Sonoma County
Office of Education



2023-24

Sonoma County Office of Education Report to the Community

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Redwood Credit Union
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SANTA ROSA JUNIOR COLLEGE

Message
From The Superintendent



This report to the community offers an overview of TK-12 education in Sonoma County and highlights the efforts of the Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE) to support the over 64,000 students attending our public schools. While some of these programs have been fundamental to SCOE for many years, others are initiatives developed in response to community needs and emerging educational research.

Currently, we are in a period of transition for both SCOE and the districts we serve. Factors such as declining enrollment, the expiration of temporary funding to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and an anticipated state revenue shortfall exceeding $70 billion have resulted in many local schools facing difficult decisions, including cuts to essential services. These challenges have led to tough discussions at school board meetings regarding campus closures, staff layoffs, program reductions, and school district consolidation.

Despite these challenges, our schools have demonstrated resilience and adaptability in recent years. As we move forward from the disruptions caused by COVID-19, I am proud of our local administrators, educators, and all school employees who are working together to support and provide our students with the knowledge, skills, and mindset necessary to become well-rounded individuals and lifelong learners.

Entering my second year in office, my top priorities remain ensuring that all students in Sonoma County learn in an environment that prioritizes their physical and psychological **safety,** where they have equitable **access** to high-quality learning that gives them the **opportunity** to pursue their dreams. SCOE is prioritizing student safety and well-being, we are offering unique opportunities for student learning and teacher training, and we're innovating new ways to leverage community resources on behalf of all students. That includes outreach to members of the NAACP, Latino Service Providers, Free to Be, the Common Ground Society, and other community groups as we seek to close gaps in opportunity.

Our goal with this annual report is to raise community awareness around what we do as a county office of education while highlighting the great work of our team. This report outlines some of the core functions of the county office, including fiscal oversight, payroll administration, educational programs at juvenile hall, and provision of special education services.

The following pages introduce the exciting work of SCOE's School Culture and Partnerships team, established last year to explore the connections between students' sense of safety, school culture, and academic achievement. You will also learn about how our Equitable Education Services division assists Sonoma County's school districts in preparing for state-level changes, such as the forthcoming ethnic studies graduation requirement. And you will learn more about our efforts in supporting the implementation of transitional kindergarten and establishing best practices for California's diverse Universal Pre-Kindergarten system. We are excited to highlight these programs and more.

In conclusion, I extend heartfelt thanks to our dedicated staff, teachers, administrators, and community partners whose dedication shapes futures and nurtures potential beyond the classroom. Let's celebrate and honor these invaluable champions of education for their efforts to create school systems where every student can thrive.

