Santa Clara County
Office of Education

Opportunity Without Exception

SCCOE COMMITMENT
2026 - 2031





Every Student
Every Community
Every Day

Opportunity Without Exception Starts with Understanding Our Reality

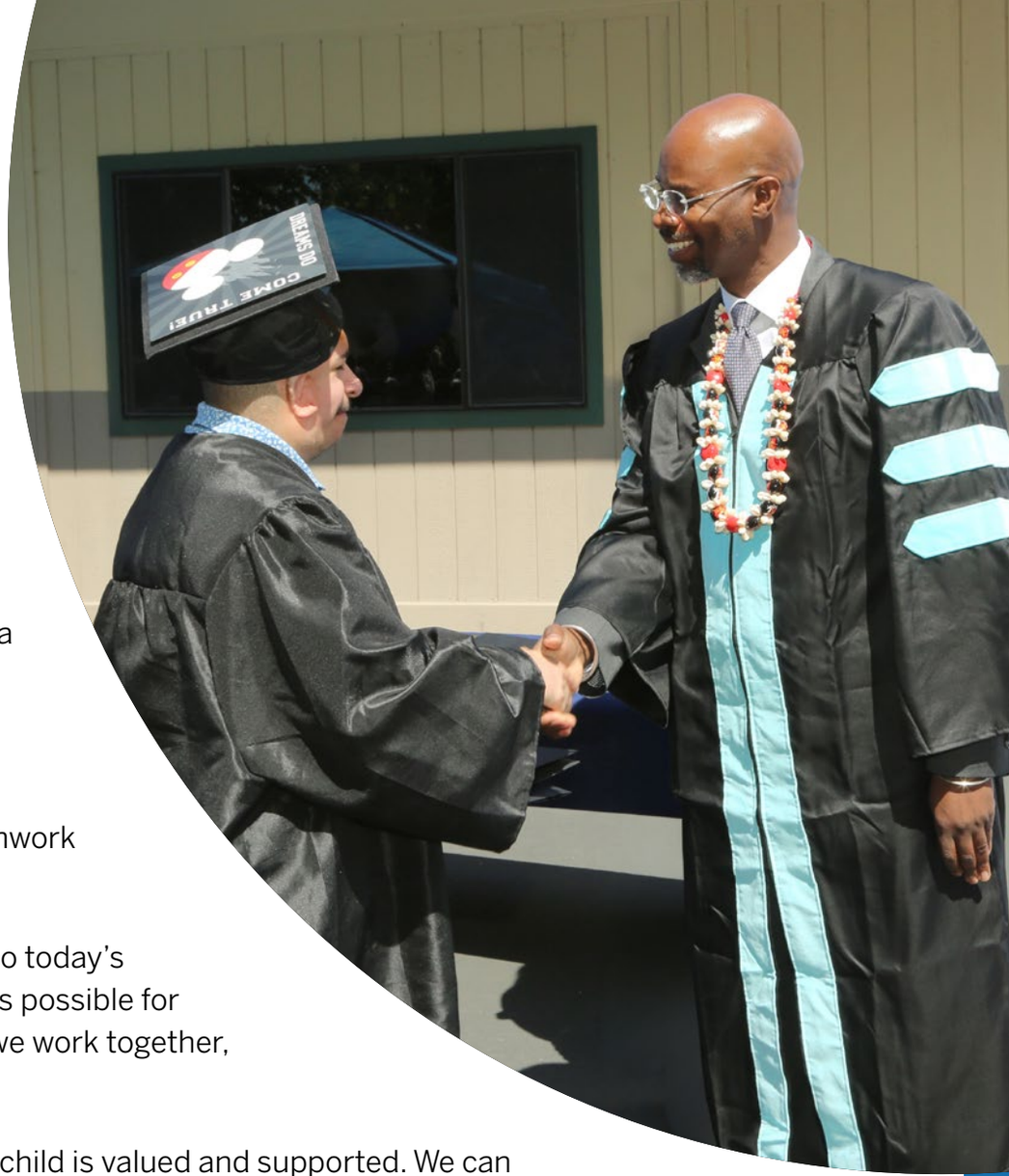
Each year, the Silicon Valley Pain Index (SVPI or Pain Index) helps us understand life in our community. It shows what makes Santa Clara County strong. It also shows the challenges many children and families still face.

A child's chance to learn is shaped by more than school. Safe housing, enough food and money, early learning, health care, transportation, and support from the community all matter. These things help children feel ready, included, and able to succeed.

At the Santa Clara County Office of Education, this information helps guide our work. We serve many students who need extra support. This includes students with disabilities, foster youth, students without stable housing, students in alternative education programs, migrant students, and other students facing challenges.

