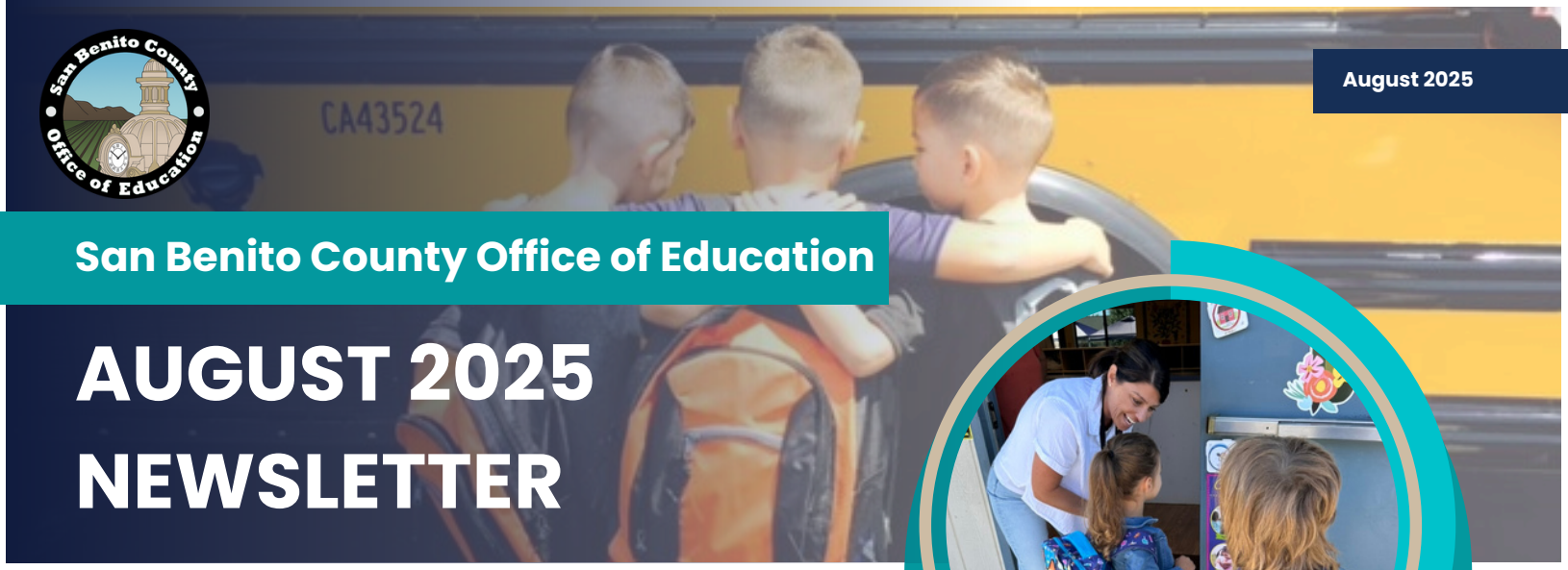


August 2025

San Benito County Office of Education

AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER

The San Benito County Office of Education is proud to share our August 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 Welcomes New Administrators

As we begin the 2025-26 school year, SBCOE is excited to introduce five new administrators to the County Office. They joined the SBCOE team in July, and have already begun planning and collaborating with COE and school staff to support students in San Benito County.



Mai Opena-Cruz
Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services



Maria Y. Leon
Director, Curriculum & Instruction and Equity & Access



Michelle Romo
Director, Behavior Intervention and Support



Rosa De La Cruz
Program Specialist-Math



Sharmila Velmurugan
Data Systems Specialist

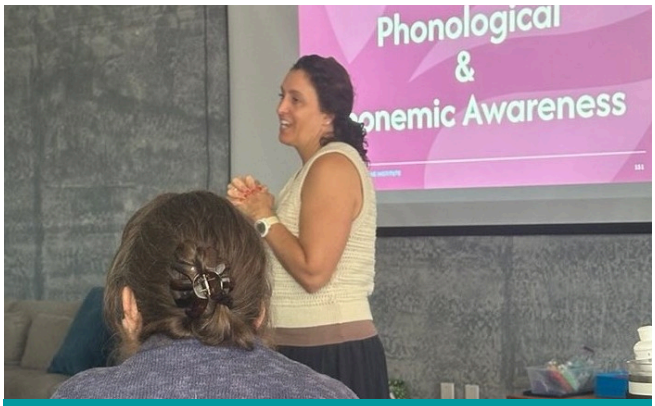
SBCOE Programs Begin Aug 7

San Benito County Office of Education programs, including the Early Childhood Special Education Preschool, Pinnacles Community School, Santa Ana Opportunity School, and San Andreas Continuation High School began classes on Thursday, August 7 this year. Several staff members spent time preparing for the upcoming school year by attending professional development activities over the summer. We are excited to welcome our new and returning students as we enter the 2025-26 school year! For additional information about enrollment or beginning of the year activities, please visit our website at www.sbcoe.org.



