



Stanislaus County
Office of
Education

2025 Annual Report to the Community



The Stanislaus County Office of Education (SCOE) is pleased to present the 2025 annual report, showcasing programs that support 25 school districts, equip educators, and promote achievement for 107,205 students in our county.

SCOE provides direct services to some of the county's most vulnerable students, including students who are experiencing homelessness or are in foster care, students who are incarcerated, and students who have severe physical or emotional challenges. We also wrapped up year two of the Every Day Counts Campaign, resulting in a 1.55% increase in daily school attendance countywide.

Our staff are experts in supporting teacher success and providing top-notch professional development opportunities. SCOE supports children and their families through quality early care and preschool education programs, while additionally taking pride in offering numerous student events and outdoor education to students throughout the county.

During the 2025-26 school year, we are strengthening our partnerships, investing in innovative programs, and emphasizing healthy digital habits and increased childhood play through the Stanislaus Rewired & Inspired initiative. Enhancing safety measures and prioritizing the mental and emotional well-being of both students and staff remain key focuses. To learn more about SCOE's programs and services, visit www.stancoe.org or follow @stanislausCOE on social media.

Sincerely,

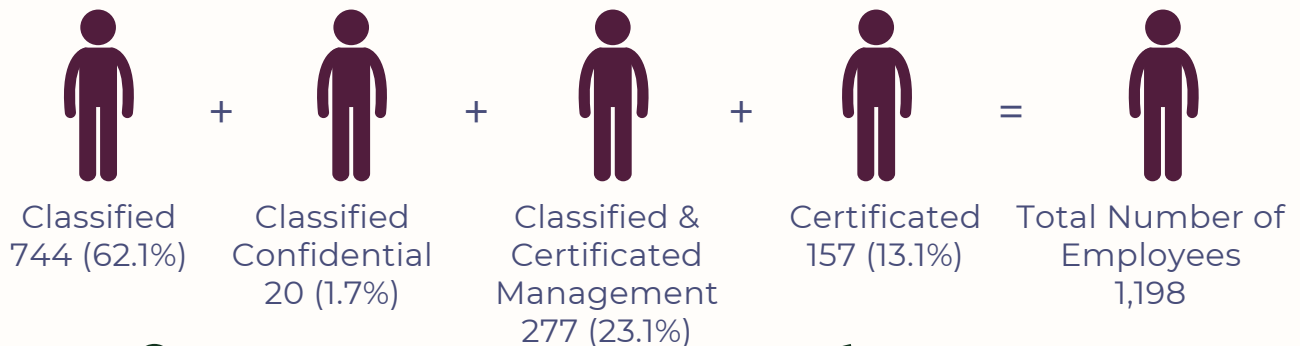
Scott Kuykendall
Stanislaus County Superintendent of Schools

What Does SCOE Do?

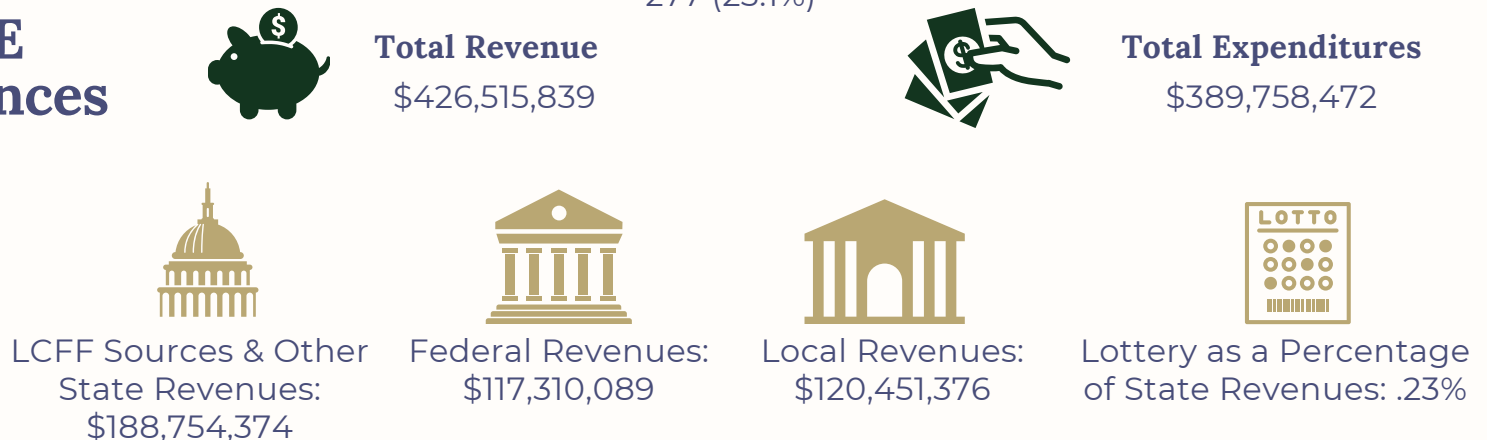
The Stanislaus County Office of Education (SCOE) partners with local schools and the community to support quality education for 107,205 students in Stanislaus County and several thousand more in regional programs throughout the state. The office employs 1,196 staff and manages a \$389 million budget.