Their experiences remind us that children do better when the systems around them are strong. Schools, families, and community partners all play an important role.





This plan is based on one simple belief: every child has strengths, talents, and great potential. Every child deserves the chance to learn, grow, and reach goals that may be even bigger than we can imagine today.

The pages that follow turn this belief into action. The plan starts with early learning. It supports families and communities. It works to remove barriers. It also helps students find paths to college, careers, and a meaningful future.

The data in the plan shows why this work matters. It reminds us that we need strong partnerships, community support, and teamwork across many groups.

This commitment is more than a response to today's challenges. It is a plan to help change what is possible for children, families, and communities. When we work together, barriers can become paths forward.

Together, we can build a future where every child is valued and supported. We can help children feel that they belong. We can help them grow their talents and follow their dreams. The choices we make today will shape the story our children tell tomorrow. Let that story be one of hope, belonging, and opportunity for every child.

Opportunity Without Exception.

Every Student | Every Community | Every Day

Dr. David M. Toston, Sr.
County Superintendent of Schools

Santa Clara County Board of Education



Maimona Afzal Berta
Board Member
Area 6



Victoria Chon
Board President
Area 5



Raeena Lari
Board Member
Area 7



Jorge Pacheco Jr.
Board Member
Area 4



Don Rocha
Board Member
Area 3



Jessica Speiser
Board Vice President
Area 1



Tara Sreekrishnan
Board Member
Area 2



Dr. David M. Toston, Sr.
County Superintendent of Schools

Throughout 2025 and 2026, the Board of Education and the County Superintendent engaged in a series of strategic retreats to envision the future of the Santa Clara County Office of Education. As part of this process, we incorporated perspectives from students, families, educators, staff, community partners, and local leaders to better understand the strengths and challenges facing our communities.

We also examined a wide range of data, including findings from the San José State University Silicon Valley Pain Index, which highlights the disparities and barriers experienced by many across our region.

These community voices and data-driven insights helped shape our moral imperative: to alleviate pain through public education. This is the core of our leadership agreements and the foundation of our strategic plan and our commitment to the community:

Opportunity Without Exception.
Every student | Every community | Every day

Santa Clara County Board of Education
Vision Statement

Through shared commitment and coordinated action, we will ensure a county where every student is seen, supported, and inspired — and where every agency works as one to create the conditions to ensure all young people exceed the hopes and dreams of our community.



Strategic Goal #1 – Cradle to Career

The SCCOE will create a coordinated ecosystem—where early childhood development, K–12 learning, postsecondary preparation, and workforce pathways are connected and designed to ensure that every learner can access a prosperous, purpose-filled future.



Strategic Goal #2 – Community Partnerships

The SCCOE team will become a catalyst for a countywide alliance — uniting students, families, labor groups, public/private organizations, and our districts in powerful partnerships that respond boldly, rapidly, and compassionately to the evolving needs of every student.



Strategic Goal #3 – The Whole Child

We will support systems that see, support, and strengthen the whole child — where every student, in every school, has access to the physical, emotional, social, and academic supports they need and deserve in order to be successful in and outside of school.

A CHILD'S FUTURE STARTS WITH OUR COMMITMENT.

Our Role

▶ Connect

Bringing together schools, families, agencies, community organizations, higher education, business, and philanthropy.

▶ Align

Creating shared goals, shared measures, and coordinated strategies.

▶ Support

Providing programs, technical assistance, professional learning, and direct services.

▶ Sustain

Building long-term systems that improve outcomes for future generations.

What Success Looks Like

- Children enter kindergarten ready to learn.
- Students read proficiently by third grade.
- Students stay engaged and connected in school.
- Students graduate with meaningful options.
- More students access college and career pathways.
- Students persist through postsecondary education.
- Young adults enter careers with purpose and opportunity.



Every Student Every Community Every Day

From birth through career, SCCOE and its partners work together to ensure every learner has access to the opportunities, supports, and pathways needed to thrive.

Cradle-to-Career

STRONG START

Programs & Supports

Head Start • Early Learning Services • Resource & Referral • Family Support • Advocacy

TK - 8TH EDUCATION

Programs & Supports

School Readiness • Literacy • Academic Supports • Attendance • Student Engagement
Family Partnerships • Continuous Improvement • LCAP • Fiscal Monitoring



HIGH SCHOOL

Programs & Supports

A-G Completion • Career Pathways • Dual Enrollment • College Readiness • District Support

COLLEGE

Programs & Supports

Postsecondary Planning • FAFSA Support • 529 Partnerships
College Persistence Supports • College Going Culture

CAREER

Programs & Supports

Workforce Development • Industry Partnerships • Career Technical Education
Employment Pathways

Starting Strong

Families as Partners

We partner with families to help children thrive.

