



August 22, 2025 Friday Memo

Upcoming Events

August 27: WCCUSD Regular Board of Education Meeting, DeJean Middle School, 6:30 pm Public Session
August 28: Superintendent Town Hall Meeting, Area 2, DeJean Middle School, 5:30 pm.
August 28: Superintendent Town Hall Meeting, Area 3, Richmond High School, 7:00 pm.
September 3: Superintendent Town Hall Meeting, Area 4, DeAnza High School, 5:30 pm
September 3: Superintendent Town Hall Meeting, Area 5, El Cerrito High School, 7:00 pm.
September 9: Superintendent Town Hall Meeting, Area 1, Pinole Valley High School, 5:30 pm.

Educational Services/Teaching & Learning - Katherine Acosta-Verprauskus

OAASA Summer 2025 Program

We are sharing the [video](#) produced from the OAASA Summer Program that was included in the Summer School Programs Update to the Board of Education on August 6, 2025.

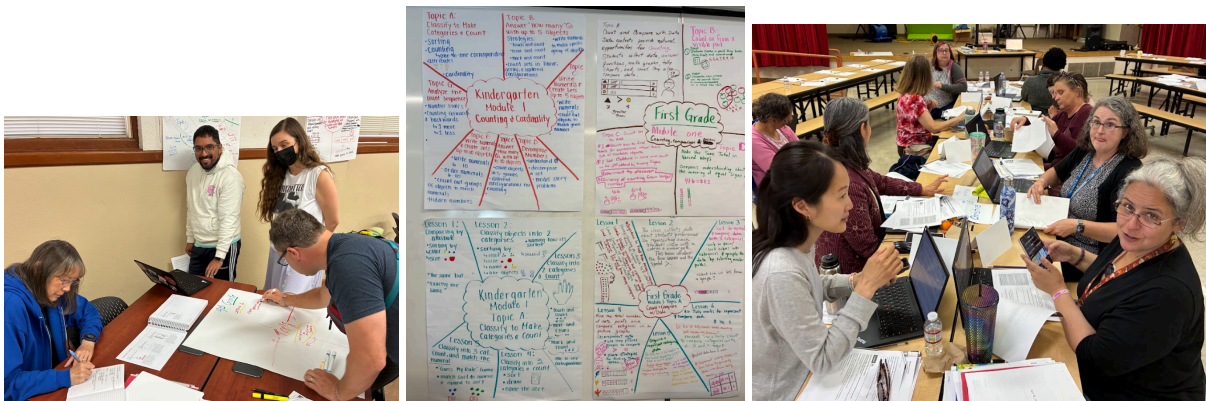
Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment TK-12 STEM- Katherine Acosta-Verprauskus & Team

A Great Collective Start to WCCUSD Math Teaching and Learning!

WCCUSD kicked off the school year with strong participation in our math professional learning sessions. Nearly 85% of K–6 teachers attended the Eureka Math Squared Launch session, 75% joined the Teach session, and 50% of TK teachers participated in their specialized session. Impressively, 95% of elementary administrators took part in the Lead session setting us up for a successful implementation.

Our Amplify Desmos Math (ADM) Kick-Off also saw excellent turnout, with 70% of grades 7 through Algebra 1 teachers attending. Make-up sessions for TK and K–6 are already scheduled to ensure everyone has access to this learning.

A huge thank you to the many hands that made these sessions possible, including Lynne Tsugawa, Rina Prasad, Shauna Foster, Barbara Jellison and the WCCUSD Food Services team, Christy Chen and the A/V technicians, Payroll, custodial crews, and our principals. This collective effort set the stage for a strong year of math teaching and learning across the district.





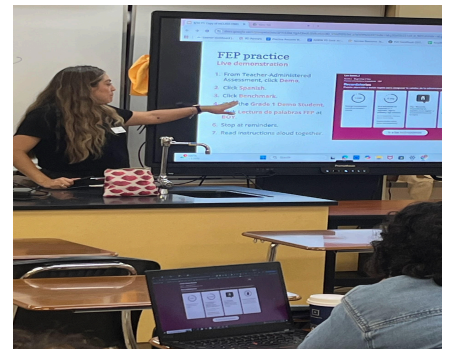
Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment - Early Learning/TK-12 Literacy/Humanities- Katherine Acosta-Verprauskus (Sonja L. Bell & Team)

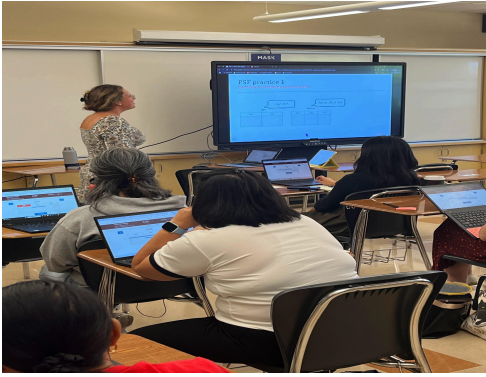
We are pleased to share that over 120 of our K–2 teachers dedicated a full day to professional learning focused on the implementation of the **Amplify mCLASS DIBELS and Lectura**.