Dr. Amie R. Carter
Sonoma County Superintendent of Schools

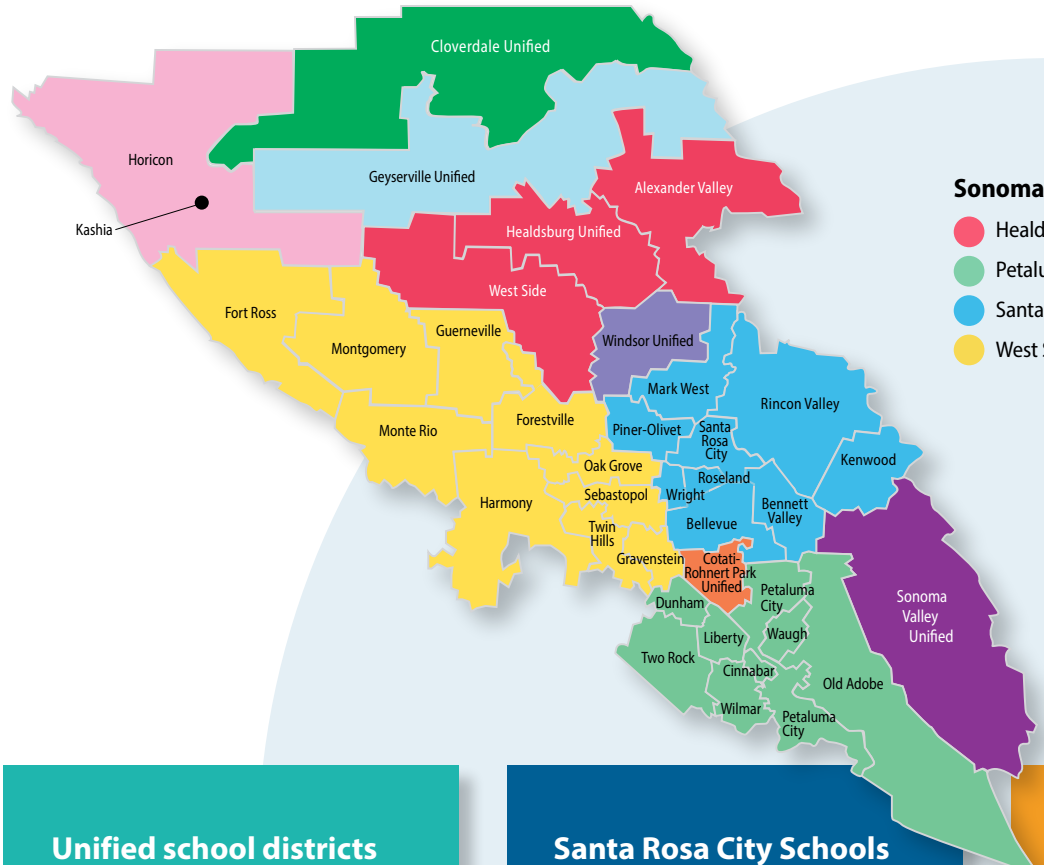


Educational **Overview**

The Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE) acts as an intermediary agency between the California Department of Education in Sacramento and Sonoma County's 40 public school districts, plus its charter schools. Each district in Sonoma County is governed by elected school board trustees. They provide community leadership as advocates for children, their district, and public schools, and ensure schools are responsive to local values, beliefs, and priorities. Trustees' responsibilities include hiring and evaluating a superintendent, who serves as a district's chief executive officer and is responsible for day-to-day operations. Trustees also adopt district policies, approve Local Control and Accountability Plans, adopt and monitor budgets, and track district performance and student achievement.

District **Unifications**

In recent years, some school boards have commissioned SCOE to finance studies that evaluate mergers of various combinations of the county's school districts. The studies have focused on Santa Rosa City Schools and its feeder elementary districts, as well as West Sonoma County Union High School District and its feeder elementary districts. In order to progress past an exploratory stage, a government body would need to take action, or voters would need to complete a successful petition process. No formal action has been taken to move forward with any of the scenarios outlined in the studies. In the event of two or more districts unifying, an entirely new school district would be created, with a newly elected board of trustees.



Sonoma County Public School Districts

- Healdsburg Unified School District
- Petaluma Joint Union High School District
- Santa Rosa City High School District
- West Sonoma County Union High School District

Unified school districts operate both elementary and secondary schools. Cloverdale, Cotati-Rohnert Park, Geyserville, Healdsburg, Sonoma Valley, and Windsor are unified districts.

Santa Rosa City Schools and Petaluma City Schools consist of distinct elementary and high school districts governed by a single board of trustees and administration.

Students at Horicon and Kashia elementary schools in northwest Sonoma County attend secondary school in Mendocino County to the north.

What the **County Office Does**

California's 58 county offices of education (COEs) act as a support system for their county's school districts and provide a range of services that can vary from county to county based on local needs. A core responsibility is to act as a fiscal overseer that ensures that local educational agencies can meet their financial commitments for the current school year and each of the two subsequent years.

Sonoma County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Amie Carter was elected to a four-year term that began in January 2023 and serves as chief executive officer of SCOE. Unlike a superintendent at a school district, she has broad authority to enact her platform and tailor SCOE's staffing and programs to align with her goals of safety, equitable access, and opportunity.

