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SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

Welcome to the first issue of the *SCOE Spotlight*! I am pleased to bring this publication to the community and share about the critical services and support that Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) provides to students, our school districts, and the community.

The economic vitality of our community is dependent on good schools that are preparing our young people for the future. SCOE works together with our county's six school districts and one community college to ensure that our young people are equipped with a first-class education, so they can succeed in a global economy and become active and productive citizens.

It is an honor and privilege to serve you as your County Superintendent of Schools. I look forward to continuing our work alongside our community partners to promote a bright and hopeful future for our children and community.

Lisette Estrella-Henderson

Lisette Estrella-Henderson
Solano County Superintendent of Schools



Making A Difference Locally

Community Partnerships Bringing Opportunities & Greater Impact for Students

Opportunities frequently arise for Solano County Office of Education to partner with other organizations in creating educational experiences for Solano students. We view these opportunities with a let's-make-it-happen spirit, and look for resourceful solutions for funding. Occasionally, we reach out to organizations in our community for resources, assistance, or funding for student enrichment programs.

This year, the philanthropic spirit of Solano County has remained a constant, with several groups rolling up their sleeves to take an active part in making Solano County a better place for students and

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Our Guiding Principles

ABOUT SCOE

What Does Solano County Office of Education Do?



In a nutshell, SCOE supports Solano County school districts, students, and families.

Established more than 150 years ago by California's Constitution, SCOE helps Solano County school districts remain fiscally responsible by providing accounting and payroll services, financial oversight, and other supports for financial stability.

It is not cost-effective for each school district alone to acquire the many services needed to operate. That's why SCOE provides a single source for an array of business, technology, credentialing, curriculum and instruction, employee recruitment, and support services.

SCOE also serves as the connection between our schools and the state and federal governments. Every year new laws are passed, new programs are mandated, and old programs are phased out. SCOE monitors changes in legislation and offers its staff as a resource to inform and train district administrators so they stay current with changing laws that affect education.

Other services SCOE provides include:

- High-need special education services and transportation
- Legislative/regional advocacy for education initiatives
- Mentorship and enrichment programs for students
- District staff training and professional development
- Acquiring grant funding to supplement local learning programs and initiatives
- Overseeing education within Solano County Juvenile Detention
- Operating Golden Hills Community School
- Providing district Local Control Accountability Plans (LCAPs) assistance and approval
- Technical assistance and support for districts needing to improve specific areas of state priorities

SCOE serves Benicia, Dixon, Fairfield-Suisun, Travis, Vacaville, and Vallejo City unified school districts. Although the Solano County Office of Education provides oversight in areas listed, the Solano County Superintendent of Schools and the Solano County Board of Education do not govern school districts in Solano County. Each district has its own school board and superintendent who employ staff and administer the education of students.

Solano County Office of Education's Priority Areas

- Fiscal Stability for Solano School Districts
- Job Readiness & Skill Development
- Education Advocacy & Leadership
- Equity & Enrichment for All Students
- Student Safety & Wellness



Making A Difference Locally continued from cover

residents to learn, live, work, and play. The result of the partnerships between SCOE and regional groups like Genentech, Valero Benicia Refinery, local Soroptimist International and Rotary chapters, First 5 Solano, Solano County Public Health, and others have a real and tangible impact on the quality of education and life in Solano County.

Solano Resilience Summit

Solano County Office of Education is the lead agency for Solano Kids Thrive, a collaborative of organizations including First 5 Solano, Solano County Public Health, and various nonprofit organizations. We focus on utilizing a “collective impact” approach for sustaining and strengthening the systems that impact early childhood. This year, SCOE helped launch the first-ever Resilient Solano Summit focused on the issue of resilience and how to more effectively address Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and their effects on health, wellness, and learning. We hosted close to 200 people who engaged in this very important community issue. Attendees came away with a better understanding and tools to support kids in building resilience.

The *Resilience* film was also shown during the summit. The film’s website states: “Researchers have recently discovered a dangerous biological syndrome caused by abuse and neglect during childhood. Toxic stress can trigger hormones that wreak havoc on the brains and bodies of children, putting them at a greater risk for disease, homelessness, prison time, and early death. *Resilience* chronicles the dawn of a movement that is determined to fight back. Trailblazers in pediatrics, education, and social welfare are using cutting-edge science and field-tested therapies to protect children from the effects of toxic stress.” - KPJR Films. View the website and trailer for the [Resilience film](#).