Children are more likely to thrive when families have the information, support, and connections they need. SCCOE helps families navigate systems, access resources, and advocate for their children's success.

How SCCOE Supports Families

- Family Support Systems
- Family Resource Centers
- Parent Education
- Community Navigation
- Language Access
- Immigration Support
- Resource Connections

Why Family Support Matters

Families are a child's first and most important teachers. When families are connected to information, support, and community resources, children are better positioned to succeed in school and beyond.

FAMILY STABILITY SUPPORTS STUDENT SUCCESS

High housing costs place significant pressure on families and can affect children's stability and readiness to learn. SCCOE connects families to information, services, language access, and community resources that help children thrive.



Indicators That Matter

The indicators below reflect where we are today across key measures of student achievement, engagement, and stability. By strengthening family connections, access to resources, and support systems, we can help improve outcomes for children and youth throughout the county.

▶ Readiness & Achievement

- Grade 3 Reading Proficiency: **54%**
- Countywide Graduates: **16,853**
- A-G Completers: **12,272**

▶ Engagement

- Chronic Absenteeism: **15.3%** (34,760 students)

▶ Student Stability

- Foster Youth School Stability: **62.5%**
- Homeless Youth School Stability: **69.4%**

▶ Priority Student Groups

- English Learners: **46,573 students**
- Students with Disabilities: **29,080 students**
- Homeless Youth: **5,680 students**
- Socioeconomically Disadvantaged: **91,102 students**

Understanding Our Community
Santa Clara County

Community Indicator	2025-26 Countywide
TK-12 Enrollment	227,187
English Learners	46,573 (20.5%)
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	91,102 (40.1%)
Students with Disabilities	29,080 (12.8%)
Homeless Youth	5,680 (2.5%)
Foster Youth	454 (0.2%)
Migrant Youth	682 (0.3%)

$125,280 in annual income was associated with affording a two-bedroom apartment in Santa Clara County under the affordability assumptions cited by the SVPI.

What Success Looks Like

Families understand how to access available supports and services.

Parents and caregivers are equipped to advocate for their children.

Children experience greater stability and engagement in school.

Barriers to learning are reduced through coordinated support.

Families feel connected to their schools and communities.

Birth Through Early Learning

Every student's journey starts long before the first day of kindergarten. SCCOE helps children, families, and caregivers build the foundation for lifelong learning.

For many families, starting strong also means having access to affordable, reliable childcare, early learning opportunities, developmental supports, and clear information about where to turn for help. When these supports are difficult to access, children can begin school already carrying barriers that no child should have to face alone.

Birth to Age Five – Programs

- Head Start
- Early Head Start
- Early Learning Services
- Resource & Referral
- Innovations Collaborative
- Early Start & Early Intervention Partnerships

25,072 unmet early-care spaces in Santa Clara County in 2023. The underlying facilities study found that only 69% of estimated demand for children from birth through age four was met.*

*According to the SVPI

HeadStart OF SANTA CLARA AND SAN BENITO COUNTIES

EARLY LEARNING SERVICES HEAD START STATE PRESCHOOL

Childcare Resource & Referral SERVING SANTA CLARA COUNTY

Strategies Professional Learning Solutions INNOVATIONS COLLABORATIVE

What SCCOE Does

Children	Families	Systems
Builds school readiness	Provides parent education	Expands child care availability
Supports early learning and development	Connects families to resources	Supports child care providers and educators
Identifies needs early	Helps families navigate complex systems	Strengthens kindergarten transitions
Creates inclusive learning opportunities	Builds family confidence and advocacy	Coordinates countywide partnerships

Why It Matters

A child who enters kindergarten ready to learn is more likely to:

- Read proficiently by third grade
- Attend school consistently
- Stay engaged in learning
- Graduate with more options and opportunities

Early Success Indicators

▶ Access

- Increase Head Start participation
- Child care capacity
- Families connected through Resource & Referral
- Community partnerships

▶ Readiness

- School readiness metrics
- Kindergarten readiness indicators
- Developmental screening participation

▶ Engagement

- Parent education participation
- Family engagement participation
- Kindergarten transition participation



THE OPPORTUNITY GAP BEGINS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN

Too many children lack access to the early care and learning experiences they need to start strong. SCCOE's early learning, Head Start, Resource & Referral, and early-intervention partnerships help more children enter school ready to learn and thrive.

