SAN BENITO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION



ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

A LOOK BACK AT THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

KRYSTAL LOMANTO, COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

San Benito County Office of Education | 460 5th St | Hollister, CA | 95023 | 831-637-5393 | www.sbcoe.org

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

CONTENTS

2 Superintendent's Message

3 Strategies for the Future

4 Board of Education Responsibilities

5 San Benito County Schools at a Glance

6 Educating Students

8 Expanding & Ensuring Access

12 Supporting Districts

14 Supporting Educators

18 Empowering Students

20 Supporting the Community

22 Looking to the Future

A MESSAGE FROM KRYSTAL LOMANTO COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



As the San Benito County Superintendent of Schools, I am excited to lead this county as we serve more than 11,900 students. The San Benito County Office of Education (SBCOE) is a multi-faceted organization with many parts, yet a singular vision to Engage, Encourage, Empower...Educate throughout the county. I take pride in the support the SBCOE provides to our educational community.

As SBCOE looks to the future, we will continue to partner with districts and community organizations to prepare our county's students for the demands of today's dynamic, comprehensive society and to create TK-12 classrooms and schools that are responsive to the unique needs of our students. The SBCOE looks forward to our continued work in supporting an equitable education for all San Benito County students. We are especially excited about the initiatives we have rolled out. The SBCOE has launched a Math 2.0 initiative, Building Bridges 2 Literacy, as well as leading Social Emotional Learning workshops and support.

I am passionate, committed, and stand proud to be the educational leader for our community. My goal is to lead a relentless countywide drive to support a sweeping transformation of the direction and outcome of TK-12 education in support of educational excellence and equity for all children in San Benito County.

I am proud of the work, commitment, collaboration, and support the SBCOE has provided to our districts, our families and our community.





ROLE OF THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

The County Superintendent of Schools is elected by the voters of San Benito County and is the chief executive officer of the San Benito 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 and Local Control Accountability Plans (LCAP). In addition, she serves as an advocate for education with the legislature and the public.

STRATEGIES FOR THE FUTURE

The San Benito County Office of Education is committed to excellence, equity, innovation, and integrity as it carries out its work of providing programs and services to students and districts throughout San Benito County. These five pillars embrace the values of the San Benito County Office of Education and serve to guide our actions as we support districts and fulfill our mission to educate all students. In addition, SBCOE has identified Standards of Excellence that embody the work we do.

Expert: SBCOE leads with exceptional guidance and expertise across all educational domains in an effort to increase academic excellence and overall student well-being.

Collaborative: The SBCOE works collaboratively with educators, families, students, and the community to share ideas, information, and research-based best practices for student success.

Innovative: SBCOE leads the way with innovative ideas, creative concepts and thoughtful communication around the latest trends and cutting-edge practices.

Advocacy: SBCOE advocates for all students to ensure equity and success by engaging students, parents, local educational agencies, state and federal agencies, and community-based organizations.

Results-Orientated: The SBCOE utilizes data and continuous improvement practices to support and measure progress for student achievement across the county.



BOARD OF EDUCATION RESPONSIBILITIES

The San Benito County Board of Education serves as the governing board for the schools and programs operated by the San Benito County Office of Education. The five-member County Board is elected by trustee area with trustees staggered in four-year terms. Each Board member represents a different area of the county and must be a registered voter in that area.

The Board provides leadership for educational programs and services operated by the County Office of Education. The Board also:

- Approves policies, regulations, and curriculum for the programs operated by the County Office of Education
- Adopts policies and regulations governing the County Office of Education
- Approves the County Office of Education budget
- Accepts the purchase or lease of property for County Office programs
- Serves as an appeal board for the adjudication of expulsions, interdistrict transfer disputes, and charter school petitions
- Informs local communities about the programs and achievements of the San Benito County Office of Education
- Advocates on behalf of education on local, state, and national levels

SBCOE's Mission

Provide the educational leadership for all children to develop the skills and the will necessary to succeed in the 21st century. We envision an educational environment where all children are empowered, through skills and knowledge, to become responsible contributing members of the global community.

SBCOE Board Members



Drew McAlister
President



Lee Ann Britt
Vice President



Rodney Bianchi
Member



Joan Campbell-Garcia
Member



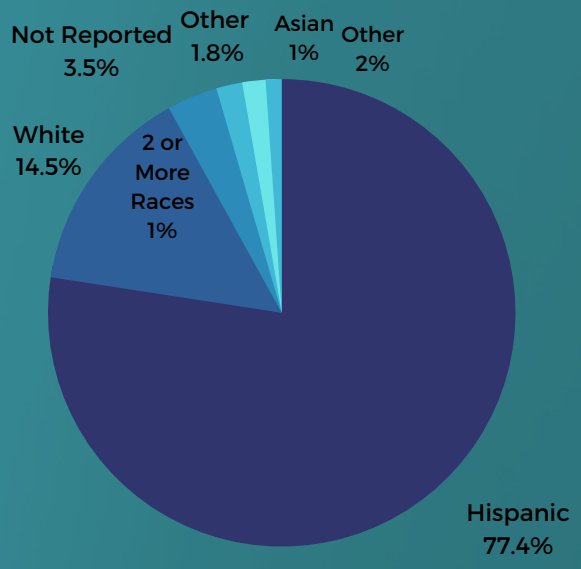
Reb Monaco
Member

The County Board does not govern school districts in San Benito County. Each district has its own school board and superintendent who employ staff and oversee the education of students in their district. Complaints or concerns related to a school, whether it be regarding staff, educational programs, or extra-curricular activities are under the direct authority of the superintendent of the school district.

