Our Children,
Our Schools,
Our Future!
The Stanislaus County Office of Education (SCOE) is pleased to share our latest annual report highlighting programs that promote success for all students from cradle to career.

The 2020-21 school year continued as it ended the year prior, with distance learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Through it all, our office provided quality educational opportunities and support to the 25 districts and more than 108,000 students in Stanislaus County. SCOE’s school sites opened as soon as COVID case rates permitted, some as early as October. We were committed to remaining open the rest of the school year.

Our staff are experts in supporting teacher success and provide professional development opportunities throughout the year. In addition, we support children and their families with quality early care and preschool education programs, and we offer numerous student events and outdoor education to students throughout the county.

Even in a challenging year, staff continued to provide direct services to some of our county’s most vulnerable students, including students who are homeless or in foster care, students who are incarcerated, and students who have severe physical or emotional challenges. One of the things our office does really well is help break the barriers that keep children from the success they deserve.

In the coming year, we will seek to advance partnerships and innovative programs to ensure student success and improve opportunities in the community. To learn more about SCOE and the programs and services we provide, 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 108,199 students in Stanislaus County and several thousand more in regional programs throughout the state. The office employs more than 1,100 staff and manages a $301 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 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. County Offices provide a support infrastructure for local schools and districts that includes administrative, instructional and direct student services. Staff at the County also provides leadership and advocacy on critical education issues and serves as an information resource to local educators and community members.

**SCOE Staff**

- **Classified** 657 (59%)
- **Classified & Certificated Management** 272 (24%)
- **Certificated** 187 (17%)

Total Number of Employees: 1,116

**SCOE Finances**

- Total Revenue: $301,284,039
- Total Expenditures: $290,164,934

- **LCFF Sources and other** 
  - State Revenues: $139,442,398
- **Federal Revenues:** $91,636,199
- **Local Revenues:** $70,205,442
- **Lottery as a percent of state revenues:** 0.38%
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 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 vehicle 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, unless otherwise announced.
### Stanislaus County Schools Demographic Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District Name</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
<th>English Learners</th>
<th>Free &amp; Reduced Price Meals</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ceres Unified</td>
<td>14,667</td>
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**Enrollment**

- **County Totals:** 108,199
- **State Totals:** 6,002,523

**English Learners**

- **County Totals:** 25,459 (24%)
- **State Totals:** 1,062,290 (18%)

**Free & Reduced Price Meals**

- **County Totals:** 70,983 (66%)
- **State Totals:** 3,533,825 (60%)

*NOTE: Because of rounding percents may not total 100%. Source for data on this page: California Department of Education - DataQuest; Stanislaus County Office of Education (SCOE). Most current information available as of 11/2021.*
Stanislaus County Schools

Fast Facts

108,199
K-12 Public School Enrollment

25
School Districts

Studies Who Are Learning English 24%

Students Who Qualify for Free & Reduced-Price Meals 66%

ENROLLMENT BY ETHNICITY

Hispanic or Latino 62.3%
Caucasian 24.2%

Asian 4.3%
African American 2.4%
Filipino 0.8%
American Indian or Alaska Native 0.6%

Two or More Races 2.8%
Not Reported 1.9%
Pacific Islander 0.7%
Mental health is important at every stage of life, from childhood and adolescence through adulthood. With the ongoing stress caused by living through a pandemic, there isn’t a better time to start prioritizing mental health and this is exactly what the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) is doing on high school campuses. SCOE was awarded a five-year Innovation Grant through Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) to support a countywide initiative with NAMI on Campus High School (NCHS). SCOE Prevention Programs supports local NCHS Clubs by hosting countywide meetings, trainings and mental health events.

High School Clubs meet monthly to discuss a variety of topics related to mental health. Student leaders determine club activities, guide members in learning about the monthly mental health topic, and provide opportunities for meaningful student involvement.

NCHS Clubs are a critical component at 15 high schools and two junior high schools in Stanislaus County. Through this cooperative model and creative recruitment efforts, more than 300 students now participate in these clubs.

“Having an understanding of what mental health truly encompasses, and having a safe and genuine place that people can go to for help, is essential for the success of any high school student. NAMI helps students learn that their mental health doesn’t define them and that there are resources to help them get through any issues preventing them from being the best version of themselves.”

