



# COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION



## SAN BENITO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

### February 2025 Newsletter



The San Benito County Office of Education is proud to share our February newsletter with you. Each month, we update you on programs, events and news in the county office and the districts we serve in San Benito County. In addition, we invite you to stay connected through our various social media platforms.

We look forward to continuing to work with you and our students across San Benito County as we

*Engage, Encourage, Empower...Educate!*

## SBCOE Hosts 2nd Annual Literacy Summit for the Community

SBCOE's Literacy Summit was bigger and better than ever this year, with over 200 educators, families and community members attending. San Benito County Office of Education partnered with the San Benito County Free Library to host the event at the Veteran's Memorial Building in downtown Hollister. SBCOE Director of Curriculum & Instruction and Equity & Access, Mai Cruz, coordinated the event, which featured Dr. Gregory Spencer, a two-time best-selling author and NFL Lifetime Alumni Member. He spoke to the audience about his journey and why it is crucial to work together to ensure every student is literate.

This year's theme, "Words and Numbers: The Building Blocks of Literacy," was designed for participants to explore the critical role of language and numeracy in literacy development. Breakout sessions provided best practices in reading, writing, and math skills, with practical strategies to support literacy growth at home and in school.



The highlight of the evening was an awards ceremony recognizing student literacy and math champions, as well as outstanding teachers and schools. [Click here](#) for a list of award winners.

The Literacy Summit is part of SBCOE's Building Bridges2Literacy Initiative. Thank you to our sponsors: Collaborative Classrooms, Footsteps2Brilliance, MiraStar, Hollister Rotary, San Benito County Free Library, Scholastic Education Solutions and VFW Post 9242/American Legion Post 69, who provided the venue and catered the event.



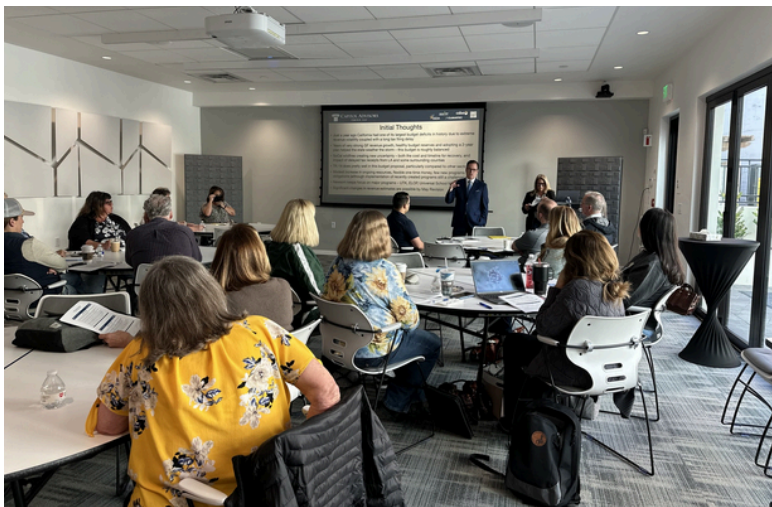


## SBCOE Honors San Benito County Community Champions

On January 16, the San Benito County Probation Department received the Community Champion Award from the SBCOE Board. SBC Probation has collaborated with schools in the county for many years. Most recently, they worked with SBCOE to hire a Probation Officer to work with Pinnacles Community, Santa Ana Opportunity, and San Andreas Continuation Schools. Officer Ferreyra has built positive relationships with students, parents and staff, resulting in increased attendance and student success at school. Thank you for supporting our students!

## SBCOE Teacher Induction Takes Next Step Toward Full Accreditation

SBCOE's Teacher Induction Program took another step forward in the accreditation process by successfully completing a Site Visit from the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) January 27-29. Members of the site team met with over 100 participating teachers, coaches, and administrators to evaluate the program. On February 27, the team will be making a recommendation to the CTC. Once it is fully accredited, SBCOE will be able to not only continue operating the Teacher Induction program, but also apply to open new services such as a Clear Administrative Services Credential program. Thank you to everyone who participated in the Site Visit.



## SBCOE Hosts Budget Workshop

School District and Community Board members from around the area came together for Capitol Advisor's Budget Perspectives Workshop on January 17. SBCOE hosted the event, which gave attendees insight and information about the recently released Governor's Budget Proposal for the 2025-26 fiscal year. The current proposal contains few major policy or program changes and includes a COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment) of 2.43%. The Governor will make adjustments to his proposal over the next several months before bringing it back in May. The legislature will then pass a budget over the summer.



## San Benito County Math Initiative 2.0 Continues

On January 16, the San Benito County Math Initiative 2.0 continued its workshop series by providing training to 48 San Benito County math educators. The workshop was led by Phillip Gonsalves, founder of the Mathematics Coaching Consortium, and Chief Learning Officer for Curated Pathways to Innovation. Participants learned a variety of specific mathematics content around number sense, operations on whole numbers, integers, decimals, LCM, fractions, as well as concrete, effective instructional practices to utilize immediately in their classrooms. SBCMI 2.0 is a five year initiative and is part of the San Benito County Office of Education's Literacy Initiative.

Registration is open for the 2025 SBCMI Summer Institute.