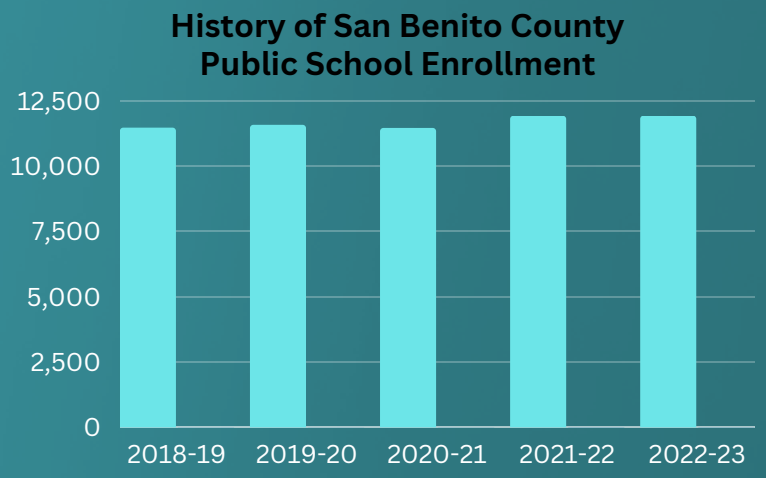


SAN BENITO COUNTY SCHOOLS AT A GLANCE

School District	Enrollment	Number of Schools
Aromas San Juan Unified	993	3
Bitterwater-Tully Elementary	30	1
Cienega Elementary	21	1
Hollister Elementary	6,209	11
Jefferson Elementary	3	1
North County Joint Union Elementary	743	1
Panoche Elementary	8	1
San Benito County Office of Education	34	3
San Benito High School	3,556	2
Southside Elementary	233	1
Tres Pinos Elementary	51	1
Willow Grove Elementary	20	1
TOTAL *(includes Charter Schools)*	11,901	27







11
Public School Districts

27
TK-12 Public Schools

11,901
Students

25%
English Learners

52%
Free & Reduced Price Meals

Educating Students *Alternative Education*

The San Benito County Office of Education directs and manages the alternative education programs and services for the entire county. Our goal is to provide a place of learning where students can get back on track toward graduation in a supportive environment. We provide students with opportunities to realize and participate in various options that may not have been part of their worldview previously.

Counseling, behavioral health support, restorative practices, and high academic expectations are prevalent at all sites, with specialized support offered through Behavioral Health Case Managers, Mental Health Therapists, a School Social Worker and a Restorative Justice Coordinator. Additionally, students, faculty, and staff are implementing Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) as well as restorative practices to foster positive social skills, self-advocacy, and a strong commitment to community. Schools are also part of the MTSS Phase 3 Grant which provides training to staff to implement a multi-tiered system of support Through social emotional learning strategies, students gain valuable social skills they will carry with them for the rest of their lives.

San Andreas Continuation High School was selected as a Community School under the California Community School Partnership Program (CCSPP). This program supports schools' efforts to partner with community agencies and local government to align community resources to improve student outcomes. These partnerships provide an integrated focus on academics, health and social services, youth and community development, and community engagement.



In January 2023, twenty San Benito County students from Hollister High School, Pinnacles Community School and San Andreas Continuation High School completed Kneaded Culinary Academy's Culinary Arts Course. Led by Chef Carlos, the course prepares youth ages 15-25 for a career in the hospitality industry. Students learned knife skills, sanitation and safety, and production cooking while creating a complete meal during each session. Each graduate received a food preparation certificate they can take with them as they apply for jobs in the food industry.



SBCOE Alternative Education Programs

4 Schools
102 Students Served
32 Graduates

Pinnacles Community School serves expelled students and students who have been placed there by probation in a self-contained classroom.

San Benito County Juvenile Hall Court School serves incarcerated youth in a self-contained classroom year- round.

San Andreas Continuation High School serves students age 16 or older or who have earned a minimum of 55 high school credits.

Santa Ana Opportunity School serves students up to age 16 in grades 7-10 with fewer than 55 high school credits.

Educating Students *Special Education*

The San Benito County Office of Education houses the Early Childhood Special Education Center (ECSEC) which includes the Early Start Program, serving children birth to three years of age, and the Preschool Program for children ages three to five. Services are provided on site in a classroom setting or on an itinerant basis. SBCOE also oversees the Low Incidence Team for all San Benito County schools. The Low Incidence Team consists of Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) Services, Visually Impaired (VI) Services, Orthopedic and Mobility (O&M) Services, Occupational Therapy (OT) Services and Orthopedically Impaired (OI) Services. This team of highly skilled educators also includes Teachers, School Psychologists, Speech Language Pathologists (SLP), Instructional Aides and a Braillist, and is responsible for providing an array of services to students from birth to age 22. Staff provides direct student support as well as consult services to our students, their families, case managers, and general education teachers.

SBCOE's Special Education Department also supports San Benito County's seven rural schools and SBCOE Alternative Education Programs. Services include those listed above as well as Resource Specialist Support for students with learning disabilities.

In 2022-2023, the San Benito County Office of Education Early Childhood Special Education Center partnered with the Diagnostic Center of Northern California to focus on Evidence Based Practices in our preschool setting. Our staff has taken part in various robust professional development opportunities to better support our preschool population. The partnership with the Diagnostic Center will continue during the 2023-2024 school year with monthly preschool walk throughs, coaching, and collaboration.



13% of students in San Benito County receive Special Education Services



Screening Clinics Each month, the Early Childhood Special Education Center conducts screening clinics to determine whether an assessment for Special Education services is needed. Monthly screening clinic staff include a School Psychologist, Speech Language Pathologist, Occupational Therapist, and a Special Education Preschool Teacher. Children perform a variety of tasks that determine whether a child is developing within age expectancy. When a child shows delays, the team follows up with a more comprehensive assessment to determine Special Education services a student may need to access the curriculum.

SELPA The San Benito County SELPA, Special Education Local Plan Areas (SELPA) continues to support our Local Education Areas (LEAs) to improve outcomes for students with disabilities. San Benito County's SELPA works hand in hand with participating LEAs and community members to promote inclusive practices and build capacity throughout the county. We offer professional learning opportunities with a focus on high-leverage, evidence-based practices. As one of the smallest SELPAs in the state, we are able to develop lasting relationships with our students, families, and LEA leaders by tailoring professional learning plans to meet the needs of our educational community. SELPAs work to increase outreach efforts and communication through parent committees and workshops. Alternative Dispute Prevention and Resolution (ADPR) is also offered as an option to assist schools and parents when disagreements arise resulting in mutually agreed upon outcomes.

Expanding & Ensuring Access *Literacy*

Literacy is a critical component to every student's academic success and is key to guaranteeing equitable outcomes for all students. When students can read, they are able to access academic content in all subject areas. Studies have shown that students who fall below grade level in reading by 3rd grade are much less likely to graduate from high school, putting them at a higher risk of falling into poverty and entering the judicial system. San Benito County's Building Bridges 2 Literacy Initiative seeks to ensure that every student in San Benito County is able to read at grade level by 3rd grade. Through projects such as Footsteps2Brilliance and the English Learner Collaborative, SBCOE supports educators and families as they work with students to develop strong literacy skills.

