



Annual Report

TO THE
COMMUNITY

2023-24





Inspiring and leading innovation in education



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A Message from the Superintendent

Dear Partner in Education,

The San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) goal of reducing childhood poverty and increasing belongingness is what moves our work forward on behalf of students. I'm pleased to share our 2023-24 annual report to the community, which details some of our progress.

Schools are an essential part of our communities with the power to bring people together in profound ways. They can be places that connect and embrace the students, families, and community members with learning, support, and resources to live and thrive.

The SDCOE team is uniquely positioned to create a culture of belongingness where all of our employees and students, and those in the schools we support, together identify and build upon the opportunities and resources needed to succeed.

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

This new year holds immense possibilities. SDCOE will continue to be a trusted partner to the districts and schools in San Diego County. We will also continue to strengthen relationships with our community partners, and we will build on the work within our own organization to achieve our North Star goal of reducing poverty in San Diego County.

Visit www.sdcoe.net/Annual-Report and follow @SanDiegoCOE on social media to stay up to date on county education news and information. If you would like to learn more about any subjects that are addressed in the report, please don't hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,



Dr. Gloria E. Ciriza

San Diego County Superintendent of Schools
superintendent@sdcoe.net



Explore more at 
www.sdcoe.net/annual-report

The Role of County Offices

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

The Role of the Superintendent

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

The Role of the San Diego County Board of Education

2024-25 BOARD MEMBERS



Dr. Gregg Robinson
District 1



Guadalupe González
District 2



Alicia Muñoz
District 3



Dr. Erin Evans
District 4



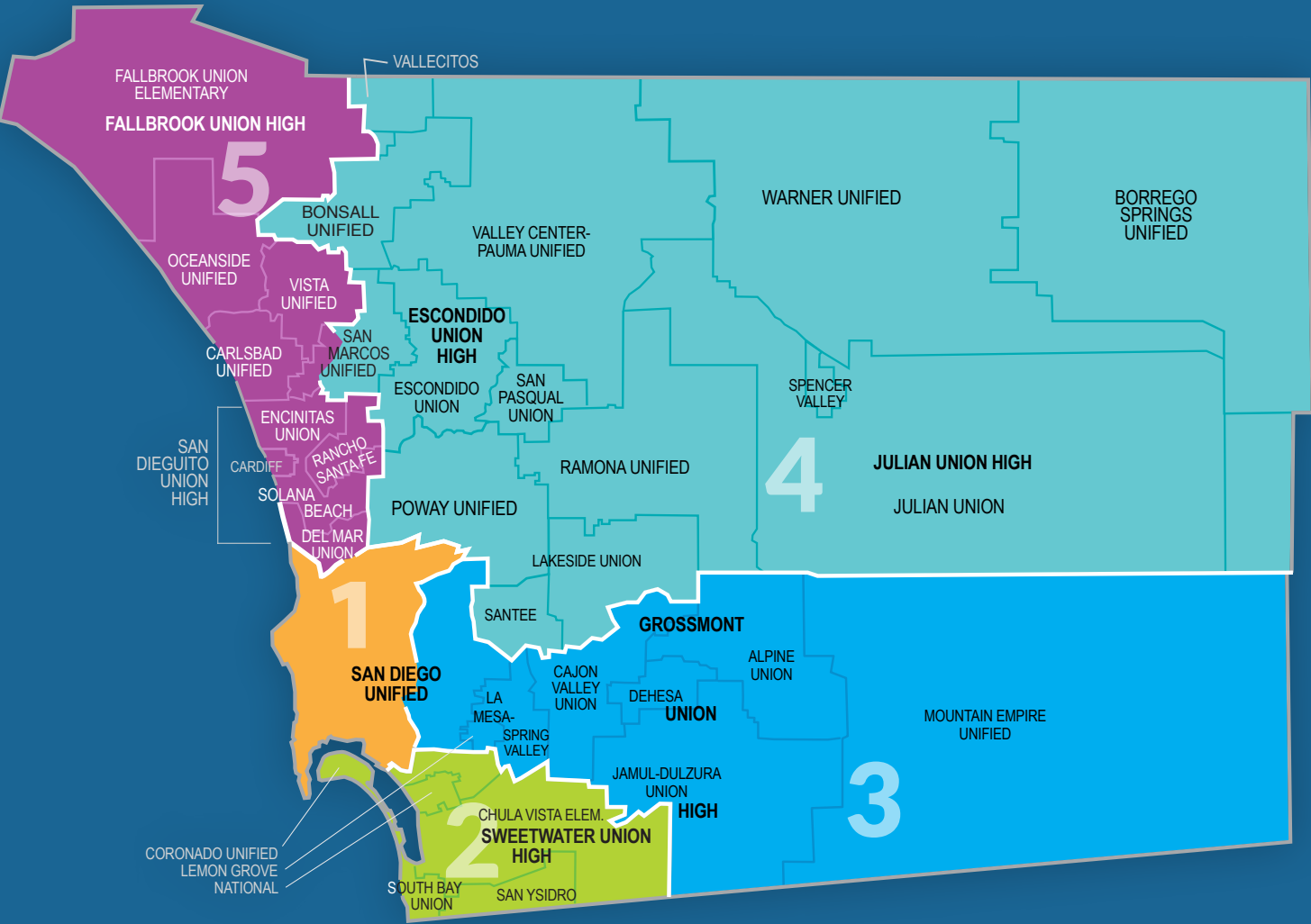
Rick Shea
District 5

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

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

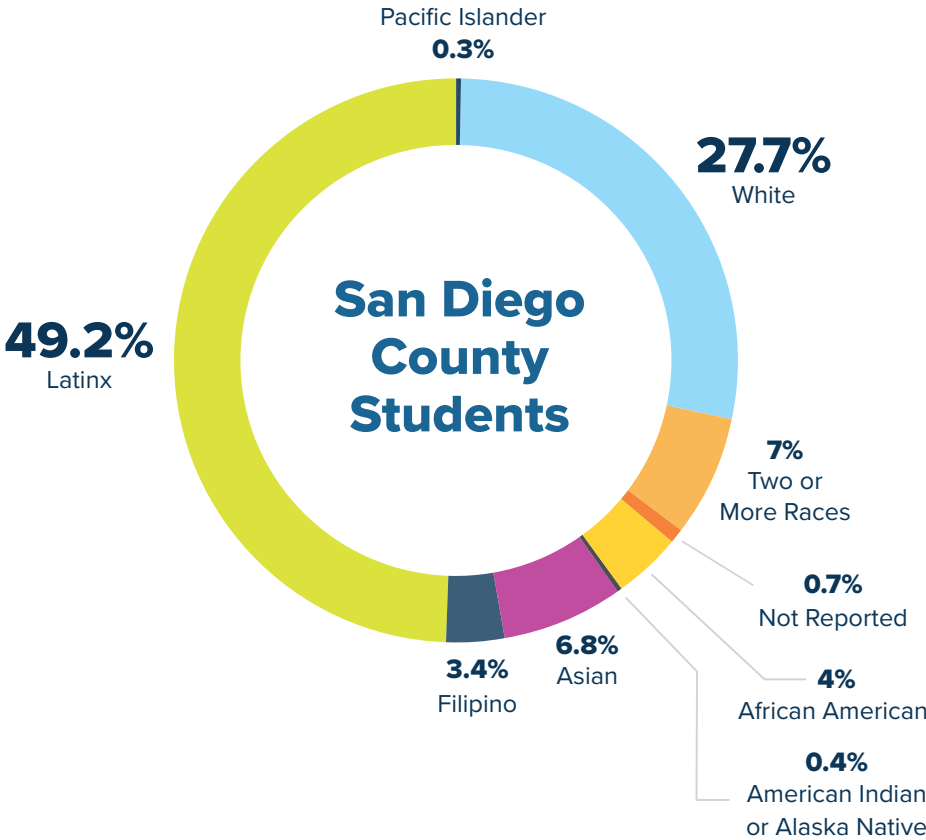
Through its role of long-range policy development and other critical functions, the board works with the county superintendent of schools to offer the most effective education programs and district support services. The board also encourages the involvement of families and communities, and is a vehicle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

Board Areas



Demographics

Source: CDE DataQuest 2024



ENROLLMENT

African American	19,463
American Indian or Alaska Native	2,040
Asian	32,668
Filipino	16,690
Hispanic or Latino	235,573
Pacific Islander	1,739
White	132,904
Two or More Races	33,696
Not Reported	3,402