California has a three-level system of public education, which includes the California Department of Education, county boards of education, and local school districts. Under the leadership of the County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools, SCOE serves as a link between the 25 school districts in the county and the California Department of Education. Funding and major policy decisions are made at the state level, and day-to-day delivery of instruction is generally the responsibility of local school districts. SCOE provides a support infrastructure including administrative, instructional, and direct student services. The staff at SCOE also provides leadership and advocacy on critical education issues, serving as an information resource to local educators and community members.

SCOE Staff



SCOE Finances



A Peek Inside Operations



How Funds Received are Used

Services and Operations	39.1%
Other Outgoing	23.8%
Classified Salaries	14%
Employee Benefits	10.9%
Certificated Salaries	9.4%
Capital Outlay	1.1%
Books and Supplies	1.7%

Expenditures by SCOE Program

Child Development and Head Start	37.7%
Restricted Programs	28.8%
SELPA Pass-thru	22.1%
Unrestricted Programs	8.9%
Adult Education and Charter Schools	2.3%
Other Misc.	0.2%

The Role of the SCOE Board of Education

SCOE is governed by a five-member, elected Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools, also an elected official. The County Board of Education has responsibility for:

- Approving the annual county office budget
- Adopting policies governing the operation of the Board
- Acting as the appeals board for student expulsions
- Acting as the appeals board for inter-district transfers
- Acting as the appeals board for charter school petitions
- Establishing the County Superintendent's salary
- Serving as the landlord and owner of SCOE property

Through its role of long-range policy development and other critical functions, the Board works with the Stanislaus County Superintendent of Schools and staff to offer the most effective education programs and district support services. The Board also encourages the involvement of families and communities and is a conduit for citizen access to communication about SCOE's programs and services.

Regular meetings of the Stanislaus County Board of Education are open to the public and are held on the second Tuesday of each month beginning at 8:30 a.m. Meetings are generally held at the Stanislaus County Office of Education, 1100 H Street, Modesto, unless otherwise announced.



Area 4
Mary Ann Sanders



Area 1
Kim A. Rose



Area 3
Paulo
Carvalho



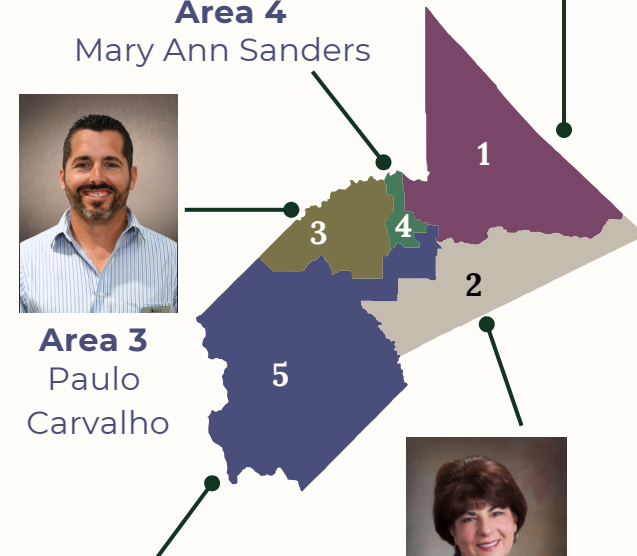
Area 5
Chinyere Nnodim-Jack



Area 2
Alice J. Pollard



**2025-26 Student
Board Representative**
Allison Molina



GROWING TOGETHER

For families of children with disabilities, walking into a new classroom can feel daunting and full of unknowns.

