

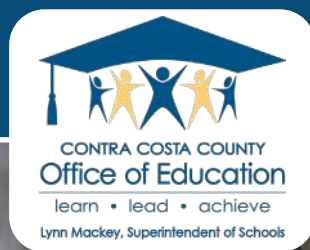


CONTRA COSTA COUNTY  
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

2024-2025

# ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE COMMUNITY





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**Contra Costa County  
Office of Education**  
77 Santa Barbara Road  
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523  
[www.cocoschools.org](http://www.cocoschools.org)



# CABINET MEMBERS



**Hector Galicia, Ed. D**  
Assistant Superintendent,  
Human Resources



**Daniela Paradis**  
Deputy Superintendent,  
Business and Admin. Services



**Nick Berger**  
Senior Director, Student  
Programs and Services



**Shannon Ortland**  
Assistant Superintendent,  
Educational Services



**Marcus Walton**  
Director II, Communications  
and Special Projects

# COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT



**Lynn Mackey**  
Superintendent of Schools  
Contra Costa County

Dear Contra Costa County Residents,

I am honored to present the 2024–25 Annual Report to the Community, which highlights the programs and services provided by the Contra Costa County Office of Education (CCCOE). As we reflect on the past year, I am proud of our continued commitment to supporting the academic success and well-being of students and families across the county.

This year, we have taken meaningful steps to expand opportunities for student voice and leadership. The launch of the Contra Costa Youth Journalism Project has empowered students to explore storytelling, media literacy, and civic engagement. The Board of Education has appointed student board members who have brought fresh perspectives to educational policy discussions, ensuring that student experiences and ideas are represented at the highest levels. Additionally, CCCOE’s recent purchase of KVHS radio opens new pathways for student expression, creativity, and career exploration in broadcasting and communications.

**“The launch of the Contra Costa Youth Journalism Project has empowered students to explore storytelling, media literacy, and civic engagement.”**

These initiatives build on our agency’s broad spectrum of resources — from curriculum and instruction support to early learning programs, literacy initiatives, and educational services for youth in the justice system and students with intensive special needs. We continue to offer and support enriching academic competitions such as Mock Trial, Poetry Out Loud, and the regional Spelling Bee, and provide robust CTE/ROP programs that prepare high school students for success in college and careers.

I invite you to explore the 2024–25 Annual Report to learn more about our work and the progress we’ve made together. If you have questions or suggestions, please reach out to me or any member of our team. You can also visit [www.cocoschools.org](http://www.cocoschools.org) or follow us on social media (@cocoschools) to stay connected.

Thank you for your continued partnership in supporting the students of Contra Costa County.

Sincerely,  
*Lynn Mackey*  
Superintendent of Schools



# ABOUT US

## COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Contra Costa County Board of Education is the elected Board of Education for the county of Contra Costa. The Board of Education consists of five members elected by trustee district areas to staggered four-year terms. Each board member represents a different area of the county and must be a registered voter in that area. There are two

student members who have preferential votes on many matters brought before the body. In accordance with the California Education Code and certain other rules and laws, the Contra Costa County Board of Education serves as the governing board for the juvenile court schools operated by the County Office of Education.



Area 1

**Daniel Nathan-Heiss**  
El Cerrito, El Sobrante, San Pablo, Pinole, and parts of Kensington and Richmond

Term Expires: 12/2028



Area 2

**Sarah Butler**  
Canyon, Concord, Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda, Walnut Creek, parts of Alamo, El Sobrante and Kensington

Term Expires: 12/2026



Area 3

**Yazmin Llamas**  
Bay Point, Clyde, Crockett, Hercules, Martinez, Pacheco, Pleasant Hill, Pittsburg, Port Costa, Rodeo, and parts of El Sobrante

Term Expires: 12/2028



Area 4

**Mike Maxwell**  
Blackhawk, Clayton, Danville, San Ramon, and parts of Alamo and Concord

Term Expires: 12/2026



Area 5

**Annette Lewis**  
Antioch, Bethel Island, Brentwood, Byron, Discovery Bay, Knightsen, Oakley and parts of Pittsburgh

Term Expires: 12/2028

## Student Board Members

Terms expire 06/2026



**Keerthi Eraniyan**  
California High School  
San Ramon Valley Unified School District



**Sanvi Panda**  
College Park High School  
Mt. Diablo Unified School District

## School District Map



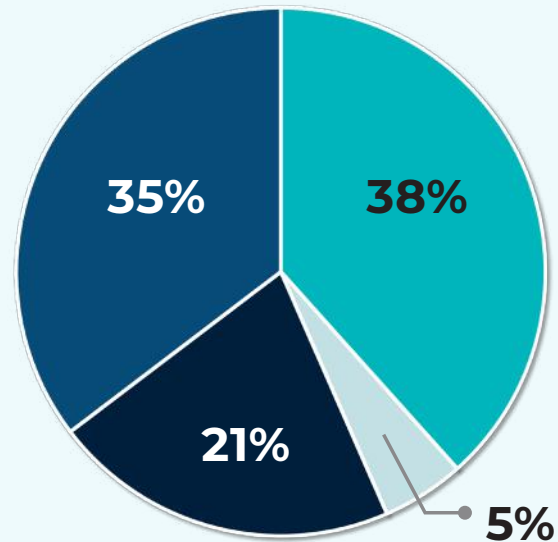
**TRUSTEES - BY AREA**  
1- NATHAN-HEISS    4- MAXWELL  
2- BUTLER            5- LEWIS  
3- LLAMAS



