

# SERVING CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND THE COMMUNITY

*For more than 150 years, the Santa Clara County Office of Education has provided services for children, schools and communities throughout the county. As a regional resource, we serve 31 K-12 public school districts, and more than 260,000 students and 13,000 teachers.*

The SCCOE is chartered to act as a regional support system for schools, providing necessary, desirable and cost-saving services to local school districts. Our mission is to serve as a champion for children, schools and the community. The SCCOE is in business for four reasons:

- To provide direct services to students where appropriate
- To provide instructional improvement support
- To provide essential fiscal and administrative services to school districts
- To support compliance with state and federal mandates.

## DIRECT SERVICES TO STUDENTS

The SCCOE operates specialized student programs and coordinates countywide student events. Each year we teach over 27,000 students in such programs as special education; pre-school and Head Start; environmental education; regional occupation; incarcerated, expelled and at-risk youth; and charter schools.

The SCCOE also provides a Workability job training program for special education student graduates; a Special Education Local Plan Area administrative unit that provides regional coordination and leadership to help districts comply with state and federal laws; a regional Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program that provides college prep and tutoring for underserved students; and a Migrant Education program with supplementary services for migrant students. Our fit for learning initiative engages K-6 students in schools and classrooms countywide in nutrition and fitness activities. To celebrate achievements we annually recognize our national Blue Ribbon and California Distinguished Schools winners, student artists, 8th grade leaders, Mock Trial winners, and AVID graduates.

## INSTRUCTIONAL IMPROVEMENT SUPPORT

*The SCCOE provides a broad array of professional development opportunities for educators that might be cost prohibitive to an individual school or district, but can become cost-effective when shared across districts.*

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Participants take advantage of state-of-the-art learning options such as:

- Literacy support in reading and language arts
- Support in the areas of science, math, history, social science, and visual and performing arts
- Technology support through our Web site, Learning Multimedia Center and Instructional TV
- Training for those who teach English-language learners
- Assisting districts and schools with state and federal accountability requirements.

The SCCOE has been approved by the CA State Department of Education to assist our under-performing schools and districts. The goal of our District and School Assistance and Intervention Team is to ensure that standards-based teaching fosters progress in student achievement.

We conduct board and administrative retreats; planning sessions for local school districts; and job-alike meetings for superintendents, assistant superintendents, principals, and special project directors. And, we recognize teachers and celebrate their achievements at our annual September recognition event.

Our programs are enhanced by the generous donations of our business and organization partners. These generous partners – including Kaiser, The Health Trust, the YMCA, the Packard Foundation, Barnes & Noble, The Sobrato Family and National Semiconductor – provide us with the necessary dollars to ensure timely state-of-the-art trainings.

## **ESSENTIAL FISCAL & ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

***The SCCOE monitors school districts' fiscal health, accounting for over \$3.5 billion annually. We assist district business offices by providing fiscal oversight and by ensuring that they meet reporting requirements in an accurate and timely manner.***

We are uniquely situated to bring together people, programs, and services within the county and offer the 31 school districts the benefits of cost containment and avoidance of duplication of services.

- We provide payroll services, not only for the SCCOE, but for 29 school districts and two community college districts. In total, we issue 27,000 paychecks monthly.
- Our Regional Technology Center provides high-speed Internet access, business information systems, programming and application development, email, network and technology solutions, as well as training and support for all systems.
- Through the Conference Center at Ridder Park, we provide rooms for over 2,000 meetings and seminars annually.
- Our Print Services staff makes quality productions available to customers at a competitive price.
- Our Human Resources Department assists personnel offices through credential processing, fingerprinting and retirement counseling, and the department hosts an annual Teacher Recruitment Fair.

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To maintain and build resources, we forge alliances with public and private agencies and businesses throughout the county. Most recently we merged our County Education Foundation to become part of the Silicon Valley Education Foundation, a prestigious organization that seeks to inspire tomorrow's innovators.

## **COMPLIANCE WITH STATE & FEDERAL MANDATES**

*The SCCOE provides services as specified in state and federal mandates such as:*

- Oversight of school bond and school board elections
- Oversight of school district reorganization
- Appeal hearings of local school board decisions on expulsions, inter-district student transfers and charter schools
- Verification of credentials and assignments of personnel
- Distribution of funding apportionments
- Maintenance of records
- Dissemination of CA Department of Education advisories, programs and curriculum frameworks.

*The County Superintendent of Schools provides the required oversight and monitoring of the following programs.*

- The Williams Settlement covers issues such as providing clean and safe facilities; sufficient instructional materials; appropriate teacher credentialing and assignment monitoring; and accurate reporting of the School Accountability Report Cards.
- The Quality Education Investment Act (QEIA) gives funds to struggling schools to lower class size, hire dynamic staff and counselors, and provide development opportunities for principals and teachers.
- The Valenzuela Settlement requires those districts, county offices and charter schools that participate in certain categorical programs to offer services to students who do not pass the CA High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) by the end of the 12th grade.

***Without county offices, the quality of local schools would suffer, economies of scale would be lost, and district and school personnel would be burdened with additional duties. With a thriving county office like the SCCOE, children, schools, and the community have a vigorous, pro-active champion committed to world-class educational services.***

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