Success in School



Supporting Strong Schools and Districts

How SCCOE strengthens the educational ecosystem

Strong schools and districts are the foundation of student success. SCCOE serves as a convener, partner, and resource, helping educational leaders learn from one another, scale effective practices, and address shared challenges. By connecting expertise across districts and promoting continuous improvement, we create a countywide network where innovation spreads, capacity grows, and student outcomes improve for every community.

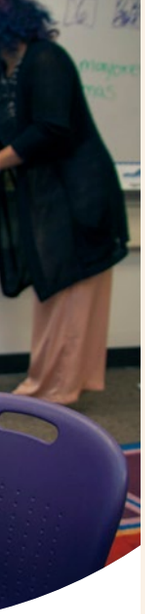
How SCCOE Supports Districts

- Continuous Improvement
- Professional Learning
- Communities of Practice
- Technical Assistance

Why This Matters

Strong schools are built through shared learning, continuous improvement, and collaboration. SCCOE supports districts across Santa Clara County by helping educators learn from one another, solve challenges together, and implement effective practices that improve outcomes for students.





Our Educational Community

Santa Clara County School Districts

Total Students
227,187

Districts
32

Charter Schools
57±

Grade	2025-26 Enrollment*	
Transitional Kindergarten (TK)	8,573	ELEMENTARY
Kindergarten	13,912	
1st Grade	14,592	
2nd Grade	15,069	
3rd Grade	15,772	
4th Grade	16,484	
5th Grade	16,734	
6th Grade	16,860	MIDDLE
7th Grade	17,149	
8th Grade	17,470	
9th Grade	18,097	HIGH
10th Grade	17,949	
11th Grade	18,033	
12th Grade	20,493	

*DataQuest



MY SCHOOL HELPS ME BUILD THE FUTURE I IMAGINE FOR MYSELF.

Removing Barriers to Learning

Which students need us most?

▶ Student Support Services

- Foster and Homeless Youth
- Migrant Students
- English Learners
- Students with Disabilities
- Students in Juvenile Hall and Community Schools

30.6% of Pacific Islander students in Santa Clara County were chronically absent in 2023-24, compared with 16.5% countywide.

Indicators That Matter

▶ Academic Success

- Grade 3 Reading Proficiency
- Graduation Rate
- A-G Completion Rate

▶ Student Engagement

- Chronic Absenteeism

▶ Student Support and Access

- School Readiness
- Family Access Measures
- Service Coordination

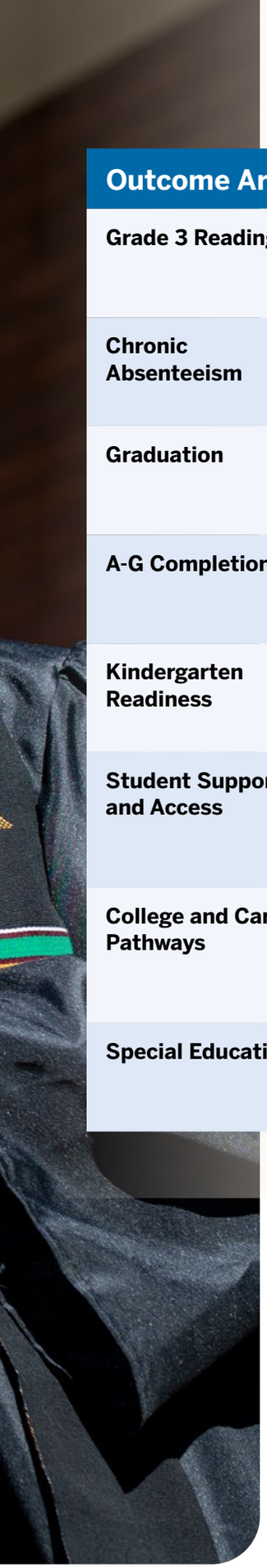
▶ College and Career Readiness

- UC Acceptance
- CSU Acceptance
- Career Technical Education Participation
- Dual Enrollment Participation



ATTENDANCE BARRIERS ARE NOT EXPERIENCED EQUALLY

SCCOE's attendance, foster and homeless youth, migrant education, English learner, disability, and coordinated student-support strategies focus resources where barriers are greatest so students can remain connected and ready to learn.