## 2024-2025 CONTRA COSTA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT REVENUES

School District	General Fund Revenue	Per Funded ADA Revenue
Acalanes Union High	\$ 99,570,845	\$ 103,358,064
Antioch Unified	\$ 268,638,858	\$ 301,352,290
Brentwood Union Elementary	\$ 137,606,592	\$ 142,371,305
Byron Union	\$ 18,521,679	\$ 19,337,532
Canyon Elementary	\$ 1,226,171	\$ 1,205,830
John Swett Unified	\$ 24,193,528	\$ 25,057,035
Knightesen Elementary	\$ 8,473,572	\$ 9,401,248
Lafayette	\$ 54,349,039	\$ 60,341,380
Liberty Union High	\$ 127,415,698	\$ 139,248,746
Martinez Unified	\$58,159,604	\$ 62,385,528
Moraga	\$ 28,653,178	\$ 29,992,908
Mt. Diablo Unified	\$ 454,774,033	\$ 500,726,526
Oakley Union Elementary	\$ 76,702,588	\$ 84,124,066
Orinda Union	\$ 43,321,272	\$ 45,160,187
Pittsburg Unified	\$ 195,628,696	\$ 220,906,828
San Ramon Valley Unified	\$ 442,128,536	\$ 464,012,281
Walnut Creek	\$ 50,779,495	\$ 51,233,905
West Contra Costa Unified	\$ 484,082,687	\$ 509,255,094
<b>DISTRICT Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,574,226,070</b>	<b>\$ 2,769,470,753</b>
County Office of Education	\$ 98,412,753	\$ 96,822,219
<b>County Totals</b>	<b>\$ 2,672,638,823</b>	<b>\$ 2,866,292,792</b>

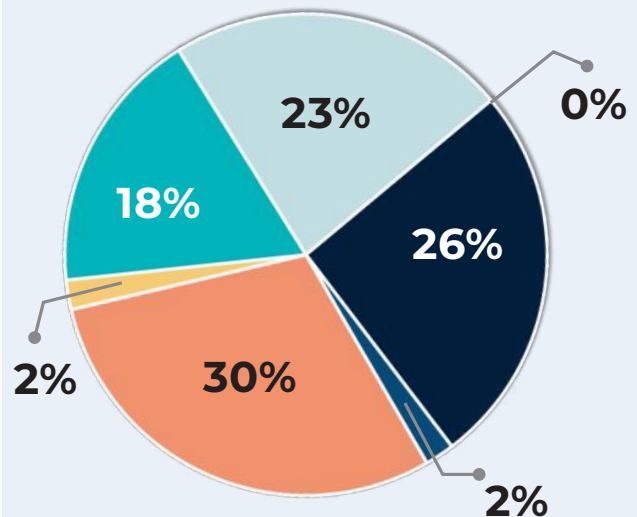
## 2024-2025 CCCOE Revenues



### Type of Revenue

- LCFF Sources
- Other State Revenue
- Federal Revenue
- Other Local Revenue

## 2024-2025 CCCOE Expenditures



### Type of Expenditure

- Certified Salaries
- Employee Benefits
- Classified Salaries
- Capital Outlay
- Books & Supplies
- Federal Revenue
- Services and Other Operating Expenses

Data reported by districts, 2024-25 budget



# COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

## PUBLIC EDUCATION IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

### OUR DEMOGRAPHICS

#### Enrollment by Ethnicity

- 7.8% African American
- 0.3% American Indian or Alaska Native
- 14.8% Asian
- 4.1% Filipino
- 38.6% Hispanic or Latino
- 0.6% Pacific Islander
- 24% White
- 7.8% Two or More Races
- 1.8% Not Reported

#### Additional Data

- 16.1% English Learners 27,195
- 0.3% Foster Youth 436
- 1.4% Homeless Youth 2,183
- 0.0% Migrant Education 4
- 14.0% Students with Disabilities 23,623
- 45.6% Socioeconomically Disadvantaged 72,122



Acalanes Union High  
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

5,425



Antioch Unified  
www.antiochschools.net

16,199



Brentwood Union  
www.brentwood.k12.ca.us

10,049



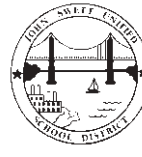
Byron Union  
www.byronunionschooldistrict.us

2,182



Canyon Elementary  
www.canyon.k12.ca.us

68



John Swett Unified  
www.jsusd.org

1,198



Knightsen Elementary  
www.knightsen.k12.ca.us

648



Lafayette  
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

3,235



Liberty Union High  
www.luhisd.net

8,228



Martinez Unified  
www.martinez.k12.ca.us

3,787



Moraga  
www.moraga.k12.ca.us

1,805



Mt. Diablo Unified  
www.mdusd.org

30,163



Oakley Union Elementary  
www.oesd.k12.ca.us

5,131



Orinda Union  
www.orindaschools.org

2,594



Pittsburg Unified  
www.pittsburg.k12.ca.us

10,666



San Ramon Valley Unified  
www.srvusd.net

28,615



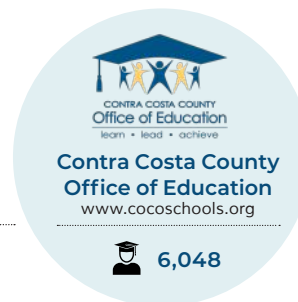
Walnut Creek  
www.walnutcreeksd.org

3,603



West Contra Costa Unified  
www.wccusd.net

29,284



Contra Costa County Office of Education  
www.cocoschools.org

6,048



## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



California High School Mock Trial Team.