Dixon May Fair With Rotary

Special education students enrolled in SCOE classes in Dixon, Fairfield-Suisun, Travis and Vacaville school sites had a morning at Dixon May Fair all to themselves thanks to local Rotary clubs and Butler Amusements. Large crowds and lines can be overwhelming for many students. This fun tradition of a private entrance into the fair allowed students and staff to enjoy games, rides, livestock exhibits, and food before the fair opened to the public. Rotary has been making this special visit to the May Fair possible for our students for over 20 years, and we are grateful for the joy and smiles that this event brings each year. Students from Vacaville Christian and Vacaville High school also buddied up with our students to make the day even better!



Girls In Robotics Leadership Camp



This summer, Solano County Office of Education, in partnership with UC Davis C-STEM (Computing-Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics), hosted free C-STEM Girls in Robotics Leadership Camps (GIRL) in Solano County. We expanded to four camps across the county this year thanks to support from Genentech, Valero Benicia Refinery, Sorooptimist International Central Solano chapter, the Center for Freedom and Flight, Benicia Makerspace, Solano Community College and a private donor.

Numerous studies and surveys have noted that the C-STEM fields have remained predominantly male with low participation among women. Our GIRL camps were focused on motivating young women to learn computing and STEM concepts through a fun and exciting robotics and Arduino based curriculum. GIRL campers learned robotics, developed code, invented products, and explored college and career paths with female mentors from within C-STEM fields. With help from donors, SCOE was able to bring this free opportunity to more than 80 girls this summer. We hope that camps sparked an interest and confidence in C-STEM that will open up opportunities that stay with campers throughout their lives.



Phoenix Spark Challenge

The Phoenix Spark Challenge for Solano students is hosted by Travis Air Force Base (TAFB) and sponsored by SCOE. Since its inception three years ago, the Phoenix Spark Challenge has created opportunities for young thinkers to solve real-world problems facing TAFB. This year, the winning teams presented solutions for a self-contained device that could detect changes in the color of M8 chemical agent detector paper. Other teams developed a continuous process improvement pre-event kit that could collect and transmit meaningful workflow data. The presentations were judged on product design, feasibility, cost analysis, initial startup costs, and one, five, and ten year long-term analysis.



First and third places were awarded to students from Armijo High School in Fairfield, and second place went to a team from Will C. Wood High in Vacaville. Congratulations to all students who participated in the challenges, and continued thanks to Travis Air Force Base for engaging students in this unique opportunity to learn, develop skills, and invent. We look forward to seeing incredible ideas come to life next year!



Looking Back 2018-19

Highlights of What We Accomplished for Solano Students, Families & Educators



Job Readiness & Skill Development

Work Ready Certification Program (WRC)



The Work-Ready Certificate Program for students is a three-week workshop that was completed by 155 students this year. WRC helps students locate job opportunities, learn interview skills and develop a resume. Time management, applications, cover letters, references, social media content, work ethic, customer service, teamwork, professional attire, and mock interviews are also covered in the program. Work Ready Certification prepares students for success in the work world and increases their chances of acquiring and attaining gainful employment.

Launch of Intro to Construction Trades Class

As a result of the strong partnership we have grown with Solano County Probation, we have created an Intro to Construction Trades class available to Juvenile Detention Facility's Evergreen Academy and Golden Hills Community School students. Knowledge and skills developed in the class will help create opportunities for employment success, and gainful employment has a direct correlation to reducing recidivism and incarceration.

Workforce Development Job Club

As part of our partnership with the Solano County Adult Education Consortium, our Workforce Development Job Club successfully assisted dozens of individuals with disabilities this year in developing job skills and acquiring rewarding employment.

Transition Partnership Program (TPP) Transition Fair

TPP is a collaborative contract with the California Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) and Solano County Office of Education. TPP provides employment services including employment preparation, job development, placement, and follow up.