“I was scared at first because he couldn’t talk, and I didn’t know what the day would look like for him,” said parent Kassie Greenlee. Her son joined SCOE’s **Early Childhood Inclusion Program**, a partnership between the Child & Family Services (CFS) and Special Education divisions. Through this program, students with disabilities learn, play, and grow in the same school-based programs as their typically-developing peers.

“We have eight general education students and eight students with special needs all in the classroom together,” said Margaret L. Annear Principal Kristy Mabee. CFS Director Il Jewelee Lemus added, “When you walk into our classroom, we don’t want you to be able to tell who’s who.”

Parents of both special education and general education students collaborate with staff to develop individualized goals for the year. The results of the program speak through the assessments and through the children themselves.

“When my son started the inclusion program, he had a hard time articulating his feelings when he was frustrated with things,” said Greenlee. “Now, his language has blossomed and he’s able to tell us how he is feeling.” Yannet, another parent of a student with special needs shared, “It has been great. The students are very empathetic. They work as a team with my son. They’re friendly with him and they encourage him a lot.”

As children with disabilities build language, confidence, and social skills, their peers are learning empathy, teamwork, and acceptance. The inclusion program helps ensure that all students grow together.



“

The students have been very empathetic with my son. They work as a team. They’re friendly with him and they encourage him a lot.

~Yannet, Margaret L. Annear parent

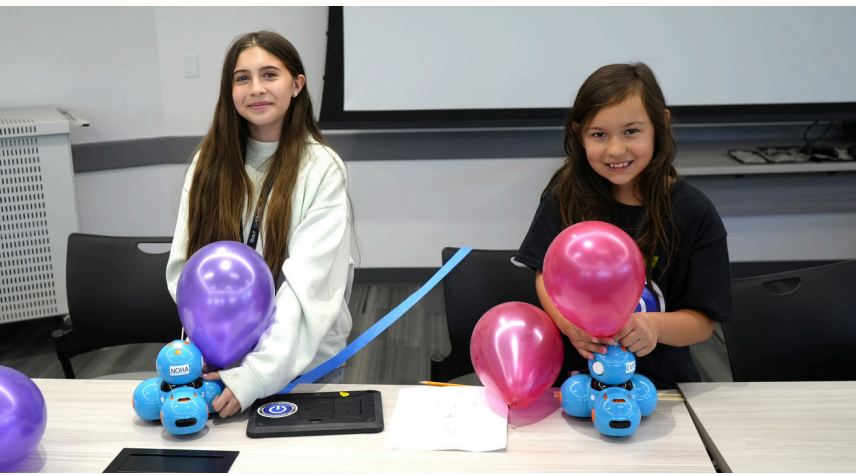
INDIRECT STUDENT SERVICES

The Administrative Services division includes the Communications Department, Cradle to Career Partnership, Education Foundation of Stanislaus County, Print Shop, Student Events Program, and the Superintendent's Office.

The Business Services division supports local school districts in maintaining fiscal solvency and accountability. Support is provided in budget development and monitoring, accounting, payroll, and purchasing.

The Human Resources division serves SCOE employees and school districts. The departments include Benefits, Credentialing Services, Employee Services, Internal Payroll, Leave Accounting, Risk Management, and Substitute Services.

The Technology and Learning Resources (TLR) division supports students, teachers, administrators, and staff at SCOE sites and school districts throughout the county. TLR provides specialized support, including educational technology professional development, financial systems support, network engineering, application development, data dashboards, document archival, computer support, and internet services. The five teams that make up TLR are Educational Technology Center, Financial Systems, Infrastructure and Development, Integrated Data Systems and Solutions, and User Support.