2021 Modesto High School NCHS Club President Selorna Ackuayi
California Alternative Payment Program (CAPP)
Supporting families in need is a goal of SCOE’s Child and Family Services (CFS) Division. Last year, CFS staff working with the California Alternative Payment Program (CAPP) supported 1,096 families by providing monthly childcare vouchers and reimbursements for 1,872 children.
Many parents said they wouldn’t have been able to work without the help of this program. “Struggling as a single mom and being able to participate in the Alternative Payment Program has helped me in more ways than you will ever know,” said one parent. “Thanks to this program, I’ve been able to provide meals for my family and fill my tank with gas to get to and from work. Without this assistance, I would be struggling and possibly without childcare. I am beyond blessed to be a part of this program!”

In addition to supporting families, CAPP also made reimbursements directly to childcare providers on behalf of families certified for the program. CAPP processed two separate stipends directly to childcare providers to support financial security for small business owners of childcare programs in the community. The reimbursements and stipends allowed these childcare programs to continue supporting families in the community.

Parent Testimonial - Head Start

“Taking the step to enroll my children in the Home-Based Head Start program is a choice I’ll always be grateful for making. The Head Start program is a life changer in the best of ways. I truly believe the program adjusts to each individual family and their needs and ultimately helps parents to have and provide a happy, healthy, and educational environment for their children and themselves.”

Cassandra Hernandez, Home-Based Parent
Supporting Educators and Student Success

Curriculum experts and support staff in SCOE’s Instructional Support Services (ISS) Division provide assistance to county school districts, schools, and teachers as they support students in their classrooms. This past year the support was even more critical as the educational community continued with distance learning as a response to COVID-19. The services and support that ISS offers continued uninterrupted.

ISS facilitates professional development in all content areas: Language and Literacy, Math, the Arts, History/Social Studies, and STEM. Staff leads districts and school sites through trainings that inform educators of new standards, frameworks and assessments that guide the learning of students. They also lead district teams through training and coaching in best practices, such as Social Emotional Learning (SEL) for the classroom, Equity, Multi-tiered System of Support (MTSS), integrated/designated ELD instruction, hands-on instruction, and integrated/project based learning that make content more accessible, purposeful, and connected for students.

Beyond the content areas, the Assessment and Accountability team offers support by reading and giving feedback on Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAPs) for all districts within Stanislaus County. More recently, ISS has been working on projects that cross divisions within SCOE under the umbrellas of Cradle to Career (StanREADS/StanMATH) and the MTSS Collaborative.

“We strive to support the communities, districts, teachers and students within Stanislaus County in innovative, supportive and sustainable ways. We push to be transformational in our work so that the impact for students is positive and purposeful. Supporting the whole child is at the center of our focus.”

Christine Sisco, Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Support Services
Connecting Students to Nature

Foothill Horizons Outdoor School, a tradition for more than 60 years, continued “Outdoor Education at Any Distance” for the 2020-21 school year. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Foothill Horizons staff were unable to accommodate overnight outdoor education.

This didn’t stop staff from taking Outdoor Education to students. According to Director Jessica Hewitt, last year Foothill Horizons served 100 schools and 8,743 students - more students than ever before! This is because Foothill Horizons went virtual.

Foothill Horizons staff provided a week of Outdoor Education at Any Distance for Stanislaus students that included a variety of formats, including:

- Adventure Backpack - journal, nametag, bug box, ruler, colored pencils, seed paper, pedometers and more!
- Lessons via distance learning
- Lessons at school (outside or inside)
- Day trips near schools
- Day trips to Foothill Horizons

“Thank you for going over the top with providing so many engaging activities, positive interaction, and organized lessons for us teachers. The topics were high interest and a whole lot of fun as usual! Students learned about many things in a deeper way to look at the world around them with new eyes, wonder, and excitement!”

Denise Argain, Teacher at Somerset Middle School

“Learning about nature and being outdoors was so vital to our students who have been cooped up at home. I know they thoroughly enjoyed themselves and the feedback from students and parents was very complimentary.”