Total Enrollment 478,175

Students who qualify for free or reduced price meals

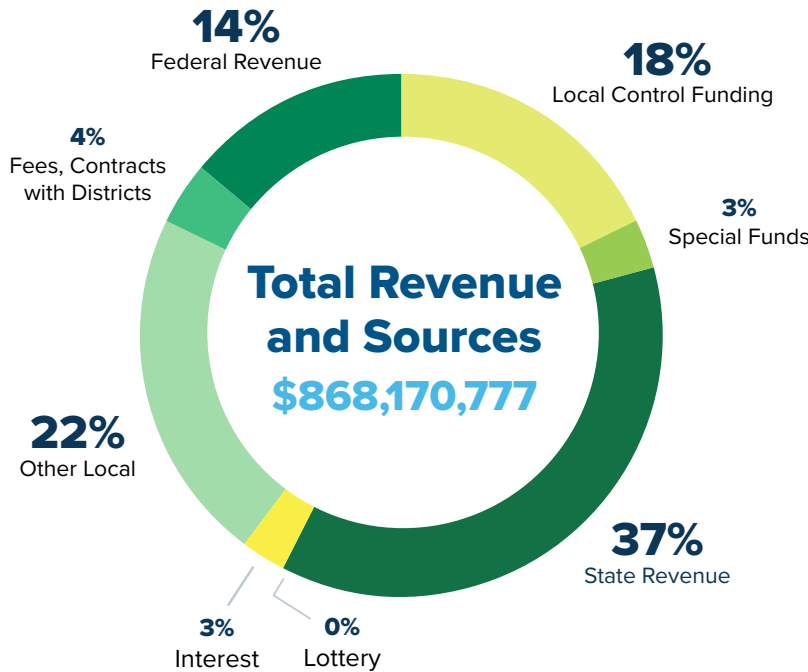
County: 250,249 **52.3%**
Enrollment: 478,175

State: 3,599,733 **61.7%**
Enrollment: 5,837,690



Revenue and Sources

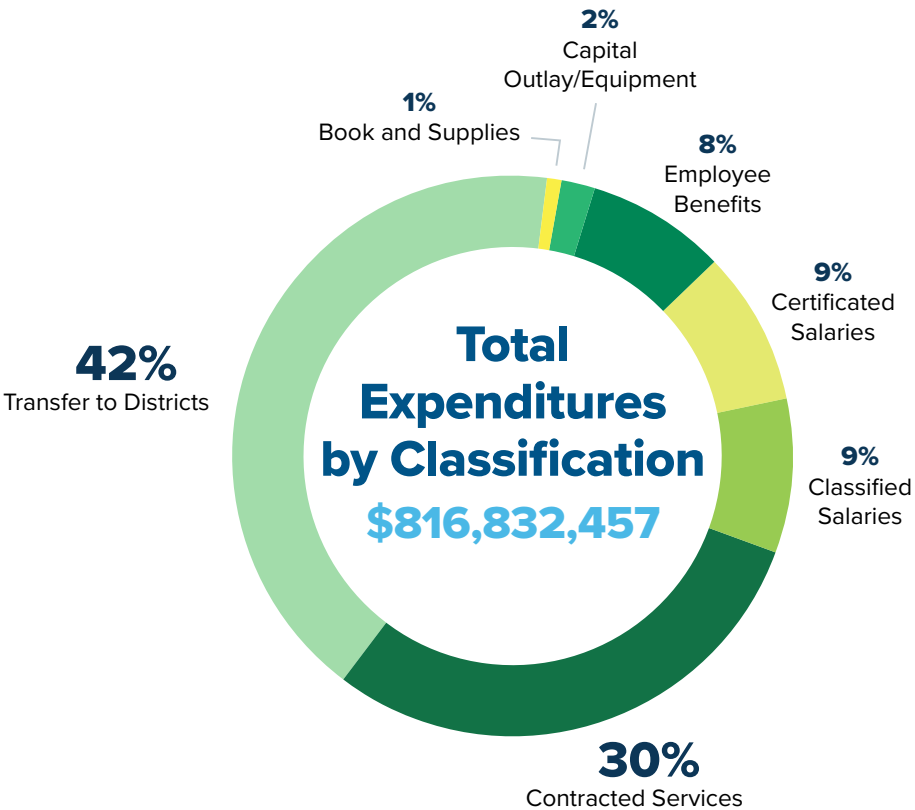
2023-24 Unaudited Actuals



State Revenue	\$321,254,539
Other Local	\$188,283,237
Local Control Funding	\$152,977,158
Federal Revenue	\$122,516,371
Fees, Contracts with Districts	\$34,026,925
Special Funds	\$26,863,655
Interest	\$21,804,329
Lottery	\$444,563

Expenditures By Classification

2023-24 Unaudited Actuals



Transfer to Districts	\$340,539,236
Contracted Services	\$243,152,663
Classified Salaries	\$77,022,350
Certificated Salaries	\$69,797,495
Employee Benefits	\$65,898,674
Capital Outlay/ Equipment	\$13,869,186
Books and Supplies	\$6,552,853

Partnerships Power Thriving Community Schools

The San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) and the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) are driving the effort to reimagine schools as community hubs where students, families, staff, and community members thrive.

