



# COMMUNITY PARTNER FEEDBACK SURVEY SUMMARY REPORT 2022-2023

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## Message from the Superintendent



June 1, 2023

Dear Students, Families, Educators, and Partners,

It is my pleasure to present the Santa Clara County Office of Education's *2022-2023 Community Partner Feedback Survey Summary Report*.

This report summarizes feedback collected from members of the education community who received services and support from the Santa Clara County Office of Education this past year. A wide array of participants throughout Santa Clara County responded to the survey with their valuable insights. The Santa Clara County Office of Education and its leaders utilize findings from this survey, along with many other data collection tools, to identify areas of service excellence and to inform the work that we perform each and every day in fulfillment of our mission and strategic plan goals.

The Santa Clara County Office of Education strives to be a premier service organization, one that is efficient in the provision of quality support and services for students, schools, districts, and the many community members and agencies that partner with the public school system. As a resource within the community, we aim to inspire and promote the success of Santa Clara County's students and public schools. Our commitment to this mission has remained steadfast as we continue to use innovative approaches to serve our students, families, and community partners.

Thank you for your continued trust in the SCCOE as a partner, premier service organization, and advocate. As community partners, we are #StrongerTogether.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Ann Dewan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D.**

County Superintendent of Schools

## A Year in Review

Each year, the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) provides over 60 programs and services to Santa Clara County's students, parents, educators, schools, community organizations, and businesses. Furthering the SCCOE's mission of promoting student and public school success, the employees of the SCCOE provide general administrative, business, and technical support, deliver instructional services and professional learning, and operate programs that directly serve students. This section of the report highlights some of the services provided in the 2022-23 academic year to support our community partners and includes recognition of Santa Clara County's 2022 Teachers of the Year.

### Supporting Students, Schools, Districts, and Communities

In alignment with organizational goals, the SCCOE aims to improve access to high quality education and ensure that every child in Santa Clara County can thrive. Some of the continued efforts this year include assisting the expansion of universal pre-kindergarten, helping families navigate early learning programs, developing school health systems billing support, increasing access to resources, and advancing environmental literacy.

#### *Connecting Families to Early Learning Programs*

Together with Santa Clara County schools and local early learning partners, the SCCOE is committed to empowering children and their families through safe, equitable, inclusive, high-quality early childhood programming. Providing parents and families with a centralized information hub containing the full spectrum of early learning programs is an essential part of improving access to state pre-kindergarten programs. Families can visit [www.childcarescc.org](http://www.childcarescc.org) to receive guidance on how to enroll in school district programs, learn about different early learning program options in Santa Clara County, find community resources, use a searchable map to locate programs that meet their needs, and explore an array of childcare payment assistance options.

With the goal of increasing enrollment and regular attendance in early learning programs in Santa Clara County, the SCCOE launched the Steps to Success campaign. This initiative aims to raise public awareness of the importance of consistent attendance for children aged birth through five years old, and disseminate information about early learning program enrollment locations for this age group. Families can visit [enrollssantaclara.org](http://enrollssantaclara.org) to search for available childcare and preschool programs through the Childcare Resource & Referral Program, find information on Head Start and state preschool programs, and enroll their child(ren) in transitional kindergarten (TK) or kindergarten. This website highlights key details about TK expansion and hosts multilingual resources that summarize early learning program options. Families are encouraged to view the early learning video series, which provides answers to common questions about early learning programs. The video series can be accessed at <https://sccoe.to/earlylearningvideos> and is available in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese.



#### *Supporting the Expansion of Universal Pre-Kindergarten*

The SCCOE Early Care & Education Initiatives Department has continued its efforts to support schools and districts as they navigate the statewide expansion of Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK). In 2022-23, these efforts included technical assistance, webinars, workshops, and curated resource and outreach toolkits. Professional

development workshop sessions are organized into a *Menu of Services* resource to streamline available opportunities for community partners. These sessions cover a wide range of topics, including Universal Design for Learning (UDL), inclusive instruction, alignment of preschool foundation and frameworks, social-emotional and culturally responsive instruction, supporting dual language learners, and implementing trauma-informed and restorative practices. Additional services provided to districts and schools include site visits, UPK office hours, newsletters, and individualized meetings with district teams to identify needs. To learn more about UPK expansion, find information on upcoming events and webinars, access guidance for childcare providers, or view planning templates and implementation tools, please visit the SCCOE's Universal Pre-Kindergarten Expansion Resource [webpage](#).

### *Promoting Youth Health and Wellness*

Recognizing the importance of addressing the unique health and wellness needs of students throughout the county, the SCCOE Youth Health & Wellness Department offers technical assistance to Local Education Agencies (LEAs) on all aspects of school-based health systems. The SCCOE's School Health Systems and Billing program provides training and support for developing processes and structures that leverage an assortment of billing options, including Medi-Cal and commercial health insurance. The 2022-23 year also marked the launch of the School Billing Professional Learning Network. This statewide network brings together educators, both locally and statewide, to learn about key topics related to expanding health and wellness services on school campuses. In addition to technical assistance and billing support, coaching is made available to 30 school districts and counties statewide.