### CALIFORNIA HIGH SCHOOL WINS EIGHTH CONSECUTIVE MOCK TRIAL TITLE

California High School claimed the Contra Costa County Mock Trials championship for their eighth year in a row.

Under the guidance of Coach **Brian Barr**, California High School won the final trial against Miramonte High held at the A.F. Bray Courthouse in Martinez. The win allowed Cal High to represent Contra Costa

County at the California Mock Trial Finals in March, with Cal High reaching the semifinals.

The 44th annual Mock Trial competition featured 48 trials with 19 schools participating and more than 140 judges, local attorneys, and volunteers contributing as trial presiders, scorers, or courtroom coordinators.

### EIGHT ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS EARN DISTINGUISHED TITLE

State Superintendent of Public Instruction **Tony Thurmond** named eight Contra Costa County elementary schools as 2025 California Distinguished Schools. This recognition celebrates schools that have demonstrated outstanding achievements in closing the achievement gap and achieving exceptional student performance.



The California Distinguished Schools Program honors schools that have made significant gains in academic achievement and demonstrated exemplary growth across key performance indicators. Honored schools show excellence in English language arts, mathematics, and other critical areas, ensuring opportunities for all students to succeed.

**Happy Valley Elementary School** from the Lafayette School District, **Los Perales** and **Donald L. Rheem Elementary Schools** from the Moraga School District, **West County Mandarin School** from the West Contra Costa Unified School District, and **John Baldwin, Greenbrook, Neil A. Armstrong, and Creekside Elementary Schools** in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District received the award.



## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

### MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE SHOWCASES STUDENT EXCELLENCE



Delegates at the Contra Costa County Model UN Conference.

The Contra Costa County Office of Education (CCCOE) proudly hosted its 33rd Model United Nations (MUN) Conference at the Del Valle Education Center in Walnut Creek. Facilitated by Best Delegate, the event brought together high school students from across the county for a day-long United Nations simulation, enhancing their understanding of global issues and the UN’s role in addressing them.

The conference featured three committees focused on critical global issues: Nuclear Disarmament, Food Security, and Humanitarian Efforts in Ukraine. Students, acting as delegates representing various nations, demonstrated research, negotiation, and public speaking skills while working collaboratively to address these complex topics.

### FOUR CONTINUATION SCHOOLS NAMED 2025 MODEL HIGH SCHOOLS

**Bidwell High School** in Antioch, **Olympic High School** in Concord, **Del Amigo High School** in San Ramon, and **Sylvester Greenwood Academy** in Richmond were named 2025 California Model Continuation High Schools by State Superintendent of Public Instruction **Tony Thurmond**. These four schools are among 74 selected statewide for the honor.

The four schools were selected as Model Continuation High Schools based on a comprehensive and competitive application process, which included assessments, data analysis, and an onsite evaluation conducted by a peer review panel.

Model Continuation High Schools offer a pathway to a high school diploma for students who face barriers to traditional education. There are 429 continuation high schools serving 49,000 students across California.



### FIFTH GRADER TAKES RUNNER UP SPOT AT STATE SPELLING BEE

**Akshara Thummala**, a fifth grader at Quail Run Elementary School in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District, earned second place in the Elementary Division of the California State Spelling Bee. The competition brought together spelling champions from across the state, with a final round featuring challenging words such as “rhizome,” “tintinnabulation,” and “wurtzite.”

Facilitated by the San Joaquin County Office of Education, the event featured Akshara competing against 44 students in grades four through six.





## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

### CCCOE SUPPORTS YOUTH JOURNALISM PROJECT

Thirteen students from 10 high schools across Contra Costa County have been selected as reporters for the Contra Costa Youth Journalism (CCYJ) program. Sponsored by the Contra Costa County Office of Education (CCCOE) in collaboration with various California news organizations and the Dean & Margaret Leshner Foundation, this program offers high school students an opportunity to report on their schools and local communities.

Under the mentorship of Bay Area professional journalists, the students developed and published their stories online at CCSpin.net, LocalNewsMatters.org, and other news outlets. This initiative is made possible through the generous support of CCCOE, the Leshner Foundation, and CalMatters' Youth Journalism Initiative project. Additional support is provided by the Bay City News Foundation, which publishes on the free site LocalNewsMatters.org, Contra Costa Television, and the DVC Journalism Department.



### LAS LOMAS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT NAMED COUNTY'S POET OUT LOUD CHAMPION

Olivia Buhler from Las Lomas High School was named as the county's Poetry Out Loud Champion by Arts Contra Costa County (ARTSCCC). Aliyah Houston from San Ramon Valley High School won second place and Harper Iles from Pinole Valley High School won third place. The County Finals included impressive high school champions Bryan Nguyen (Deer Valley High School), Adri Walker (DVC College Now), Mayari Mendo Pagtakhan (El Cerrito High School), Grace Pastor (Independence High School), and Lillian Hodges-Johnson (Mt. Diablo High School).

Buhler performed *The World is Too Much With Us* by William Wordsworth and *Happy Hour* by Lee Ann Roripaugh.



2024-2025 Contra Costa Youth Journalism Project students.