This year SCOE hosted over 40 Solano County agencies at the Transition Fair that offered valuable information to families of young adults with disabilities about higher education, training, employment, adult day programs, independent living options, and support to help reach employment goals.

California Career Innovations

SCOE, in partnership with the Department of Rehabilitation and San Diego State University, has implemented

the California Career Innovations Work-Based Learning Initiative (CCI). SCOE's CCI is 1 of 6 funded by the US Department of Education throughout the nation. The goal of the CCI program is to increase economic self-sufficiency, through planned education, work-based learning experiences and Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) for students with a wide range of disabilities.

Our CCI project continued to ensure a career relevant focus in the attainment of competitive employment for students with disabilities. We have met our goal to work with 100 students with disabilities throughout Solano County for this project.

Strong Workforce Grant

SCOE was awarded a \$370,000 Strong Workforce Grant this year. The purpose of the grant work is to promote more career technical education, increase social mobility, and fuel regional economies with skilled workers. SCOE and local school districts will collaborate with Solano Community College to align engineering and manufacturing pathways to meet the future hiring needs of local employers.

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Looking Back ²⁰¹⁸⁻¹⁹

Fostering A Trauma Sensitive Learning Environment

Our Student and Program Support team has been developing trainings for local educators on the ways that trauma impacts learning and student behavior in schools. The trainings provide tools that support educators in being more effective when teaching trauma-impacted youth, improving learning outcomes.

Curriculum & Plan Development Forums

This year SCOE sponsored curriculum breakfasts so that leaders from local school districts could come together as thought partners during facilitated discussions related to a variety of relevant topics, including: using data to inform decisions, improvement science, mindfulness practices in the classroom, leading math instruction, equity, and ethical grading practices. These forums help districts in the development of their Local Control Accountability Plans.

Professional Learning for Educators

SCOE's Educational Services team took an active role in improving student engagement and learning by providing a variety of professional learning opportunities to teachers, staff and administrators from local districts. Topics included: Universal Design for Learning (UDL), data visualization, Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), embedded English language development, cognitive coaching, equity, and mathematical thinking.

Positive Parenting Program

Along with seven other agencies, SCOE was awarded funding from First 5 Solano to provide Positive Parenting Program (Triple P) services county-wide. SCOE team members earned accreditation from Triple P America to deliver a series of parent information workshops, and we now have the capacity to offer up to 32 sessions total for parents in our community.

California Early Start, Early Care & Education Services Seminar

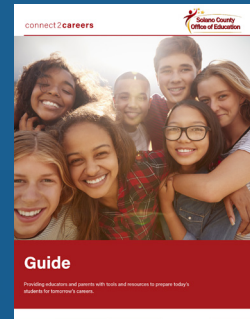
SCOE hosted this event in partnership with the Infant Development Association of California. Discussions addressed support for children, families, and practitioners with an emphasis on students with developmental delays or disabilities from birth to 36 months because early intervention can have significant impact learning and skill development.

Children's Network Policy Forum

SCOE co-sponsored the 6th Annual Youth and Families Policy Forum with the Children's Network of Solano. It was an event for both young and adult leaders who hold a passion for advocacy and for shaping local policy and support networks.

connect2careers Guide

In 2018-19, SCOE developed and released the *connect2careers Guide*, providing educators, business owners and parents with tools and resources to prepare today's students for tomorrow's careers.



View the Guide at www.solanocoe.net



Looking Back 2018-19

Equity in education means that personal or social circumstances such as gender, intellectual or physical disabilities, ethnic origin or family background, are not obstacles to receiving a high-quality education that results in all students achieving learning potential. SCOE programs, events, camps and groups provide opportunities, knowledge and experiences that support a wide variety of students in choosing career or educational pathways never before experienced within their families.



Short Film Camp

Solano County Office of Education partnered with Inclusion Films this summer, to bring a film making camp to young adults with developmental disabilities. 48 young Solano adults spent two weeks on set practicing scripts, finding their marks, and helping to create a great movie. However, campers didn't just learn about film making. They furthered their confidence and independence with collaboration, writing, job roles and so much more. SCOE will host a red-carpet movie premier in late fall 2019 to celebrate the achievement of each young adult and to showcase the film that the campers made.

