



Lisette Estrella-Henderson, Superintendent of Schools  
5100 Business Center Drive, Fairfield, CA 94534-1658  
707.399.4400 ★ [www.solanocoe.net](http://www.solanocoe.net)

## NEWS RELEASE - For immediate release

**Date:** February 16, 2022

**Organization:** Solano County Office of Education

**Media Contact:** Jennifer Leonard, Assistant Superintendent of Communications & Community Engagement

**Phone:** (707) 399-4429      **Email:** [PIO@solanocoe.net](mailto:PIO@solanocoe.net)

## SCOE Supports Social-Emotional Learning Amidst the Pandemic

**Solano County, CA** – Amidst the pandemic, social and emotional needs for students and educators alike seem greater than ever. Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) launched its social-emotional learning (SEL) community of practice (CoP) in March 2021 to provide resources and supports for Solano educators and students.

A community of practice is a group with a common concern or interest in a topic who come together to fulfill both individual and group goals. Communities of practice often focus on sharing best practices and creating new knowledge to advance an area of professional practice. Interaction on an ongoing basis is an important part of this.

SCOE's SEL CoP includes educators from school sites throughout the county. Collaborating during the Spring and Summer of 2021, the CoP focused on mental and emotional supports for educators. SCOE has secured grant funds for SEL work to continue in 2022 and is partnering directly with schools on opportunities available to students and educators that support self-care, mental agility, and a growth mindset. SCOE's CoP also provides educators with concrete strategies to work with students and each other while experiencing an ongoing pandemic crisis.

"Solano County Office of Education continues to prioritize social-emotional learning for students, faculty, and staff across Solano County. We are thankful for our partnership with school districts and colleagues who are committed to ensuring the community of practice work is focused, intentional, and timely," says Superintendent of Schools, Lisette Estrella-Henderson.

Prior to the pandemic, California's youth were experiencing high rates of depression, anxiety, substance use, and suicide. COVID-19 has layered additional challenges for students and has heightened awareness around the need for meaningful social-emotional learning for students and educators alike. In response to the need for SEL support, California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) received funding to support crisis response statewide. SCOE is partnering with the Sacramento County Office of Education to implement CalHope Student Support, using a statewide CoP model to further position educational agencies as trusted centers of wellness for their community.

For more information about the Solano County Office of Education SEL CoP, please contact Deputy Superintendent of Education Services & Student Programs Dr. Andrea Lemos, at [alemos@solanocoe.net](mailto:alemos@solanocoe.net).

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Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) provides leadership, support, and fiscal oversight for charter schools and Benicia, Dixon, Fairfield-Suisun, Travis, Vacaville, and Vallejo school districts which serve approximately 63,000 students. Solano County Superintendent of Schools, Lisette Estrella-Henderson is elected by voters of Solano County. The Superintendent is a state constitutional officer who serves as the chief executive officer of SCOE and as a liaison between local school districts and the state.