Mary La Rosa, Teacher at Ross Middle School
A substitute teaching service is maintained by SCOE staff for 19 school districts in Stanislaus County. Last year, SCOE’s Absence Management System processed a total of 19,971 requests for substitutes.

The Culinary Arts Institute served alternative education students and Oakdale Joint Unified School District students interested in obtaining culinary skills. Last year, students from a local Head Start center had the opportunity to tour the Institute.

The Human Resources Division provides services to SCOE employees from the time they are hired until they retire. The division also provides support with a variety of personnel functions to districts in Stanislaus County.

The Protecting Health and Slamming Tobacco (PHAST) Program continued to navigate the ever-changing landscape of tobacco prevention education to reach students and families countywide. The program accomplished this by offering PHAST Virtual Trainings throughout the school year.

Prevention Programs, in collaboration with local school districts, provided services to 1,176 homeless students and families. SCOE provided backpacks, school and hygiene supplies, shoes, and clothing to families, agencies, and school districts throughout the county.
Last spring, SCOE’s curriculum experts and support staff in the Instructional Support Services (ISS) Division created summer learning curriculum focused on science, literacy, math, arts and social-emotional learning. More than 180 teachers in five districts utilized the curriculum in their classrooms to engage students. Many of these teachers continue to use the curriculum today.

The Education Foundation of Stanislaus County raised more than $117,000 through a Gala-to-Go fundraising dinner and online auction to support Student Events, Outdoor Education and YES Company.

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

Valley College High School works in partnership with Modesto Junior College to promote Early College Enrollment for all students. Last summer they held a successful Bridge Program that assisted 25 students in completing their first MJC class - Guidance 111. Approximately 40% of VCHS students are dual enrolled at Modesto Junior College.

The Petersen Alternative Center for Education served more than 200 students last year. Staff focused on student mental health and met with families to provide the needed resources to help support them through the pandemic.
The work of the Stanislaus Cradle to Career Partnership continues to grow to meet the needs of all children and families across the county. Community leaders share the common vision of a healthy and equitable community built on educational success and economic well-being where all people have the opportunity, resources, and tools needed to achieve their highest potential. SCOE proudly serves as the backbone organization.

The Partnership leverages the power of relationships to drive change. Currently, more than 40 community leaders are guiding the movement across Stanislaus County. In addition to the growing work across five impact areas (StanREADY, StanREADS, StanMATH, StanFUTURES, StanCAREERS), work has expanded around opportunities for youth empowerment, mental health, advancing equity and the newest initiative is centered around parent empowerment. For more information visit stanc2c.org or call (209) 238-1716.

Quick Facts:

- The Stanislaus Cradle to Career Partnership has grown to include over 75 partner organizations from early education, K-12 and higher education, business, non-profits, county government, healthcare and more.

- The Partnership is providing support and resources to community partners around advancing youth empowerment and ensuring experiences of families are shared.

- StanC2C youth empowerment initiative, StanYEA, launched its Blueprint outlining the work across the county.

“Providing a Plan, a Path and a Purpose

The Stanislaus Cradle to Career Partnership focuses on setting our children up to be Stanislaus County’s next generation of employees, community leaders, volunteers and parents. We’re thrilled to have partners across the county engaging in this work to help improve outcomes for families and children.

Scott Kuykendall, Superintendent of Schools
SCOE’s Special Education Division provides direct and indirect support services for students with special needs and their families in school settings or in the home.

Specialized services are provided to students throughout Stanislaus County from birth to age 22, supporting district programs and operating SCOE programs on district campuses and at two schools on Stonum Road in Ceres. More than 535 employees work in different capacities within the division, making a difference in the lives of students, families, and communities.

From parents:

“When I was introduced to SCOE, I was lost and confused. Before coming here, everyone cared but didn’t know how to help. With SCOE, expert staff equip my son with tools to help him grow and manage challenges. Positive and constant communication (with SCOE staff) allows me to make changes at home to accompany his progress at school. SCOE gives my son and myself a positive and progressive path forward.”

Parent of a 4th grade student in SCOE’s emotionally disturbed program

“Two thumbs up, 110%, I love the program. My son is more confident and is verbalizing his feelings now. This program has helped with his issues and helped him get to the next level.”

