



Friday Memo October 10, 2025

Upcoming Events

October 13: Classified Training Day, No school

October 13: Special Board of Education Meeting, 11:00am, Michelle Obama Elementary School

October 14: West Contra Costa Systems Change Collaborative, 2:30-4:00pm, Virtual

October 14: District Local Control Accountability Plan (DLCAP) Committee Meeting, 6:00pm, [Virtual](#)

October 15: Superintendent Site Visit

October 17: Superintendent Presentation @ Richmond Rotary, 12:30pm, Richmond Golf Club

October 20: CBOC Meeting, 6:15pm, FOC

October 20: Superintendent Presentation @ Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Council, 7:00pm, Richmond City Council Chambers

October 21: Governance Committee Meeting, 9:00am, DAHS-Library

October 22: Regular Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 Public Session, DeJean Middle School

Superintendent's Updates

The 2024-25 California Statewide Assessments have been released and we are preparing a full presentation to the Board on October 22, 2025. We have found that on the California Assessment of Progress and Performance (CAASPP) 33.4% of our 3rd through 12th grade students are proficient or advanced in English Language Arts and 25.9% in Math. Overall, we have exceeded pre-pandemic levels in ELA and are just under those levels in Math. Similar to the state's findings, many of our sub-groups have made gains from the previous year, including Black/African American and Latino students, in ELA. Almost all sub-groups have made gains from 2023-24 to 2024-25 in Math. We look forward to engaging in more conversations with the Board, staff, students, and community throughout the month.

TK-12 Schools - Katherine Acosta-Verprauskus (Jawan Eldridge)

Collins Elementary's Fun Run was a huge success! Students from every grade level came together to celebrate health, community, and perseverance. With big smiles and even bigger energy, our young runners took to the track, cheered on by teachers, staff, and families.

This event not only promoted physical activity but also showcased the incredible spirit of the school community.

Take a look at some of the highlights from this unforgettable day!



Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment TK-12 STEM- Katherine Acosta-Verprauskus & Team

ROC and YES Fest

The Richmond Outdoors Coalition (ROC) is celebrating its third year of programming in WCCUSD, working closely with Verde, Nystrom, DeJean, and Richmond High. The ROC is a partnership between WCCUSD Science and several local environmentally focused organizations, including [YES Nature to](#)

[Neighborhoods](#), who organized a huge community event, the [YES Fest](#), on September 27 at Nicholl Park. The event celebrated the upcoming groundbreaking of YES's new community center on Macdonald Ave. More broadly, the festival shined a spotlight on the incredible work that our partner organizations are doing to support Richmond youth and families--including ROC partners Growing Together, Inner City Bliss, Headwaters Science Institute, Golden Gate Bird Alliance and Bay Area Wilderness Training. WCCUSD's Human Resources and DeJean staff engaged with families at YES Fest, building connections between the community and the district. Another highlight was the ROC led "Bike Bus" from Verde to Nystrom to Nicholl Park, paired with a bike giveaway for Verde and Nystrom families. The YES Fest was a beautiful celebration of being outdoors in community. To learn more about the ROC, visit their [new website](#). More photos from the event are [HERE](#).



English Learner Multilingual Achievement - Katherine Acosta-Verprauskus (Esaul Orozco & Team)

The ELMA team had a successful virtual professional development with over 70 teachers in attendance. The session was titled "Getting to know my English Learners". Teachers dove into the Ellevation platform, reviewed classroom English Learner Achievement data, student profiles, and an introduction to High Impact strategies.

Ellevation on Clever

- **EL DATA**
 - Get to know your ELs

The screenshot shows the 'Students' tab in the Ellevation platform for West Contra Costa School District. It displays a table with student counts for Active ELs (7827), RFP Monitored ELs (1269), LTLEs (991), At Risk of LTLEs (786), and ELs with IEPs (1430). Below the table is a bar chart titled 'ELs By ELFAC Overall Level' showing data for four levels: 2000, 2010, 2015, and 2020. The Ellevation logo is at the bottom.

- **EL and ML Professional Learning Modules**

The screenshot shows the 'Pathways' tab in the Ellevation platform. It lists three professional learning modules: 'Understanding Multilingual Learners' (4 modules), 'Advancing Bilingualism and Biliteracy' (5 modules), and 'Supporting Newcomers' (4 modules). Each module has a brief description of its focus and a 'Start' button.