Special thanks to Soroptimist International Vacaville Twilight Club for their \$1,700 donation toward Short Film camp.



Celebrating Our Class of 2019 Graduates

Golden Hills Community School

We celebrated our largest graduating class yet from Gold Hills this year. Students moved their tassels from right to left in a ceremony that filled the hearts of their families and staff with pride. Great things lay ahead for these young adults, and we can't wait to see what they will accomplish next.

Evergreen Academy

SCOE and Solano County Juvenile Probation Department work to build programs and curriculum at Evergreen Academy that help students learn resiliency while prevailing above their current circumstances. Evergreen Academy students had the opportunity to take online college courses and learn skills in the new Intro to Construction Trades class this year. Students worked hard to earn our WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) accredited high school diplomas, opening new doors and possibilities to help them take ownership of their path and future success.

Transition to Adulthood Program

SCOE's Special Education Department provides a range of programs and services to students with exceptional needs to support them in successfully moving into the next phase of their lives. This year, thirty-three young adults from our Transition to Adulthood Program received their completion ceremony certificates.



Looking Back 2018-19



Equity & Enrichment

Solano Student Art Faire

SCOE's Solano Student Art Faire was held at the Solano County Fairgrounds this year and featured art pieces from 466 artists from 27 schools throughout Solano County. Categories for art included computer art, sculpture, drawing, mixed media, painting, photography and more.

The artistic vision and talent of our local students is wonderful to see. Many art pieces from the show are currently on display at Solano County Office of Education located at 5100 Business Center Drive in Fairfield.

Raising A Reader

SCOE directed this quality early literacy program which teaches parents shared reading strategies and focuses on early brain development by strengthening family literacy routines. We are now serving over 500 children across the county!

Little Free Libraries

In collaboration with First 5 Solano, SCOE has been helping to create Little Free Libraries to increase community access to books that can be read and then shared with others. This program fosters a community spirit of literacy and a lifelong enjoyment of reading, and has been welcome received in a number of neighborhoods.



Solano Youth Coalition Legislative Leadership Retreat

SCOE's Youth Development Department staff recently took 15 members of the Solano Youth Coalition (SYC) on a leadership retreat in Sacramento. SYC is comprised of youth from Solano County high schools and colleges, and its mission is to raise public awareness and advocate safe and healthier choices in our communities. This year, the coalition tackled issues around school climate, bullying, problem gambling, mental health and teen dating violence.

The SYC retreat to Sacramento included a leadership day training with Scott Backovich, a nationally known youth motivational speaker. Backovich helped coalition members examine their communities to identify issues that need action and encouraged them to use the skills they have learned to be advocates for their community members who need their support.

SYC members spent another day in the State Capital. The group met with Senator Bill Dodd and Assembly Members Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, Tim Grayson and Jim Frazier. Students discussed a wide range of issues including; tobacco education and awareness, teen dating violence and youth mental health. They shared the work they have done over the past year; concerns they have about their communities and how students and legislators can collaborate in the future.

SYC and SCOE staff then met to discuss important issues with representatives from various statewide agencies including, California Department of Public Health, Alcohol Beverage Control and California Highway Patrol. Dr. Jim Kooler, from the California Friday Night Live Partnership spent the day with SYC as well. This group of remarkable young people is demonstrating phenomenal leadership and are making a difference in improving the quality of life for Solano youth.



Looking Back 2018-19

School-Based Mental Health Support

SCOE has been awarded a \$300,000 Health Systems Development Grant that will expand our previous efforts to support the mental health and wellness of the K-12 school system. This work includes establishing school-based wellness centers for students on school campus, providing immediate access for students when they need support. We look forward to opening the first center at Golden Hills in coming months, with future centers opening in Dixon USD next year.

SCOE Youth Development Program Mentorship

Mentoring students in leading the positive change they want to see is important. This Year, SCOE took 35 students representing each of our school districts to the 21st annual Teens Tackle Tobacco, Alcohol, Drugs and Youth Wellness Conference at UC Berkeley.

Through open youth-adult conversations, the Solano Youth Coalition is taking a leadership role in prevention education. They understand that educating their peers is one of the

most effective ways to make change. With that in mind, our Solano Youth Coalition's Family Justice Center Youth Committee (FJCYC) in presented workshops on teen dating violence to over 50 fellow teens.

Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST)

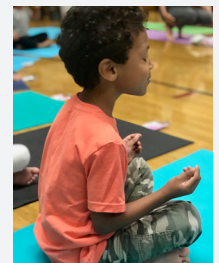
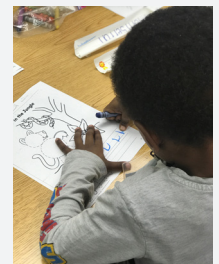
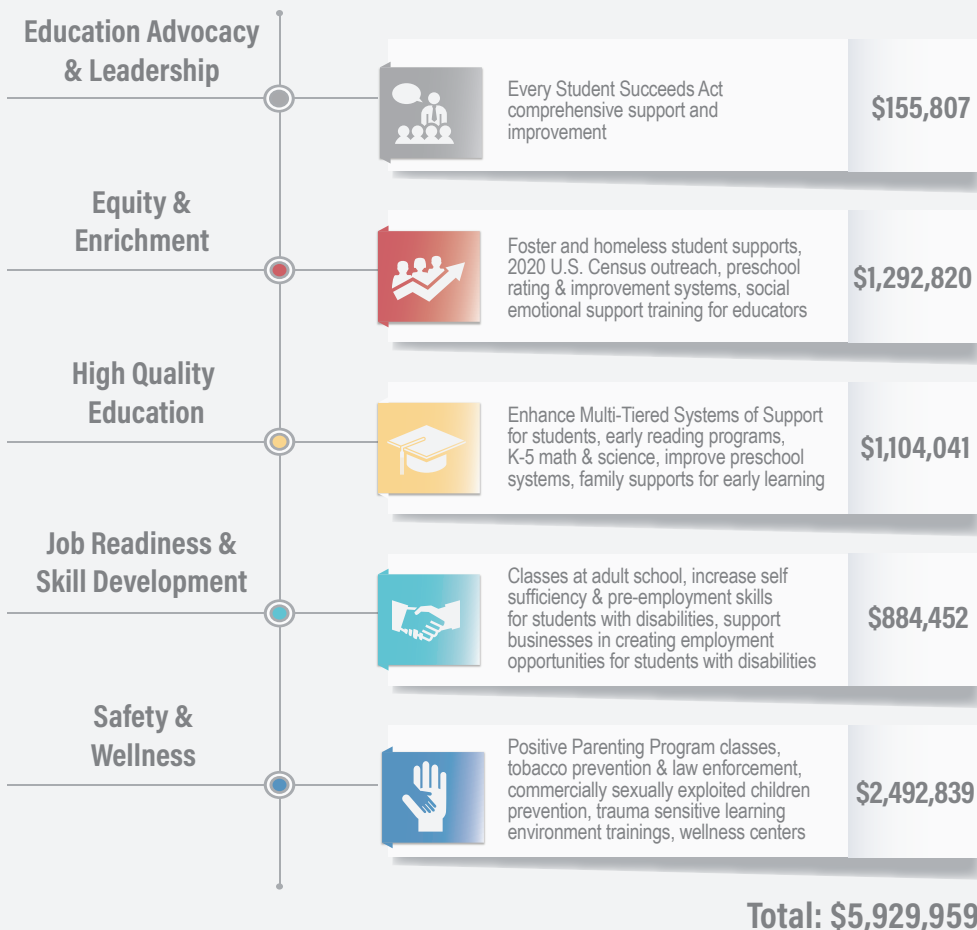
ASIST is a two-day interactive workshop in Suicide First Aid. SCOE staff had the opportunity to be trained this year as ASIST facilitators, and have been sought out to train more than 50 individuals from across our county.

Safety & Wellness

\$5.9 Million Working for Solano Students

A Look at SCOE's Procurement of Additional Funds from Grants and Service Contracts to Further Local Education Initiatives

As part of SCOE's commitment to support Solano school districts and organizations to improve educational outcomes, we have secured more than five million dollars in grants and service contracts. Below is a brief summary of the priority areas being addressed and highlights of the work being done for students and educators with the funding.