SCOE has three divisions, containing 10 departments that support operations at SCOE and throughout the county's 40 school districts. These departments provide an array of services and oversight, including in curriculum and instruction, early childhood education, technology support and infrastructure, credentialing and employee screening, migrant education, campus safety and culture, school finance, behavioral health, maintenance and facilities, and alternative education.



Dr. Diann Kitamura
Deputy Superintendent
Equitable Education Services



John Laughlin
Deputy Superintendent
Operations & Partnerships



Greg Medici
Deputy Superintendent
Business Support Services

SCOE and the **County Superintendent Do Not…**

… directly oversee or govern local school districts

The Sonoma County Office of Education is primarily a support agency. They do not oversee or direct staff at Sonoma County districts or schools. All decisions regarding the operations and policies at local schools are made by each district's elected board of trustees and the district superintendents they hire, in alignment with Education Code approved by the state Legislature.

Sonoma County **School Data**

482,650
TOTAL POPULATION*

$96,830
COUNTY MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME**

64,375
STUDENTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

171
NUMBER OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Enrollment **by School District**

112	Alexander Valley Union Elementary
1,586	Bellevue Union
951	Bennett Valley Union Elementary
207	Cinnabar Elementary
1,318	Cloverdale Unified
6,449	Cotati-Rohnert Park Unified
147	Dunham Elementary
224	Forestville Union Elementary
14	Fort Ross Elementary
211	Geyserville Unified
768	Gravenstein Union Elementary
360	Guerneville Elementary
504	Harmony Union Elementary
1,240	Healdsburg Unified
56	Horicon Elementary
8	Kashia Elementary
113	Kenwood
1,559	Liberty Elementary
1,305	Mark West Union Elementary
59	Monte Rio Union Elementary
21	Montgomery Elementary

** 2022 Census estimate*
*** Census Bureau, 2022*

Schools by Type

74	46	15	14
Elementary Schools	Charter Schools	Middle Schools/ Junior High	High Schools

14	4	4
Alternative/ Continuation Schools	School of Choice	Special Education Schools or Consortiums

1,217	Oak Grove Union Elementary
1,973	Old Adobe Union
2,410	Petaluma City Schools Elementary
4,926	Petaluma Joint Union High School
1,235	Piner-Olivet Union Elementary
3,072	Rincon Valley Union Elementary
2,766	Roseland
4,861	Santa Rosa City Schools Elementary
10,179	Santa Rosa City High Schools
764	Sebastopol Union Elementary
317	Sonoma County Office of Education
3,626	Sonoma Valley Unified
959	Twin Hills Union Elementary
133	Two Rock Union
775	Waugh Elementary
137	West Side Union Elementary
1,588	West Sonoma County Union High
219	Wilmar Union Elementary
4,727	Windsor Unified
1,279	Wright Elementary

All data in this report is from 2022-23 unless otherwise noted.

School Accountability

The California School Dashboard is designed to give a complete picture of how schools and districts are meeting the needs of all students. This accountability tool tracks indicators such as scores on state standardized tests, English learner progress, chronic absenteeism, suspension rates, college and career readiness, and graduation rates.

Visit **www.caschooldashboard.org** to learn more.





Stay Informed

Find SCOE on Social Media

/scoesonoma

/scoesonoma

/company/sonoma-county-office-of-education/

This summer, SCOE plans to launch a community newsletter with resources and information about Sonoma County schools and what's happening in education.

Click here or scan the QR code to sign up for the mailing list!