Additionally, school sites are entering their last week of completing the standardized interim ELPAC in reading. Administrators and teachers have attended our weekly office hours to implement the assessment and ways to leverage these assessment resources to enhance instructions and English Learner Achievement.

Human Resources - Dr. Sylvia Greenwood

Labor Update

Both the United Teachers of Richmond (UTR) and the Teamsters have moved to the factfinding stage. Each party has selected its representative to serve on the factfinding panel. The next step is for the parties to mutually agree upon a neutral chairperson, who will complete the three-member panel as required by the process.

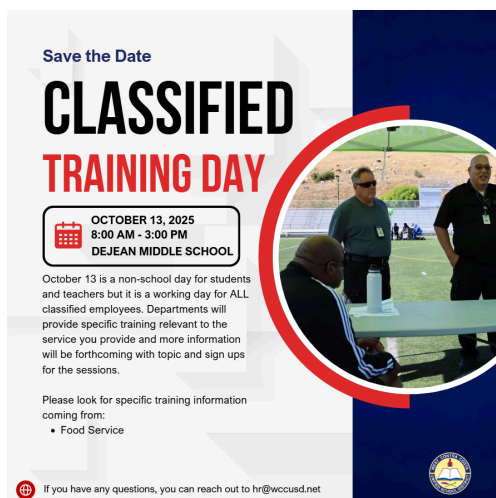
Safety Shoe Drive

We will be hosting an in-person shoe drive October 13th



Please invite your team to join us October 13th at the DeJean Parking Lot for in person shoe fitting and pickup.

Classified Training Day - October 13



District Job Fair - October 25



JOIN US FOR THE WCCUSD COMMUNITY

FALL JOB FAIR

Saturday, October 25, 2025
9AM to 12PM
DeJean Middle School
3400 Macdonald Ave. Richmond, CA 94805

APPLY TODAY!
We will be holding on-site interviews! Drop in, bring your resume and speak with someone to get qualified!

We have open positions for:

- Classroom Teachers
- Teacher Substitutes
- Classified Substitutes*
- Classified Vacancies*
- And many more...

You have the opportunity to:

- Meet WCCUSD Staff
- Have your resume reviewed
- Get qualified
- Interview for open jobs

WE'RE HIRING!

*Classified means non-certificated jobs (ie. support aids, campus security, custodians, food services)



ÚNASE A LA COMUNIDAD DEL DISTRITO (WCCUSD) Y PARTICIPE EN LA

FERIA DE EMPLEO DE OTOÑO

Sábado 25 de octubre de 2025
9AM a 12PM
Escuela Intermedia DeJean
3400 Macdonald Ave. Richmond, CA 94805

¡El Distrito está contratando personal!
Realizaremos entrevistas durante el evento. Visítanos, traiga su currículum y hable con alguien para obtener cualificación.

Tenemos posiciones abiertas para:

- Maestros de aula
- Maestros sustitutos
- Sustitutos clasificados*
- Vacantes clasificadas*
- Y muchos más...

En la Feria de Empleo tendrá la oportunidad de:

- Conocer al personal del distrito (WCCUSD)
- Revisar su currículum
- Ser entrevistado
- Obtener cualificación

¡ESTAMOS CONTRATANDO!

*Classified means non-certificated jobs (ie. support aids, campus security, custodians, food services)

Information Technology Update- Laurie Wong Roberts

Districtwide Network Outage on Monday, October 6, 2025

Incident summary: The district experienced a network outage that started over the weekend and ended around 1:20 pm on Monday. This outage affected all internet access and phones. It was discovered before 8 am on Monday.

Root cause: A power failure that occurred over the weekend was long enough to exhaust our system's backup power supplies.

Immediate fix: Upon bringing the system back online, an issue in switch architecture was discovered, necessitating direct work with a high-level Dell engineer.

Action items/Next steps: We are working with Dell to move our switches to the new operating system. We will provide an update as to when we will take the network down during an upcoming evening.

FORMS UPDATE

Annual Forms Update

Ensuring every student has access to the resources and support they need is a top priority. We thank our school communities for their continued efforts to complete the **Annual Forms Packet** through the PowerSchool Portal. This required packet is vital for three key areas: compliance, student safety, and resource allocation.