Nearly 200 educators convened for the first community schools network meeting co-hosted by SDCOE and HHSA to learn about the community schools strategy, which addresses a student’s academic, social and emotional, physical, and mental well-being, and how county services can bolster that effort.

“Only in our wildest dreams did we think this partnership with the County Office of Education could be so successful,” said Carey Riccitelli, director of the county’s Office of Strategy and Innovation, who welcomed attendees. “SDCOE and HHSA are realizing the Live Well San Diego vision of working toward a common dream of healthy, safe, and thriving families throughout San Diego County.”

Throughout the meeting, participants were encouraged to connect with people from different organizations; share and align assets, services, and resources; and gain understanding and build on some of the shifts in public services and education in San Diego County.

“We’ve all heard the proverb, ‘It takes a village to raise a child,’ and the beauty of the community schools strategy is that any school can be a community school,” said Dr. Erin Mahoney, senior director of community schools at SDCOE. “Today was the first step toward actualizing our vision of creating partnership opportunities between our schools and HHSA. The possibilities are endless.”

Pam Smith, director of the HHSA Live Well Schools initiative, described how, in 2023, SDCOE and HHSA began discussing how the two organizations could strengthen their partnerships and align resources and expertise to be more responsive to the needs of the students and families we serve.

“SDCOE’s community schools work is perfectly aligned with what we’re doing with Live Well Schools,” Smith said. “Place matters in our health, place matters in our safety, and place matters if we’re going to thrive. Schools are the best place for us to connect with kids and families.”



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“Only in our wildest dreams did we think this partnership with the County Office of Education could be so successful”

— Carey Riccitelli, director of the county’s Office of Strategy and Innovation



“Having security measures in place helps protect student and employee data, which is important in maintaining the community’s trust.”

— Terry Loftus, SDCOE assistant superintendent and chief information officer



SDCOE Leading in Cybersecurity Efforts

As cyber attacks against educational institutions have increased, the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) has been leading the way in cybersecurity efforts locally and across the state.

SDCOE was the first county office of education in the state to fully implement multi-factor authentication — and the transition occurred during the height of the pandemic. SDCOE is also the creator of a widely used platform that simulates phishing attacks as an ongoing training for school employees.

As with everything at SDCOE, it’s not just about our organization, but scaling what works best to support others.

“Having security measures in place helps protect student and employee data, which is important in maintaining the community’s trust,” said Terry Loftus, SDCOE assistant superintendent and chief information officer. “The Integrated Technology Services (ITS) team continues working behind the scenes every day to secure and defend our data systems and help other county offices and districts do the same.”

And that work is becoming increasingly important with phishing attacks targeting local schools and districts increasing and becoming more sophisticated. The Red Herring phishing awareness program, created by SDCOE to address a need for low-cost, effective cybersecurity training, has grown to about 200,000 users in more than 100 local educational agencies across California. This system enables schools, districts, and county offices of education to simulate phishing attacks and help train staff members to better identify suspicious emails and other security threats. You’ve no doubt seen a few of these emails yourself with urgent requests to click links, misspelled words, and strange email addresses.

SDCOE’s multi-factor authentication implementation has been hailed across the state as a model for other educational agencies. The ITS team continues to provide workshops and training, and on-board new local educational agencies onto cybersecurity services that make a positive impact on students and families.

Student Voice Amplified at First JCCS Poetry Slam

With music and dancing, the environment was festive and inviting for students, parents, and staff from the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) and its Juvenile Court and Community Schools (JCCS) as they gathered for the first JCCS Poetry Slam.

Students from nearly all JCCS campuses, including Bayside Community School, Youth Transition Campus, and Career Technical Education Center, read poems they wrote as part of their spring writing projects or from a favorite author. Poems were delivered in both English and Spanish, and some danced while they read. Students who were unable to attend also submitted pre-recorded readings that were played in between live readings and live music. In all, more than 30 students participated with staff and parents packing the audience in support.

