



August 15, 2025 Friday Memo

Upcoming Events

August 19: First Day of School

August 22: Governance Committee Meeting, 9:00 am.

August 27: WCCUSD Regular Board of Education Meeting, DeJean Middle School, 6:30 pm Public Session

Superintendent Update - Cheryl Cotton

Great news! CSBA is available to facilitate the Board Retreat on September 9th. Our facilitator, Sepideh Yeoh, is planning to reach out to each Board member for a confidential discussion prior to the retreat. More information to come.

Business Services Updates - Dr. Kim Moses

One District, One Budget

The Business Services Team shared an update with all district managers to kick off the new school year. The presentation was a part of the Management Team Advance and is [linked here](#). We are opening the new year with a new emphasis on fund management. We shared budget updates, reviewed the multi-year projections for the approved 2025-26 budget, and discussed next steps for purpose-based budgeting. We will schedule frequent opportunities for all managers to engage deeply with the business services team. These opportunities will include training, support with managing and adapting budgets, as well as a renewed commitment to purpose-based budgeting.



45 Day Revise Announcement

Due to additional funding from the State, approved after budget adoption, the Business Team has developed a 45-day Revised Budget. This budget was posted to the District Website on August 11, 2025. Here is the link to the [revised budget for 2025-26](#). There will be a presentation at the upcoming board meeting to explain the changes. New revenue will help our current year's deficit. I have included a summary of the fiscal changes below.

Revenue Changes

- Universal TK/ADA LCFF add-on, revenue is increasing by \$2,368,428
- Learning Recovery Emergency Block Grant one-time funding increasing by \$1,850,640
- Student Support and Professional Development Discretionary Block Grant one-time funding of \$7,243,553
- Expanded Learning Opportunities Program brings WCCUSD from Rate II to Rate I funding, increasing revenue by \$11,596,160 for restricted programming

Expenditure Changes

Due to the District's ongoing structural deficit, this 45-day budget revision is not increasing unrestricted expenditures from the 2025-26 adopted budget. However, it is using the additional one-time restricted revenues above to address the structural deficit within the unrestricted General Fund. This change will allow for a decrease in the use of district reserves from Fund 17 contributions in 2025-26 from a \$23,639,472 contribution to a \$13,176,851 contribution. These changes also reflect an increase of \$1 million in the contribution to the restricted programs line item for the 3% required Routine Restricted Maintenance account due to total overall district expenditures identified for the 2025-26 school year.

District Budget Engagement Committee

The District Budget Engagement Committee is ready to commence! The Board Membership Drive is underway. Here is a link to the [Introductory Flyer](#). We will share information with all District PACs for an anticipated first meeting date of September 30, 2025.



Communications Updates - Raechelle Forrest

News of the Week:

❖ Becoming school superintendent in an age of uncertainty and anxiety | [EdSource](#)

It is hard to imagine a more “homegrown” school superintendent than Cheryl Cotton, who in June assumed the top post in the West Contra Costa Unified School District on the eastern edge of the San Francisco Bay. Increasingly, school boards have turned to candidates like Cotton, who are familiar with their districts, as a hedge against the rapid turnover in leadership that has plagued many school districts. After five years as deputy superintendent for public instruction at the California Department of Education, she was eager to return to working closer to children, for the first time as a superintendent, and in her hometown no less. “This is home for me,” she said when asked why she decided to take the job, referring to her multigenerational roots in Richmond and the smaller towns that make up the district. “This is my community. This is where I live. This is where I am engaged. So why not here versus anywhere else?” Answering her own question, she said, “Because I love it.”

❖ Back to school with West Contra Costa Unified’s Superintendent | [KTVU](#)

Legislative Updates:

**These legislative updates are only meant to be informative to our Board and community so they are aware of legislation that may affect them and our community.*

❖ Strengthening Local Food Security Act | US Senate Bill 2338

The **Strengthening Local Food Security Act (S. 2338)** is a bipartisan bill introduced in July 2025 to establish a permanent federal grant program supporting state and tribal efforts to purchase locally produced food for schools and hunger-relief programs. It aims to strengthen regional food systems by connecting small, beginning, and underserved farmers and fishers with reliable markets, improving food access in underserved communities, and boosting local economies. The bill also provides technical assistance and allows the USDA to form cooperative agreements with states and tribes to support local procurement.