The SCCOE promotes partnership and collaboration by supporting districts as they expand direct student health services. In 2022-23, the SCCOE's School Wellness Program secured and leveraged additional grant funding opportunities to expand partnerships to new and existing school districts. These efforts allowed for seven new School Wellness Centers to be established this past year, for a total of 19 School Wellness Centers throughout Santa Clara County. Further, the SCCOE's School Wellness Program partnered with community-based organizations to expand the array of health and wellness approaches and modalities that are offered at School Wellness Centers. This created an opportunity for students to receive a wider variety of direct, personalized services based on individual student needs, including alternatives to talk therapy such as art therapy, body movement and athletic modalities, and yoga.

To learn more, view upcoming events, or access health and wellness resources for your LEA, please visit [www.sccoe.org/yhw](http://www.sccoe.org/yhw).



### *Improving Access to Youth Safety Resources*

In addition to the school-based youth health and wellness initiatives, the SCCOE continues to work with community partners to improve access to safety resources such as COVID-19 test kits, vaccinations, and personal protective equipment for students and families. Operating alongside the Santa Clara County Behavioral Health Department, County Board of Supervisors, and other state and local agencies, the SCCOE facilitated the dissemination of resources to address opioid and fentanyl use.

During the 2022-23 academic year, the SCCOE's partnership with the Santa Clara County Behavioral Health Services Department and the Santa Clara County Opioid Overdose Prevention Program (SCCOOPP) expanded efforts to increase awareness and actively address the opioid epidemic, with a focus on the youth population. The SCCOE has invested in training educators, districts, schools, and community members and distributing Narcan (a life-saving medication that reverses the respiratory effects of an overdose). Forty-three (43) training events have been held and as of December 2022, and over 1,300 boxes of Narcan have been provided to Santa Clara County schools and community members. For more information, see the SCCOE's [Naloxone Training Guide](#).



### *Advancing Digital Equity*

In alignment with the SCCOE's goal of improving access to inclusive, equitable, high-quality education, the SCCOE has invested in advancing digital equity throughout Santa Clara County. The SCCOE is supporting projects to address the growing digital divide in Santa Clara County, particularly in South County. Alongside Gilroy Unified School District, the California Housing and Community Development Department, and Spectrum Communications, the SCCOE upgraded the Arturo Ochoa Migrant Center infrastructure to an enterprise high speed wireless internet solution. As a result, students living at Arturo Ochoa Migrant Center now have seamless access to a high-speed wireless network to ensure proper access to online telehealth, educational, and communication services.

In partnership with Luther Burbank Elementary School, Joint Venture Silicon Valley, and SBA Communications, the SCCOE deployed Citizens Broadband Radio Service (CBRS) wireless internet for students at Luther Burbank, to provide a long-term solution to replace free or discounted hotspots previously provided to families to support distance learning modalities implemented due to the pandemic. The CBRS infrastructure was designed with a deep understanding of the proximity of students' homes to school sites and can support up to 350 students to address the digital divide and homework gap in this community. Other digital equity efforts include a pilot project that aims to improve service delivery in rural areas throughout the Santa Cruz mountains. This pilot serves students in the Lakeside Joint School District and is investing in innovative approaches to addressing the challenges of delivering high speed internet to homes with rugged terrain.

### *Sustaining Environmental Literacy*

As part of the SCCOE's commitment to advancing environmental literacy, sustainability, and climate action, the SCCOE supports Santa Clara County schools in local prioritization of integrating environmental sustainability across a school's campus, curriculum, community, and culture. In 2022, the County of Santa Clara Office of Sustainability and County Office of Education entered a unique partnership that focused on expanding the many benefits of urban forestry to County residents and students through tree planting. This partnership launched an initiative to plant 1,000 trees at school sites throughout Santa Clara County during the next two years. As these

trees mature, they will provide better air quality by sequestering carbon and mitigate the effects of extreme heat by providing cooling shade on a hot day. Planting trees at school sites fosters a sense of environmental responsibility and stewardship and helps bring nature to students by creating outdoor learning and play spaces. Since the start of this initiative, students at these school sites have now taken part in caring for these trees and will reap the health benefits from them in the years to come.



To further support students, educators, schools, and the greater community in developing environmental literacy and engaging in climate-resilient practices, the SCCOE hosts an annual Environmental Literacy Summit. Held in March 2023, the SCCOE's second Environmental Literacy Summit featured guest speakers, student-led panels, and interactive workshops on topics such as climate action and education, action and advocacy initiatives within the local community, recycling and composting, and inclusive environmental literacy education. This event also marked the launch of the SCCOE's Environmental Literacy Website which hosts resources that have been curated and designed by the Environmental Literacy and Operations team. These hand-picked resources and more information about the SCCOE's environmental literacy initiatives can be accessed [here](#). In addition, the *Looking Ahead* section of this report highlights resources from the website, including two educator toolkits and a community of practice for those who support school-based gardens and outdoor spaces.

### Celebrating Santa Clara County's Teachers of the Year

Santa Clara County's educators play a significant role in motivating, supporting, and challenging students to reach their full potential. This role includes providing high-quality instruction to help students perform at or above grade level and ensuring that the social-emotional, health, and wellness needs of youth are met. For over 50 years, the Santa Clara County Office of Education has proudly coordinated an annual Teacher Recognition Celebration to honor the county's finest teachers – educators nominated by peers for their skills in the classroom, exceptional dedication to students, and inspirational commitment to lifelong learning. This annual event remains one of California's oldest and largest celebration of public-school educators. In 2022, the SCCOE held this longstanding tradition in partnership with the Santa Clara County Federal Credit Union, the Santa Clara County School Boards Association, the Sixth District PTA, and The Tech Interactive. Thirty educators representing 28 of Santa Clara County's 31 school districts, the SCCOE, and a Santa Clara County Board of Education Authorized Charter School were honored as Santa Clara County's 2022 Teachers of the Year. The 2022 Teacher Recognition Ceremony program brochure, event videos, and photo gallery are viewable on the SCCOE's [Santa Clara County Teacher of the Year](#)



webpage, which features the history of the Teacher Recognition Celebration, the nomination instructions, and additional information about event sponsors.