“JCCS is all about empowering student voice. We’re always looking for opportunities to hear our student’s stories and they all have stories,” said JCCS Instructional Coach Melanie Karaffa, who helped coordinate the event. “What was important about the event is that their culture came out, their language came out, their experiences came out, and you saw a vast array of topics from deep to light-hearted. Our students are creative and any time they have a space to share, they rise to the occasion.”

Mateo, a student at Bayside, served as emcee and guided the event through in-person and pre-recorded readers, offering encouragement to all. San Pasqual Academy students took photos of the event.



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— Dr. Theresa Price, National College Resources Foundation



African American Graduates Celebrated at Rites of Passage Ceremony

African American high school graduates from throughout San Diego County were celebrated with a special Rites of Passage ceremony hosted by the National College Resources Foundation (NCRF) in partnership with the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) and the Association of African American Educators (AAAE).

More than 80 students participated in the ceremony, which included performances by Anjanae Hassell, Pink Polish Dance and Drill Team, and Spoken Word Artist Joe McClain. Scholarships were presented in the amount of \$500 and \$250. Each senior graduate received a kente cloth, which signifies they are ready for the next step in their life, and the 8th grade graduates received an African bracelet.

"The Rites of Passage is an African tradition of celebrating the transition from one phase of life to the next and it's celebrated with the 'village,' or family," said Dr. Theresa Price, NCRF founder and CEO. "It is important because we want our young graduates to know that they are valued and they matter and we want to celebrate their accomplishments."

Members of the Black community have shared that they wish to see their positive contributions and accomplishments celebrated by school systems. Feedback from SDCOE's Black Advisory Group was incorporated into SDCOE's Equity Blueprint for Action, which focuses on improving educational outcomes for African American, American Indian, and Latinx students. While the Blueprint addresses the interconnected and specific needs of these communities, SDCOE also aims to support and celebrate other historically marginalized groups.



Explore more at



www.sdcoe.net/annual-report

More than 100 people representing 17 languages participated in this first-time event, including government officials from Spain, France, and the Philippines.



The San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) World Languages and Global Competence Day event featured a mini-conference, world languages instructional materials fair, and an end-of-year celebration for its Two Shores program.

More than 100 people representing 17 languages participated in this first-time event, including government officials from Spain, France, and the Philippines. “The vision for this inaugural edition of this special day was to welcome onto the SDCOE campus educators representing all languages and cultures, with special emphasis on less commonly taught languages, to celebrate and learn together, and to showcase the power of being multilingual,” said Dr. Eva Pandos-Solis, world languages coordinator for SDCOE.

“We were also excited to host seven breakout sessions for our mini-conference that were presented in partnership with long-time international and local collaborators such as the Spanish Consulate, the Language Acquisition Resource Center at SDSU, the Global Education Project, and California Association for Bilingual Educators. San Diego County local educational agencies, such as San Diego Unified, Poway Unified, Chula Vista, Del Mar Union and Coronado Unified school districts also came together to showcase their early start world languages programs.”

The day started with a celebration and a showcase of SDCOE’s Two Shores program so educators could see how to incorporate ideas from participating schools, or participate in the program in the future. The Two Shores virtual intercultural exchange program partners schools in San Diego County with similar schools in Spain, France, and the Philippines. The purpose of the Two Shores program is to provide participating schools opportunities for authentic and meaningful collaboration to expand horizons, remove barriers, and promote communication, intercultural understanding, and global competence.

Joining the event were the Education Office of the Spanish Consulate, the Philippine Consulate General, and the Consulate General of France as well as participants via Zoom from all three participating countries.

SDCOE Celebrates World Languages and Global Competence

Friendship School Students Get Tech Experience

Friendship School is an Imperial Beach campus operated by the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) that supports students from age 3 to 22 who have multiple severe disabilities with health impairments. This year, three of our older students and their parents experienced esports, robotics, and drones with a visit to the Linda Vista Innovation Center.

The programming was similar to what most students get at the site, with some adaptations to allow students to fully participate. This included large buttons and specialized games.

“It was a fantastic opportunity for the students, who got to experience something new,” said Friendship School Principal Rachel Page. “It started with curiosity and, after trying it out, we saw that evolution. They were highly engaged, which was really cool to watch.”

Lonette Morris, who attended with her husband and son Jaylyn, was grateful to SDCOE for hosting the event and including them.