### 18 SENIORS EARN NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

There were 18 seniors in the Contra Costa County class of 2025 named National Merit Scholars by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC®). Ten won \$2,500 National Merit Scholarships, and eight received National Merit Corporate-Sponsored Scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

These students are among about 3,300 recipients nationwide recognized for outstanding academic achievement and potential. The high schools with

scholarship winners include Antioch High School, Athenian School in Danville, Acalanes High School in Lafayette, California High School in San Ramon, Carondelet High School in Concord, Dougherty Valley High School in San Ramon, Las Lomas High School in Walnut Creek, Miramonte High School in Orinda, Monte Vista High School in Danville, and Northgate High School in Walnut Creek.



## SPECIAL EDUCATION

### WHAT WE DO

**Student Programs** provides direct special education instructional programs and a variety of support services for students enrolled in CCCOE schools, as well as students throughout the county.

CCCOE provides a full range of services designed to meet the learning needs of students with disabilities from birth to age 22. In the 2024-25 school year, 206 students were served in 27 special education classrooms throughout the county.

### Who we serve:

- Early Start and Preschool students
- Students with Autism
- Students with Emotional Disabilities
- Students with Extensive Support Needs
- Students with Visual and Auditory Impairments
- Students transitioning into adulthood



### At-A-Glance

- 206 Special Education Students served
- 27 Special Education classes
- 28 Counseling-enriched classrooms
- 2 Preschool classrooms
- 4 Early start classrooms
- 4 Deaf/Hare-of-Hearing teachers
- 5 Visually impaired teachers
- 3 Adaptive PE teachers



### TEACHER PLANTS SENSORY GARDEN



Students, teachers and volunteers work in the sensory garden at Turner Elementary School.

**Betty McPeek**, a Special Education Teacher at Contra Costa County Office of Education's Turner Elementary School, had a vision to enhance the school's playground. Instead of creating just a regular garden, she wanted to create a sensory garden for her students to enjoy.

A sensory garden stimulates and engages the five basic senses of sight, smell, sound, touch, and taste. This type of garden allows people to connect to nature and encourages them to become more aware of their surroundings and their response to them.

The veteran teacher of 48 years pitched her idea to Principal Terri Borgard and Superintendent of Schools Lynn Mackey, who both signed off on the project. CCCOE's general services department prepared the area for planting and installed a new irrigation line.

Armed with a map and scope of the project, McPeek set out to find a local organization to help fund the plants, soil, and materials needed to make the sensory garden thrive.



## INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS

### MAKING AN IMPACT



Students celebrate on graduation day.

One major role played by CCCOE is to provide educational and personal development opportunities to youth and adults who are incarcerated or under the jurisdiction of the

probation department. There are two major programs to serve justice-involved students: Mt. McKinley School and Contra Costa Adult School.

#### Mt. McKinley

Mt. McKinley, also known as the Court School, provides educational services to students incarcerated in juvenile detention facilities. Students throughout Contra Costa County are served at the Martinez facility.

Mt. McKinley served 191 students in the 2024–25 school year and celebrated 12 graduates. The high school program features a University of California A–G approved curriculum. During the 2024–25 school year, two students were dually enrolled, earning college and high school credits simultaneously.

Utilizing Alternatives to Suspension, no high school students experienced a day of suspension during the 2024–25 school year.

#### Mt. McKinley

191 Students  
80 College classes  
237 College credits  
3.6 GPA

#### CCAS

212 students at Marsh Creek  
316 students at Martinez  
851 students at West County

#### Contra Costa Adult School

Contra Costa Adult School (CCAS) is a WASC-accredited educational program that served 1,379 incarcerated adults in three facilities through the Office of Sheriff Inmate Services during the 2024-25 school year. Students can take advantage of college and career readiness opportunities, grade-appropriate academic coursework and address basic skill needs.

Students can earn high school and college credits, a high school diploma, a high school equivalency certificate, and participate in career technical education, personal development classes, and transition and employment services.



# STUDENT PROGRAMS

## INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS

### ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS SERVING STUDENTS

**Golden Gate Community School**, operated by the Contra Costa County Office of Education, is an alternative education charter school that caters to students referred by their local school district due to expulsion or other school-related issues, as well as those whose families believe they would benefit from a smaller, supportive environment.



Families celebrate with their graduates.



### Golden Gate Community School At-A-Glance

**3** campuses (Richmond, Pittsburg and Brentwood)

**153** students served (2024-2025)

**24** graduates

The school features small class sizes and offers extensive socio-emotional resources to support each student's unique needs. With three campuses (Richmond, Pittsburg and Brentwood), Golden Gate served 153 students in 2024-2025 and had 24 graduates.

Eleven students participated in concurrent enrollment programs with the community colleges, during the 2024-2025 school year, earning 90 college credits. Nearly half of students received counseling services and 32 of 35 students cleared their expulsion, transferred, or graduated.





## ASSISTING YOUTH WITH NEEDS

SUPPORTING HOMELESS STUDENTS,  
OPPORTUNITY YOUTH



Community partners providing resources at the Foster Youth fair.

Among the services provided by Youth Services is The Homeless Education Technical Assistance Center (HETAC), funded by the American Rescue Plan Homeless Children and Youth to support homeless education across the state’s 58 County Offices of Education (COEs) and their school districts. The Contra Costa, Los Angeles, and San Diego COEs are the three HETAC leads, each responsible for serving COEs in specific regions of the state. The Contra Costa County Office of Education (CCCOE) provides tailored support to its region of 25 COEs, including conducting quarterly regional meetings, offering customized professional development opportunities, disseminating resources, building capacity and coaching, and addressing individual technical assistance requests.