The complete Annual Forms Packet includes essential components such as:

- **Student Information and Emergency Contacts:** Crucial for student safety and rapid communication.
- **Medical Information:** Necessary for immediate care and health planning.
- **Student Technology Acceptable Use Policy:** Ensures responsible and secure technology integration.
- **Education Benefit Form (EBF):** This is the most critical component for the district's financial health and program equity. Completion of the EBF determines our students' eligibility for various services, including **bus passes** and **college exam fee waivers**.

Completion Status

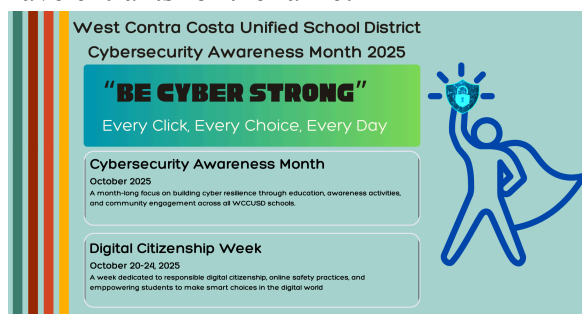
District-wide, we have reached **32% completion for the Annual Forms. We have reached 78% completion on the EBF!** We recognize and commend the outstanding efforts of the following sites who are either complete or almost complete with their Annual Forms Packets:

School	% Complete
Middle College High School	100
Sylvester Greenwood Academy	99
Pinole Middle School	95

The due date for all forms is October 31, 2025.

👊 It's CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

We are focusing on getting CYBER STRONG by flexing our cybersecurity muscles and growing our digital citizenship skills! Click on the picture below for our activities this month, including a Tic-Tac-Toe game for all staff. We already have entrants for the raffle!



College & Career (CTE & College Readiness/DE)- Summer Sigler (Jessica Petrilli & Team)

Robotics

We're thrilled to share more exciting news from the RHS Robotics team. Team 841, The Biomechs, are once again champions! This weekend, the students took 1st Place at WRRF CAL Games 2025, marking their second win in just two weeks!

Following last weekend's incredible victory at Chezy Champs 2025, the team continued to push the limits, demonstrating skill, strategy, and collaboration at every match. These back-to-back first place finishes reflect the amazing dedication and talent of our students, who continue to raise the bar for excellence both on and off the field.

We couldn't be prouder of their hard work, resilience, and team spirit. Starting the season with two major wins is an incredible accomplishment and a strong sign of the incredible year ahead!

A huge thank you to the mentors, sponsors, and supporters who make their success possible. Your continued belief in our students fuels their drive to innovate, compete, and inspire.



College & Career Fair

The annual College & Career fair was a huge success with a cross section of universities, trades, and career opportunities represented. One particular highlight was the number of WCCUSD alumni giving back in their work in our district, in non profits, and for universities. In the bottom left photo is Miguel Moline, Richmond High Graduate, who now works for the Richmond Promise. He is with Gina Molina, Richmond High Graduate and former De Anza High School Counselor. She now works for UC Berkeley as the regional director for the Early Outreach Academic Opportunities/Destination College Advising Corps members in WCCUSD!



9th Period Welding - continues to thrive!



Family & Community Engagement (FACE)- Summer Sigler (Martine Blake & Team)

Dear West Contra Costa Unified Families and Community,

Beginning October 15, 2025, the district will be moving volunteer clearance through Verkada directly to school sites. As part of this updated process, **all volunteers are required to submit documentation of a cleared TB screening from a physician**. Volunteer clearance will also include an annual renewal to ensure records remain up to date.

Here's what you need to know:

- **Volunteers cleared before July 1, 2025 (last school year):** Must reapply at each school site(s) where you wish to volunteer and provide evidence of a cleared TB test or risk assessment (signed by a medical provider) to the front office in order to renew your volunteer application. Please check the district website for school site-specific volunteer links, which will be live on October 15th. Volunteers must reapply by October 30th, or they will lose volunteer status.
- **Volunteers cleared on or after July 1, 2025:** Do not need to reapply; however, are required to submit evidence of a cleared TB test or risk assessment (signed by a medical provider) to maintain clearance. We have extended the deadline to submit TB clearance until November 3rd!

Parents/guardians who have children at multiple schools will need to submit their application using the links for each school. These links will be live on the district website, and beginning October 15th, should be used in lieu of the "Central Volunteer" link. While we understand that this is an inconvenience, we believe that it will result in faster clearance at each site!