Footsteps2Brilliance SBCOE continued to provide the Footsteps2Brilliance reading program to schools and the community this year. Between August 1, 2022 and July 31, 2023, students spent almost 10,000 hours in literacy activities, which included reading 27,510,139 words, 45,065 books and writing 48,522 books. Footsteps2Brilliance has proven to be a powerful tool to mitigate learning loss because students are able to access it at school and home, allowing them to continue to learn even when they have to be absent from school.



Literacy Celebration In October, SBCOE celebrated seven years of improving literacy in San Benito County by recognizing our students, teachers and partners who have been key to moving the Building Bridges 2 Literacy Initiative forward. County Superintendent, Krystal Lomanto, began by highlighting how the initiative has helped students learn to read. Footsteps2Brilliance Vice President, Greg Spencer shared his own story and spoke about how important literacy is to ensure students succeed in life. Students who read 1 million words and teachers whose classrooms have surpassed 1 million words each year for three or more years were recognized, and our Writing Challenge winner's book was shared. In addition, SBCOE thanked Community and District partners for their support.

All San Benito County schools participate in Footsteps2Brilliance, a free app that offers books, games and activities in English and Spanish for children from birth to 3rd grade. Footsteps2Brilliance features pre-reading, learn-to-read and general reading programs, as well as newly added science activities. The program can be downloaded on any electronic device and once downloaded, no internet connection is needed. Research has demonstrated that children increase vocabulary, reading, and writing skills by using Footsteps2Brilliance for as little as 15 minutes each day. Parents are also able to follow their student's progress on the program. Parent trainings and support are also available to show parents how to register and discuss ways they can support their child's literacy development.

Each quarter, SBCOE challenges students across the county to read using Footsteps2Brilliance. Students rose to the challenge each time and were rewarded for their efforts. Top readers in each school and class received brag tags and charms for their charm necklaces as well as certificates. Top classes and their teacher were also recognized.

Footsteps2Brilliance is available to all children in San Benito County, including those who are too young to attend school. Register for free at: www.myf2b.com/register/SanBenitoCOE

Expanding & Ensuring Access *Mental Health*

Collaborative grants and specialized funding as well as partnerships with community organizations have allowed the San Benito County Office of Education to bring districts together to hire staff that provide a variety of mental health services to students. Mental health programs are funded, in part, through several grants including the Mental Health Student Services Act (MHSSA), Learning Communities for School Success (LCCSP), Student Behavioral Health Incentive Program (SBHIP), and the CA Community Schools Partnership Program (CCSPP) grant. Funding has allowed SBCOE's Mental Health Team to increase school-based services and increase coordination and collaboration between schools and community providers. School-based services consist of individual school based counseling, small group counseling, case management, social emotional learning classroom presentations, and wellness support.

Rural Schools Due to their size and limited budgets, San Benito County's smallest and most rural schools have had limited access to mental health and counseling services. To increase access to these services, SBCOE collaborates with our seven smallest districts to provide a Mental Health Therapist to serve the schools on a rotating basis. During the 2022-23 school year, the Mental Health Therapist worked in conjunction with SELPA's Mental Health Therapist to educate school staff on Social Emotional Learning and provide classroom and small group lessons to students. Initial work focused on reducing the stigma around mental health and using Tier 1 strategies to teach students about the fundamentals of social emotional learning. Additional services, including small group and individual therapy, are also available to students. These services will be expanded in 2023-24.

MHSSA As part of a coordinated effort to expand access to mental health services for children and youth on school campuses, SBCOE and the San Benito County Behavioral Health Department (SBCBH) applied for and received the MHSSA Grant. The $2.5 million grant will enables the partners to strengthen existing partnerships with schools in the county and increase the number of mental health providers.

With the addition of mental health staff in schools, the need for coordination and streamlined referral processes has also become evident. Part of the funding is being used to build collaboratives that bring together decision makers from SBCOE, SBCBH and San Benito County Districts as well as county mental health service providers who serve students on and off school campuses. The goal for both organizations is to ensure that every student who needs mental health services in San Benito County receives appropriate support based on their individual needs.

LCSSP In its third and final year of the LCSSP Grant, SBCOE continued to partner with Aromas San Juan Unified School District, Hollister Elementary School District and San Benito High School District to hire three School Social Workers to provide case management and therapy to students. Services focus on students who are chronically absent, with the the goal of developing resiliency strategies and a positive self-concept so students are successful in school. School Social Workers provide counseling and therapeutic intervention for students and families as well as training and workshops for parents and school staff. School Social Workers also conduct home visits and facilitate individual and group counseling sessions to address specific social, emotional, and behavioral needs of students. Grant activities have been instrumental in bringing students back to school and improving academic outcomes.



San Benito County Office of Education

HEALTHY MINDS HEALTHY LIVES

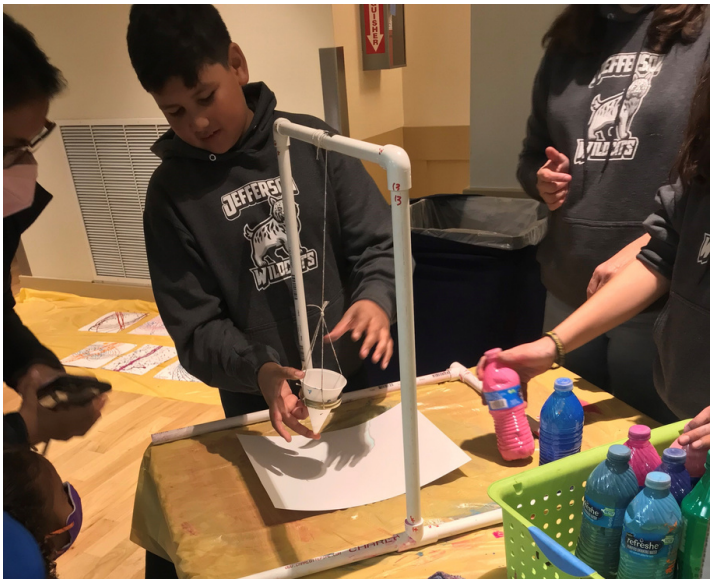
ENGAGE, ENCOURAGE, EMPOWER...EDUCATE!

Expanding & Ensuring Access *Arts Education*

Arts Forward As part of our mission to ensure all students have equitable access to a standards-based arts education, the San Benito County Office of Education, in collaboration with students, teachers, administrators, artists and community members, finalized its *SBCOE Strategic Countywide Arts Plan: Arts Forward* in the spring of 2022. During the first phase of the plan, SBCOE formed the San Benito County Arts Collaborative composed of school and district arts leads, student representatives, and community partners. One goal of this collaborative is to increase the capacity of teachers by identifying and developing curriculum and providing professional learning that incorporates the CA Arts Standards and the CA Arts Framework.