Indicators

Outcome Area	Current Baseline	Target
Grade 3 Reading	54% of county grade 3 students met or exceeded standard on ELA CAASPP	Increase county grade 3 reading proficiency from 54% to 90% over the life of the plan, with annual interim benchmarks set after superintendent review.
Chronic Absenteeism	34,760 students, or 15.3% countywide, were chronically absent	Reduce chronic absenteeism by 2 percentage points each year over the life of the plan, beginning with the students experiencing the highest current levels of chronic absenteeism.
Graduation	88.3% countywide graduation rate	Increase the countywide graduation rate from its current 88.3% over the life of the plan, with special attention to student groups currently graduating at lower rates.
A-G Completion	64.3% countywide A-G completion rate	Increase countywide A-G completion from 64.3% to at least 80% over the life of the plan, with annual interim benchmarks set after superintendent review.
Kindergarten Readiness	No single countywide baseline currently established	Establish a shared countywide school readiness baseline in Year 1 and adopt a measurable improvement target once the baseline is confirmed.
Student Support and Access	Baseline indicators still emerging across school-linked services, referral pathways, and family access measures	Define Year 1 measures for access to support, service coordination, and family experience, then set multi-year improvement targets.
College and Career Pathways	81.1% UC acceptance rate; 94.5% CSU acceptance rate; existing CTE and dual-enrollment participation data to be refined	Increase the percentage of students accessing strong postsecondary pathways, including college, career technical education, and dual-enrollment opportunities, with refined pathway measures added as supporting data becomes available.
Special Education	5% of students from the SCCOE programs have graduated with an Alt Pathway/Diploma*	100% of students will leave SCCOE programs with an Alt Pathway Diploma/High School Dipolma.

*Note: We are in year 2 of Alt Pathways implementation with all students expected to be graduating with Alt Pathways Diploma by year 4.

Why This Matters

Some students face barriers that make educational success more difficult. SCCOE works with districts and community partners to ensure students experiencing homelessness, students in foster care, migrant students, English learners, and students with disabilities have access to the support they need to learn, belong, and succeed.

Regional conditions such as housing instability, family economic stress, language access needs, disability supports, and chronic absenteeism can make school harder to navigate. The SCCOE Commitment responds by helping schools and partners remove barriers so students can stay connected, supported, and ready to learn.

Opportunity and Pathways

Creating Pathways for Success

Opening doors to living-wage careers

Every student deserves a pathway forward. SCCOE creates multiple points of entry, re-entry, support, and opportunity so students can stay connected to education, build momentum, and achieve their goals. For students with disabilities, specialized services and individualized supports help ensure access to learning, meaningful participation, successful transitions, and pathways to life beyond school.

Programs

- Community Schools
- Alternative Education
- Court Schools
- Opportunity Youth Academy
- Special Education and Inclusive Supports



Approximately 71% of Santa Clara County students with disabilities graduated with a regular diploma in 2023-24, about 22 percentage points below students without disabilities.

Creating Engaging Pathways

▶ Reconnect

- Community Schools
- Family and student supports
- Community partnerships
- **Early intervention and individualized supports**

▶ Re-engage

- Alternative Education
- Court Schools
- Opportunity Youth Academy
- Specialized services that keep students connected to learning

EVERY STUDENT DESERVES A PATH FORWARD

SCCOE's specialized services, inclusive supports, individualized planning, alternative programs, and transition services help students remain connected and move toward college, employment, independent living, and community participation.



▶ Advance

- Charter Pathways
- Dual Enrollment
- Career Pathways
- Inclusive academic and career opportunities for students with disabilities

▶ Transition

- Postsecondary Planning
- College and Career Readiness
- Workforce Connections
- Transition services for college, employment, and independent living

Pathways, Not Dead Ends

Students move through SCCOE programs based on their needs and goals. Every program is designed to connect to the next opportunity.

Why This Matters

Students face different challenges and opportunities throughout their educational journey. SCCOE provides multiple pathways so interruptions, setbacks, disabilities, or life circumstances do not prevent students from reaching their goals. Through individualized supports, inclusive practices, and coordinated services, students can access the learning, experiences, and opportunities that prepare them for success in school and beyond.

Success Indicators

College and Career Readiness

Are students leaving high school with options?

Students should graduate with meaningful choices. SCCOE works with districts and partners to ensure students are prepared for college, career technical education, apprenticeships, employment, independent living, and other postsecondary opportunities. For students with disabilities, transition planning and individualized supports help ensure every student leaves school with a pathway aligned to their strengths, interests, and goals.

Areas of Focus

- A-G Completion
- Career Pathways
- Dual Enrollment
- Industry Credentials
- Early College

What College and Career Readiness Looks Like

▶ Academic Readiness

- A-G Completion
- Early College Opportunities
- College-Level Coursework

▶ Postsecondary Readiness

- College Applications
- Financial Aid Completion
- Postsecondary Planning

▶ Career Readiness

- Career Technical Education
- Industry Credentials
- Work-Based Learning



Among Santa Clara County's 2023-24 Latino cohort, 83% graduated while 31% met UC/CSU course requirements, a 52-percentage-point gap.