Amplify mCLASS is a state-approved assessment system designed to identify students at risk of reading difficulties early. It provides teachers with actionable data on foundational literacy skills—including phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, and comprehension—so they can tailor instruction and interventions to meet student needs.

In addition to training our General Education and ELA teachers, our Dual Language Immersion (DLI) teachers received training on Lectura, the Spanish version of mCLASS. This ensures that both English and Spanish literacy instruction is supported with high-quality, data-driven tools. Teachers reported that the training was both engaging and practical, providing them with a clear understanding of how to use the screener effectively in their classrooms. Many expressed that the session gave them confidence in administering the tool and clarity on how the data can directly inform instruction. A second opportunity for training will be held for educators on August 26 and September 4.

This professional learning represents a significant step forward in our early literacy strategy and demonstrates the dedication of our teachers to equipping all students with the foundational skills necessary for academic success.





Communications Updates - Raechelle Forrest

News of the Week:

- ❖ [Richmond students go back to school with optimism as district reports some progress | Richmondside](#)

The sound of zipping backpacks, the scent of playground balls on the blacktop and the buzz of excited chatter filled Richmond classrooms this week as students returned to school. As classes began on Tuesday, the West Contra Costa Unified School District says it is starting the academic year having made progress on some of its challenges: Its newly hired superintendent has a 100-day plan to improve communication; it has implemented new education programs; some long-awaited campus construction projects are breaking ground; and it filled many of its open positions.

- ❖ [From shiny like-new gym floors to a ‘cafeterium’, take a peek at school upgrades | Richmondside](#)

Several schools in the West Contra Costa Unified School District got a facelift over the summer, while other campuses are in the midst of getting total makeovers. On Thursday, demolition began at one of the district’s oldest campuses, Stege Elementary, which will be rebuilt within a year and is expected to reopen by fall 2027. In July, Kennedy High School’s 100/200 building was demolished to make way for a new facility as part of a modernization project that will continue into the school year.

- ❖ [New WCCUSD superintendent launches 100-day plan to rebuild trust, stabilize district | Richmondside](#)

As students return to school today, West Contra Costa Unified’s recently hired superintendent has given herself 100 days to accomplish a number of goals that ultimately are about listening and

building trust. Cheryl Cotton, who officially started her role on June 20, is counting July 28 as her real first day. The former deputy superintendent for public instruction at the California Department of Education was finishing her education doctorate from UC Berkeley's Leaders for Equity and Democracy program over the summer. With that completed, she is focusing on listening, building trust and stabilizing the school district. "The goal right now is making sure that we have what we need to get school started and that we're listening and learning from each other," Cotton told Richmondside. "I can come in with goals, and if they're not aligned to what the community needs, they're not helpful."

❖ [Contra Costa College students crowned national engineering champions | Richmond Standard](#)

Sudinma Thapa and Emily Au, students at Middle College High School who are also enrolled in Contra Costa College courses, clinched the national title at the 2025 MESA USA National Engineering Design Competition (NEDC), held in San Diego. Representing California as "Team Decon," the duo's project, called "Decon," aims to support protestors impacted by chemical agents used by law enforcement to conduct crowd control. Decon is a portable emergency decontamination device that can spray a saline solution to clear contaminants like pepper spray from someone's eyes. The device works with a mobile application that provides real-time instructions, community alerts, and maps of nearby support resources. This comprehensive approach impressed judges and secured their first-place finish against teams from ten states.

❖ [First day of school for West Contra Costa Unified | Kron4](#)

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.*

❖ **California Assembly Bill 84 | Senate Bill 414**

This bill introduces significant reforms to improve oversight and accountability in the state's K–12 public education system, with a strong focus on charter schools. The bill establishes an independent Office of the Education Inspector General to investigate fraud, conduct audits, and recommend policy improvements. It expands financial and performance audit requirements for all schools, introduces stricter standards for auditors, and phases in district-style financial reporting for charter schools. AB 84 also strengthens charter school oversight by creating a state-level support team for authorizers, increasing local monitoring responsibilities, and requiring approval for large contracts. Additionally, it mandates annual identification of nonclassroom-based charter school networks and enforces consistent operational standards. The bill enhances transparency by improving public access to educator assignment and staffing data and holds agencies accountable

for ongoing misassignments. Finally, it broadens background check requirements to include all contractor employees who interact with students, even if supervised. Overall, AB 84 seeks to close oversight gaps and ensure greater financial, operational, and educational accountability across California's public school system.

Sponsor (s): Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi [D-Torrance], Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia [D-Coachella], Assemblymember Miguel Santiago [D-Los Angeles], Senator Angelique Ashby [D-Sacramento]

Status: Placed on suspense file in Appropriations Committee.