A very special thank you to all of Santa Clara County's educators for their hard work and dedication to students. Questions about the nomination process can be submitted to the SCCOE's [Communications Department](#).

### Santa Clara County 2022 Teacher of the Year Honorees



**Milton Hernandez**  
Alum Rock Union  
School District



**Diana Martinez**  
Berryessa Union  
School District



**Stacey Bibo**  
Cambrian School District



**Marie-Julie L. Murray**  
Campbell Union  
High School District



**Gloria McGriff**  
Campbell Union  
School District



**Kevin Jacks**  
County Office of Education



**Alicia Torres**  
County-Authorized  
Charter School



**Joan Orvick**  
Cupertino Union  
School District



**Elizabeth Fong**  
Evergreen School District



**Alie Victorine**  
Franklin-McKinley  
School District



**Elizabeth Louie**  
Fremont Union  
High School District



**Jean Davis**  
Gilroy Unified  
School District



**Heather Wingfield**  
Lakeside Joint  
School District



**Janis Riccomini**  
Loma Prieta Joint Union  
School District



**Mollie Smoke Kesselring**  
Los Altos  
School District



**Jennifer Splaine**  
Los Gatos Union  
School District



**Brian Elliott**  
Los Gatos-Saratoga Union  
High School District



**Diana Benavides**  
Luther Burbank  
School District



**Bill Collins**  
Metropolitan  
Education District



**Kimberly Jone Miller**  
Moreland School District



**Frankie Kellet**  
Morgan Hill Unified  
School District



**Lauren Camarillo**  
Mountain View Los Altos  
Union High School District



**Jessica Rodriguez**  
Mountain View Whisman  
School District



**Christine H. Okada-Seike**  
Mt. Pleasant Elementary  
School District





**Fariba Roberts**  
Oak Grove  
School District



**Rebecca Anna Taub**  
San Jose Unified  
School District



**Claudia A. Lopez**  
Santa Clara Unified  
School District



**Ann Marie Borgia-Camp**  
Saratoga Union Elementary  
School District



**Lindsay Choi**  
Sunnyvale School District



**Shawn Miller**  
Union School District

## Survey Design, Data Collection Methodology, and Main Findings

This section of the report contains a description of the Santa Clara County Office of Education’s (SCCOE) 2022-2023 *Community Partner Feedback Survey* data elements, collection procedures, and main findings.

### Methodology

#### *Survey Design*

The 2022-2023 *Community Partner Feedback Survey* consisted of single-selection, scale, and open-response type questions separated into four (4) distinct sections:

#### **Demographics and Frequency of Interaction**

Included three (3) questions that asked participants to identify the agency they work for (e.g., School District, Community Based Organization, Non-Profit Partner), their role (e.g., Administrator, Teacher, Service Provider), and their frequency of interaction with the SCCOE. Participants who selected “School District” or “Charter School” as their agency were asked to report their specific district or charter school in a follow up item. Participants that selected that they had not interacted with SCCOE within the past 12 months were discontinued from the survey.

#### **General Feedback**

Included two (2) questions that asked participants to rate their overall level of satisfaction with the SCCOE, its staff, and general quality aspects of its services. For example, participants were asked to rate their level of agreement with statements such as “The SCCOE provides high-quality supports to educators” and “The SCCOE is effective as a partner with the community.”

#### **Regular Services and Programs**

Included four (4) questions that asked participants for their feedback about SCCOE services and programs:

- One (1) question asked participants to rate their level of satisfaction with over 60 of the regular services and programs performed by SCCOE departments throughout the organization.
- Three (3) open-ended questions captured qualitative feedback. Participants were invited to:
  - Submit their opinions on what the SCCOE is doing well,
  - Identify opportunities for growth, and
  - Nominate one or more SCCOE employees and/or teams for recognition of their exemplary service.

## Emergency Response Supports and Services

Included one (1) question that asked participants to rate their level of satisfaction with specific SCCOE services provided in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and two (2) open-ended questions designed to collect related, qualitative feedback.

### Analysis

Questions included in the survey allowed for the collection of both quantitative and qualitative data. Quantitative data elements (i.e., responses to close-ended or scale items) were examined using descriptive statistics such as frequency distributions. Qualitative data elements (i.e., responses to open-ended questions) were examined for common themes. Where relevant, common themes are included in this report as supplemental insights for quantitative findings.