Technology & Learning Resources by the Numbers:

- Hosted the ETC! 2025 Spring Conference for over **250** school staff
- Sent, filtered, and received **500,000+** emails each month
- Responded to over **12,200** support tickets to support staff and student tech use
- Initiated over 100 assessment file loads from our **18** partner districts into the Stanislaus Strategic Targeted Assistance to Students dashboards

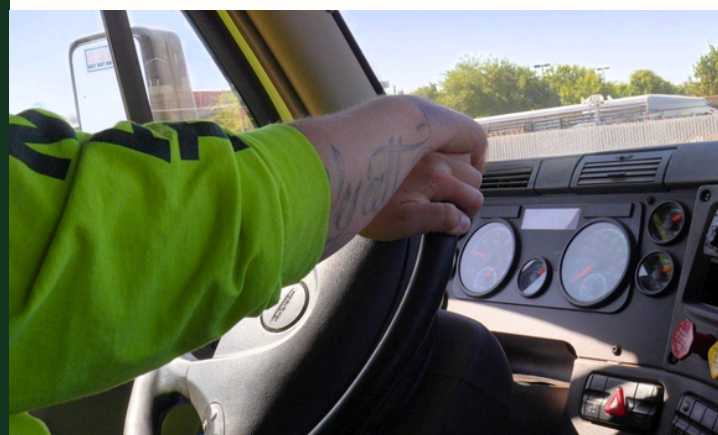


PREPARING INCARCERATED LEARNERS FOR THE WORKFORCE

Inside the walls of correctional facilities, people who are incarcerated could feel less hopeful. Yet through a strong partnership with the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Office, SCOE has helped more than 600 individuals rediscover possibility through job skills training. Known as **Re-entry and Enhanced Alternatives to Custody Training (REACT)**, this program allows participants to pursue industry-recognized certifications in areas like animal husbandry, agriculture, window tinting, and truck driving. Each certification equips them with practical skills that improve employability and build confidence for life after release.

Aaron, a participant in the truck driving course, said, "In this program, I've earned my California commercial license permit, and I've logged 160 hours of drive time." Another participant found himself in the cab of a tractor-trailer for the first time. "This training is going to help me find a job driving a truck when I get out. It's fun, it's rewarding, and it should be good pay to help support myself and my family," said Spencer.

Through the Re-entry and Enhanced Alternatives to Custody Training program, more than 90 individuals have earned certifications, and over 600 have participated in job skills training courses. Many are also taking steps toward earning their high school diploma through SCOE's CBK Adult Charter School. "I believe that this program is a blessing," said Aaron. "It's helping me out tremendously because it has given me a lifeline. When I get out of this place, I have something to look forward to now."



Educational Options Fast Facts

- Students have access to **275** A-G approved courses that prepare them for college and career success
- SCOE partners with AbleWorks to provide a financial literacy course to all students and help them prepare for independent living
- Students have access to workplace readiness courses that train them in soft skills such as communication, teamwork, and problem-solving as well as resume building and interview preparation



Instructional Support Services by the Numbers

- Supported the induction of **217** new teachers
- **21** school districts across 4 counties use SCOE's newly created Visual Art Lesson Library
- **416** students and about **220** families attended the annual Maker Hoopla for families to create, build, and play together

CONSERVING FORESTS AT FOOTHILL HORIZONS

Visiting **Foothill Horizons Outdoor School** has been a rite of passage for generations of 6th grade students. The campus connects students to nature through immersive, hands-on science experiences.

After receiving a PG&E grant in 2024, SCOE partnered with the American Forest Foundation and Wilson Biochar, LLC to explore sustainable ways to remove forest fuel on 20 acres of the 143 acre Foothill campus. Through an experiment, Wilson Biochar compared the use of the Ring of Fire Biochar Kiln to burning with standard burn piles to determine which was a cleaner burn. Biochar is a carbon-rich material created through controlled burns and used to improve soil.

SCOE also hired Forester Lara McNichol to manage controlled burns for the project. As a proponent of responsible forest management, she explained that removing fuel closer to the ground in oak woodlands helps prevent wildfires from reaching the canopy. "If fire can't climb the trees, it won't turn into a megafire," she said.