Funding **Our Schools**

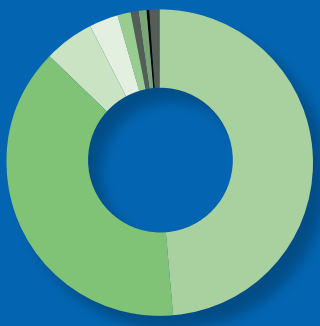
Primary funding for public schools in Sonoma County comes from the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), which was enacted in 2013-14. The formula allocates a base grant based on average daily attendance (ADA) and a grade span adjustment is added to the base grant for grades TK-3 and 9-12. Districts and charters are eligible for an additional 20% supplemental grant and some are eligible for 65% concentration grants per student for students with higher needs. These students include multilingual learners, children from low-income families, and youth who are experiencing homelessness or in foster homes.

For the 2023-24 school year, about 15 districts in Sonoma County are community-funded, or basic-aid districts. These districts receive 100% of their core LCFF funding from property taxes, and also get to keep any excess local property taxes that exceed the LCFF's core funding threshold.

SCOE and its external fiscal team are responsible for monitoring school districts' budgets and revenue to ensure they can meet their financial commitments for the current school year as well as the two subsequent years. In addition, SCOE processes revenues and payroll for all public schools in the county.

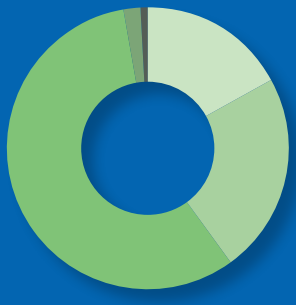


Enrollment by **Ethnicity**



48.7%	Hispanic or Latino
38.6%	White
5.3%	Two or More Races
3.0%	Asian
1.5%	African American
0.8%	Filipino
0.7%	American Indian or Alaska Native
0.4%	Pacific Islander
0.9%	Not Reported

Diverse Learners **Snapshot**



9,444	Students With Disabilities
12,594	Multilingual Learners
31,515	Socioeconomically Disadvantaged Students
1,024	Homeless Students
389	Foster Youth

High School Graduation and **College Attendance Rates**



86.7%	Four-Year Graduation Rate
60.6%	Four-Year and Community College Going Rate*

** 2020-21 School Year*





SchoolsRule Sonoma County
A New Way to Give Back

SCHOOLSRULE SONOMA COUNTY

With more than 3,000 registered nonprofits, Sonoma County is rich with ways to give back to the community. But while dozens of education foundations raise money on behalf of students, not every school has a nonprofit raising funds on its behalf. The county has long lacked a way for donors to support every student at Sonoma County's public schools.

That changed in November, when SCOE and County Superintendent Dr. Amie Carter launched SchoolsRule Sonoma County. The new fundraising effort distributes donations equally on a per-student basis countywide and works alongside the region's existing education foundations.

SchoolsRule Sonoma County is based on a model pioneered by SchoolsRule-Marin, which has raised millions of dollars for Marin County's students over the past 12 years.

An initial wave of donors joined the Sonoma County effort at a November launch event hosted by Redwood Credit Union that featured Dr. Carter and California state Senate President Pro Tempore Mike McGuire, D-Healdsburg. Several more supporters have signed up since. As of this spring, SchoolsRule has raised more than $150,000 in cash and in-kind contributions.

Business partners to join the effort include Redwood Credit Union, The Press Democrat, Exchange Bank, Friedman's Home Improvement, Sutter Health, and Chandi Hospitality Group. But this is just the beginning.

For more information, visit **schoolsrulesonomacounty.org.**

"SchoolsRule is a one-stop shop that will uplift the lives of every public school student, in every school district, on every campus, in every corner of this great county for generations to come."

– Mike McGuire
California state Senate President Pro Tempore

A 'Whole School' **Approach**

SCOE's School Culture and Partnerships department was formed in 2023 to address issues of campus safety and culture. A growing body of research shows the most successful schools are strong not just in academics, but in family engagement, attention to safety, fair and consistent discipline policies, student health and well-being, and school connectedness.