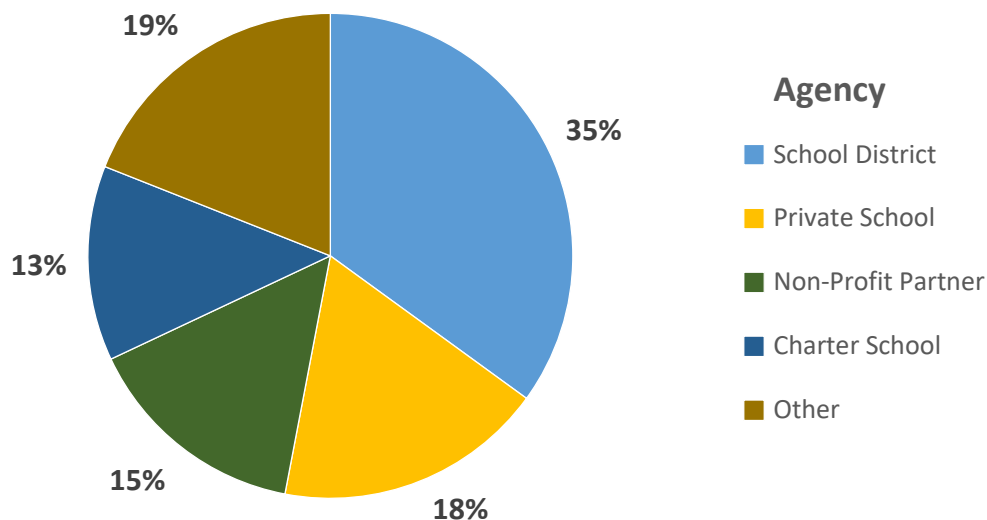
### Data Collection

Data were collected over the course of a seven-week period beginning on January 31, 2023. To maximize the number of responses, SCCOE staff from every department who perform outward-facing services were encouraged to support outreach efforts by distributing the survey to their network of community partners. Staff were given communication resources including email templates to customize and send to service recipients, instructions for how to utilize the templates, and a collection window timeline that outlined dates for sending out initial and follow-up requests. Follow-up communications were sent out approximately three to four weeks after the initial request. Participation in the survey was voluntary and participants were presented with the option of skipping items or indicating that an item was not applicable to them.

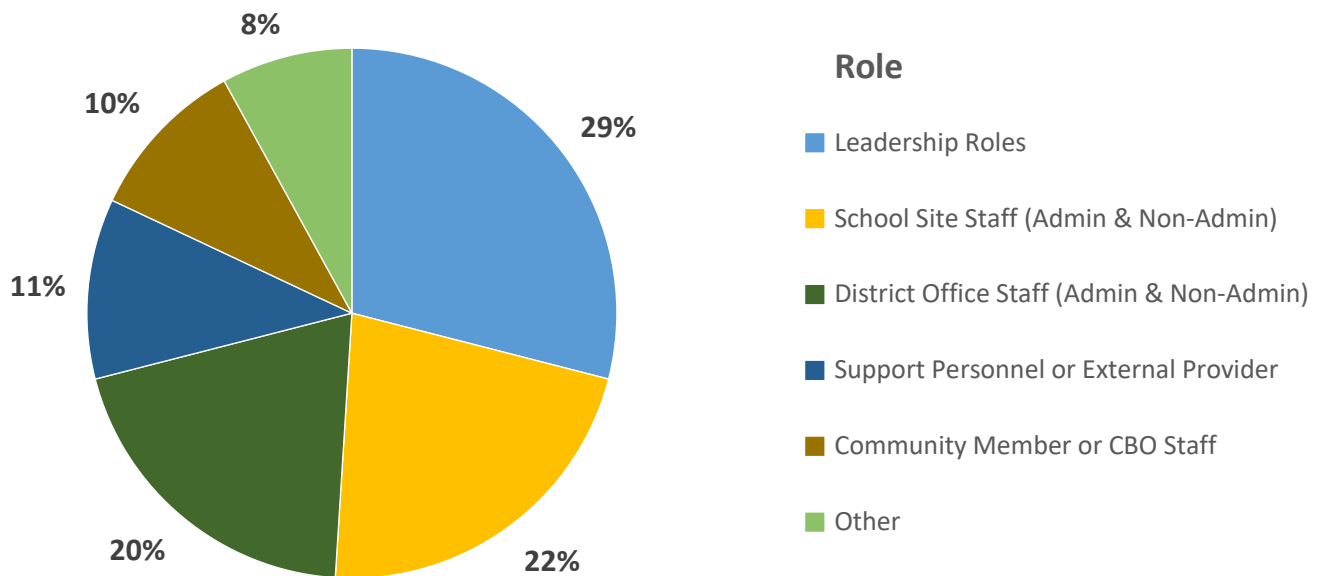
## Findings

### Respondent Demographics

One hundred and sixty-six (166) community partners responded to the *2022-2023 Community Partner Feedback Survey*. When asked to identify their employment agency, 35% of these respondents selected “School District” followed by 18% who responded that they were from a “Private School” (as reported in the open-ended “Other” option). Fifteen percent (15%) selected “Non-Profit Partner” and 13% selected “Charter School.” The survey garnered responses from participants representing nearly all school districts in Santa Clara County.



