



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **SCCOE ensures earthquake preparedness, participates in the Great Shakeout**

**SAN JOSE, CA** – This Thursday, Oct. 16 at 10:16 a.m., staff and students at the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) will join millions of people across California and throughout the world for the Great Shakeout Earthquake Drill.

The Great ShakeOut educates participants on what to do before, during and immediately following an earthquake. When the drill occurs, SCCOE employees and students will “drop, cover and hold on,” exactly as they would during a major earthquake.

The drill provides the SCCOE with the opportunity to test different components of the organization’s safety procedures and evaluate their reliability if an actual emergency were to occur.

“We know that California is at a high risk for earthquakes when compared with the rest of the country,” said Jon R. Gundry, County Superintendent of Schools. “Staff and students spend more than a third of their time at work and at school, so it’s critical that the County Office of Education set an example for our local school districts in practicing these safety procedures on a regular basis to ensure preparedness the next time an earthquake strikes.”

School districts, local businesses and community organizations are encouraged to participate in the drill, update their emergency preparedness plans and supplies and secure their space to prevent damage and injuries. More than 10 million individuals are already registered for this year’s event, ensuring that their communities are prepared to survive and recover quickly from a sizeable earthquake.

Register by visiting the [Great Shakeout website](#), which features a wealth of resources, tools and additional information regarding the event. Resources and tips for [families](#) are also available on the website.