Assessing **School Culture**

It Takes a Community to Understand Our Community

Each school year, SCOE assists dozens of Sonoma County school districts with the administration of surveys conducted in partnership with national nonprofit YouthTruth and community organizations. These important school climate surveys assess how students, families, and staff are experiencing school. School districts use this data in the formulation of state-mandated educational plans, as well as to develop and tailor programs to student, family, and staff needs. The School Culture and Partnerships team works to encourage survey participation, interpret the results, and develop meaningful action and follow-through. This spring, the team plans to deliver detailed school culture reports and recommendations to each of Sonoma County's comprehensive high schools.

Safe School **Ambassadors**



During the 2023-24 school year, SCOE funded Community Matters' Safe School Ambassadors program at middle and high schools in Sonoma County. Formed in the aftermath of the Columbine school shooting, the Santa Rosa-based nonprofit has worked for more than 20 years to improve school climate around the world. Their staff train students to safely intervene and de-escalate minor incidents on campus, as well as how to recognize when to get an adult involved. Ambassadors are identified through student and staff surveys and have demonstrated strong position and influence in their peer group, good communication skills, and a history of standing up for friends.



School **Safety**

The Culture and Partnerships team is using SCOE's countywide role and relationships with other governmental agencies to help standardize school responses to emergencies. This involves improving communications among schools and first responders so that all campuses in a geographic area can be notified of a local emergency, regardless of how many school districts they span or whether they are public or private schools. Schools and first responder agencies are encouraged to adopt standardized terminology and responses to specific types of campus emergencies in order to create more consistent, understandable, and transparent security procedures. Lastly, the department is working to implement behavioral threat assessments. This allows a multidisciplinary team to review and evaluate behaviors by a student that could pose a danger to the student or others. The assessments aim to connect students and families with critical county services and resources to prevent harmful incidents before they occur.



Preparing **for Life After School**

YouthTruth surveys and other research show that students are more engaged when there is a clear through-line between their coursework and their plans for what comes after high school. SCOE's College and Career Readiness team works with Sonoma County schools to make sure graduating seniors are prepared for what comes next, whether it's a career in the trades, a four-year university degree, or a program at Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC).

SCOE's work-ready certificate program, guided by Sonoma County's Portrait of a Graduate, prepares students to enter the workforce after high school by helping them build a digital portfolio and providing them with experience interviewing with a panel of key local employers.

YouthTruth
STUDENT SURVEY
A NATIONAL NONPROFIT

Working with local school districts and community partners like the Career Technical Education Foundation and 10,000 Degrees, SCOE has helped to expand career pathways and increase college access. To support this work, SCOE has been the lead agency on grants that brought several million dollars to districts to help develop career pathways that address regional workforce needs. These include agriculture, health, education, hospitality, technology, and manufacturing.

SCOE is engaged in discussions with Sonoma State University and SRJC to ensure Sonoma County students have opportunities to earn college credits while they are still in high school, with the goal of early college access for all students. We support Sonoma State's efforts to offer guaranteed admission to seniors who meet certain requirements at several Sonoma County school districts.



County **Board of Education**

The Sonoma County Board of Education has five members elected by voters in trustee areas that roughly correlate to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors districts. They serve four-year terms, which are staggered to encourage continuity. The Sonoma County Superintendent of Schools serves as the ex-officio secretary to the county board.

The trustees are responsible for overseeing SCOE's alternative education program, which includes SCOE academies and juvenile hall. The trustees adopt SCOE's budget and set the county superintendent's salary. They also serve as the appellate body for student expulsions, interdistrict transfers, and charter school petitions. Each trustee also acts as a liaison between SCOE and the districts in their trustee areas.



Andrew Leonard
Area 3, President, Central County
Term Runs Through 2024



Dr. Steven Herrington
Area 4, North County
Term Runs Through 2026



Gina Cuclis
Area 1, Vice President
Southeast County
Term Runs Through 2024



Herman G. Hernandez
Area 5, Northwest County
Term Runs Through 2024



Peter Kostas
Area 2, Southwest County
Term Runs Through 2026

Alternative **Education**



SCOE works to ensure that every student in the county has the opportunity to receive the best possible education. Alternative Education programs provide direct instruction to students situated farthest from opportunity who, for a variety of reasons, are not attending school in their home district.