Sponsor (s): Senator Jack Reed [D-RI]

Co-sponsor(s): Senator James Justice [R-WV]

Status: Introduced to Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

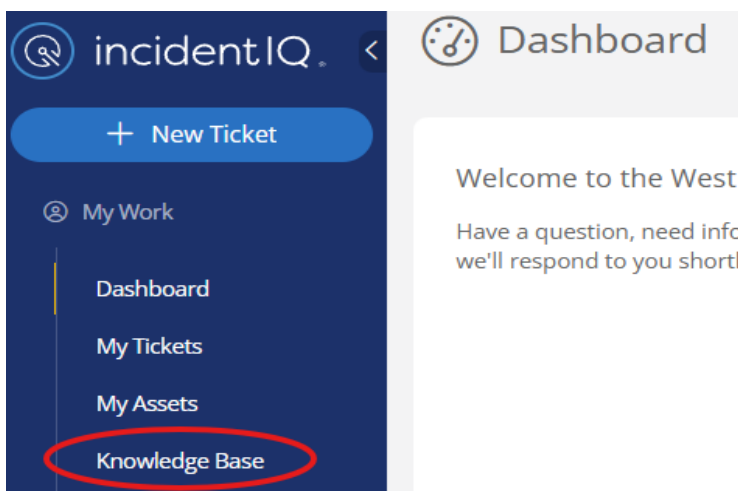
[Bill Text](#)

I.T. Updates - Laurie Wong Roberts

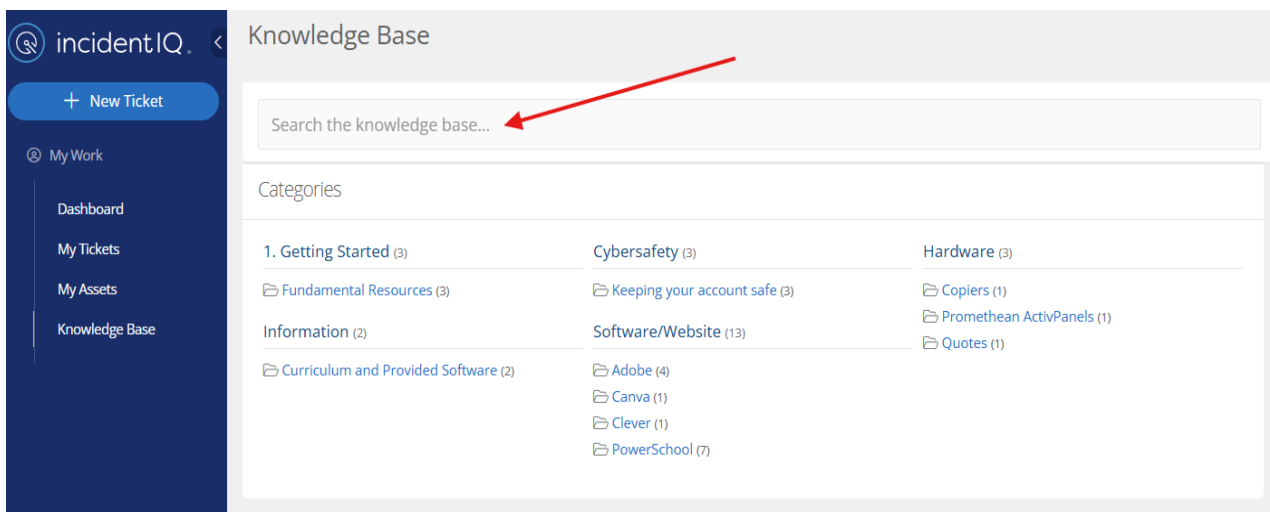
New Resources available in IncidentIQ!

The Information Technology department has launched the **Knowledge Base** within IncidentIQ, our Helpdesk platform. Among the resources available is a guide on Microsoft Teams, our voice solution (phones).

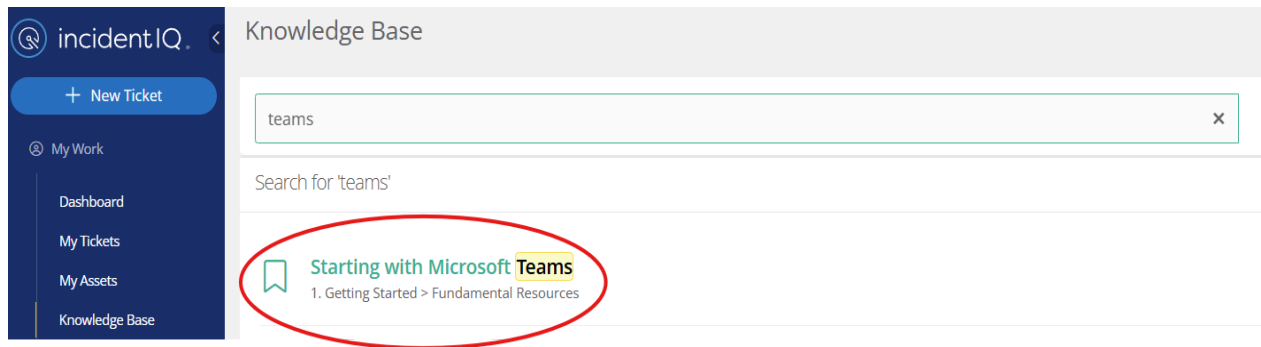
1. Go to wccusd.incidentiq.com
2. Sign in using Google.
3. Click on Knowledge Base on the left:



4. The Knowledge Base Categories are listed below. To search, click in the box above the listed Categories. Type in “teams” for the resources about the voice solution (phones).



5.



We are regularly adding to the Knowledge Base.

As always, for all I.T. help, please go to wccusd.incidentiq.com to complete a Helpdesk ticket or find resources.