A key aspect of the plan is to empower student voice countywide through student-led collaborative arts opportunities and experiences that celebrate the diversity of our community and the creativity of our youth. One way we do this is by hosting the annual San Benito County Arts Showcase and the San Benito County STEAM Expo each spring. Over 100 projects were represented at the STEAM Expo and more than 1800 pieces of Art work were displayed at the Arts Showcase while 10 student groups from the area performed.

Community events also provided a venue for students to create their own art. Projects like making bookmarks with pressed flowers during San Benito County's annual Earth Day Celebration and painting inspirational rocks at the Kids at the Park event in June allowed students to express their creativity.





Alternative Education San Andreas Continuation High School also partnered with the San Benito County Arts Council to provide a teaching artist in the arts classroom during the school year and summer school. Students in the class were taught about different art forms and artists worked with students to design and paint a mural on the school's main building as a culminating activity for the 2022-23 school year.



Expanding & Ensuring Access *Technology*

In the ever-evolving landscape of educational technology, the San Benito County Office of Education witnessed a year of remarkable growth, particularly in the areas of cybersecurity, student device access and data system enhancement. Tailoring our efforts to the distinctive needs of our small county, these advancements have reshaped the learning experience, ensuring a secure, equitable, and efficient environment for both students and educators.

SBCOE's Technology Department is the internet service provider for nine of the eleven districts in San Benito County and serves as direct support for eight districts, providing end user support, networking, curriculum integration, databases and much more. With funding through the Broadband Infrastructure Improvement Grant (BIIG), we have been able to extend learning opportunities to underserved areas.

To address the critical need for robust cybersecurity, we have fortified our digital domain with state-of-the-art measures, ensuring better protection of sensitive data from unauthorized access. The addition of a multi-factor authentication system in 2023-24 will add an extra layer of defense, thwarting potential breaches and providing major threat detection to identify and neutralize threats.

Data system enhancements have paved the way for increased data collection, which allows our programs to identify timely interventions, creating a more proactive approach. SBCOE's Technology Department has created an environment that empowers students to thrive and educators to excel. As we embrace the future, these achievements, coupled with our collaborative efforts, lay a strong foundation for a more inclusive, secure, and personalized educational journey. We look forward to building on these enhancements and systems in the coming year.

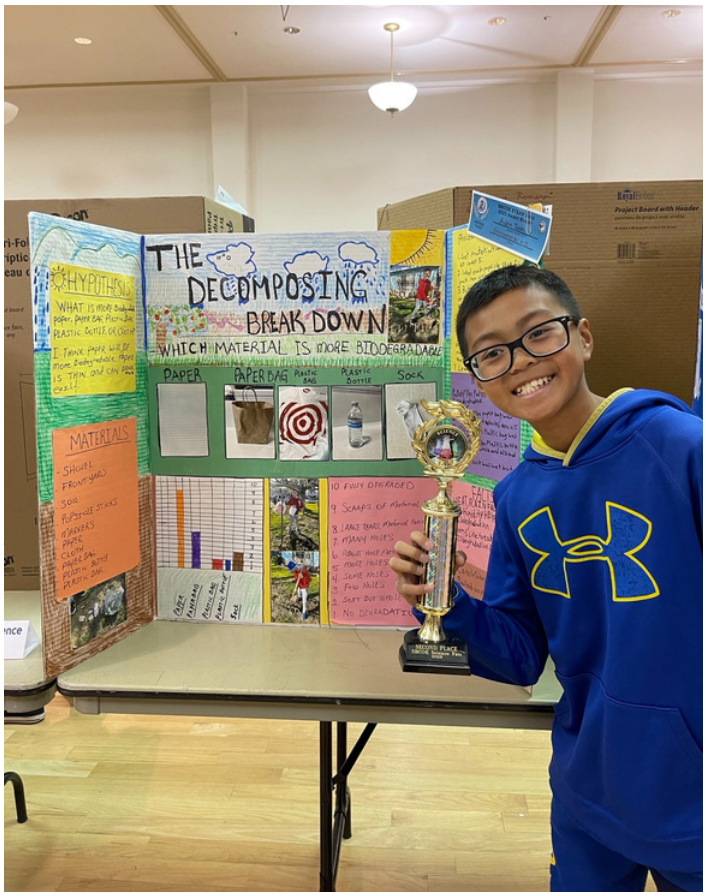


Grants In July 2022, San Benito County Office of Education's Technology Department, in partnership with the San Benito County Free Library, received $11.6 million through the Emergency Connectivity Fund Grant (ECF). The grant allowed 10,000 low-income students in San Benito County to receive their own Chromebook and hotspot which has helped ensure all students have equal opportunities for digital learning. Collaboration with tech companies, and the county library have made essential technology attainable for economically disadvantaged students. The success of our Chromebook distribution initiative stands as a testament to our commitment to technological inclusivity. This partnership has not only expanded digital access but also fostered a sense of community and collaboration, creating an enriching environment for learning and growth.

SBCOE serves as the internet provider for 9 of our 11 Districts



Supporting Districts *System of Support*



Differentiated Assistance (DA) and Comprehensive Support & Improvement (CSI) As part of California's System of Support, California determines district eligibility for DA and school eligibility for CSI based on performance on state and local indicators reported on the CA School Dashboard. Districts and schools that meet the criteria partner with stakeholders to develop and implement plans to improve student outcomes.

SBCOE's DA/CSI Team supported districts and schools eligible for DA and CSI by meeting regularly throughout the year. As part of CSI, schools developed CSI plans outlined in their School Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA). Districts eligible for DA used Improvement Science tools and strategies to put actions in place to reach established goals. Schools participating in CSI showed significant progress, especially in the area of school climate, while districts eligible for DA developed stronger systems for assessment and identification of student needs.