Current Baseline and Direction

Outcome Area	Current Baseline	Target
A-G Completion	64.3% countywide A-G completion rate	Increase countywide A-G completion to at least 80%
Graduation	88.3% countywide graduation rate	Increase countywide graduation rate over the life of the plan
UC Acceptance	81.1% acceptance rate	Increase access to postsecondary opportunities
CSU Acceptance	94.5% acceptance rate	Increase access to postsecondary opportunities
Career Pathways	Existing participation data being refined	Expand participation and completion
Dual Enrollment	Existing participation data being refined	Increase student access and participation
Industry Credentials	Existing participation data being refined	Increase attainment of workforce-recognized credentials



Why This Matters

Graduation is an important milestone, but it is not the finish line. Students should leave high school with clear options and the preparation needed to pursue them successfully.

GRADUATION MUST LEAD TO REAL OPTIONS

SCCOE's focus on A-G completion, dual enrollment, early-college coursework, career pathways, work-based learning, and industry credentials helps ensure that graduation opens multiple meaningful postsecondary options.

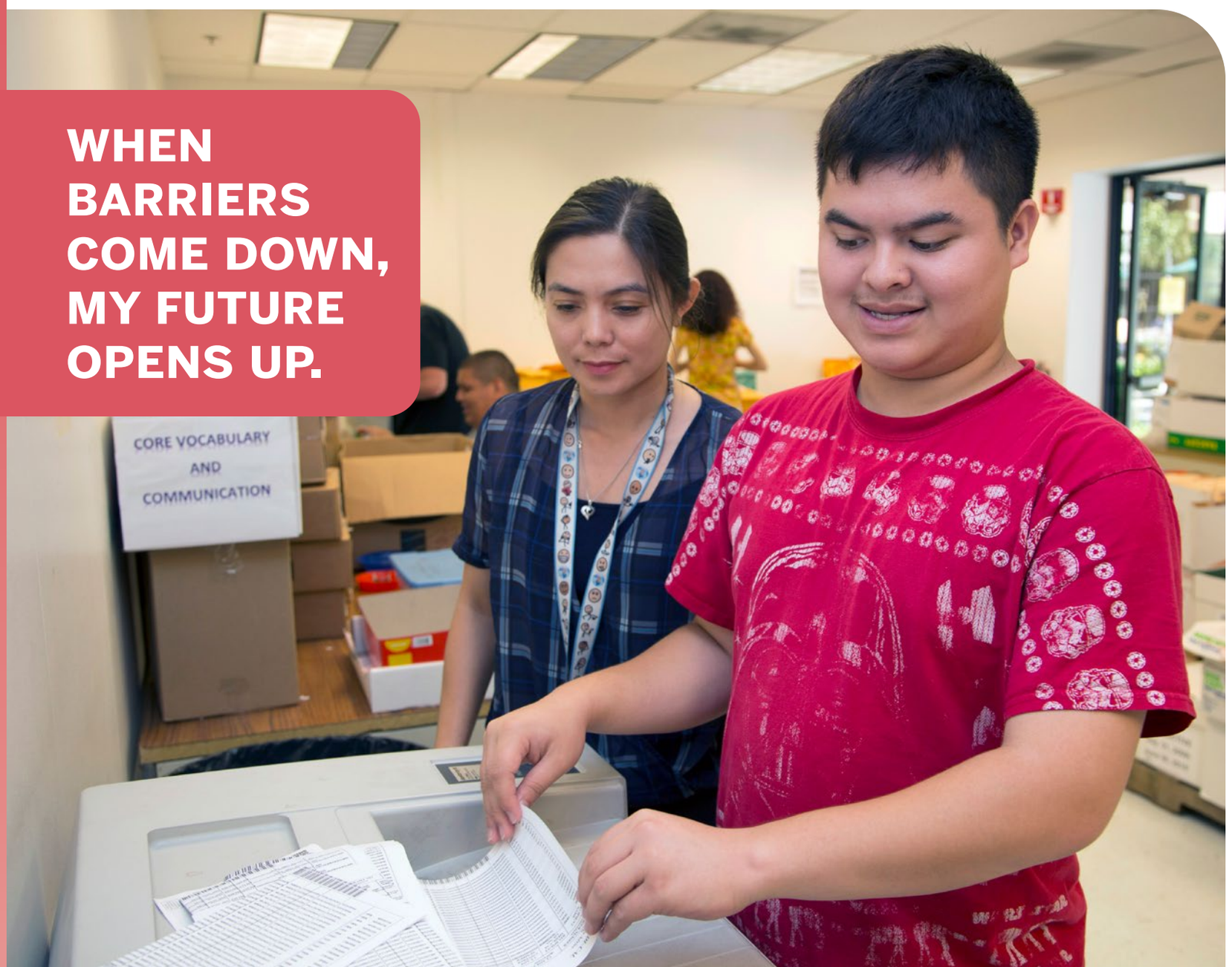
Making College Possible

Getting accepted is not enough. Students must be able to afford completion.