“Jaylyn loved it,” she said. “He loves to go out, and he knew he was doing something. He was tuned in.”

It took about six months to plan the visit, with help from parents. The Maintenance and Operations team built hoists to support mobility for students in wheelchairs. Members of the Integrated Technology Services division had monthly meetings with the team planning the event to support infrastructure, ensure a safe online environment, and set up the computer systems.

The experience was such a success that the teams are using it as a model for involving more students with disabilities in the programming at the Linda Vista Innovation Center, which is an SDCOE site near the main campus where students can explore, create, and learn through hands-on interactive educational experiences.

“It was amazing, and one of those events that puts into perspective why we work here,” said Dr. Alicia Gallegos Butters, director of educational technology. “Esports should be for everyone.”



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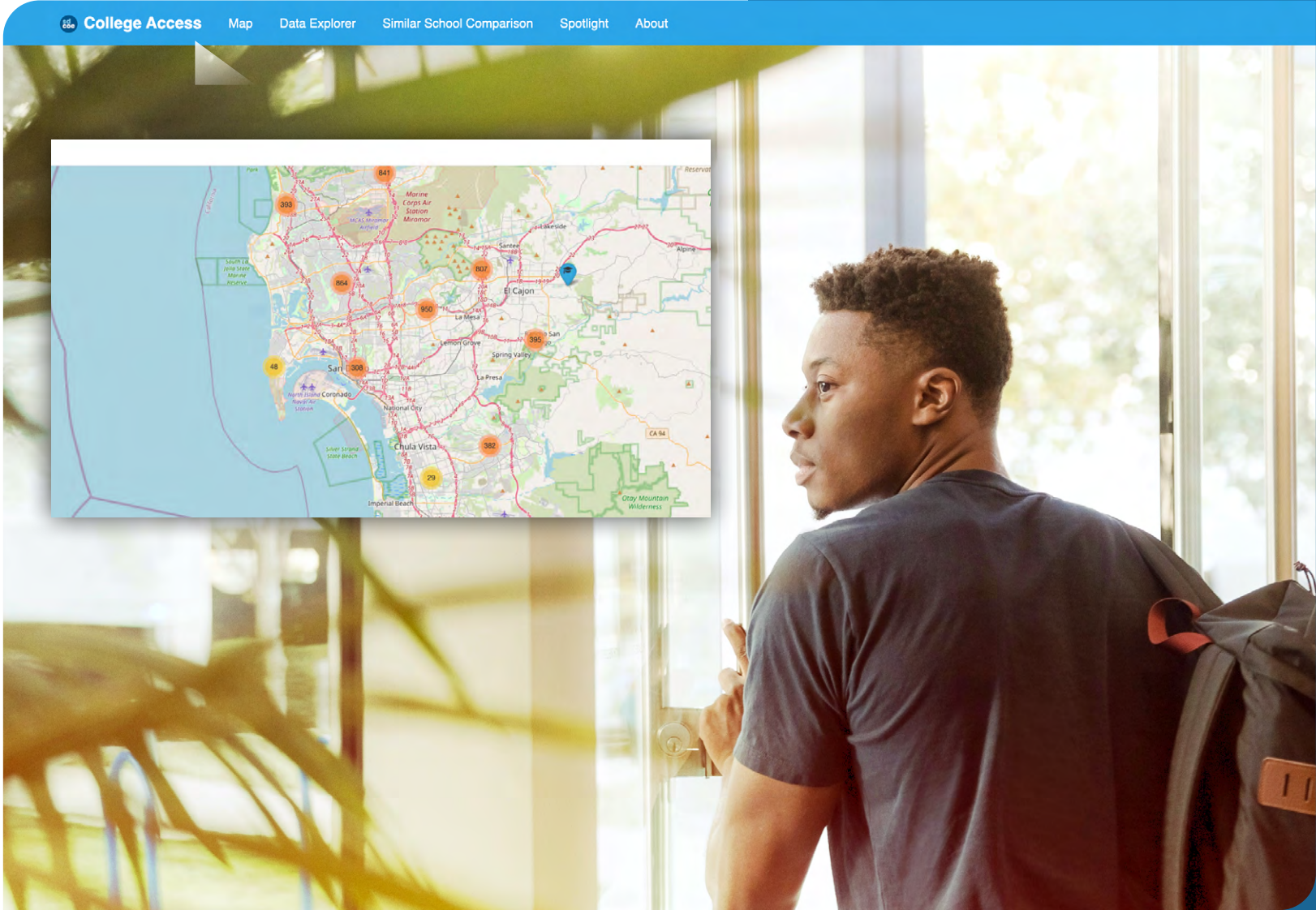
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— Rachel Page, Friendship School principal

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“Now, with our partnership with the National Student Clearinghouse, we can get a better picture of how well our students are doing.”

