



Contra Costa County Office of Education Facts at a Glance

The Contra Costa County Office of Education (CCCOE) is a service agency dedicated to ensuring quality education for all learners. The agency functions as a link between the California Department of Education and the 18 local school districts and Community College District in Contra Costa County.

By working effectively and efficiently with Contra Costa's school districts, CCCOE strengthens the entire education system while saving dollars — dollars that can then be used in local classrooms.

Under the leadership of the elected superintendent of schools and a five-member elected board of education, CCCOE provides direct services to students and teachers, as well as a support infrastructure for local schools and districts.

With an operating budget exceeding \$60 million and more than 650 employees, CCCOE is able to provide many types of services to students, school districts, and the community.

☞ **Directly Educating Students**

School districts turn to CCCOE to run cost-effective classes that directly educate students in three major programs:

- **Career Technical Education (includes ROP)** — ROP provides career technical programs at every comprehensive high school in Contra Costa and parts of Alameda counties, from biotechnology and computer graphics to careers in teaching. Classroom training is enhanced by opportunities for job shadowing, internships, work with mentors, field work, and contacts for potential employment. ROP also offers training, retraining, and upgrading courses for adult students and industry employees in specific skill areas. We offer programs that provide support for family literacy, childcare and professional development, foster youth, and other special populations.
- **Court and Community Schools, Adult Correctional Programs** — Academic courses, counseling and other services are provided for youth in Community Schools located throughout the county and in the detention facilities at Juvenile Hall and the Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Facility. Incarcerated adults in the Martinez, Marsh Creek, and West County Detention Facilities are provided a curriculum that includes academic and literacy skills, vocational/employability training, and pre-planning for transition back to the community. The Parole and Community Services Division of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation has collaborated with the CCCOE to develop educational programs designed to reduce the number of parolees returning to prison. Classes are conducted at parole offices throughout the state.
- **Special Education** — Classes, counseling, and other support services are provided for students with severe emotional and/or physical disabilities from infancy to age 22. Offerings range from pre-school programs to programs that transition students to the adult world.

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☞ Assisting Districts to Better Serve Students, Families, and Communities

The County Office of Education leads the way in key areas of education such as:

- **California Standards** — District and school support, professional development, and resources for the new State Standards, Next Generation Science Standards, and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics). The Standards provide a means for all students to be college and career ready and to thrive in the 21st century workforce.
- **Local Control & Accountability Plan (LCAP)** — Support for districts in a Training Collaborative for planning, development and technical assistance in the state's new accountability requirements for districts.
- **Technology Services** — CCCOE technology specialists provide districts with technology services including Internet connections, professional development training, technology planning, purchasing, and equipment repair.
- **Educational Technology/Curriculum Integration** — CCCOE provides classroom video/video streaming, ed1stop Web Portal services, instructional materials displays, textbook selection, and software previews.
- **Teacher Induction Program** — The Teacher Induction Program pairs beginning and experienced teachers in a mentoring relationship that provides professional growth opportunities and encourages new teachers to remain in the profession.
- **District and School Accountability** — CCCOE specialists work with schools and districts to analyze school data and develop strategies that focus on all students meeting state standards. The agency also provides professional development for California Standards-based curriculum design, Transitional Kindergarten, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Math), English learner support, resiliency and prevention programs, and instructional leadership.
- **Preschool Instructional Network** — Provides support and professional development for preschool administrators/leaders in the seven Bay Area counties.
- **Emergency and Crisis Planning and Support** — Provides communications assistance when necessary, during emergencies and otherwise. Pro-active communications training and coaching is also provided for district superintendents and staff.
- **Partnerships** — CCCOE increases educational resources through the development of community, business, and education partnerships.
- **Academic Events** — High school students compete in Academic Decathlon, Mock Trial, and Model U.N., to test their knowledge, enhance their education, and provide them with experience in real-world situations.
- **Teacher of the Year** — CCCOE coordinates the annual Teacher of the Year program, which recognizes and rewards exemplary teachers.

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☞ Saving Money

The County Office of Education saves school districts millions of dollars every year by providing essential, cost-effective programs and services that enable districts to direct more of their own resources to classroom instruction.

Here are a few examples of how this “pooled power” works. CCCOE:

- Provides the financial system for 15 districts and the COE for much less than it would cost individual districts to operate independently.
- Maintains attendance, benefit, and retirement information about every district and CCCOE employee.
- Runs countywide teacher and substitute recruitment fairs so each district does not have to coordinate its own.
- Established Joint Powers Authorities (JPAs) that use large group buying power to provide Worker’s Compensation insurance and dental and vision plans for districts.
- Provides fingerprinting (Livescan) services.

☞ Complying with State and Federal Mandates

It is the job of the County Office of Education to help districts meet hundreds of state and federal reporting requirements on everything from class size averages to teacher salaries. CCCOE provides:

- **AB1200 district budget oversight** – CCCOE oversees the budgets of the 18 county school districts. Budget approval and ongoing fiscal monitoring by CCCOE ensures school district compliance with state fiscal guidelines and budgeting criteria.
- **Credentials monitoring** – Experts ensure that teacher credentials are up-to-date and that teachers are instructing in appropriate subject areas.
- **No Child Left Behind (NCLB), Williams Settlement, and Quality Education Investment Act (QEIA)** – oversight and monitoring.
- **Dispute intervention** – The Contra Costa County Board of Education rules on appeals of interdistrict transfer requests and expulsions. Sitting as the County Committee, it rules on school district boundary disputes.

All of these support systems help districts deal with demanding, growing governmental regulations in a coordinated, cost-effective way.

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☞ The Role of the County Superintendent of Schools

The Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools serves as the agency's Chief Executive Officer, providing educational leadership and administering mandated services. She has direct oversight responsibilities for approving district budgets, calling district elections, and assisting with district emergencies.

She serves as a proponent of public education within the community by fostering partnerships, participating in local committees and organizations and showcasing our county's many educational successes. She also serves as a liaison to the California Department of Education, relaying important legislative information, and serving as an advocate for the needs of students.

Together, the Superintendent of Schools with CCCOE and district staff and teachers, enhance the educational landscape of our county and region. Students receive cost-effective, high-quality classes and programs, districts save much-needed money, and state and federal mandates receive the attention they require.

VISION

Education empowers tomorrow's global citizens.

MISSION

Our mission is to be the premier county education agency providing bold leadership, high quality programs, and innovative services.

Superintendent of Schools

Karen Sakata

Contra Costa County Board of Education

Area 1 Fatima S. Alleyne, Ph.D.

Area 2 Christine W. Deane

Area 3 Vikki J. Chavez

Area 4 Mike Maxwell

Area 5 Jeff Belle

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For more information on these and other programs you can access our website at www.cocoschools.org.