Our goal is to create a county where postsecondary opportunities are accessible, affordable, and achievable for every student. Together with families, schools, higher education institutions, and community partners, we strive to build the conditions that help students enroll, persist, and succeed.

Areas of Focus

- FAFSA Support
- Financial Literacy
- Postsecondary Planning
- 529 Partnerships
- College Persistence Supports



WHEN BARRIERS COME DOWN, MY FUTURE OPENS UP.

Supporting Students Beyond Acceptance

Before College

FAFSA and Financial Aid Support

Postsecondary Planning

College Application Assistance

Financial Literacy Education

During College

Persistence Supports

Resource Navigation

Student Success Coaching

Community Partnerships

Long-Term Success

Degree Completion

Career Placement

Workforce Participation

Economic Mobility

Reducing Financial Barriers

Building a College-Going Culture

Financial Aid Awareness

Family Education

Savings Opportunities

Expanding College Affordability

529 Partnerships

Scholarship Awareness

Financial Planning Resources

Success Indicators

- ▶ **FAFSA Completion**
- ▶ **Postsecondary Enrollment**
- ▶ **First-Year College Persistence**
- ▶ **Degree and Certificate Completion**
- ▶ **529 Participation**
- ▶ **Career Placement Outcomes**

Why This Matters

Students who are accepted to college still face financial, informational, and systemic barriers that can prevent completion. SCCOE works to help students not only enroll in postsecondary education, but persist through graduation and transition successfully into careers and community life.

Community-Powered Success

No single organization can accomplish this alone.

Partnerships That Expand Opportunity

Student success depends on more than schools. SCCOE works alongside partners across Santa Clara County to expand opportunity, reduce barriers, and strengthen outcomes for children, youth, and families.



WHEN MY COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER, MORE OPPORTUNITIES ARE POSSIBLE FOR ME.

SCCOE Community Partnerships

Government
- County Agencies
- Cities and Municipalities
- Public Service Agencies
- State Partners

Community-Based Organizations
- Family Support Organizations
- Youth Development Organizations
- Community Service Providers

Health and Mental Health
- Behavioral Health Partners
- Health Care Providers
- Wellness Organizations

Workforce Development
- Workforce Boards
- Employment Partners
- Career Development Organizations

Business and Industry
- Employers
- Industry Leaders
- Corporate Partners

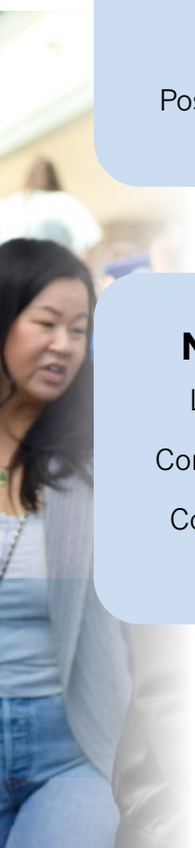
Higher Education
- Community Colleges
- Universities
- Postsecondary Institution

Philanthropy
- Foundations
- Community Philanthropic Organizations
- Grantmaking Partners

News and Media
- Local Media Partners
- Communications Partners
- Community Information Networks

Family Voice Organizations
- Parent Leadership Groups
- Family Advocacy Organizations
- Community Voice Partners

Faith and Community Partners
- Faith-Based Organizations
- Community Coalitions
- Neighborhood Organizations



How Partnerships Create Impact

Families	Students	Schools	Communities
Partners help families access resources, services, and opportunities.	Partners expand learning, wellness, and career opportunities.	Partners strengthen district capacity and support student success.	Partners align efforts around shared outcomes and long-term impact.

Why This Matters

No single organization can meet every need facing children and families. SCCOE serves as a convener, connector, and collaborator, bringing together partners across sectors to create a stronger system of support for every student.