Students Served in Solano County 2018-19

Demographics

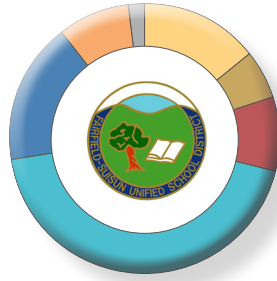
Overview of Student Diversity



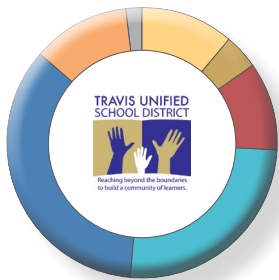
Benicia Unified



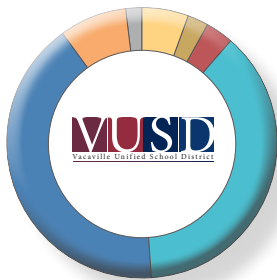
Dixon Unified



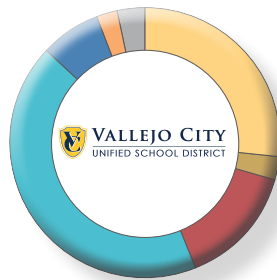
Fairfield-Suisun Unified



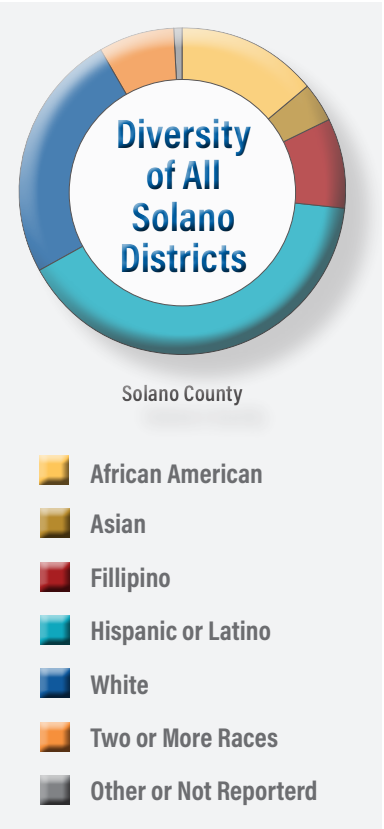
Travis Unified



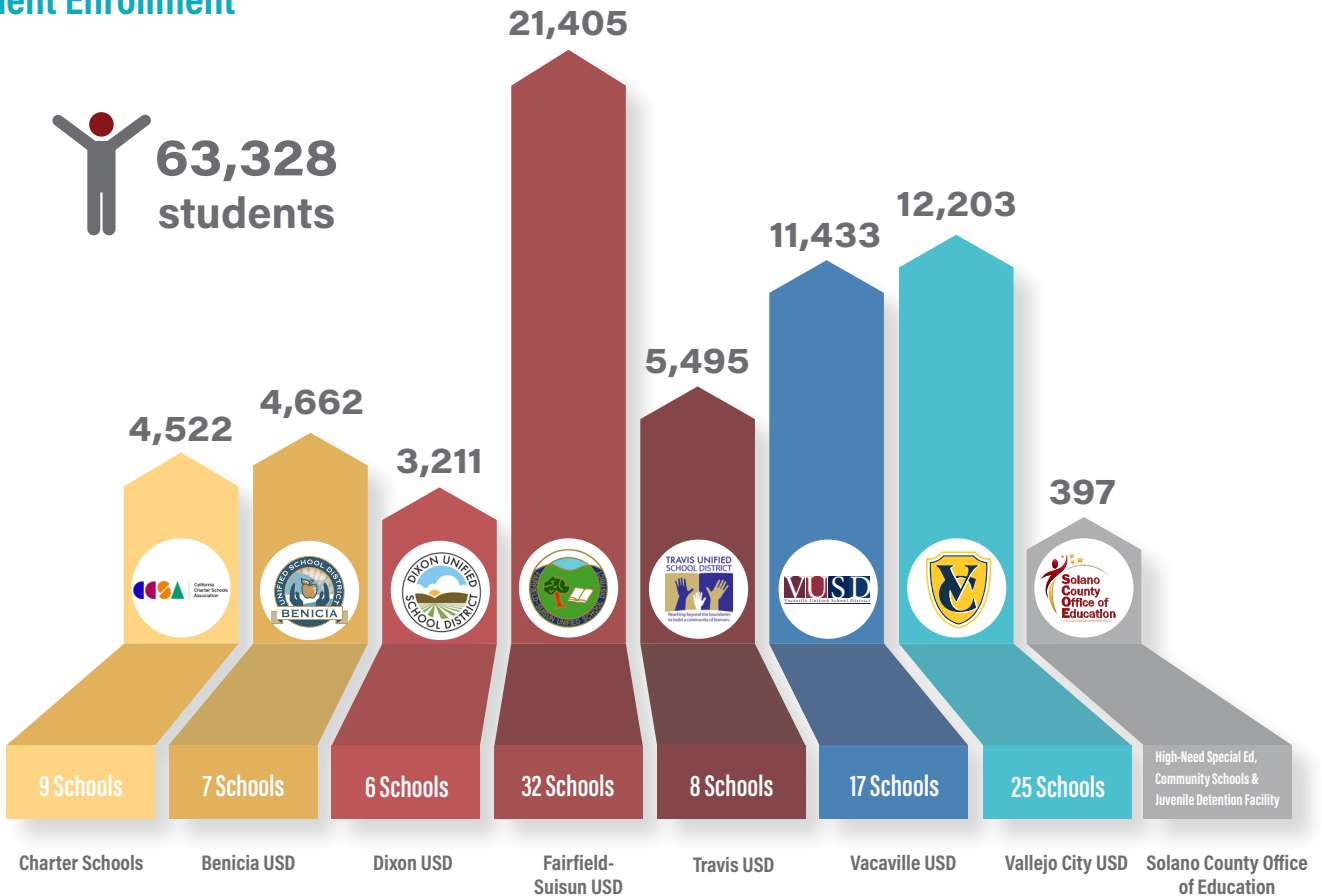
Vacaville Unified



Vallejo City Unified



Student Enrollment



School District Budgets

School District & SCOE Budgeted Expenditures

| | Benicia USD | Dixon USD | Fairfield-Suisun USD | Travis USD | Vacaville USD | Vallejo City USD |
|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Certificated Staff | 22,668,745 | 14,639,441 | 99,975,715 | 27,839,783 | 52,091,800 | 53,897,844 |
| Classified Staff | 7,773,050 | 6,098,566 | 41,315,162 | 10,183,357 | 20,603,853 | 25,807,201 |
| Benefits | 10,737,187 | 8,945,397 | 59,178,553 | 14,054,427 | 32,872,611 | 36,476,648 |
| Books & Services | 1,220,201 | 1,521,659 | 9,287,812 | 2,547,064 | 3,877,872 | 9,346,481 |
| Service & Other Operating | 3,574,874 | 4,815,601 | 20,057,295 | 5,897,696 | 14,601,120 | 20,634,257 |
| Capital Outlay | 62,384 | 552,652 | 25,000 | 983,621 | 764,611 | 35,000 |
| Other Outgoing | 969,058 | 745,811 | 9,433,985 | 2,208,848 | 367,094 | 2,125,644 |