SBCOE's Educational Services Department provides professional learning opportunities for educators from a wide variety of disciplines and experiences. In addition, the department supports school districts to achieve their goals for student achievement through:

- Facilitating professional learning opportunities for educators
- Assisting districts with LCAP development
- Providing financial advisory services to assist with budget/LCFF planning
- Overseeing compliance with state and federal mandates
- Providing data analysis and program evaluation support for districts
- Providing technical assistance focused on improved outcomes for student groups
- Supporting districts with school climate and social emotional learning support
- Assisting districts in developing systems of support for all students

Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) San Benito County Office of Education provided ongoing technical assistance to all districts in the county in the analysis and revising of their 2021-24 LCAP. The LCAP is a three-year plan that describes the goals, actions, services, and expenditures to support positive student outcomes that address state and local priorities. Several changes were made to the LCAP process this year, including additional tracking requirements for Supplemental/Concentration grant funding. As part of a joint effort between the Educational Services and Business Departments, districts participated in the LCAP Professional Learning Network, where they discuss topics related to plan development. Prior to submitting their LCAPs to their Boards for approval, districts were encouraged to submit draft LCAPs to the SBCOE team for review and feedback. In addition to the LCAP, districts completed the Budget Overview for Parents. The purpose of the overview is to provide information about how districts are using their funds, especially for underserved groups.

SBCOE also provided support for other required plans including the School Accountability Report Card (SARC), School Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA), School Safety Plan and Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) Plan.

Supporting Districts *Technical Assistance*

Business Services SBCOE's Business Services Department works with districts to promote fiscal solvency and make sound educational decisions by providing:

- Financial advisory services, audit reviews and budget assistance
- Payroll & Retirement Reporting services and support (24,599 payroll checks processed)
- Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, and Attendance Reporting (10,808 accounts payable checks processed)
- Revenue Distribution and Special Education Regional Program finances and services
- AB 1200 fiscal oversight

Business Services worked closely with the County of San Benito (COSB) to streamline data that is exchanged between the two entities. The COSB is responsible for holding the school services funds and ensures all activity performed within each district is accounted for within each school fund. The new method of transferring data between each entity ensures day-to-day activity is posted timely and accurately.

Much of the work performed in the business department is supporting the seven small rural districts within the county. Throughout the year, Business Department staff visited each rural school site. This is seen as a valuable form of professional development, providing inspiration as staff sees the tangible results of their hard work. Chief Business Officials participated in training related to the financial software utilized within the county, as well as in person presentations related to the Governor's Budgets. Payroll and Human Resources staff were also provided training on Affordable Care Act requirements, PERS/STRS retirement reporting guidelines and best practices.

Human Resources SBCOE's Human Resources Department supports districts with a variety of services including:

- Fingerprinting Services
- Legal Updates
- Recruitment and Selection
- Workers' Compensation
- Labor and Employee Relations
- Retiree Benefit Programs
- Valenzuela/Williams Compliance
- Credential Monitoring/CalSAAS
- Teacher Induction

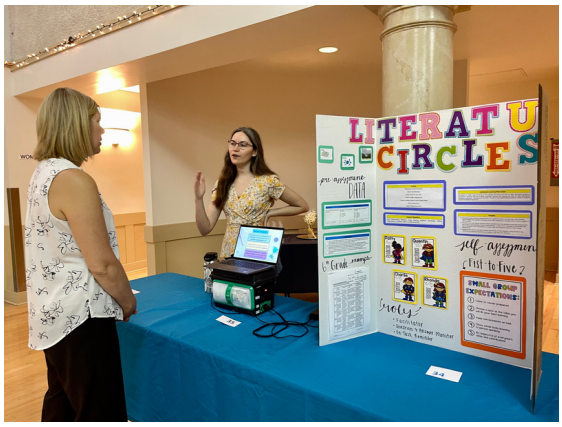
The department provides technical assistance and guidance in all areas of credentialing and serves as the monitoring authority for the the California Statewide Assignment Accountability System (CalSAAS). Seven of the smallest districts in San Benito County rely on SBCOE's Human Resources Department for support with recruitment, hiring, and other personnel-related activities.



Transportation SBCOE provides transportation for all students with disabilities who attend the Early Childhood Special Education Program and for the TK-8th grade students attending the county regional programs housed within the Hollister Elementary School District. These services allow students access to programs that best serve their individual needs.

The 2022-23 Governor's Budget provided an increase in funding for Home to School Transportation, this is the first increase in funding since 2012-13 when the Local Control Funding Formula was implemented. The additional funding will be utilized for the purchase of a new bus to be equipped with a wheelchair lift, increasing transportation services for students in need.

Supporting Educators *Induction*



SBCOE Teacher Induction Program

52 Teachers
39 Induction Coaches
7 LEAs
34 Teachers completed the program

Supporting teachers new to the teaching profession is a priority for the San Benito County Office of Education. One way, our organization encourages and empowers new teachers is through the San Benito County Office of Education Teacher Induction Program.

On April 29, 2023, the San Benito County Office of Education Teacher Induction Program graduated its first full class of teachers. During the End-of-Year Colloquium, all teachers in the program celebrated the completion of the year by presenting what they learned during one of their Inquiry Cycles. Certificates of Completion were awarded to each Participating Teacher, Induction Coach and Program Advisor.

As part of the teacher support system, California teachers new to the profession are required to complete a Teacher Induction Program within the first five years of teaching. Teachers who complete the program are eligible for their California Clear Credential. Prior to the 2021-22 school year, there was no Teacher Induction Program in San Benito County, so these teachers had to complete their program in Monterey or Santa Cruz County. This often meant that, after a full day of teaching, a teacher would have to travel to another county to attend and complete Induction activities.

Each Participating Teacher is matched with an Induction Coach who works with the teacher to develop an Individual Learning Plan that guides the teacher in professional growth towards the California Standards for the Teaching Practice (CSTP) through Inquiry Cycles. Teachers select the topic of their Inquiry Cycle based on what will be most helpful to them and their students. In May, teachers who had completed their 2-year program presented what they learned during one of their Inquiry Cycles at the End-of-Year Colloquium.

Induction Coaches received professional development including strategies and tools for working with new teachers. Coaches from participating districts attended in person meetings where they were able to network, problem solve and share best practices for mentoring and build their coaching skills.



Supporting Educators *Professional Development*

MTSS Since the inception of the Scaling Up MTSS Statewide (SUMS) Initiative, SBCOE's Educational Services Department has worked with all 11 districts in the county to build a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS). When Rancho San Justo Middle School received a Phase 2 MTSS Pilot Grant, SBCOE's Director of Curriculum and Instruction & Equity and Access worked with the school's administrative team to develop and implement an MTSS framework at the school. Eighty-five percent of the staff at Rancho San Justo completed the MTSS certification during the 2022-23 school year.