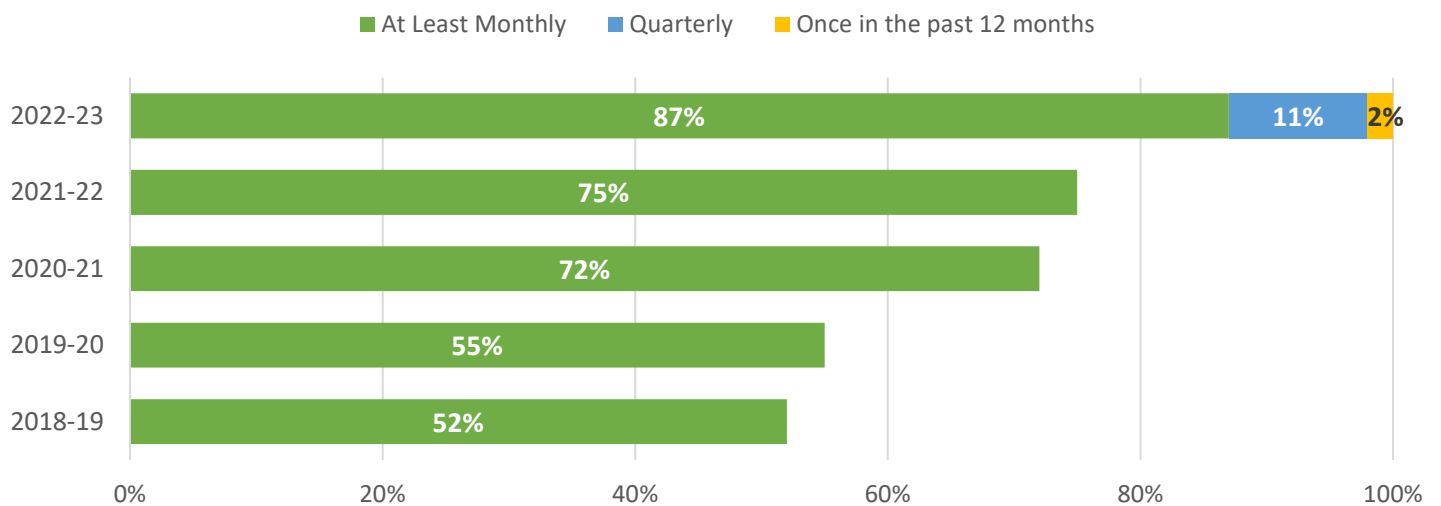
Among the respondent pool were staff fulfilling a variety of roles including leadership (such as managers, board members, trustees, superintendents, or directors; 29%), school site personnel (22%), district office personnel (20%), support personnel or other external providers/contractors (11%), and community members or community-based organization (CBO) staff (10%).



### Frequency of Interaction with the SCCOE

Whether interactions with the SCCOE involve collaborating to develop solutions for the community’s most pressing problems or being direct recipients of the SCCOE’s supports, the degree to which community partners interact with the SCCOE serves as an important marker of the SCCOE’s reach as a public service agency. The proportion of respondents who indicated that they have interacted with the SCCOE at least monthly has increased over the past five years, from 52% in 2018-19 to 87% in 2022-23.

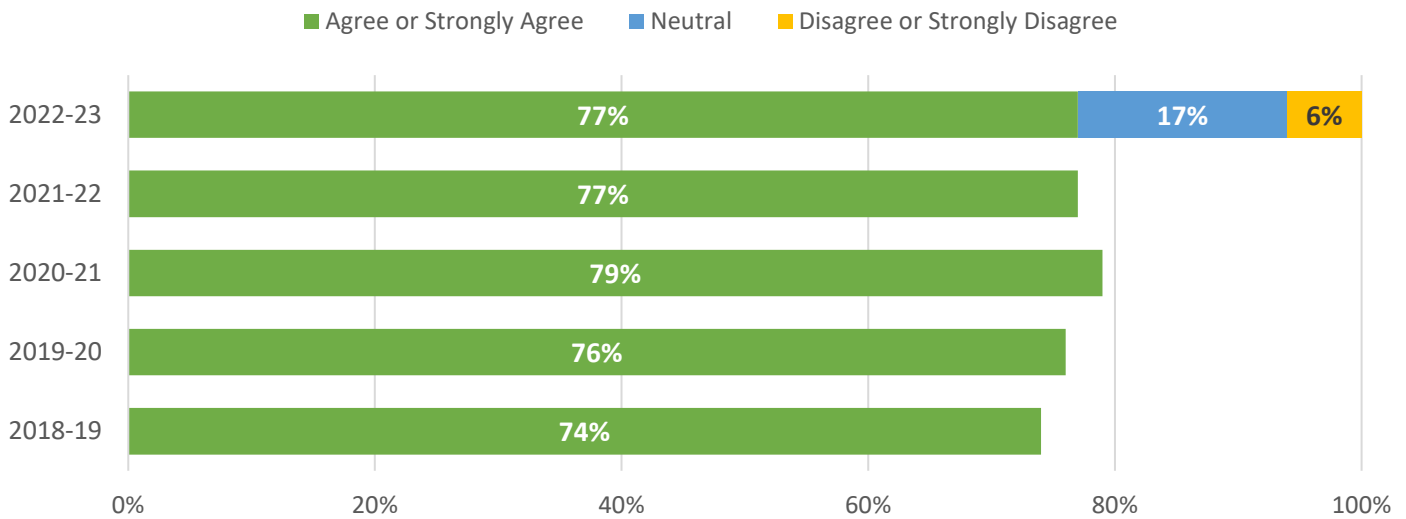
### Frequency of Interaction with the SCCOE



### Overall Satisfaction with SCCOE Services and Supports

Overall satisfaction with SCCOE services and supports was measured with a single item that asked participants to rate their level of agreement with the statement, “Overall, the SCCOE meets my school’s/district’s/agency’s needs.” In 2022-23, 77% of respondents provided a favorable rating. Responses to this item are consistently positive and have generally improved since 2018-19.