Parent of junior high student that attends SCOE’s emotionally disturbed program
The **Communications** and **Graphics** team received state-wide and national recognition for several of their projects this year from the California School Public Relations Association (CalSPRA) and the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA).

SCOE’s **Visual and Performing Arts** program offered **19** virtual workshops last year for teachers, and two totally virtual student art showcases.

For the second year running, **SCOE** was named a Best Place to Work!

To date, more than **1,200** adults have received their high school diplomas through the **Come Back Kids** (CBK) program. Enrollment in CBK held steady despite the pandemic, with **750** students enrolled at the end of the 2020-21 school year.

**YES Company** celebrated 30 years of performances with an Anniversary Spectacular at the Gallo Center for the Arts in July. When the curtains opened, **54** youth performed songs from previous YES shows. Many expressed how rewarding it was to be back under the lights after more than a year without theater performances.
SCOE’s **Child & Family Services Division (CFS)** gives children a head start in school and life. Through its early childhood education (preschool) and support programs, CFS provided early education programs to more than 7,276 children (from birth to age five) and 5,583 families in six counties.

**Technology and Learning Resources** supports administrators, teachers and students with network engineering, computer support, telephone and Internet services at SCOE and school districts throughout Stanislaus County.

**Stanislaus Military Academy (SMA)** and the **Tactical Character Academy (TCA)** provide a comprehensive education for students in a military environment with a focus on character development.

The Modesto Rotary Club and SCOE announced the selection of four local educators as 2020-21 **Stanislaus County Teachers of the Year**:  
**Bob Elms**, La Rosa Elementary  
**Elizabeth Holtan**, Cesar Chavez Jr. HS  
**Ismael Mercado**, Riverbank High  
**Carlos Perez**, Empire Elementary

**SCOE** sponsors a variety of **student events** throughout the year, and the winners of local academic contests often have the opportunity to compete at the state and national level.
During 2020-2021, SCOE’s Technology & Learning Resources (TLR) Division supported the distance learning needs of students as well as the needs of employees working from home. TLR staff supported teachers by providing reliable broadband connectivity, video conferencing tools, and online training. Support for students included course enrollment tracking, high school transcript processing and integrating Social-Emotional support into the Student Information System.

For employees, TLR staff provided and maintained technology for working at home and in the office, as well as securing email and network accounts. TLR staff also provided remote access to financial systems to keep regular business and payroll systems functioning.

While school districts navigated the school year with online, in-person, and hybrid learning environments, SCOE’s TLR staff supported divisions with their instructional activities. This support included online conference set-up for events such as Academic Decathlon and online scoring for events including Mock Trials. TLR also collaborated to provide virtual field trips and support programs such as Outdoor Education at Any Distance and virtual Special Education and preschool childcare support.

**Technology & Learning Resources by the Numbers:**

- Issued 2,400+ digital badges to staff at 18 school districts, including 57 Leading Edge Online and Blended Teacher Certifications
- Provided 250+ online training and coaching sessions using Zoom, Google Meet, and Microsoft Teams
- Printed 150,000+ payroll checks and paystubs
- Resolved 12,000+ Help Desk tickets
In partnership with business and industry, SCOE’s Educational Options Division offers numerous training programs creating pathways to careers in manufacturing, construction and the health care industry.

SCOE collaborated with Bay Valley Tech to offer a free, seven-month coding and web development program. The second cohort of 24 students started during the 2020-21 school year and several students received job offers in Stanislaus County. The program is located at the Tom Changnon Education Center.

The Northern California Construction Training (NCCT) Program partnered with SCOE to provide a pre-apprenticeship training program to prepare adults for entry into various construction trades apprenticeship programs. During the 2020-21 school year, students from the program participated in Solar, OSHA, Hazwoper and forklift industry recognized certification training.

VOLT Institute (Valley Occupational Learning and Technology), in partnership with Opportunity Stanislaus, provides hands-on training on industrial systems and equipment and prepares participants for careers in the local manufacturing industry as Industrial Maintenance Mechanics.

SCOE collaborated with First Lady Permanente on a seven-month Clinical Medical Assistant Program. Students in the program had an opportunity to participate in classroom theory and lab activities, which prepared them for national certification. Students also had the opportunity to participate in externship opportunities with partnering hospitals.