As part of its Alternative Education program, SCOE operates both community and court schools, in line with the state's efforts to provide an education to every student.

Amarosa Academy in Santa Rosa and Headwaters Academy in Petaluma are the two community schools. They serve students who are experiencing difficulties in traditional school settings or who are exhibiting negative behavior patterns in school or the community. Many have been expelled from a district school, identified as habitually truant, placed on probation by the juvenile court, or otherwise referred by a district, probation, or social service agency. The program emphasizes reestablishing the educational direction of students by providing a learning environment that meets their needs. Often, students in these programs eventually return to classrooms in their home districts.



Amarosa is home to an independent study program as well as the Adera Teen Parent Program, which provides childcare, parenting resources, and related support services to help pregnant and parenting students continue their education and graduate from high school.

The school at Sonoma County's Juvenile Justice Center serves girls and boys, ages 12 to 18, who have been arrested and booked on criminal charges and are either serving time or awaiting disposition by the court. They begin participation in school within 24 hours of their detention, with enrollment varying from one day to several months.

In the 2022-23 school year, SCOE's community and court schools served approximately 95 students daily and more than 300 students annually from throughout the county.

Special **Education**

An Inclusive, Individualized Approach

SCOE's Special Education department offers instruction and services for children ages 3 to 22 who have physical, emotional, cognitive, or developmental disabilities. Each has been identified to receive specialized instruction through an individualized education program (IEP).



The department prioritizes opportunity and access and works to support inclusive opportunities. SCOE special education classrooms are located on school campuses throughout the county, an approach that creates access to general education settings to the extent determined by students' IEP teams. Research has shown that students who receive special education services benefit academically and that all students benefit socially when students are educated together as much as possible.

SCOE, in partnership with districts and the Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA), have focused on keeping children in their neighborhood schools when possible. This has resulted in a decline in the number of students who receive special education services directly from SCOE.

Staff are certificated and trained to work with populations with specific disabilities, such as students who are deaf or hard of hearing, or those who are blind or visually impaired. This includes students who are learning to read and communicate using Braille. These specialists visit schools throughout the county and provide support tailored to students' levels of need. SCOE also has certificated school nurses and licensed vocational nurses to support children with significant healthcare needs to access education on general education campuses.

SCOE's Transition program teaches job and life skills to young adults eligible for special education services, ages 18-22. Program activities take place at various community settings, including work sites, banks, and public transportation. The program is designed to help students become as independent as possible. They receive instruction in how to navigate public transportation, budget earnings, make purchases, and behave appropriately in various settings. As they work to graduate from the program, they fine-tune their work abilities, determine their job preferences, grow their independence, and secure competitive employment where they are fully integrated into their work site.

SCOE actively collaborates with the Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) director, staff, and governing board to support its goals. The SELPA is responsible for monitoring and ensuring that there is a continuum of educational services available to students with all types of learning needs. Sonoma County has two SELPAs, one that is a consortium of all districts in Sonoma County and one that is a consortium of charter schools from several locations around the state.



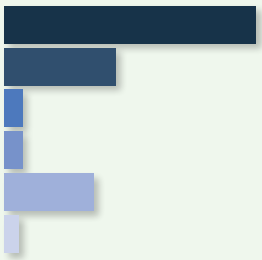
Professional **Development**

SCOE supports schools countywide with information, resources, networking opportunities, and professional development for all types of school employees. We also promote opportunities involving outside groups, such as arts programs through Creative Sonoma and the Luther Burbank Center that aim to improve every child's access to a well-rounded arts education.