Additionally, CCCOE supports statewide activities such as coordinating and facilitating webinars, supporting rural counties through the Rural Homeless Education Summit, planning, and supporting the California Homeless Education Conference, and collaborating with the California Department of Education and the HETAC team to develop new training and resource materials. In 2024-25, CCCOE facilitated four regional COE meetings, coordinated six statewide webinars and six statewide virtual trainings, and responded to 84 individual technical assistance requests from regional COEs regarding homeless education issues.

## WORKFORCE PROGRAMS

Workforce Programs includes the Transition Partnership Program (TPP), We Can Work (WCW), WorkAbility I (WAI), and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) which provide guidance and year-round work experiences to eligible youth aged 16-24.

These initiatives focus on supporting Opportunity Youth. By offering targeted resources and personalized assistance, the programs bridge the gap between education and meaningful employment.

Four businesses, Walgreens, CVS, Anisha’s Bakery, and Ace Hardware, hired young people through the CCCOE Workforce Programs.

For the 2024-25 school year, 167 young people participated in CCCOE Workforce Programs and worked 35,828 hours.



## YOUTH SERVICES EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM 2024-2025 HIGHLIGHTS

The Youth Services Empowerment Program (YSEP)



supports youth ages 14–24 who are involved, or at risk of involvement, with the juvenile justice system. Through partnerships with Probation, Public Defenders, Community Partners, and Schools, YSEP delivers education and career services to both in-custody and out-of-custody youth. Case managers provide personalized support to help youth finish school, gain employment, and successfully re-enter their communities.



# STUDENT PROGRAMS

## SUPPORTING STUDENTS

### SUPPORTING COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



Community schools gathering at Pittsburg High School.

### Service Overview

**39** Schools

**\$1.2M** Community School Grant

**1,261** Attendance and transcript reviews

**1,097** Meetings with family/probation/school personnel

**439** Employment services provided



The Contra Costa County Office of Education (CCCOE) actively supports community schools in several local school districts, including Antioch, Pittsburg, Mount Diablo, John Swett, West Contra Costa, and Aspire Richmond Technology Academy, a charter school. These districts have received planning or implementation grants through the California Community Schools Partnership Program (CCSPP) to strengthen their community school strategies. Currently, 39 schools in Contra Costa County receive funding.

CCCOE's efforts are led by Youth Services Director Alejandra Chamberlain and Youth Services Manager Denise Clarke. Clarke supports district teams through ongoing professional development and capacity building, while Chamberlain focuses on countywide coordination to align efforts and strengthen collaboration among districts and partners.

Community schools offer integrated support services such as health care, mentoring, and after-school programs to reduce barriers to learning. Through strong partnerships with community organizations, these schools foster supportive environments that promote students' social, emotional, and academic growth.

As part of the CCSPP system of support, CCCOE received \$1,250,000 from the California Department of Education to strengthen local education agencies' capacity to develop, implement, and coordinate community schools. The funding supports partnerships among districts, county agencies, nonprofit organizations, and other partners to ensure successful implementation.



## SUPPORTING STUDENTS

### TOBACCO PROGRAM EXPANDS TO CANNABIS PREVENTION



2024-2025 CourAGE team.

Tobacco Use Prevention Education (TUPE) continued to make a significant impact across Contra Costa County in the 2024–2025 school year. With active programs in 74 middle schools, high schools, and non-traditional schools, TUPE empowered 673 peer educators to lead prevention efforts and support their peers. A total of 4,729 students participated in classroom-based substance abuse prevention programs, reinforcing TUPE’s commitment to education and early intervention. Additionally, 34 students engaged in the CourAGE program, which provides targeted support for youth navigating substance-related challenges.

A major highlight of the year was the expansion of TUPE’s scope through the Cannabis Awareness & Prevention Project (CAPP). This initiative addressed the growing concern around cannabis use among youth. Peer educators reached 1,466 students through peer-led cannabis prevention presentations and activities. Impressively, 92% of participants reported that they wanted to stay cannabis-free or reduce their use after attending these sessions, demonstrating the effectiveness of peer influence in shaping healthy choices.

TUPE also strengthened its commitment to restorative practices through its alternatives-to-suspension programs for cannabis use. All students who participated in these programs reported that they had the opportunity to identify alternatives to using cannabis. Even more notably, 91% of participants stated that they were no longer using cannabis upon completing the program. These outcomes reflect TUPE’s success in promoting behavioral change through education and support rather than punitive measures.

#### Tobacco Use Prevention Education (TUPE)

(All data is for 2024-2025)

**673** Peer educators

**4,729** students in middle and high school that participated in classroom-based substance abuse prevention programs

**34** students in CourAGE

**74** middle schools, high schools and non-traditional schools who had an active TUPE program

#### Cannabis Awareness and Prevention Project (CAPP)

**100%** of students who participated in an alternative-to-suspension program for cannabis use reported that they had the opportunity to identify alternatives to using.

**91%** of students served **no longer using cannabis** after completing alternative-to-suspension program.

**1,466** peers reached through peer-led prevention presentations and activities.

**92%** of students who **cut back or stay cannabis-free** after participating in a peer-led presentation.

**SUPPORTING STUDENTS**

**ROP OFFERS PREPARATION FOR COLLEGE AND CAREER**



Students from Antioch Unified School District honored at the annual Students of Excellence awards.