During the fuel reduction process, students experienced forest management and fire prevention in real time. The impact was visible as students learned to distinguish between healthy, well-managed forests and overgrown, fire-prone ones. Furthermore, as students observed professionals managing forest health, many developed an interest in environmental science careers.

Summarizing the impact of the project, Foothill Horizons Director Jess Hewitt shared, "Thinning forests, reducing brush, and using low-severity fires are key to creating safer, more resilient landscapes. We're proud to be part of this effort."

Need help paying for childcare? SCOE's **Child & Family Services** division can provide assistance. A family of 4 making less than **\$108,237** per year qualifies for the voucher program, and there is no cost for families with lower incomes enrolled in Head Start programs. Sign up at www.findchildcarestanislaus.org, or call 209-238-6400.



Over **400** students from **15** junior highs and high schools attended the Friend to Friend conference, hosted by the **Prevention Programs** department. It offered breakout sessions covering relevant topics for middle and high school students such as the negative impacts of social media, mental health, art for wellness, and building healthy relationships.



CBK Adult Charter School is a flexible, no-cost independent study program for individuals over the age of 18 looking to earn their high school diploma. To date, **1,900** students have graduated from CBK.



The Career Inspiration Center serves **13** districts and over **2,000** students, giving them hands-on experience in the health, technology, agriculture, and manufacturing pathways.



The Education Foundation of Stanislaus County supports Foothill Horizons Outdoor School, Student Events Program, YES Company, and the Imagination Library. These programs offer enrichment opportunities to over **18,000** youth countywide from birth through 12th grade. Support the Education Foundation at edfoundationstan.org.

Foothill Horizons Outdoor School hosted **5,835** students from **97** schools across **34** districts. Participants enjoy their time in nature, connect with one another, and have the experience of a lifetime amidst the 143 acres of forest in the foothills of the central Sierra.



YES Company celebrated 34 years in July 2025 with four performances of the cult classic and fan favorite Mamma Mia! Congratulations to the **77** students who entertained over **4,000** patrons at four sold-out performances at the Mary Stuart Rogers Theater. YES Company is presented in partnership by the Gallo Center for the Arts and Stanislaus County Office of Education.



The **Stanislaus Cradle to Career Partnership** Parent Network has had over **850** hours of impact with initiatives such as Advocacy Trainings, Adult Mental Health First Aid, Community Math Festivals, and more! The partnership also supports **Stanislaus County Imagination Library**, which provides books to 7,549 children under the age of 5 each month.

Over **3,000** students participate in **student events** throughout the year including Mock Trial, Science Olympiad, Academic Decathlon, and the Spelling Championships. Winners of local academic contests often have the opportunity to compete at the state and national level.



The **Student Attendance Review Board (SARB)** supports all local school districts in combating truancy and behavior challenges. In partnership with school district attendance teams, they seek to understand why students are chronically absent and make every effort to correct the problems through letters, phone calls, and home visits.

ADVANCING MATH EDUCATION

The **Instructional Support Services division's** math team is helping schools across Stanislaus County strengthen how students learn math. They created a special learning network for teachers and school leaders to better understand and use the new 2023 California Math Framework (CMF) along with the Common Core State Standards for Math. This effort gives educators the tools they need to turn state guidelines into teaching strategies that work in real classrooms. The goal is simple but important: to make sure every student in the county has access to strong, high-quality math instruction.

The program reached more than 200 people from 17 different school districts. Each district sent a team that included principals, instructional coaches, and teachers from both general and special education. Over four days of training, participants deepened their knowledge of the new framework, explored the “big ideas” behind math learning, and built a shared vision of what great math instruction should look like. These sessions helped districts take state guidance and shape it into practical plans for their own schools—an important step toward raising student achievement across the region.

One key outcome was that districts worked together to design criteria for choosing new math curriculum materials. They connected the guidance of the new state framework with their own district priorities so that when they adopt new curriculum, it not only meets the framework's guidelines, but also fits the specific needs of their students and teachers.