SUMMER PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Thank you to our incredible educators spent their summer growing, learning and leading. Together, we are building a stronger future for San Benito County!



Literacy

SBCOE kicked off its Literacy Professional Development for the 2025-26 school year with the Literacy Summer Institute in partnership with Chartwell Training Institute. Educators learned strategies to help ensure students in all grade levels have the reading skills they need to learn in all subject areas.



San Benito County Math Initiative 2.0

SBCOE's San Benito County Math Initiative (SBCMI) 2.0 Summer Institute launched at the end of July as part of a multi-year plan. Separate 2-3 day training series were offered for teachers based on the grade level they teach: TK-3, 4-7 and 8-algebra. This powerful professional learning experience deepened teachers' math content knowledge, strengthened their instructional practices, and built collaborative connections across grade levels and districts. Strong math instruction empowers students-and it starts with empowering teachers!

Threat Assessment

School and community leaders came together to learn about behavioral threat assessment and discover best practices, prevention and response strategies. The presentation was facilitated by Michael Kimball of M.C. Kimball & Associates and FBI Special Agent Greg Conception, Behavioral Analysis Unit Coordinator and Threat Management Coordinator. This was the first in a year-long series designed to help schools keep staff and students safe.





Tech Academy Fellowship

As part of the Tech Academies Fellowship, teachers attended the Summer Institute for two weeks in mid-July. This SBCOE initiative, in partnership with The Tech Interactive and 21CSLA, brought together passionate teacher leaders who designed and facilitated hands-on, minds-on activities for the center's visitors—sparking creativity, critical thinking, and real-world problem solving. Educators wrapped up the event by showcasing their prototypes to fellow teachers, sharing best practices and building momentum for deeper learning in classrooms. The experience supports the goals of the CAL-MSCS plan, aimed at strengthening math, science, and computer science education across California.

SUPPORTING STUDENTS & TEACHERS

Teacher Resource Fair



On August 5th, SBCOE hosted its annual Teacher Resource Fair, for over 150 educators from across the county. This year's theme was "Thrive in 2025!" and gave educators an opportunity to gather, exchange ideas, and enhance their teaching tools.

The Teacher Resource Fair was a collaborative effort featuring multiple organizations who partnered with SBCOE, including Center for Collaborative Classroom, Grand Canyon University, Mirastar, RAFT, San Benito County Free Library, Scholastic, Synopsis, The Tech Interactive, and DJ RTurn. Attendees were met with a wealth of resources including classroom supplies, books, STEM materials, and other resources.





Foster & Homeless Youth Resource Fair



SBCOE's 8th Annual Back-to-School Resource Fair took place on August 1st at San Andreas Continuation High School. The outreach event provided 245 students in foster care or experiencing homelessness with backpacks and supplies needed to start the year off positively. In addition, students were able to select a pair of shoes and 75 students received free haircuts. Thank you to our local community agencies who partnered with us on this event including, American Red Cross, The Barbershop, CalFresh, Community Food Bank of San Benito, Enterprise Martial Arts, Grocery Outlet, Hollister Police Department, Hollister School District, Latino Coalition, Mirastar, Precisely Cut, Resource Family Approval, Safe Kids San Benito County, San Benito Barbers, San Benito County Behavioral Health, San Benito County Probation, San Benito Public Health, San Benito County Opioid Task Force, Snowie, Speaker of the Assembly Robert Rivas, Stars Therapy, and Youth Alliance

Stuff the Bus

On August 2, SBCOE once again partnered with United San Benito for the 12th Annual Stuff the Bus Event to provide backpacks and school supplies to students in the county. Over 1,700 backpacks were stuffed with notebooks, pencils, crayons, and other items students will use during the school year. Thank you to the generous members of our community whose donations of money and supplies allowed us to provide so many backpacks this year!





San Benito County Office of Education

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Training

Aug 7 & 14: DCN: Solutions for Complex Student Behavior
https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=267205
2:00pm-3:30pm via Zoom

Aug 21: IEP 101
https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=267229
2:00pm-3:15pm
SELPA Office, 3230 Southside Rd

Aug 27: Mental Health Provider Network
https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=267493
3:00pm-4:30pm
Annex 1, 3230 Southside Rd

Aug 28: Introduction to SIRAS
https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=267230
8:30am-3:30pm
SELPA Office, 3230 Southside Rd

Sept 4: School Based Behavioral Threat Assessment Workshop
https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=266324
9:00am-2:00pm
Annex 1



Meetings

Aug 19: Induction Program Advisor Meeting
10:00am-11:00am via Zoom

Aug 20: Rural Principal's Meeting
3:30PM-5:00PM
TBD

Aug 20: Induction Coach Kickoff (TK-8)
3:45pm-4:45pm
SELPA Office, 3230 Southside Rd

Aug 21: Induction Coach Kickoff (HS)
3:45pm-4:45pm
HHS Davis Library

Aug 28: Teacher Induction Orientation
3:45-5:15pm
HHS Davis Library

Join us on Social Media

Learn more about SBCOE events and what's happening in education in San Benito County.

Find us on

Find us on