Below are free or low-cost clinics that offer TB screening:

Agency	Website	Contact	Who
Contra Costa County	TB Testing Providers	(925) 313-6740	All

La Clinica Monument	La Clinica Website	(925) 363-2005	All
Contra Costa Health	Contra Costa Health Website	(925) 608-5350	Families in Transition
LifeLong Medical Care	LifeLong Medical Care Website	(510) 981-4100	Low Income/ No Insurance

There have been some questions around how status as a visitor or volunteer is delineated. That chart below is designed to support families in understanding if they need visitor or volunteer status to support at their schools.

We value the time and commitment you give to our students and schools. Thank you for your partnership and for helping us maintain a safe, supportive learning environment for all students.

How are visitors and volunteers different?

Visitors	Volunteers
Visitors are welcome to participate in school events and may: • Have limited interaction with students beyond their own children, and are always under the direct supervision of school staff • Attend school celebrations, assemblies, performances, and parent groups held during the school day • Attend classroom based celebrations or presentations • Not exceed four hours per visit, and four classroom based visits per year ◦ This provision does not include scheduled meetings with staff or after school activities • Visit without submission of a TB test • Not chaperone field trips	Volunteers must work under the direction of certificated staff and may: • Support in classrooms • Support with school-wide projects such as bulletin board set up, garden clean up • Set up for/supervise school wide events such as dances or field days • Chaperone field trips ◦ Any volunteer who drives for a field trip must also submit a copy of a valid driver's license and proof of insurance • Supervise small groups of students ◦ This would include supervising a group of students for a field trip, or working with a small group of students to one side of a classroom or in a library • Begin only after the submission of a tuberculosis test • Volunteer on a regular cadence, or for periods of time longer than four hours (in coordination with certificated staff) • Not act as substitutes for certificated teachers or be alone 1:1 with students

El Cerrito High School Power Repair Project Update - Melissa Payne (Ellen Mejia-Hooper)

At the Board meeting on October 8th, staff provided an update on the repair project.

We are nearing the repair phase of this project at ECHS.

The equipment is being delivered to the contractor, and installation, testing, inspection, and startup will occur over the coming weeks. We continue to coordinate closely with PG&E and other agencies having jurisdiction to complete this work safely while minimizing the impact on the school day. Several teams from PG&E are being scheduled in sequence with the work performed by the contractor, and they will be on-site multiple times throughout this process.

Power shutdowns are planned for the following days

- October 11th and October 12th for equipment installation
- October 13th for PG&E installation of a meter within the new equipment
- October 18th and 19th to complete the installation of the new equipment
- October 26th, November 1st, and/or November 2nd is the tentative schedule for PG&E, complete connection to the new equipment, and reenergize the system with permanent power

The plan outline is our current projection of the work to be completed. However, the schedule may need to be adjusted based on the progress of the work, as the district will continue to reestablish temporary power to ensure school operations to the best of our ability throughout the process. We appreciate PG&E's cooperation in this process and will continue to move forward with their support.

Thank you for your patience and understanding throughout this emergency.

Project Budget for El Cerrito High School Repair Project - Melissa Payne

At the Board meeting on October 8th, staff provided an update on the power repair project that will begin this weekend. In response to a Board inquiry at the meeting, we have prepared a summary of the approved budgeted costs for the project to date, which includes some contingency based on our current project schedule. Once the project is complete, staff will prepare a full summary for the Board with the actual cost to provide temporary power and complete the repair project.

We have been closely monitoring project costs, including providing temporary power and completing the repair project. The temporary power budget includes the generators' rental and service, as well as fuel to maintain power at the site for a total budgeted cost of \$1.17M, which is being funded with restricted dollars. The cost of the temporary power also includes fire watch services, which have a budgeted cost of \$120K and are funded with unrestricted and restricted dollars. The repair project cost, which consists of the engineering and design services, inspection fees, PG&E fees, troubleshooting, installation, fabrication, and material costs, is budgeted at \$650K, which is funded from restricted funds. Overall, the total project budget for the El Cerrito High School Power Repair Project is currently \$1.95M.

Throughout this project, we had two key objectives: ensuring safety at the site and avoiding disrupting school operations. High schools are primarily centers of education, but they are so much more -- often serving as multi-functional hubs for educational, athletic, performing arts, social, and other recreational community activities. El Cerrito High School is no exception. In addition to supporting the ongoing school site activities at El Cerrito, the district has honored more than 150 permits, allowing community access and gathering during the emergency use of temporary power.