Through this initiative, the SCOE Math Team showed how county support can make a real difference for local schools. Their work is helping ensure that all students in Stanislaus County build a strong foundation in math—something every parent wants for their child's future success.



Instructional Support Services by the Numbers:

- **306 students** earned the State Seal of Biliteracy, recognizing their fluency in English and a second language
- Staff conducted **138** workshops at SCOE, which served **3,258** educators
- Over **500** educators from **97** schools across **20** districts were supported in Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports

FROM PARENTS TO EDUCATORS

The Parent to Teacher Program, offered by **SCOE's Child & Family Services division**, provides a transformative opportunity for adults to reach their career goals by gaining the skills and training needed to work as Early Childhood Educators in Early Childhood Education settings. In response to the shortage of child education instructional staff, the program is designed to attract parents and community members interested in entering the field and to help increase the workforce in child development programs. One example of the program's impact is Stacy Murray, who began her journey in child development in 2022.

Murray joined the UC Merced Extension Child Development cohort through the Child & Family Services Parent to Teacher program. After earning 12 class units, she was required to complete 150 hours (approximately 50 days) of hands-on experience. She met this requirement by volunteering and later substituting in Salida's Head Start program, where her son was enrolled.

Building on that experience, Murray worked in preschool classrooms supporting art activities through SCOE's Arts program.

Today, she is an associate teacher with Empire Head Start in Empire and continues to grow professionally by pursuing an Associate of Science (AS) degree in Child Development at Modesto Junior College. Murray is committed to helping children learn and thrive while advancing her own knowledge and career in early childhood education.

Murray's story reflects SCOE's ongoing efforts in preparing skilled educators who support young children in providing childcare for working families.



Child & Family Services by the Numbers:

- CFS served **4,262** children and **3,666** families through Head Start programs
- CFS served **7,361** children and **5,051** families through state & local programs
- CFS provides programs in **7** other counties through established partnerships with service agencies
- CFS supported over **1,200** early education staff by providing over **300** professional development sessions

EVERY DAY COUNTS CAMPAIGN

The Every Day Counts – Attendance Matters initiative spanned two school years, 2023–24 and 2024–25, through a partnership between SCOE and all 25 Stanislaus County school districts. The overarching goal was to raise community awareness of the importance of daily school attendance, boost student attendance by 1%, and reduce chronic absenteeism by educating parents, staff, and the community about the benefits of regular school attendance.

Over the course of two years, the campaign contributed to a 1.55% increase in countywide attendance in 2024 and 1.42% in 2025 for a combined total of **2.97% increase in daily attendance**. Another positive outcome was a 6.3% decrease in chronic absenteeism. These gains mean students were in their classrooms for thousands of additional hours, with more time spent learning with their teachers, building confidence in reading and math, and staying on track for graduation.

Cumulatively, through a robust multimedia effort, the outreach generated over 63 million impressions across social media, radio, TV, billboards, magazine articles, and more.

SCOE partnered with Modesto Toyota in 2024 and with Modesto Subaru in 2025. On May 16, 2025, SCOE gave away a car to Enochs High School student Lucas Ruppel, and TSM Insurance donated one year of car insurance. This contest was open to all public high school students who could earn an entry for each month in which they had perfect attendance.

The Every Day Counts initiative proved that consistent collaboration and creative incentives can drive meaningful change. With improved attendance, students are better positioned for academic success.



2-Year Campaign Recap

- Average daily attendance increased by **2.97%**
- Chronic absenteeism decreased by **6.3%**
- Over **63,428,000** impressions garnered through community outreach
- **150** student semifinalists recognized at events in partnership with Modesto Subaru & Modesto Toyota
- **2** new cars presented to students with perfect attendance



STANISLAUS **rewired**
&inspired

“

This generation didn't just grow up with phones, they grew up inside them. The result? Fragmented attention, less depth to social connections, and rising anxiety. Part of our job in education today is to help them reclaim identity, purpose, and real connection.