During the 2024–2025 school year, the **Contra Costa County Regional Occupational Program (ROP)**, under the leadership of the County Office of Education, continued its commitment to high-quality Career Technical Education (CTE). ROP delivered 368 courses across 34 high schools in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, serving 8,746 students and supporting 128 teachers. Signature events such as Manufacturing Day, Alt Ed Trades Day, and the Student Education Conference connected students with industry partners, colleges, and career pathways, strengthening the link between education and future careers.

and responsive. ROP’s impact was evident in student achievement and recognition. The Early Childhood Education Apprenticeship Program, supported by the California Apprenticeship Initiative, enabled students to earn college credit, gain hands-on training, and secure employment with partners such as the YMCA. The Students of Excellence awards honored 40 outstanding students selected from 47 nominees, each receiving a certificate of merit and a \$300 scholarship supported by community partners including Phillips 66, Chevron, Travis Credit Union, and other local sponsors.

**College and Career/ROP**  
 Data for 2024-2025

- 8,746** Number of ROP students
- 368** Number of ROP courses
- 34** Number of schools that hosted ROP classes

The College and Career Readiness Program led a consortium of 12 districts and charter schools, using regional labor market data to align programs with workforce needs. The program prepares students for meaningful careers and postsecondary success through essential skills, industry knowledge, and work-based learning. Professional learning remained a priority, with a focus on integrating artificial intelligence into CTE instruction to keep curricula current



Students graduate from Medical Assisting Program.



## SUPPORTING DISTRICTS



Educational Services provides professional development to teachers and administrators.

### OFFERING AI SERVICES AND TRAINING TO COUNTY EDUCATORS AND ADMINISTRATORS

Over the past year, CCCOE has demonstrated a commitment to supporting artificial intelligence (AI) integration across educational contexts. Through the leadership of the Emerging Tech Team and strategic partnerships with organizations like Common Sense Media and Code.org, CCCOE hosted a total of 10 “AI for Educators” sessions, five Ed Tech Subcommittee meetings, and nine Lunch and Learn events focused on AI.

Notably, CCCOE collaborated with Code.org to deliver specialized trainings on AI and ai for EDU, and presented its three-pronged approach to AI support—Educators, Policy, and Internal Staff—at the Curricular and Improvement Support Committee Symposium. Family engagement was also prioritized, with a virtual AI Family Night held in partnership with Common Sense Media featuring speaker Jamie Nunez.

### DRIVING IMPACT THROUGH DATA AND INNOVATION



CCCOE staff provided several AI trainings for educators.

**The Educational Services Department** continues to lead efforts to strengthen instructional quality and equity across Contra Costa County’s 18 school districts. The department delivered over 120 professional development sessions, reaching more than 2,400 educators and administrators. These sessions spanned curriculum design, assessment strategies, and instructional leadership, ensuring districts have the tools to meet diverse student needs. Additionally, Educational Services supported the development of 18 Local Control Accountability Plans (LCAPs), reinforcing its role as a trusted partner in district improvement planning.

Differentiated Assistance (DA) remains a cornerstone of the department’s work. Seven districts received DA in 2024, compared to 10 in 2023. DA interventions targeted areas such as English Language Arts, mathematics, and chronic absenteeism, with performance gap reduction initiatives impacting over 15,000 students countywide. These efforts align with California’s System of Support, emphasizing equity and closing disparities in student outcomes.

While Educational Services’ primary focus is on district support, the department also champions innovation. In 2024–25, CCCOE hosted several events introducing educators to practical applications of artificial intelligence in classrooms. These initiatives, highlighted in the dashboard’s engagement metrics, underscore CCCOE’s commitment to preparing schools for emerging technologies.

Complementing these efforts, leadership and teacher development programs continued to thrive through the Administrative Leadership Program and Teacher Induction Program.

## SUPPORTING DISTRICTS

### TRAINING EDUCATIONAL LEADERS



2025 Administrative Leadership Cohort.

### Administrative Leadership Program (ALP)

The **Administrative Leadership Program** continues to cultivate strong, equity-driven educational leaders across the region. Through its two credential pathways—the Preliminary Administrative Services Credential Program (PASC) and the Clear Administrative Credential Program (CACP)—CCCOE empowers educators to lead with purpose, vision, and a commitment to instructional excellence and educational justice. These programs are designed to prepare and support administrators at every stage of their leadership journey, from aspiring leaders to those newly appointed to administrative roles.

The Preliminary Administrative Services Credential Program (PASC) focuses on equipping future administrators with the foundational skills needed to thrive in today's complex educational landscape. Emphasizing continuous improvement, instructional leadership, and equity, the program fosters a deep understanding of how to drive positive change and create inclusive learning environments. In 2024–2025, the program celebrated the graduation of 37 candidates, each prepared to take the next step in their careers and make a positive impact on student success.

The Clear Administrative Credential Program (CACP) is a two-year, job-embedded induction program approved by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing and offered in partnership with the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA). Designed for beginning administrators, the program provides personalized coaching and professional development to deepen leadership competencies.

### SUPPORTING NEW TEACHERS

The **Teacher Induction Program (TIP)** provides a pathway for General Education and Education Specialist teachers to clear their California teaching credentials. As a consortium, TIP collaborates with 15 county districts and 14 additional educational partners—including districts from other counties, charter schools, and independent schools—supporting 324 teachers and 181 mentors during the 2024–25 school year.

TIP offers a **two-year, individualized, job-embedded, and equity-centered mentoring system** that begins in a teacher's first years in the classroom.