| | \$ 47,005,503 | \$ 37,319,127 | \$ 239,273,522 | \$ 63,714,796 | \$ 125,178,961 | \$ 148,323,075 |

| | SCOE | Solano Districts & SCOE |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Certificated Staff | 10,452,774 | 281,566,102 |
| Classified Staff | 16,186,334 | 127,967,523 |
| Benefits | 11,905,689 | 174,170,512 |
| Books & Services | 1,880,511 | 29,681,600 |
| Service & Other Operating | 14,127,912 | 83,708,755 |
| Capital Outlay | 816,000 | 3,239,268 |
| Other Outgoing | 20,862 | 15,871,302 |
| | \$55,390,082 | \$716,205,066 |



Solano County 2017-18

(California Department of Education [Dataquest](#) 2017-18, cohort graduation data)

| | Solano | State |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|---------|
| Solano Graduation Rate | 84.7% | 83.8% |
| Solano Dropout Rate | 10.7% | 9.7% |
| English Language Learners | 8,302 or 13.1% | 20.4% |
| Socioeconomically Disadvantaged | 33,195 or 52.3% | 60.1% |
| Special Education Students | 7,483 | 774,665 |

Looking Forward 2019-20

SCOE's Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) for Juvenile Court and Community School Programs

LCAP At-A Glance

The Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) dedicates funds to specific goals and connects expenditures to measurable students outcomes. The LCAP is developed through a process that includes receiving input from staff, parents, and students as we determine our priorities.