— Shannon Coulter, SDCOE director of research and reporting



New SDCOE Dashboard Helps Visualize Enrollment and Completion

The San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) launched a new dashboard that allows users to explore college enrollment and completion rates for San Diego County schools and districts.

Visualized with data from the National Student Clearinghouse, the SDCOE College Access Dashboard allows users to see college enrollment and completion rates by district or school, and view by gender, socio-economic status, or race/ethnicity. Data are currently available from the 2014-15 to 2022-23 school years.

Beyond the data explorer, the College Access Dashboard features a map of where San Diego County students enrolled in college; a similar school comparison tool; and a list of districts with the highest enrollment rates.

The dashboard shows that from all participating San Diego County school districts, students living below the poverty line enroll in college at much lower rates (50%) compared to students who live in higher income households (68%). Additionally, gaps in enrollment between students experiencing poverty and non-low-income students vary across the county, with gaps as large as 75% in some districts and as low as 15% in others.

According to the dashboard, students experiencing economic hardship complete college at lower rates (30%) compared to students who live in higher income households (52%).

“We know that higher education can help students attain better economic prosperity and impact our region as a whole,” said Shannon Coulter, director of research and reporting for SDCOE. “Now, with our partnership with the National Student Clearinghouse, we can get a better picture of how well our students are doing by race, gender, and socio-economic status, which allows us to address any inequities that exist.”

SDCOE Launches Drug Prevention Education Video Series in Spanish and English

I Choose My Future or *Yo Elijo Mi Futuro* is a drug prevention education video series that provides young people with information about the dangers of drugs and drug misuse.

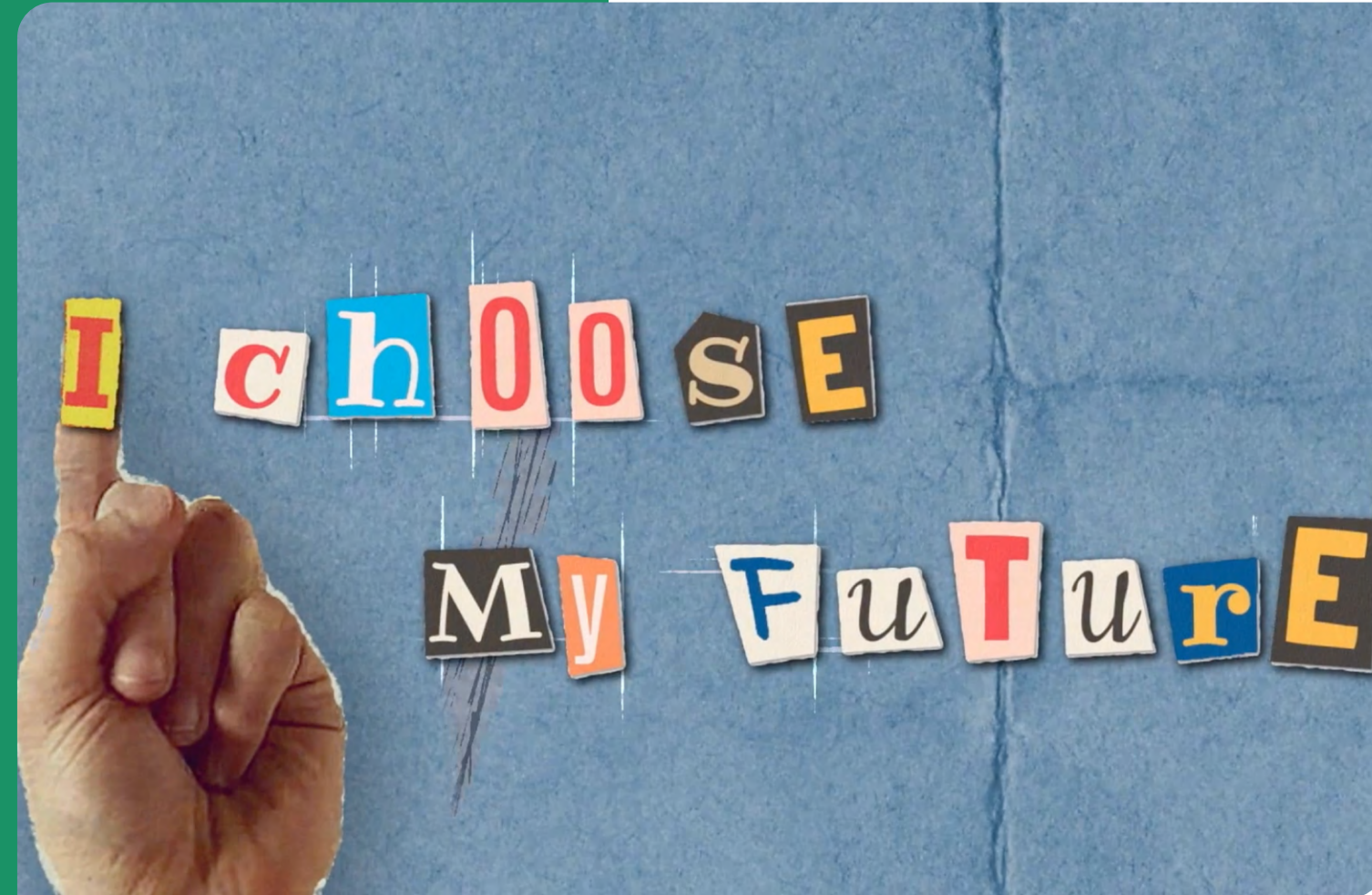
Produced by the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE), the series includes tools and resources to help young people choose a future without drugs.