The program accelerates teacher practice and student achievement through structured self-assessment, goal-setting, inquiry, and reflection aligned with the California Standards for the Teaching Profession (CSTP). Key features include personalized support, integration into daily teaching, and a strong focus on equity and inclusion.

TIP emphasizes **individualized mentoring, collaborative learning communities, and strategies to cultivate excellence and equity** in education. It also supports educator retention by fostering job satisfaction and career longevity through professional support.

In 2024–2025, 159 teachers completed all program requirements and were recommended for a **California Professional Clear Teaching Credential**.



## CCCOE EMPLOYEES

### CELEBRATING COUNTY OFFICE EMPLOYEES

The County Office of Education celebrated 15 employees honored as the agency’s top certificated and classified staff during the 2025 Celebration of Excellence Awards.

The awards are the first step in the California Department of Education’s California School Recognition Program, highlighting the invaluable contributions of teachers and school employees supporting CCCOE’s students from preschool through adult education. Honorees include instructional aides, clerical workers, paraprofessionals, classroom teachers, and other professionals who foster environments that promote academic success, achievement, health, and safety for all students.

**Monica Chicas-Brizuela**, an administrative assistant at Contra Costa Adult School, and **Elizabeth Lopez**, an instructional assistant at Turner Elementary School, represented the agency in the county’s Classified School Employee of the Year competition. **Carianne Kowalski**, a teacher at Diablo Vista Elementary School, represented CCCOE in the county Teachers of the Year program.



#### CCCOE’s Classified School Employee Nominees

- **Casie Pruett**, Human Resources Specialist, Human Resources
- **Danielle Davies**, School Administrative Assistant, Far East County Student Programs - Liberty Transition and Heritage High School
- **Heidi Andrews**, Program Accountant, Business Services
- **Monica Chicas-Brizuela**, Administrative Assistant, Contra Costa Adult School
- **Denise Connors**, IA Special Education, Diablo Vista Elementary School
- **Duane Patton**, IA Special Education, Contra Costa Adult School
- **Elizabeth Lopez**, IA Special Education, Turner Elementary School
- **Renee Maez**, IA Behavior Support, Golden Gate Community Schools
- **Memo Morales**, IA Special Education, O’Hara Park Middle School



#### CCCOE’s Teacher of the Year Nominees

- **Roxanne Brown**, Teacher, Contra Costa Adult School
- **Eva De Lucia-Zeltzer**, Teacher, Mt. McKinley School
- **Marissa Gardner**, Teacher, Liberty Transition
- **Carianne Kowalski**, Teacher, Diablo Vista Elementary School
- **Barbara Norris**, Teacher, Contra Costa Adult School
- **Kerry Rooney**, School Psychologist, Golden Gate Community Schools



## COUNTY CLASSIFIED WORKERS

### TOP CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES SHINE

Nine school employees were chosen to represent Contra Costa County in the State of California Classified School Employees of the Year (CSEY) program.

These individuals were selected from 29 nominees honored at the Contra Costa County Classified School Employees of the Year event.

Classified employees play essential roles that do not require academic certification. The award recipients represent various categories, including Clerical and Administrative Services, Custodial and Maintenance, Food and Nutrition Services, Health and Student

Services, Transportation Services, Paraprofessional Services, and Technical Services.

The CSEY program recognizes school staff whose dedication greatly contributes to student success and well-being across California’s public schools, from preschool through 12th grade.

These employees are also celebrated during Classified School Employee Week, a special time to acknowledge the vital contributions of classified school employees who support our students every day.



### The 2025 Contra Costa County Classified School Employees of the Year are as follows:



- **Nicole Nakasato**, Student Enrollment Coordinator, Mt. Diablo Unified School District
- **Andre Medrano**, Custodian, John Swett Unified School District
- **Amanda Jones**, Food Service Worker, John Swett Unified School District
- **Amanda Farmer**, Student Support Assistant, John Swett Unified School District
- **Matthew Zonfrello**, Instructional Assistant Specialist, Orinda Union School District
- **Stephen Waters**, Campus Resources Assistant, Pittsburg Unified School District
- **Joe B. Hernandez Jr.**, Mechanic II, Liberty Union High School District
- **Andre Ellison**, Network Technician, Pittsburg Unified School District
- **Teresa Cross**, School Bus Driver, Mt. Diablo Unified School District



# COUNTY CLASSIFIED WORKERS

## 2025 COUNTY CLASSIFIED SCHOOL EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

### 1 CLERICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

- **Stephanie Brady**, College and Career Advisor, Acalanes Unified School District
- **Monica Chicas-Brizuela**, Administrative Assistant II, Contra Costa County Office of Education
- **Kimber Monticelli**, School Secretary, San Ramon Valley Unified School District
- **Nicole Nakasato**, Student Enrollment Coordinator, Mt. Diablo Unified School District

### 2 CUSTODIAL AND MAINTENANCE

- **Jose Cancio**, Head Custodian, Mt. Diablo Unified School District
- **David DeMaria**, Craftsman I, Walnut Creek School District
- **Andre Medrano**, Custodian, John Swett Unified School District
- **Flora Santiago**, Head Custodian, Pittsburg Unified School District

### 3 FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES

- **Gyongyi Iraheta**, Lead Food Service Worker I, Mt. Diablo Unified School District
- **Amanda Jones**, Food Service Worker, John Swett Unified School District
- **Angelica Mouton**, Cafeteria Lead, Martinez Unified School District
- **Debra Shanahan**, Child Nutrition Manager, Pittsburg Unified School District