The Solano County Office of Education LCAP focuses on the needs of English learners, socioeconomically disadvantaged students, and foster youth in the following 10 state priorities: student engagement, student outcomes, parental engagement, course access, implementation of Common Core State Standards, basic services, school climate, student achievement, county-wide coordination of services for expelled students, and county-wide coordination of services for foster youth.

Local Control Accountability Plan

Goals, actions and dedicated funds



Understanding Solano County Office of Education Governance

The County Superintendent and the County Board of Education are elected officials who have separate duties and responsibilities. County Superintendents of Schools are established pursuant to Section 3, Article IX of the California Constitution and are considered county officers (similar to a sheriff, district attorney, or clerk). (Gov. Code § 24000). County Boards of Education are established by Education Code section 1000.



Solano County Superintendent of Schools
Lisette Estrella-Henderson
Term ends 2020

Jurisdiction of the Solano County Superintendent of Schools

The County Superintendent is elected by voters of Solano County. The Superintendent serves as a liaison between local school districts and the state. The Superintendent also as the chief executive officer of the Solano County Office of Education. The Superintendent leads SCOE in providing leadership, collaboration, support, and fiscal/program oversight for the county's six school districts which serve approximately 63,000 students.



Board President
Elease Cheek
Trustee Area 5
Term ends 2020

Jurisdiction of the Solano County Board of Education

The Solano County Board of Education is comprised of seven elected representatives from trustee areas. The Solano County Superintendent of Schools serves as the ex-officio secretary to the County Board. The Solano County Board of Education serves as the governance body for the Juvenile Court and Community School System and is a charter school authorizer. The Solano County Board of Education also serves as an appellate body for expulsion, inter-district attendance, and charter school appeals.

Outside of the Scope of Jurisdiction

The Superintendent and County Board do not govern school districts in Solano County. Each district has its own school board and superintendent who employ their staff, manage operations and administer the education of students in their districts. Staffing, educational programs, or extra-curricular activities are under the direct authority of the superintendent of the school district. In addition, the Solano County Board of Education does not participate in negotiations with Solano County Office of Education employees; the County Superintendent and County Office of Education are considered the employer.



One Purpose, One Vision, One Voice

One Purpose- Promoting equity and excellence by working with our school districts and community partners to create opportunities that address the needs of every student

One Vision- Preparing students to learn, grow, thrive, and achieve lifelong success

One Voice- Moving together to support educational systems that bring positive change for students



Board Vice President
Peggy A. Cohen-Thompson
Trustee Area 7
Term ends 2020



Michelle Coleman
Trustee Area 1
Term ends 2020



Amy Sharp
Trustee Area 2
Term ends 2020



Dana Dean
Trustee Area 3
Term ends 2022



Teresa Lavell
Trustee Area 4
Term ends 2020



Ginger Dunne
Trustee Area 6
Term ends 2022



FULL STEAM AHEAD
 Preparing Solano students for the workforce of 2020

**2019 STATE OF EDUCATION
 BREAKFAST FORUM**

Thursday, September 26th, 8:00-10:00 AM



Please join Solano County Office of Education and other Solano educators for discussion around STEAM and how students are being prepared for the workforce of 2020:

- S**cience- Vacaville Unified School District
- T**echnology- Vallejo Unified School District
- E**ngineering- Travis Unified School District
- A**rts & Agriculture- Fairfield-Suisun & Dixon Unified School Districts
- M**ath- Benicia Unified School District & Solano Community College

Location: Solano County Office of Education,
 5100 Business Center Drive Fairfield, CA 94534

Seating is limited. Pre-registration is required.
[REGISTER HERE](#)