#### The SCCOE meets my school, district, or agency needs.



### Ratings of SCCOE Service Model Components

To closely evaluate the quality of services provided by the SCCOE, respondents were asked to rate their levels of agreement with statements tied to important components of the SCCOE’s service model. Consistent with data collected in previous years, results indicate that respondents have very high opinions of SCCOE staff in areas such as professionalism, knowledgeability, helpfulness, and responsiveness. In addition, 78% or more of respondents held positive opinions about the SCCOE’s provision of high-quality supports and services for educators, and three out of four (76%) participants reported that the SCCOE was an effective community partner. Among the lower rated components in this section of the survey were items pertaining to the provision of supports to community members and students.

#### Percent of Respondents Who Agree

92%

The SCCOE staff conduct themselves professionally.

89%

The SCCOE staff are knowledgeable.

87%

The SCCOE staff are helpful.

85%

The SCCOE staff are responsive.

*“It is a pleasure to work with SCCOE staff. I find everyone professional, responsive and positive.”*

### *Ratings of SCCOE Programs and Departmental Services*

In addition to rating important components of the SCCOE’s service model, community partners were provided with the opportunity to report their level of satisfaction with over 60 specific SCCOE programs and departmental services. The programs and services receiving the highest satisfaction ratings this year were those that provided technology and systems support to schools (e.g., Technology Infrastructure & Support Services and Security Network & Systems Engineering) and early education planning (e.g., Local Early Education Planning Council (LPC) and Strong Start). A complete listing of the highest rated programs and services is provided below.



### **SCCOE Programs and Departmental Services Rated Highly by Survey Respondents**

- **Assessment & Accountability**
- **Business Enterprise Systems & Technologies**
- **Inclusion Collaborative**
- **Inclusion Support Warmline**
- **LCAP Technical Assistance and Support**
- **Local Early Education Planning Council (LPC)**
- **Payroll Services**
- **Public Affairs/Public Information**
- **Security Network & Systems Engineering**
- **Strong Start**
- **Technology Infrastructure & Support Services**

*Note: Programs and services are listed alphabetically.*



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*“Whenever I’ve had a question, the staff have not only answered it but they have also provided me with links and other resources to where they got their answers so that I can always reference that in the future.”*

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### Ratings of Emergency Response Supports and Services

The SCCOE continues to serve as a curator and distributor of funds and resources such as food, cleaning supplies, sanitary products, personal protective equipment (PPE), technology, and information throughout Santa Clara County. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, staff have performed these services concurrently with existing SCCOE programs to address evolving needs and alleviate hardships experienced by members of the education community. Responses to the *2022-2023 Community Partner Feedback Survey* indicated high satisfaction with these efforts.

The highest rated emergency response supports and services included guidance on preventing the spread of COVID-19, updates provided in the SCCOE IMPACT Weekly Newsletter, the distribution of PPE and other cleaning supplies, and COVID-19 testing at the main SCCOE office (Ridder Park) and South County Annex (SCA). In addition, three out of every four respondents were either satisfied or extremely satisfied with the vaccination clinics offered at both Ridder Park and SCA.

### Percent of Respondents Who Are Satisfied

90%

Guidance on preventing the spread of COVID-19.

86%

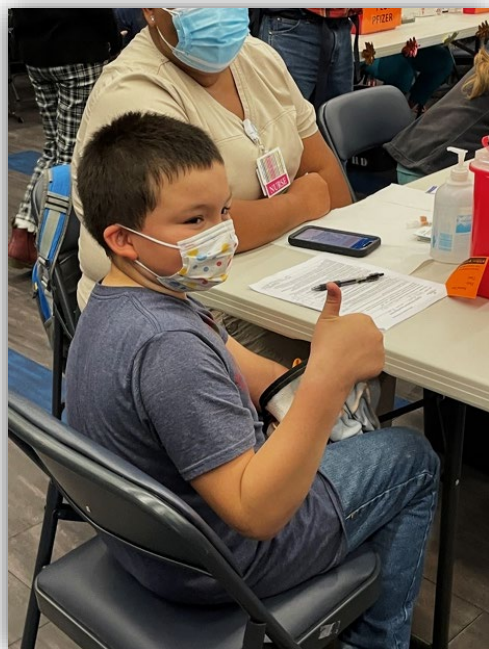
Important updates in the SCCOE IMPACT Weekly Newsletter.

83%

Distribution of PPE & sanitation supplies.

79%

COVID-19 Testing at the main office &/or SCA.



### Summary

Each year, administrators, teachers, and service providers offer their valuable feedback on the SCCOE's supports, services, and programs. The responses to the annual *Community Partner Feedback Survey* help inform the SCCOE's growth as a premier service organization and offer insights into the organization's impact on student and public school success. Program recipients and community partners report that they regularly interact with the SCCOE and that the SCCOE meets the needs of their agency, district, or school. Findings are overall positive, with especially favorable ratings of the professionalism and helpfulness of SCCOE staff. Additionally, respondents provided favorable ratings of the SCCOE's services that staff administered in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Looking Ahead

Educators and childcare providers throughout Santa Clara County look to the Santa Clara County Office of Education for high-quality support and services that are vital to student and public school success. Guided by the core principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion, the SCCOE works alongside community partners to cultivate student safety and well-being. This section highlights upcoming initiatives, resources, and opportunities made available by the SCCOE in service of the needs of our community.