K-3rd Grade July 21-22

<http://sanbenito.k12oms.org/616-261154>

4th - 7th Grade July 23-25

<http://sanbenito.k12oms.org/616-261155>

8th - Algebra I July 23-25

<http://sanbenito.k12oms.org/616-261158>



## SBCOE Team Presents at ACSA Symposium

The SBCOE Student Services team, consisting of Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, Gwen Baquiran; Director of Prevention & Intervention, Amber Lister; and Mental Health Coordinator, Adina Austin gave a presentation at the ACSA Every Child Counts Symposium in San Diego on January 13th. More than 150 administrators and staff from across California joined the session to explore how SBCOE is de-siloing services and building intentional connections between PBIS, SEL, wellness, and mental health supports. The presentation was well-received and helped leaders around the state better understand the work being done by SBCOE.



## STEAM Expo Set for March 13

All students in San Benito County are invited to join the San Benito County Office of Education on March 13 for our annual SBCOE STEAM Expo. The SBCOE STEAM Expo is an exciting event that combines the thrill of a science fair with interactive, hands-on learning for all ages. Families can explore a wide range of activities, from engaging science experiments to creative play stations, all designed to spark curiosity and inspire learning in science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics. Attendees will also receive a student gift bag filled with free STEAM kits and fun surprises. This family-friendly event offers something for everyone, making it the perfect night for both learning and play!



## ECE Staff Welcomes the New Year

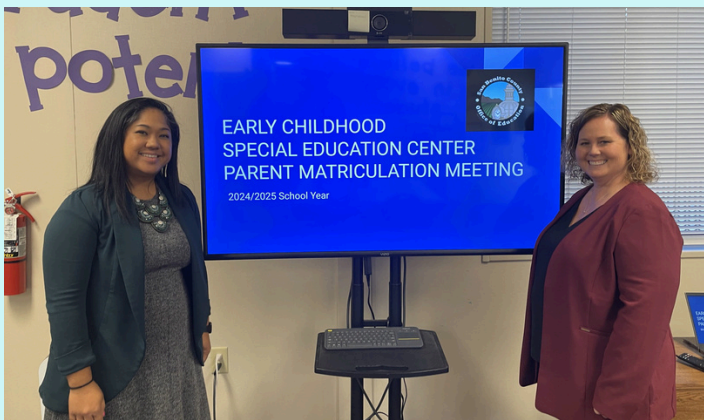
Certificated Staff Members at the Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) Preschool returned from the Holiday Break a day before students came back to school and participated in professional development centering around Present Levels and Goals written in an IEP. The professional development stressed the importance of capturing the student's skills and abilities as well as developing goals around areas of need. Students were welcomed back the next day by the Preschool Teachers, Rural Team, and Low Incidence Providers as they transitioned back into the routine of school.

To celebrate the new year, the preschool classrooms kicked off January's Family Fun Day with New Year traditions from various cultures. Students and parents traveled to each classroom to learn about how people in Hawaii, Italy, Mexico, and the Philippines celebrate the new year.



## ECE Holds Matriculation Meetings for Families

On January 29th, SBCOE ECSE held their 2nd Annual Parent Matriculation Meeting. Parents had the opportunity to interface with Special Education Directors across San Benito County, ask questions and learn more about the services each school and district offer. These meetings are one way SBCOE's Special Education staff is building collaborative partnerships between schools and families.



**HEALTHY MINDS  
HEALTHY LIVES**  
ENGAGE, ENCOURAGE, EMPOWER...EDUCATE!

## San Benito County Agencies Collaborate on Threat Assessment

Schools and agencies in San Benito County met in January to collaborate on a common threat assessment to be used in schools across the county. The threat assessment is designed to assist school personnel in identifying students exhibiting concerning behavior related to radicalization to violence. By providing a step by step approach for assessing the risk that is posed, the assessment can help school staff prevent school-based violence and provide support to students.

Representatives from each school district and charter school, in the county were present as well as the San Benito County Behavioral Health, San Benito County Probation, San Benito County Sheriff and Hollister Police Department.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

FEB 2025

## SBC STEAM Expo

(Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Math)

March 13

4:00-7:00pm

Veteran's Memorial Building

All students in grade Pre-K through 12th grade are encouraged to share their inventions, STEAM projects or participate in our County Science Fair!

Join us for live student demonstrations, interactive arts and science experiences, and food.

[More Information](#)

[Registration](#)



## Professional Learning Opportunities

### Feb 6: Paraeducator Training

<https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?gid=79&id=251344>

2:00-3:00pm via Zoom

### Feb 3: SEL CoP: JG LaRochette, Champions of SEL

<https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?gid=79&id=260897>

2:30-3:30pm

Community Foundation Epicenter

### Feb 24: Student Support Network Series-Foster Youth Rights

<https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=255717>

2:30-3:30pm via Zoom

### Feb 27: Live Binder Training

<https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=250914>

3:00-4:00pm via Zoom

## SBC Arts Showcase

April 10

4:00-7:00pm

Veteran's Memorial Building

All students in San Benito County are encouraged to submit artwork.

Join us to view live performances, interactive arts projects, and food.

## Meetings

### Feb 5: SARB Screening

8:30-11:00am

WFD Center

### Feb 5: UPK Collaborative Network

10:00am-12:00pm

SBCOE Boardroom

### Feb 10: Teacher Induction Advisory Board Meeting

3:30-5:00pm

SBCOE Boardroom

### Feb 12: Rural Principals Meeting

3:30-5:00pm

### Feb 26: Mental Health Provider Network Meeting

3:00-4:30pm

SBCOE Annex



## SBC Spelling Bee

February 6, 2025 5:30-6:30pm

Veteran's Memorial Building

