you are a Monterey County resident and have an interest in education or have children in the public school system, then Monterey County Office of Education newsletters are a great way to help you see what's going on in the community relative to education. MCOE highlights County Office news, district news, and community news. See what MCOE is doing to provide opportunities and resources to students in the educational school system, as well as highlights from any of our 24 school districts, community event information, and scholarship opportunities relative to our youth. Sign up for MCOE newsletters by visiting [montereycoe.org/communications](https://montereycoe.org/communications).

# Sponsor and Donor Recognition

We thank our sponsors for their generous support



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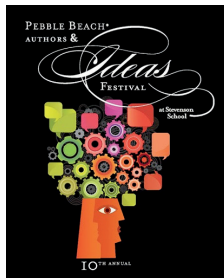
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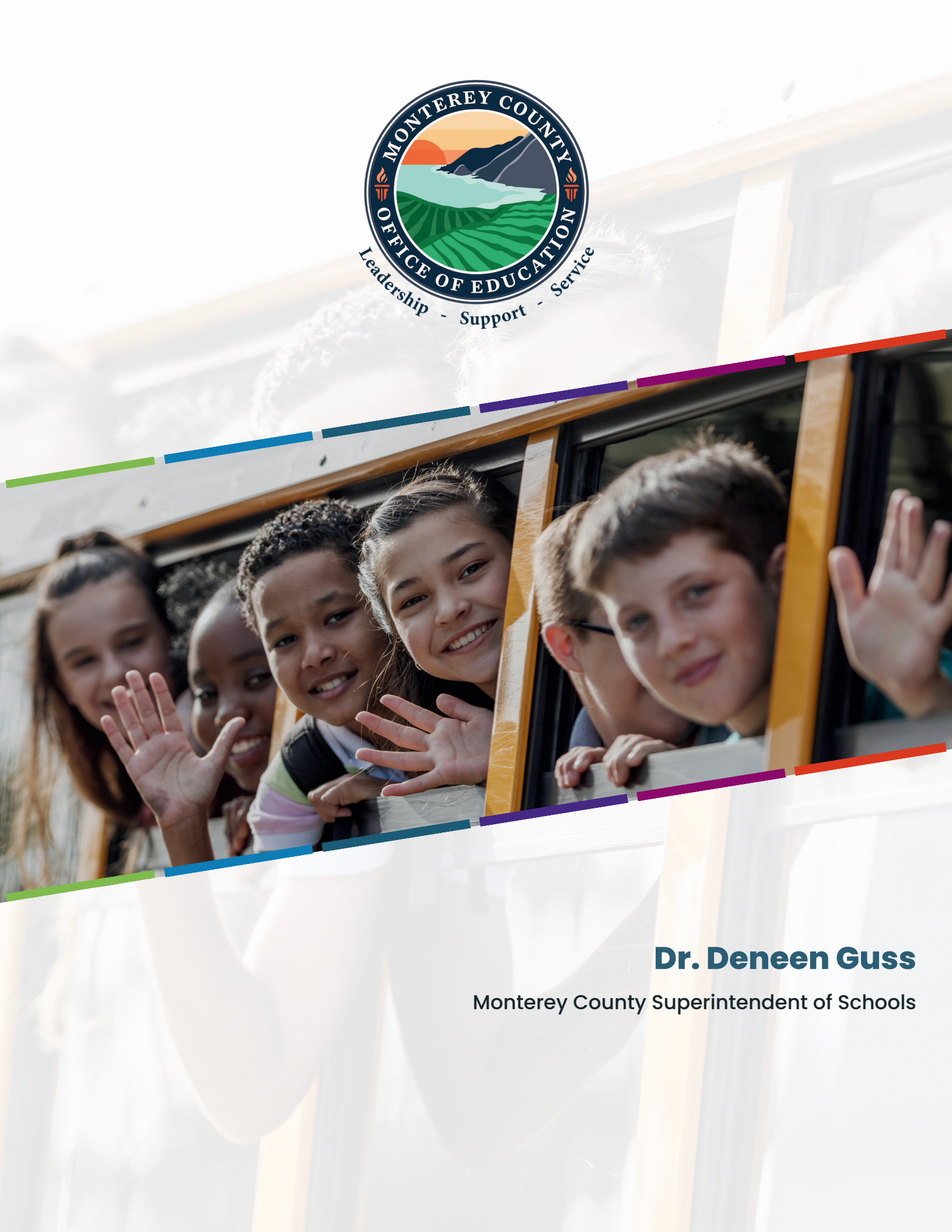
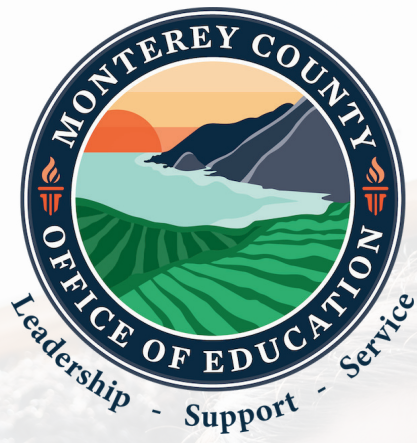
KASAVAN ARCHITECTS



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**Dr. Deneen Guss**

Monterey County Superintendent of Schools