### 4 HEALTH AND STUDENT SERVICES

- **Amanda Farmer**, Student Support Assistant, John Swett Unified School District
- **Ai Dong Peng**, Health Assistant - LVN Special Education, Mt. Diablo Unified School District

### 5 PARAPROFESSIONAL SERVICES

- **Elvia Awwad**, Paraprofessional, Walnut Creek School District
- **Elizabeth Lopez**, Instructional Assistant, Special Education, Contra Costa County Office of Education
- **Virgina Monge**, Special Education Assistant, Mt. Diablo Unified School District
- **Maria Morales**, Para-Educator, John Swett Unified School District
- **Julia Myall**, Instructional Assistant, Lafayette Elementary School District
- **Matthew Zonfrello**, Instructional Assistant Specialist, Orinda Union School District

### 6 SECURITY SERVICES

- **Anita Fontana**, Campus Supervisor II, Mt. Diablo Unified School District
- **Sandra Styles**, Yard Aide, John Swett Unified School District
- **Stephen Waters**, Campus Resources Assistant, Pittsburg Unified School District

### 7 SKILLED TRADE SERVICES

- **Dennis Hunt**, HVAC Technician, Pittsburg Unified School District
- **Joe B. Hernandez Jr.**, Mechanic II, Liberty Union High School District

### 8 TECHNICAL SERVICES

- **Andre Ellison**, Network Technician, Pittsburg Unified School District
- **Nichole Holly**, Library Media Specialist, John Swett Unified School District
- **Tara O'Keefe**, Network Systems Administrator, Mt. Diablo Unified School District

### 9 TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

- **Teresa Cross**, School Bus Driver, Mt. Diablo Unified School District



## COUNTY TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

### 2025 TEACHERS OF THE YEAR



**Kaitlin Marchesi**



**Corey Spainhower**

**Corey Spainhower**, a science teacher at Liberty High School in the Liberty Union High School District, and **Kaitlin Marchesi**, a special education teacher at Vista Virtual Academy in the West Contra Costa Unified School District, were named the 2025-2026 Contra Costa County Teachers of the Year.

Spainhower and Marchesi were selected from a pool of four finalists. The other finalists included Dima Khoury of Neil Armstrong Elementary (San Ramon Valley Unified School District) and Rosa Martinez Ocasio of Foothill Elementary (Pittsburg Unified School District).

The Contra Costa County Teachers of the Year program is coordinated by the Contra Costa County Office of Education.

A total of 22 teachers representing 17 school districts, the Contra Costa Community College District, and the Contra Costa County Office of Education were recognized for their outstanding contributions.



### 2025 TEACHERS OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

- **Monika Voellm**, Acalanes Union High School District, Acalanes High School
- **Kristine Koepke**, Antioch Unified School District, Sutter Elementary School
- **Amie Radabaugh**, Brentwood Union School District, Adams Middle School
- **Julia Musser**, Byron Union School District, Discovery Bay Elementary School
- **Carianne Kowalski**, CCCOE Student Programs, Diablo Vista Elementary School
- **Rebecca Harris**, John Swett Unified School District, John Swett High School
- **Abe Naldjian**, Knightsen Elementary School District, Old River Elementary School
- **Kristine Gingrich**, Lafayette School District, Lafayette Elementary School
- **Corey Spainhower**, Liberty Union High School District, Liberty High School
- **Donica Katayanagi**, Martinez Unified School District, Morello Park Elementary School
- **Joni Pearce**, Moraga School District, Los Perales Elementary School
- **David Pintado**, Mt. Diablo Unified School District, Mt. Diablo High School



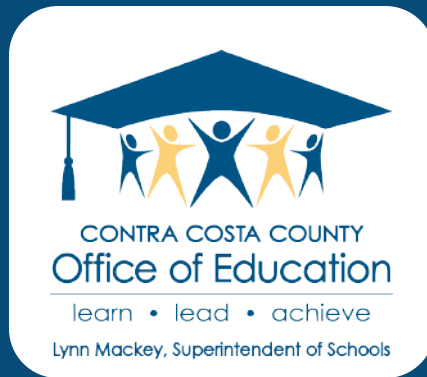
## COUNTY TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

RECOGNIZING SCHOOL DISTRICT'S TOP EDUCATORS



2025 Teachers of the Year from Contra Costa County school districts.

- **Elizabeth Swanson**, Mt. Diablo Unified School District, Silverwood Elementary School
- **Denise Holton**, Oakley Union Elementary School District, Almond Grove Elementary School
- **Sarah Sable**, Orinda Union Elementary School District, Sleepy Hollow Elementary School
- **Rosa Martinez Ocasio**, Pittsburg Unified School District, Foothill Elementary School
- **Dima Khoury**, San Ramon Valley Unified School District, Neil Armstrong Elementary School
- **Don Busboom**, San Ramon Valley Unified School District, San Ramon Valley High School
- **Kristen Giangregorio**, Walnut Creek School District, Walnut Heights Intermediate School
- **Zsarleen Posadas**, West Contra Costa Unified School District, Montalvin Manor Elementary School
- **Kaitlin Marchesi**, West Contra Costa Unified School District, Vista Virtual Academy
- **Mark Wong**, Contra Costa County Community College District, Contra Costa College



**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**  
Lynn Mackey

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Daniel Nathan-Heiss, Area 1

Sarah Butler, Area 2

Yazmin Llamas, Area 3

Mike Maxwell, Area 4

Annette Lewis, Area 5

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