[Bill Text](#)

❖ **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: Passed the State Assembly. Under consideration with State Senate Education Committee before August 29 deadline to move forward to the Office of Governor Newsom

[Bill Text](#)

❖ **California Assembly Bill 49 : Schoolsites Immigration Enforcement**

Assembly Bill 49 (AB 49) fortifies California schools and child care sites as safe havens by strictly limiting immigration enforcement access. The legislation prohibits unauthorized entry by immigration authorities—requiring valid ID and a judicial warrant—only allowing access to areas without students. It also mandates the Attorney General to update statewide policies on school enforcement access, and compels LEAs to adopt aligned local policies by March 2026. Backed by local education agencies and positioned amid increasing threats of raids, AB 49 responds to growing fear in immigrant communities and builds upon California's existing protective legal framework to ensure schools remain safe and welcoming for all children.

Sponsor (s): California Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi [D-66], Assemblymember Liz Ortega D- 20], Assemblymember Celeste Gonzalez [D-43]

Co-sponsor(s): Assemblymember Mike Fong [D-49], Assemblymember Juan Carillo [D-39]

Status: Ordered to third reading in Appropriations Committee.

[Bill Text](#)

❖ **California Senate Bill 98**

This bill requires public K–12 schools and colleges to notify their communities when immigration enforcement is confirmed on campus. The bill mandates timely alerts to students, parents, staff, and faculty—including the date, time, and location of the enforcement—while protecting individuals’ identities. Postsecondary institutions must also support affected students by notifying emergency contacts, providing legal resources, and ensuring continued access to education. As an urgency measure, SB-98 is designed to take effect immediately upon enactment to protect immigrant communities and promote transparency in educational settings.

Sponsor (s): California Senator Sasha Renee Perez [D-25]

Co-sponsor(s): Assemblymember Dr. LaShae Sharp-Collins [D-79]

Status: Ordered to second reading in Appropriations Committee on August 21, 2025.

[Bill Text](#)

❖ **California Senate Bill 323**

This bill directs the California Student Aid Commission to revise the California Dream Act Application (CADAA) by the start of the 2026-27 financial aid cycle. The goal is to clearly affirm its accessibility to any student eligible for state financial aid, regardless of whether they qualify for federal aid, and to ensure the application system reflects this inclusivity. The bill also mandates consultation with California’s public and private postsecondary institutions to promote the Dream Act application effectively—helping students maximize their federal aid potential while understanding all available application options

Sponsor(s): California Senator Anna Caballero [D-14], California Senator Sabrina Cervantes [D-31]

Co-sponsor(s): Assemblymember Robert Garcia [D-50], Assemblymember Jose Luis Solache [D-62]

Status: Placed on suspense file on August 20, 2025.

[Bill Text](#)

❖ **California Assembly Bill 477**

The *Fair Pay for Educators Act*, proposes to substantially revise California’s Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) by raising the grade span–adjusted base grant funding targets—intended to bolster educator pay. Under the bill, full implementation of these enhanced base grants would occur by the **2036–37 fiscal year**, aiming to close the wage gap for school-site staff. This includes dramatically increased funding per student across all grade spans (for example, K–3 and 9–12), scaled-up alternative education grants, and higher operational allocations for county offices—each to continue receiving annual inflation adjustments. The reform is driven by the intent to improve recruitment and retention of educators and strengthen educational outcomes statewide.

Sponsor(s): California Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi [D-66]

Co-sponsor(s): Assemblymember Dawn Addis [D-30]

Status: Placed on suspense file on August 20, 2025 in Appropriations Committee.

[Bill Text](#)

❖ **California Senate Bill 640**

This bill establishes the **CSU Direct Admission Program**, which automatically admits qualifying California high school graduates—based on completion of specified A-G coursework by the end of 11th grade—to designated California State University campuses with available capacity, using transcript data from the CaliforniaColleges.edu platform; eligible students receive direct admission letters signed by the CSU Chancellor each September, streamlining access to higher education for students and reducing the burden of application processes. Additionally, SB 640 extends the duration of the existing **dual admissions program** through the 2035–36 academic year and lengthens the completion window for transfer requirements from two to three years; it also requires community colleges to promote the program actively

Sponsor(s): California Senator Christopher Cabaldon [D-03]

Co-sponsor(s): California Senator Sasha Renee Perez [D-25]

Status: Placed on suspense file on August 20, 2025 in Appropriations Committee.

[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: Placed on suspense file on August 15, 2025 in Appropriations Committee.

[Bill Text](#)

❖ **California Assembly Bill 1348**

This bill seeks to safeguard school funding when student attendance dips as a result of immigration enforcement actions. Under the bill—effective immediately and in force until July 1, 2029—if a district's average daily attendance is significantly reduced because of such enforcement, the Superintendent of Public Instruction would calculate state funding based on what attendance *would have been*, rather than the decline. To qualify, schools must submit documentation affirming they offered independent study options with proper notifications and

instruction equivalent to in-person learning; this information would be exempt from public record disclosure.

Sponsor(s): Assemblymember Dr. Jasmeet Bains [D-35]

Status: Placed on suspense file on August 18, 2025 in Appropriations Committee.

[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: Placed on suspense file on August 18, 2025 in Appropriations Committee.

[Bill Text](#)