Some of the 2023-24 offerings have covered how to:

- Meet the unique needs of students from multilingual or migrant households
- Interrupt, question, and educate in response to biased speech, racism, discrimination, prejudice and stereotypes
- Understand and implement shifts in state educational policy and practice
- File state-mandated financial reports and process payroll
- Identify and support equitable practices in classrooms
- Introduce behavioral assessments that interrupt potentially dangerous activity and connect students in crisis with comprehensive social services

Staffing **Snapshot**



8,214 School Employees in Sonoma County
3,631 Credentialed Teachers
589 Administrators
590 Pupil Services
2,919 Classified Staff
485 Other

Educational **Events**



SCOE produces and supports events that serve students and families countywide.

Several SCOE initiatives support multilingual learners, including the Multilingual Learner and Migrant Parent Leadership Institute. This daylong event, conducted entirely in Spanish, provides parents with knowledge and resources to empower them to advocate for their students.

The STEAM Showcase at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds features hundreds of innovative projects exploring science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics. During the full-day event, students present projects and engage in hands-on activities and challenges.



In the spring, SCOE sponsors Los Cien's "Youth Perspectives" event. It is planned entirely by students, celebrates the arts, and highlights a diverse panel of unfiltered voices reflecting how our high school students are experiencing school.

In May, the Sonoma County Robotics Challenge engages students in grades 4 through 8 in applying concepts from math, science, and engineering to build Lego robots. Teams of students take part in events such as off-road racing, robot sumo wrestling, and king of the hill.

Behavioral Health & **Well-Being**

Supporting Mental Health

Started in the aftermath of the 2017 firestorm that devastated Sonoma County, SCOE's Behavioral Health & Well-Being team works to support the mental health of our region's students and school staff. They often serve as immediate responders to crises such as natural disasters and campus tragedies. Their longer-term work includes providing culturally responsive and inclusive professional development, helping establish campus wellness centers, and raising awareness of suicide and how to prevent it. The team prioritizes support for those situated furthest from opportunity.

The department also provides mental health services at some of Sonoma County's smaller, rural districts, which can lack the resources to have a clinician on staff. To help address a growing need for school-based mental health providers, SCOE partners with universities to supervise masters-level interns who provide counseling services under the direction of a licensed supervisor. This program aligns with SCOE's mission as an educational institution and works to address a general shortage of mental health clinicians in our community, encouraging emerging clinicians to consider providing service in schools.

With the expiration of one-time funding related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the department is working with districts to ensure the long-term sustainability of programs that support students' mental health needs.







Wellness **Centers**

Behavioral Health & Well-Being staff are engaged with Sonoma County school districts that are working to open wellness centers at some of their high school campuses. These spaces are designed with students to serve their physical, social, and emotional needs in a setting distinct from the principal's office, which is often associated with discipline. The centers increase student access to mental health and wellness services, making it clear how to get support on campus. Staffed by two full-time team members, the drop-in space offers a place for students to refer themselves or a friend for support as well as an opportunity for coping, self-regulation, and self-care during the school day. Each wellness center has a youth council that shares in decision-making at the wellness center. This provides a leadership opportunity to a diverse group of students and helps make sure they have input into programs and supports that are offered. Wellness centers further destigmatize mental health through schoolwide events, community partnerships, and classroom presentations.



2,678

School employees and community members who attended SCOE's suicide prevention trainings

20

School-based mental health clinicians on the Behavioral Health & Well-Being team



Implementing **Ethnic Studies**

A consistent body of research shows that student educational outcomes improve when all learners see themselves reflected in the curriculum.

Starting with the Class of 2030, California will be the first U.S. state to require a semester of ethnic studies for graduation. Schools must offer the courses beginning in the 2025-26 school year.

Although the state provides a model ethnic studies curriculum, individual school districts have broad latitude in determining what is taught in their classrooms. Generally, schools are encouraged to center populations that either historically were present in the community or are still present. Specifically, the curriculum will provide students the opportunity to learn, recognize and celebrate the histories, struggles, cultures, and contributions of Native Americans, African Americans, Chicanos and Latinos, and Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Scan or click here to read the state's model ethnic studies curriculum.