I Choose My Future or *Yo Elijo Mi Futuro* explores the impacts of drug use on the developing brain; explains the dangers of vaping, marijuana, opioids, fentanyl, and other drugs; and provides strategies for handling peer pressure and getting help. The videos feature interviews with doctors, experts, and families highlight lived experiences of the destruction and heartache drug misuse can cause.

Having the series in both English and Spanish ensures that Spanish-speaking students and families also have the opportunity to hear in their own language about the challenges students face around drugs and drug misuse.

“Drugs today are stronger, cheaper, easier to get, and more socially acceptable than ever. Every single tool we can offer schools to warn and prepare kids has a value that can’t be calculated,” said Rocky Herron, video host and drug prevention ambassador at SDCOE. “We must change the culture. Kids need and deserve many voices warning them about drug use today.”

SDCOE has focused on comprehensive substance-abuse-prevention education for decades, an approach that combines education, harm-reduction strategies, and mental health and well-being supports.



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“Every single tool we can offer schools to warn and prepare kids has a value that can’t be calculated.”

– Rocky Herron, video host and drug prevention ambassador at SDCOE



Enrollment By District

Alpine Union Elementary	1,539
Bonsall Unified	2,231
Borrego Springs Unified.....	2,837
Cajon Valley Union	17,947
Cardiff Elementary	649
Carlsbad Unified.....	10,832
Chula Vista Elementary	28,964
Coronado Unified.....	2,739
Dehesa Elementary	11,667
Del Mar Union Elementary.....	3,662
Encinitas Union Elementary.....	4,444
Escondido Union	17,061
Escondido Union High.....	8,916
Fallbrook Union Elementary.....	5,124
Fallbrook Union High	2,064
Grossmont Union High	21,697
Jamul-Dulzura Union Elementary	801
Julian Union Elementary.....	1,949
Julian Union High.....	118
La Mesa-Spring Valley.....	11,032
Lakeside Union Elementary.....	4,842
Lemon Grove	3,122
Mountain Empire Unified.....	4,284
National Elementary	4,569
Oceanside Unified	17,839

Poway Unified	34,935
Ramona City Unified.....	5,077
Rancho Santa Fe Elementary.....	543
San Diego County Office of Education.....	7,464
San Diego Unified.....	114,330
San Dieguito Union High.....	12,364
San Marcos Unified.....	19,456
San Pasqual Union Elementary	527
San Ysidro Elementary.....	4,205
Santee	6,159
Solana Beach Elementary.....	2,730
South Bay Union.....	5,595
Spencer Valley Elementary.....	3,885
Sweetwater Union High	36,686
Vallecitos Elementary.....	190
Valley Center-Pauma Unified	3,711
Vista Unified	21,524
Warner Unified	2,528
Statewide benefit charters.....	5,337

*District totals include district-authorized charter school enrollment

Source: CDE DataQuest 2024





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