As part of the Phase 3 MTSS Grant, San Benito County Office of Education staff began MTSS coaching certification training during the 2022-23 school year to support the training and certification of the six rural school districts during the 2023-24 school year. Additionally, SBCOE collaborated with six of our rural school districts and the SBCOE Alternative Education Programs to apply for Phase 3 MTSS Grants that began in September 2022. Staff will receive coaching and support as they complete the MTSS certification training and solidify the MTSS framework in their schools. The rural school districts will begin their MTSS training and certification during the 2023-24 school year.



2023-24 SBCOE Professional Development Plan

Tobacco Use and Prevention Education (TUPE) Research suggests that school policies prohibiting tobacco use, when consistently enforced, are an essential part of lowering teen tobacco use rates. SBCOE assists with the TUPE certification for all school districts and in adopting and enforcing a tobacco free campus policy through its TUPE awareness efforts. Funds are also provided for schools to administer the California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) every other year, which provides a lens into school climate, tobacco and drug use, and school safety. Through townhall meetings and student assemblies the San Benito County Office of Education Tobacco Use Education Prevention Program is helping students make healthy decisions through tobacco-specific educational instruction and activities with the focus on empowering students to be mindful of their choices and to be respectful of their potential in life.

In February, SBCOE held a special town hall meeting for parents and community members focused on youth vaping and the use of synthetic drugs. The free event included a presentation by guest speaker, Rocky Herron, an interactive question & answer period, and resources from the San Benito Health and Human Services Agencies' Tobacco and Substance Abuse Program. Rocky also led several assemblies on the dangers of vaping, cannabis, and synthetic drugs at middle and high schools in San Benito County.



Math Collaborative San Benito County leaders came together to form a Math Collaborative during the 2022-23 school year to analyze the latest county math scores and determine root causes for student academic performance levels across the county based on the state CAASPP scores. After completing the root cause analysis the LEAs have partnered with Phil Gonsalves to offer professional development provided during Summer Institutes and during the year and to provide coaching to coaches throughout the county to assist teacher leaders in developing their instructional math skills. This five year plan, titled San Benito County Math Initiative (SBCMI) 2.0, began with Summer Institutes scheduled for the first week of August 2023.

Supporting Educators *Professional Development*

Leading Equity This August, SBCOE partnered with the San Diego County Office of Education and the Kern County Superintendent of Schools to provide Administrators around San Benito County a full-day training titled, ***Leading for Equity: Raising Awareness and Building Capacity for Action***. This marked the beginning of a year-long professional learning series designed to empower superintendents and educational leaders with the necessary tools and knowledge to foster equity in education. As we move through the upcoming school year, participants will continue to explore the systemic barriers that hinder equitable outcomes in education and examine the impact of implicit bias, cultural responsiveness, and inclusive practices on student achievement. By increasing awareness of equity-related issues, pushing beyond comfort zones, and providing coaching for leading with equity, leaders will gain the confidence and expertise needed to drive positive change in their educational communities.



Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) As districts in San Benito County continued to implement and strengthen PBIS this year, SBCOE staff expanded its reach by introducing the Interconnected Systems Framework and PBIS 2.0 to school leaders. The work brings PBIS and Mental Health supports together so that educational, behavioral and mental health structures and policies work together for students and families. Over the summer, Student Services leaders received training on PBIS 2.0, building their capacity to deliver technical assistance and guidance to schools in the county. As we move into the 2023-24 school year, several schools in San Benito County will take part in intensive PBIS 2.0 training.

The California PBIS Coalition recognized Hollister School District's Marguerite Maze Middle School for successful PBIS implementation for the school year 2022-23. Marguerite Maze Middle School received the gold level recognition for outstanding schoolwide PBIS commitment and implementation. Gold level schools implement PBIS characteristics with the highest level of fidelity and maintain Tier II and Tier III supports as needed.

Social Emotional Learning For the past three years, SBCOE has led the way with Social Emotional Learning (SEL) opportunities for educators in San Benito County. As part of the CalHOPE Student Support Initiative, SBCOE continued its Social Emotional Learning Community of Practice (SEL CoP) that was begun during the 2020-21 school year. This collaborative space for professional learning around SEL was available to Teachers, Classified Staff, and Administrators from all eleven districts as well as and Community Members. The CoP provided ongoing networking and sharing of best practices and showcased successful SEL efforts in the community as participants learned how to implement SEL practices. Four schools were also identified as "Focus Schools" and took part in a more in-depth effort to implement SEL schoolwide in the new year that included developing school focus areas around SEL. The SEL CoP continues in the 2023-24 school year.



Supporting Educators *Providing Resources*

Community Schools Four LEAs in San Benito County were part of the California Community School Partnership Program (CCSPP) in 2022-23. Hollister Elementary School District, Navigator Schools, San Andreas Continuation High School, and Tres Pinos Elementary Schools received funding to plan or implement Community Schools strategies. These approaches can be an effective approach to mitigate the academic and social impacts that affect local communities, improve school responsiveness to student and family needs, and to organize school and community resources to address barriers to learning. Community schools often include four evidence-informed programmatic features, which are aligned and integrated into high-quality, rigorous teaching and learning practices and environments:

- Integrated support services
- Family and community engagement
- Collaborative leadership and practices for educators and administrators
- Extended learning time and opportunities

Community School work will continue in 2023-24 as SBCOE builds capacity and provides technical assistance to districts and COE staff to fully implement strategies to support student learning and success.

Health Services In response to the need for additional guidance and technical assistance around Health Services, SBCOE added a Health Services Specialist to the leadership team. The position, which was funded through the California Department of Pubic Health Workforce Development Grant, oversaw the coordination and dissemination of health-related services. The specialist collaborated with state and local public health organizations to provide information and guidance around COVID-19, RSV, and other communicable diseases. One of the highlights were the vaccine clinics offered at several schools, which helped ensure safe, in-person instruction continued through the winter months. Additionally, the Health Services Specialist arranged for school-based and at-home COVID-19 testing by ordering test kits for all schools in the county. Some of the other services included the coordination of hearing and vision testing, EpiPen training, and Narcan training. As we move into the new school year, the Health Services Specialist will work with the San Benito County Public Health Department and schools to provide additional training around Narcan and overdose prevention.

Teacher Resource Fair August 2022 marked our first Teacher Resource Fair, an event co-sponsored by Synopsis to provide resources for 100 teachers. The event was expanded in 2023 to include additional community and educational resources. The fair provides educators with an opportunity to explore an array of free resources including classroom materials, field trip destinations, and information on retirement and continuing education. In additional to free resources, the event is an opportunity to connect with other teachers while fostering a sense of community and collaboration. This collaborative gathering not only enriches classrooms but also highlights the significance of equipping teachers for success.