SCOE's Teaching & Learning department supports the county's nine districts that operate comprehensive high schools as they develop curriculum to uplift our students and reflect our community's history and cultures. This includes collaborating with educators from Sonoma, Mendocino, Lake, and Humboldt counties to create customized ethnic studies lesson plans that promote equity and inclusion. This work extends beyond the social sciences to cover a range of disciplines, including visual and performing arts as well as science, technology, engineering, the arts, and math.



The Right **To Read**

How SCOE and Local Schools Are Using the Science of Reading

All students have a right to learn to read, and the Sonoma County Office of Education is committed to ensuring this right becomes a reality for all students. Children who can read proficiently by 3rd grade are four times less likely to drop out of high school, and face much lower rates of future incarceration, homelessness, and unemployment.

While learning to speak occurs automatically for most children, learning to read is not a natural process. Decades of research called the Science of Reading has shown how children learn to read. The research reveals that students need direct, explicit instruction that helps them connect sounds with letters (phonics) while also building comprehension skills.

Over the past two years, SCOE has worked to raise awareness about the Science of Reading and to help districts and schools implement research-based instruction. Nearly 300 teachers and administrators have dedicated multiple evenings to learn more about the Science of Reading and how to implement strategies in their classrooms. SCOE staff has also consulted directly with district and school leaders about instructional materials, assessments, and classroom instruction.

This summer, SCOE is excited to launch its inaugural Literacy Fellowship, an opportunity for 120 educators from across the county to receive training and ongoing coaching around early literacy instruction. SCOE is committed to supporting our educators as they shift instruction to align with the Science of Reading. SCOE partners with local groups such as K-3 Innovation and ReadOn Sonoma, as our community makes a broad effort to help more students reach the critical benchmark of 3rd-grade literacy.





What Is **Transitional Kindergarten?**

To meet the early education needs of young children and their families, school districts in Sonoma County and throughout California are phasing in transitional kindergarten (TK). This optional expansion of kindergarten will be available to all 4-year-olds at no cost by 2025-26.

Part of a two-year kindergarten program, TK is one of several educational choices available to families with 4-year-olds within the universal prekindergarten system. Sonoma County families also have the option to send children to programs that include California State Preschool, Head Start, community-based or private preschool programs, licensed family child care, or family, friend and neighbor care.





SCOE's Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) team partners with school districts and community groups to help ensure all 4-year-olds have access to rich educational opportunities grounded in the latest research. The team provides professional learning opportunities for all educators who serve young learners that support the development of essential social, emotional, and academic foundations.

All public school districts are required to offer a TK option for families, though not every school is required to have its own TK class. To learn more about what your child's school district offers, contact the district directly.

To be eligible for TK, children must meet the age requirements listed on the chart above and have received the same immunizations required for kindergarten.

North Coast **School of Education**

The North Coast School of Education (NCSOE), housed within SCOE, partners with the state Commission on Teacher Credentialing to provide several lower-cost credentialing programs for teachers and aspiring administrators.

The two-year "Be a Teacher" program allows interns to work as classroom instructors during the day and attend credentialing courses outside school hours. Costs for Be a Teacher are often partly or fully covered by subsidies, scholarships, and grants. A one-year Preliminary Administrative Services Credential Program equips experienced educators with the skills to become visionary and courageous administrators. In both programs, candidates attend credentialing courses outside school hours while receiving ongoing support, including from mentors and course instructors.



NCSOE is dedicated to removing barriers that can block access to the teaching profession for those from lower-income backgrounds. Its work is grounded in equity and aims to encourage the development of an educational workforce that reflects the North Coast's rich diversity.

Sonoma County
Office of Education









Sonoma County Office of Education
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www.scoe.org | communications@scoe.org

Find Your School District, Elected Officials Based on Your Street Address

Get in Touch With Your Local School District at SCOE's Online Directory