### Identifying Child Care Needs

The [Local Early Education Planning Council](#) (LPC) of Santa Clara County is a collaborative association of representatives from the early care and education field who plan for childcare and development services based on the needs of families in the local community. Currently, the Santa Clara County Office of Education's LPC is conducting a needs assessment that will compile data on child and family demographics, eligibility criteria for childcare subsidy programs, unmet needs for childcare, and other related topics. To complement this needs assessment, the LPC is conducting an Average Rates Survey of all licensed childcare providers in the county to understand the current rate structures of childcare providers in various geographic areas of the county and for children of different age groups. The findings of these efforts will be summarized into a culminating "Child Care Needs Assessment" report that will describe key indicators of early care and education in Santa Clara County. With the ultimate goal of improving access to inclusive, equitable, and high-quality childcare, the Child Care Needs Assessment will assist with planning and implementing early learning programs and initiatives that address the needs of Santa Clara County children and families.



The findings of these efforts will be summarized into a culminating "Child Care Needs Assessment" report that will describe key indicators of early care and education in Santa Clara County. With the ultimate goal of improving access to inclusive, equitable, and high-quality childcare, the Child Care Needs Assessment will assist with planning and implementing early learning programs and initiatives that address the needs of Santa Clara County children and families.

### Advancing Public Education Opportunities

The SCCOE is committed to improving access to public education career opportunities for individuals who are interested in entering the teacher workforce or furthering their career in the educational field. A few of the many SCCOE-organized opportunities for learning more about education careers, entering a role in the public education system, or advancing one's educator career path are outlined below.

#### *Educator Preparation Programs*

The SCCOE makes an active effort to pave the way for entry into the educator workforce for individuals of varying backgrounds, educational experiences, and interests. The SCCOE Educator Preparation Programs Department currently offers credentialing programs for Education Specialist Teaching credentials and administrative services credentials. Financial support is available for applicants interested in obtaining a child development teacher permit as well as those interested in an Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) teaching credential.



Individuals who do not hold a credential can apply for the Educator Preparation for an Inclusive Classroom (EPIC) program to obtain an education specialist credential.

For individuals who hold a bachelor's degree and are seeking a preliminary Education Specialist credential in Extensive Support Needs, the Teacher Residency Program (TRP) is an exciting opportunity that pairs each resident with a credentialed mentor teacher. Residents will co-teach in the mentor's classroom while fulfilling the course requirements of the credential program through online courses provided by the Institute of Higher Education (IHE). Teacher Residency Program residents also receive grant-funded stipends to cover tuition costs of the program. For more information on educator preparation programs, please visit <https://eppscholar.sccoe.org/>.

### *Step into Teaching*

Each year, the SCCOE hosts *Step into Teaching: Opportunities in Silicon Valley Public Schools*, a biannual resource fair that aims to open career paths for prospective new teachers. This event connects individuals seeking to enter the education field to school and community partners looking to hire teachers and other certificated candidates, including psychologists, counselors, school nurses, speech language pathologists, audiologists, and preschool teachers. All members of the community are invited to attend. Recruiters, school district representatives, credential specialists, and other partners of *Step into Teaching* provide attendees with insights about district programs, credentialing requirements, and projected position openings. These partners offer personalized answers to attendee questions and serve as connections to resources for various career pathways.

Future *Step into Teaching* events will expand to include early learning and preschool educator pathways. There are plans to establish partnerships with online universities, adopt a hybrid format for increased accessibility and reach, highlight Career Technical Education (CTE) credential opportunities, and add a financial planning component to assist attendees with researching scholarship and financial aid plans. For a listing of certificated and classified vacancies available at the SCCOE, please visit the SCCOE job opportunities webpage.



### *Educator Resources & Professional Learning Opportunities*

To actively address the diverse needs of the education community, the SCCOE continues to offer educators professional learning resources that are designed to facilitate student success by building educator capacity for implementing innovative, inclusive, and high-quality education strategies. A selection of these opportunities for professional learning and publicly available resources are highlighted below.

#### *Advancing Professional Learning to Accelerate Student Learning*

In partnership with the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence (CCEE), the California Collaborative for Learning Acceleration (CCLA) is working to advance professional learning opportunities for educators across the state with the goal of mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on student learning.

The high-quality professional learning courses developed by CCLA aim to assist educators as they support student academic growth toward grade-level performance and bridge learning for TK-12 students. These online



courses integrate evidence-based strategies, universal design for learning, social-emotional learning practices, culturally sustaining pedagogy, and priority content in mathematics, English language development, and literacy instruction. Future efforts of CCLA include the implementation of high-impact tutoring programs, the use of small group instruction to target student learning, expanded course offerings, customized coaching, and the continuation of professional learning networks. A repository of the current CCLA resources, including the online courses, are free and publicly available for all educators throughout California and can be accessed via the CCLA website at <https://ccla.sccoe.org/>.