~Superintendent Scott Kuykendall
as quoted in *Forbes magazine*



IT'S TIME TO UNPLUG & PLAY

Since 2010, teen mental health has experienced a drastic downturn. Rates of depression, anxiety, self-harm, and suicide have more than doubled. Superintendent Kuykendall was inspired by Jonathan Haidt's book *The Anxious Generation* and the supporting research it presented.

This year, SCOE's focus is on the growing mental health crisis among adolescents by sharing resources that help families, students, and educators spend less time on screens and more time in real life. Through the **Stanislaus Rewired & Inspired** superintendent's initiative, staff will increase awareness of the harm caused to children by excessive screen time and the use of social media before age 16, and provide actionable resources to Stanislaus County students, parents, and teachers to mitigate these risks.

The campaign encourages families to embrace Haidt's four new norms:

1. No smartphones before high school – Younger kids thrive when their lives are anchored in face-to-face play, learning, and exploration.
2. No social media before age 16 – Waiting gives teens time to develop stronger coping skills, self-esteem, and real-world friendships.
3. Phone-free schools – Kids learn better and stay more connected with their peers when devices aren't a distraction.
4. More independence and free play – Families can encourage kids to ride bikes, walk to school, do chores, or take on small responsibilities that build resilience and confidence.

Together we can reclaim life balance, restore real-world play, and build healthy digital habits and relationships in our homes and schools.



2025 Teacher of the Year



Ernesto Hinojosa

3rd Grade

Freedom Elementary, Sylvan Union

"My students would say I'm best known for not giving up on them and being very patient with them."



Kayla Aghassi

5th Grade

Hughes Elementary, Empire Union

"The most important things I can teach my students are truly having confidence in themselves and a love for learning."



Carla Escriba

7-8 Grade English/Language Arts

Blaker-Kinser Junior High, Ceres Unified

"Seeing students' growth at the end of the year is rewarding. I get to have that opportunity to make an impact in their lives."



Katie Jeans

High School English

Pitman High, Turlock Unified

"I always want to build the culture of our school. I want my students to feel safe in my classroom. I want my students to trust me."

County Employees Making a Difference

Pictured standing (left to right):
Clayton Gassittie, Ceres Unified;
Nicholas Durant, Patterson Joint
Unified; **Zachary Sward**, Turlock
Unified; **Reginaldo Valenzuela**,
Empire Union.

Pictured seated (left to right):
Maryann Largent, Oakdale Joint
Unified; **Hilda Gutierrez**,
Waterford Unified; **Pamela
Ingalls**, Modesto City Schools;
Bertina Bettencourt, Chatom
Union; **Elizabeth Giannone**,
Turlock Unified

2025 *Awards & Recognition*



Every Student Succeeding

Association of California School
Administrators Region 7 Winner,
Naomi Campbell, Riverbank
Unified School District, with
Superintendent Scott Kuykendall,
and ACSA Chapter President
Adriana Corona-Duran