Communications Updates - Raechelle Forrest

News of the Week:

- ❖ [**California's after-school programs and summer initiative spawn surprise dividend: new teachers | EdSource | Inewsources | Local News Matters**](#)

A \$4 billion-a-year initiative created to combat pandemic-related learning loss and expand the regular school day in California is also addressing another issue — recruiting teachers. The Expanded Learning Opportunities Program championed by Gov. Gavin Newsom — and on which the state has spent a total of about \$18 billion so far — supports an array of summer enrichment programs and after-school programs. They are typically run by nonprofit organizations on school sites in partnership with local school districts. West Contra Costa Unified Superintendent Cheryl Cotton said her 25,000-student district, which includes Richmond and a handful of other East Bay communities, has several initiatives underway to nurture new teachers. But, she said, the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program has emerged as a key source. Staff who work there bring strengths that have the potential to make them especially effective teachers, she says.

- ❖ [**WCCUSD College & Career Night coming to De Anza High | Richmond Standard**](#)

The West Contra Costa Unified School District, in partnership with UC Berkeley's DCAC (Destination College Advising Corps) and Early Academic Outreach Program (EAOP), will host its annual College & Career Night on Thursday, Oct. 9th, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the De Anza High School gymnasium. The event supports soon-to-graduate seniors as they prepare for the college application season, offers middle and high school students early exposure to post-high-school opportunities, and gives families a chance to engage directly with college and career professionals. At the event, students and their families will have the opportunity to meet with representatives from community colleges, California's public university systems (including UCs, CSUs, and community colleges), private institutions, out-of-state schools, and various industries.

- ❖ [**How WCCUSD's new math curriculum is setting students up for success | Chamberlain Foundation**](#)

During the last decade, the national conversation around education has been dominated by literacy, with the science of reading commanding much attention. During that time, another critical subject has seemed to be waiting in the wings, its importance for student success just as vital: Mathematics. For the West Contra Costa Unified School District, math is very much in the spotlight thanks to a significant and hopeful new adoption.

Legislative Updates:

****Legislative updates are provided for informational purposes only, to keep our Board and community aware of legislation that may impact them.***

Note: "Status Update" indicates that the legislation was previously shared in a Friday Board memo and that there has been an update since the last report.

- ❖ **California Assembly Bill 715: Education equity: discrimination**

The bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact subsequent legislation to, among other things, strengthen protections against discrimination, including antisemitism, in K–12 education,

including protections against instruction and activity that promotes discrimination. This bill would define “nationality” to also include a person’s actual or perceived shared ancestry or ethnic characteristics, or residency in a country with a dominant religion or distinct religious identity, as provided. The bill would define “discrimination on the basis of religion” to include, but not be limited to, antisemitism and Islamophobia.

Sponsor (s): California Assemblymember David Alvarez (D-San Diego)

Status Update: Signed into law by Governor Newsom on October 7, 2025

[Bill Text](#)

❖ **California Assembly Bill 1264**

This bill introduces the first-ever legal definition of "particularly harmful" ultra-processed foods (UPFs) for California schools. The bill directs the state’s Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment—working with University of California experts—to establish criteria by July 1, 2026, considering factors like links to cancer, obesity, metabolic or neurological issues, food addiction, and the presence of harmful additives. Schools must begin phasing out these identified products by January 1, 2028, with a complete ban on vendors offering them by January 1, 2032.

Sponsor(s): Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel [D-46]

Status Update: Signed into law by Governor Newsom on October 8, 2025

[Bill Text](#)

❖ **California Assembly Bill 1454**

AB-1454 (2025–2026) aims to improve early literacy in California by strengthening teacher training, instructional materials, and administrator preparation. The bill requires the California Department of Education to identify and fund evidence-based professional development programs for literacy instruction for K–5 teachers. It mandates the State Board of Education to adopt new English Language Arts/English Language Development instructional materials aligned with best practices by 2027, which local schools must use or certify as equivalent. Additionally, the Commission on Teacher Credentialing must update administrator credential standards to include training on supporting effective literacy instruction by 2029. Overall, AB-1454 ensures educators and school leaders are better equipped to promote strong literacy outcomes for students.

Sponsor(s): Assemblymember & Speaker Robert Rivas [D-29], California Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi [D-66], Assemblymember Blanca E. Rubio [D-48]

Status Update: Signed into law by Governor Newsom on October 9, 2025

[Bill Text](#)