### *Inclusion Support Warmline*

Quick responses to acute needs are vital for parents, caregivers, educators, and community members who continue to be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Free, timely support is available through the SCCOE's Inclusion Support Warmline, which provides parents, educators, and community members with free

individualized technical assistance, information, and referrals for children of all ages with disabilities and other needs. Individuals who contact the Warmline can receive resources for educational program transitions (i.e., moving from elementary to middle school), referrals and recommendations for COVID-19 distance learning support and digital access resources, early childhood developmental screenings, and answers to questions about inclusive practices and community activities. The Warmline is free, offered in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese, and can be accessed by emailing [inclusionwarmline@sccoe.org](mailto:inclusionwarmline@sccoe.org) or by calling (408) 453-6651.



### *Environmental Literacy in Education*

Environmental education offers countless opportunities to improve lives, protect the environment, and address critical environmental challenges ahead. The SCCOE's Environmental Literacy and Facilities teams provide workshops, coaching, specialized professional development opportunities, and technical assistance for district climate action plans and educators who are implementing environmental literacy projects at their schools and districts. Resources that embed environmental literacy and climate resiliency have been curated to provide educators and schools with the knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to plan meaningful instruction and activities for students and to create campuses with an inclusive and balanced ecological footprint. Among these resources are two educator toolkits that were designed to be easily modified for a variety of educational contexts and include material suitable for K-12 grade spans. The Climate Action Week Educator Guide was released in September 2022 and provides background, lessons, and resources to support educators with incorporating climate education into their classrooms and school sites during and beyond Climate Week. This guide covers a wide range of topics, including climate justice, food waste, and Green Schools. The Earth Week Educator Toolkit, published in April 2023, offers a series of action steps that students, educators, schools, and communities can take to address climate issues such as plastic pollution, tree-planting, and fashion sustainability.

The SCCOE's Growing Gardens Community of Practice facilitates a network of TK-12 educators, TOSAs (Teachers on Special Assignment), administrators, garden coordinators, after-school garden education providers/staff, volunteers, and community partners. Annual cohorts of the Growing Gardens Community of Practice meet on a monthly basis to collaborate, network, and exchange ideas for the creative use of school gardens and outdoor learning spaces. School garden teachers and coordinators representing approximately 15-20 schools throughout Santa Clara County, along with volunteers and community partners,



present updates on their school garden activities and initiatives at each meeting. These partnerships also provide opportunities to attend skills development workshops that showcase best practices for designing, building, and maintaining sustainable outdoor spaces that can be utilized for both academic instruction and social-emotional learning. To learn more or to make an inquiry about joining the next Growing Gardens Community of Practice cohort, please visit the Growing Gardens [website](#).

#### *Understanding and Affirming AAPI Students and Educators*

The SCCOE takes great pride in celebrating the diversity of students, families, and their communities. The SCCOE is committed to creating inclusive, affirming, and equitable school environments for Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) students, families, and district and school staff. To provide institutional support to AAPI educators throughout Santa Clara County, the SCCOE offers opportunities to learn about trending topics and engage in culturally responsive discussions on issues and challenges that are relevant to AAPI students, educators, and communities through the Asian American and Pacific Islander Educators Network (AAPIEN). The SCCOE's AAPIEN encourages AAPI educators to aim for leadership roles and supports these efforts through the collaborative and informational quarterly meetings.



In 2022, AAPIEN hosted a 4-part series on the local AAPI history and community of Santa Clara County, with discussions led by panel members who facilitated reflections on topics relevant to AAPI students, educators, and communities. The collective knowledge, cultural wealth, lived experiences, and discussions from this series informed the content of an educator-focused AAPI toolkit developed through the partnership of the SCCOE and AAPIEN. The "Educator Toolkit: Understanding and Affirming our K-12 Asian American and Pacific Islander Students," offers a point of entry for educators,

administrators, and other members of educational communities to engage in content that will deepen their understanding of AAPI students and families. The toolkit aims to address the need for educators to better understand the AAPI demographic, which makes up roughly one-third of the student body across Santa Clara County. To that end, this toolkit uplifts the voices of the AAPI community, creates solidarity, and is a valuable resource for teachers and administrators who plan, deliver, implement, and support services, curriculum, and programs for AAPI students in Santa Clara County. Click [here](#) to access the “Educator Toolkit: Understanding and Affirming our K-12 Asian American and Pacific Islander Students.”

### *Advocacy*

Guided by the core principles of equity, diversity, inclusion, and partnership, the SCCOE supports efforts to create safe and inclusive school environments for all youth, free from harassment, intimidation, bullying, and discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation. The SCCOE LGBTQ+ Supports & Resources program encourages students, staff, and community members to learn more about one another and positively contribute to the success and safety of the Santa Clara County community. To help cultivate this



collaborative approach, the SCCOE released “Supporting LGBTQ+ Youth: A Resource Guide for Educators, Parents, Caregivers, Youth, and Communities.” This resource, released in Summer 2022, was developed to facilitate increased understanding of LGBTQ+ youth and their rights, and to provide guidance for creating inclusive schools. Moreover, the SCCOE offers the Out for Safe Schools Training to help districts and schools address anti-LGBTQ+ bullying and harassment. Additional training is offered throughout the year to raise awareness about the challenges that LGBTQ+ youth experience and provide opportunities for educators to learn about best practices for supporting them.

More information about available training and workshop opportunities, along with a collection of support resources and documents, is available on the LGBTQ+ Supports & Resources [webpage](#).



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