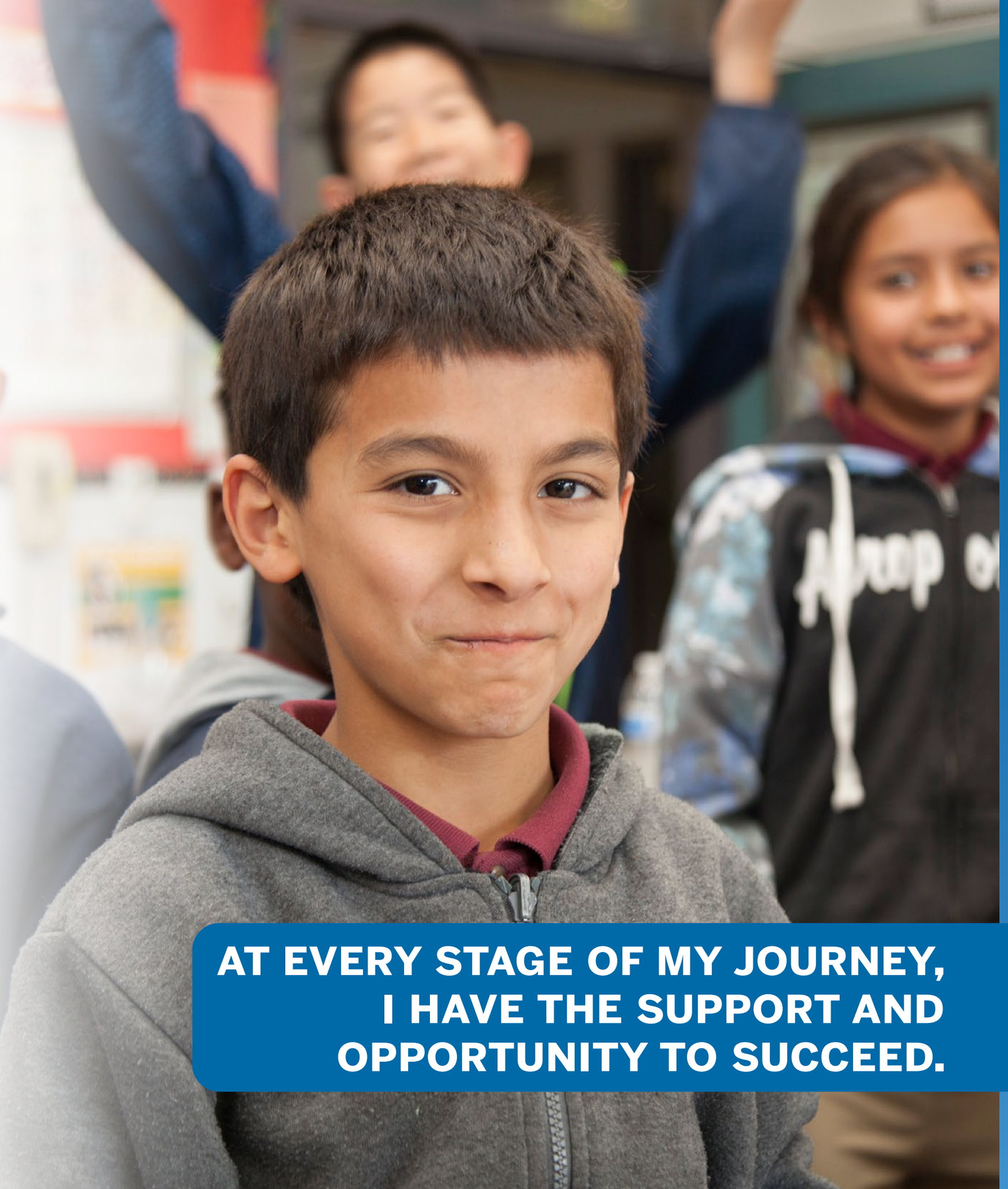
SCCOE's role is to connect, align, support, and sustain the work so families experience a more coordinated system of care and opportunity. This means aligning programs, partnerships, resources, and shared measures around what students and families need most.

Success Indicators

- **Number of Active Partnerships**
- **Community Engagement**
- **Cross-Sector Collaboration**
- **Family Participation**
- **Student Access to Services**
- **Shared Outcomes Across Partners**

Opportunity Without Exception.

Every student | Every community | Every day


AT EVERY STAGE OF MY JOURNEY,
I HAVE THE SUPPORT AND
OPPORTUNITY TO SUCCEED.

The SCCOE Commitment: Opportunity Without Exception.

Every Student
Every Community
Every Day

Santa Clara County Board of Education

Maimona Afzal Berta • Victoria Chon • Raeena Lari • Jorge Pacheco Jr.
Don Rocha • Jessica Speiser • Tara Sreekrishnan

County Superintendent of Schools

Dr. David M. Toston, Sr.

Santa Clara County Office of Education

1290 Ridder Park Drive, San Jose, CA 95131

www.sccoe.org

CONNECT WITH US

@santaclarasccoe

@SCCOE

@santa-clara-county-office-of-education

V.10.2026