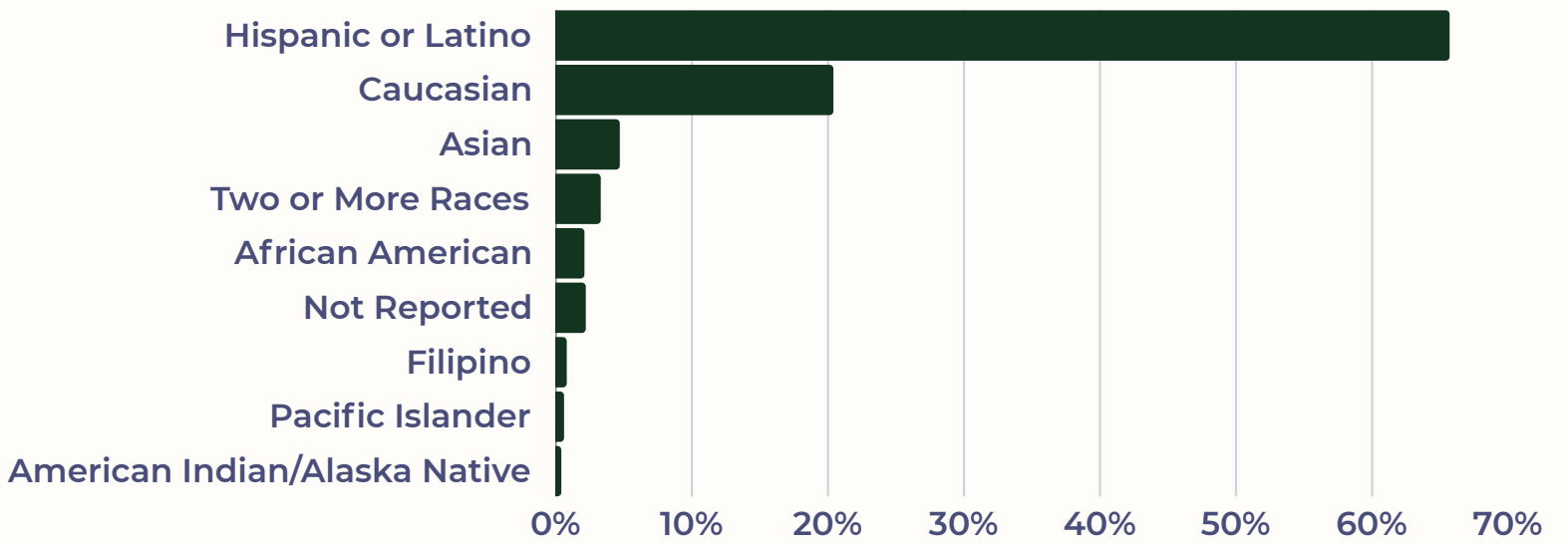
Early Care & Education Employees of the Year

Pictured (left to right): **Marisela Alcantar**, SCOE
Behavior Support Program Assistant; **Denise
Carranco**, Chowchilla Head Start Teacher,
Community Action Partnership of Madera County;
and **Serafina Moreno**, Franklin Preschool & Head
Start Family Service Specialist, Modesto City Schools

Schools by Type



Enrollment by Ethnicity



Graduation Rates



Source: California Department of Education-DataQuest and ed-data.org

Stanislaus County Schools Demographic Data			
Source: California Department of Education- DataQuest; (SCOE). Most current information available as of 9/2025.			
District Name	Enrollment	English Learners	Free & Reduced Price Meals
Ceres Unified	14,047	4,243	11,894
Chatom Union	558	210	414
Denair Unified	1,301	236	902
Empire Union Elementary	2,803	714	2,354
Gratton Elementary	135	6	21
Hart-Ransom Union Elementary	1,225	56	550
Hickman Community Charter	1,096	67	464
Hughson Unified	2,239	331	1,351
Keyes Union	1,065	280	731
Knights Ferry Elementary	106	5	16
Modesto City Elementary	15,660	4,827	12,697
Modesto City High	16,060	2,637	11,289
Newman-Crows Landing Unified	3,085	929	2,104
Oakdale Joint Unified	5,118	506	2,082
Paradise Elementary	177	48	116
Patterson Joint Unified	6,070	1,927	4,712
Riverbank Unified	2,960	819	2,329
Roberts Ferry Union Elementary	199	30	69
Salida Union Elementary	2,968	618	1,924
Shiloh Elementary	187	54	119
Stanislaus County Office of Education	2,404	295	1,390
Stanislaus Union Elementary	3,329	749	2,536
Sylvan Union Elementary	7,977	1,206	5,149
Turlock Unified	13,744	3,566	8,878
Valley Home Joint Elementary	191	20	65
Waterford Unified	2,501	465	1,957
Enrollment	English Learners	Free & Reduced Price Meals	
County Totals: 107,205	County Totals: 24,844 (23%)	County Totals: 76,113 (71%)	
State Totals: 5,806,221	State Totals: 1,009,066 (17%)	State Totals: 3,647,037 (63%)	



Stanislaus County Superintendent of Schools
Scott Kuykendall

Stanislaus County Board of Education

Alice J. Pollard, Chairperson

Paulo Carvalho, Vice-Chairperson

Chinyere Nnodim-Jack, Trustee

Kim A. Rose, Trustee

Mary Ann Sanders, Trustee

Allison Molina, Student Board Representative



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