Empowering Students *Addressing Inequitues*

San Benito County Student Groups

24.9% English Learners
0.3% Foster Youth
10.1% Migrant
51.7% Low Income

English Learner Collaborative Approximately 25% of students in San Benito County are English Learners, many of whom are Long-term English Learners (LTELs). To help educators address the unique needs of English Learners, SBCOE's Educational Services Department began an English Learner Collaborative in 2021-22 which continued in 2022-23. Participants included administrators and teachers who met to review data around English Learners, discussed ways to bring strategies and best practices into the classroom, and collaborated to develop and revise English Learner Master Plans for each LEA. SBCOE use the work of the collaborative, as a basis to bring in additional professional development opportunities for educators in the 2023-24 school year.

Foster & Homeless Youth Each year, SBCOE's Annual Back-to-School Resource Fair is held in early August. In 2022-23, the event reached more than 200 students in foster care or who were experiencing homelessness. Community agencies and local businesses provide information, resources and services, including free haircuts and dental, hearing, and vision screenings.

One of the highlights of the event was providing students with new backpacks filled with school supplies which were donated by the Hollister Police Department and Grocery Outlet. The Resource Fair demonstrates how community agencies can work together to make sure every student has what they need for school.

Migrant Education The SBCOE Migrant Education Program provides support and services to students enrolled in Alternative Education programs, the Early Childhood Special Education Center and Out-of-School Youth in San Benito County. The Migrant Education Program served 32 students during the 22-23 school year and our Community and Family Service Specialist identified and recruited 49 Out-of-School youth during 2022-23. The services provided include, access to community resources, dental screening, vision screening, academic support, linkage and brokerage to community services to meet the basic needs of families.



Project Access In its inaugural year, Project Access gave students in foster care and those experiencing homelessness access to additional services and supports to help remove educational barriers. Services included access to academic supports such as after school tutoring and summer enrichment activities, access to rest through temporary hotel accommodations, and access to health/self care. Training for school staff and parents on strategies to help students and their families was also provided.

One goal of Project Access is to collaborate with community partners to better support students and families. During the holiday season, SBCOE gave away 200 Safeway gift cards, donated by the San Benito County Community Food Bank and 180 duffel bags through the My Stuff Bags Foundation. Students transitioning to foster care and those affected by the winter storm in January 2023 received the bags. My Stuff Bags are individual, mid-sized duffel bags filled with age and gender appropriate, brand new necessities such as clothing, school supplies, toiletries and comforts such as toys, books, a stuffed animal and a blanket. The bags are given to students in crisis or in transition and are one small way SBCOE helps students make it through a difficult time.

Empowering Students *Student Events*

Each year, students across San Benito County have the opportunity to showcase their talents through a variety of student events. Student winners in the Spelling Bee and the Science Fair portion of the STEAM Expo were able to complete in state-level competitions.



San Benito County Spelling Bee San Benito County Office of Education hosted the Countywide Spelling Bee on January 24, 2023 at Ladd Lane Elementary School. Students in grades 4-6 competed in the elementary division while students in grades 7-9 competed in the middle school division. The top two spellers in each division represented San Benito County at the California State Spelling Bee held at the San Joaquin County Office of Education, on May 13, 2023.

San Benito County Arts Showcase SBCOE partnered with the San Benito County Arts Council to host the 8th Annual San Benito County Arts Showcase on April 12, 2023 at Veteran's Memorial Building. Attendees viewed over 1800 pieces of student artwork on display and watched dance and music performances throughout the evening. Students also created their own artwork at booths sponsored by SBC Arts Council and Resource Area for Teachers (RAFT).



Math Festival On December 8, 2022 SBCOE hosted its first Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival, celebrating how fun math can be. The festival was an opportunity for students to gather and explore math in a collaborative atmosphere. Volunteers from the community and local K-12 schools served as Activity Leaders. Several hundred students and their parents were able to take part in thirteen different math games and activities throughout the evening.

Countywide STEAM Fair March 8, 2023 marked SBCOE's Annual STEAM Expo celebrating Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math. Students entered science projects, STEAM projects, inventions and artwork. Visitors were able to see live demonstrations by the Hollister High School Robotics Club while American Takii, Inc., A+ Tutoring, Gino Andrade, Hollister Hills SVRA, Jefferson Elementary School, RAFT, San Benito County Fire Department and UC Scout provided interactive science and art experiences. Over 125 students entered projects in seven different categories. Six students qualified for the California State Science & Engineering Fair held on April 11, 2023.



Supporting the Community
Building Relationships

San Benito County Office of Education understands that it takes a village to support our staff, students and families. We would not be able to educate our students without the generous donations and support from our community partners who provide resources and services to our educators and students across the county. Each month, the SBCOE Board of Education recognizes community partners who have had a significant impact on our schools with the Community Champion Award. Community Champions in 2022-23 were:

Community Foundation
San Benito Barbers
Community Solutions
Wonder Woofs
Ester Curtis (CASA)
Kneaded Culinary Academy
Kristy Bettencourt (San Benito High School District)
Hollister Elementary School District Facilities/Maintenance Department
Kris Mangano (Office of Emergency Services)
Heavenly Bakery
La Catrina Restaurant
Round Table Pizza
Running Rooster Restaurant

San Benito County Public Health During the COVID-19 pandemic, SBCOE and SBCPH worked closely together to provide guidance to ensure students and their families remained healthy and safe. As we returned to in person learning, this partnership has continued with collaborative events such as vaccine clinics and Narcan training and community efforts like the Opioid Task Force.

Community Solutions For many years, Community Solutions has provided counseling and educational programs around domestic abuse and dating violence. This year, their services expanded to include Prevention & Intervention services such as case management and counseling in several schools, increasing mental health support for students. These services will be expanded to include additional schools in 2023-24.





Community Food Bank of San Benito County Over the years, Community Food Bank of San Benito County has been instrumental in providing food to students in need in a variety of ways. The organization has collaborated with several districts to build food pantries at school sites so students can select food to bring home to their families. They have also brought their mobile food truck to many of SBCOE's events, including the Foster Youth & Homeless Resource Fair, allowing families to select fresh produce, boxed meal kits and other healthy options to ensure they have healthy food.

San Benito County Behavioral Health To expand Mental Health services in schools, SBCOE and San Benito County Behavioral Health have collaborated over the years to provide Prevention & Intervention services as well as mental health therapy. In the spring of 2022, SBCOE and SBCBH partnered on the Mental Health School Services Grant, which has resulted in a stronger, more deliberate collaboration that has brought all districts in the county together to expand school-based mental health services.

Supporting the Community

Community Involvement



San Benito County Fair Every October, SBCOE participates in the San Benito County Fair by hosting a booth celebrating education. As part of the 2022 theme, "Bring on the Fun", SBCOE's Early Childhood Special Education Preschoolers made the backdrop with their handprints . The rest of the booth highlighted ways students in San Benito county "Love 2 Learn" at the Fair and In the Classroom.

United San Benito In August, SBCOE partnered with United San Benito once again for the annual Stuff the Bus Event which provided backpacks and school supplies to students across the county. The highlight of the event was watching students select their backpack and seeing the smile and excitement on the face of each child. Thank you to the generous members of our community, we were able to provide 2,000 backpacks this year.

San Benito County Law Partnership Communities are stronger when schools and law enforcement work together. San Benito County's Law Partnership brings together district leaders, law enforcement agencies, probation and courts to discuss current trends. The partnership provides the opportunity for all agencies involved work together to keep students and the community safe.

Kids at the Park Each June, the San Benito County Free Library hosts the annual Kids at the Park Day, an interactive fair promoting the health and safety of children. Students who visited the SBCOE booth at the event were able to play cornhole, paint a rock with an inspirational message and make one of four different STEM projects. The event was a positive way to show students and families the many ways kids can have fun in a safe and healthy way.

Red Ribbon Week The San Benito County Office of Education, San Benito County Behavioral Health, Hollister Parks and Recreation and the City of Hollister kicked off Red Ribbon Week with the 34th Annual Red Ribbon Festival and 5k Run. Both events took place in downtown Hollister in front of the Veterans Memorial Building, where families across the county enjoyed a walk or run through our city streets. Youth received goodie bags filled with swag and educational messaging on a drug free life, and participants were able to peruse community informational booths for local resources and services.

To inspire students to be drug free, SBCOE once again arranged for a BMX Bike team to perform at several schools in the county. The team encourages students to participate in activities without drugs and alcohol.



Looking to the Future

As we enter the 2023-24 school year, the San Benito County Office of Education is ready to meet the challenges that may arise. Much of what we began over the past several years will continue, Collaborative efforts such as the Superintendent's Collaborative, SEL Community of Practice, Professional Learning around best practices, and Technical Assistance to districts by all SBCOE Departments will continue to evolve as we build our capacity and that of the educators around us. Through it all, we will continue to Engage, Encourage, Empower...Educate!

Building Bridges 2 Literacy In an effort to ensure students are reading on grade level so they can access curriculum, SBCOE's Building Bridges 2 Literacy Initiative began by focusing its efforts on students ages 0 to 3rd grade. With the establishment of our countywide English Learner Collaborative, the initiative has expanded to include *Learning How English Works*. This multi-year professional learning series, which began in July 2023, will provide coaching, build teacher capacity around the English Language Development Framework, and introduce strategies teachers can use to teach all students to become proficient in the English Language

To address literacy in mathematics, the *San Benito County Math Initiative 2.0* began in August 2023. Over the next five years, teachers at all grade levels will build their mathematical skills while learning strategies to engage students and help them truly understand how math works.

Arts Forward SBCOE recognizes the importance of arts education for all students. In an effort to provide equitable access to arts education, we began implementing our Countywide Arts Plan in 2021-22. Moving into the 2023-24 school year, educators in county schools will implement curriculum in the classroom that enhances the teaching in all subject areas while providing additional opportunities for students to learn and showcase their talents.

Healthy Minds, Healthy Lives Mental health continues to be a focus for SBCOE. With continued funding through several grants, including the Community Schools Grant, Student Behavioral Health Incentive Program (SBHIP) Grant and the Mental Health Student Service Act (MHSSA) Grant, SBCOE will provide leadership around building collaborative partnerships between schools and community agencies, coordination of efforts around service delivery, and training in best practices to ensure ALL students have access to high quality mental health services.

Teacher Induction As the SBCOE Teacher Induction Program enters its third year of operation, we have continued to make adjustments and revisions based on the feedback and needs of our participating teachers. Curriculum has become more responsive to individual teacher needs and we continue to provide robust professional learning for coaches so they are better able to support participating teachers. Much of our work this year will focus on preparing for a site visit from the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing that will take place in the fall of 2024 as part of the accreditation process.

Technology We have made great strides in addressing the the digital divide that affects many of our families in San Benito County. Through partnerships and grants, we have been able to provide access to more students than ever before. As we enter the 2023-24 school year, we will continue to look at additional funding opportunities and find ways to make technology safer and more secure for our students. As always, we will continue to collaborate with community agencies to improve access to students countywide while continuing to open new possibilities for student learning in the future.



Thank You

to our community agencies and partners for your support of SBCOE and the students in our county.

A+ Tutoring
American Electrical Services, Inc
American Legion Post 69
American Takii, Inc.
Anthony Botelho
Brent Redmond Transportation
California Mutual Insurance
City of Hollister
Clarice Felice
CMAP TV
Community Foundation for San Benito County
Community Pantry
County of San Benito
Dr. Armstrong
Focus Administrative Services
Gino Andrade
Granite Rock
Hollister Elks Lodge #1436
Hollister Hills SVRA
Hollister Lions Club
Hollister Police Department
Hollister Rotary Club
K&S Market, Inc.
LULAC
M & M Farms
Mountain Mike's Pizza
Pauline Dabo Mifsud
PG & E
Presbyterian Preschool
RAFT
RJR Recycling
Recology/Integrated Waste Management
San Benito Bene
San Benito County Arts Council
San Benito County Behavioral Health
San Benito County Board of Supervisors
San Benito County Fire Department
San Benito County Free Library
San Benito County Health & Human Services
San Benito County Probation
San Benito County Office of Emergency Services
San Benito County Public Health Department
San Benito County Sherriff
Target Corporation
Taylor Fresh Foods, Inc.
Teknova
Terra Cultura
UC Scout
United Way of San Benito County
VFW Post #9242
Women's Club of Hollister
YMCA of San Benito County
Youth Alliance

Krystal Lomanto, County Superintendent of Schools
San Benito County Office of Education
460 5th St
Hollister, CA 95023
831-637-5393
www.sbcoe.org