



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **SCCOE enhancing professional development services to districts, establishes first-of-its-kind professional learning community**

**SAN JOSE, CA** – Service to the 31 school districts served by the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) just made the jump to light speed with a first-of-its-kind professional development partnership with [EdLeader21](#) that will utilize online and in-person resources. The Santa Clara County Board of Education recently approved funding for the SCCOE and every district to be members of this online professional learning community for the next 12 months. Membership also includes registration for all districts to the Edleader21 annual conference. Santa Clara County will be a permanent site for one of the four professional development trainings that occur each year.

“This partnership will entitle every district’s superintendent and leadership team to access a wide array of professional development tools and resources,” said Jon R. Gundry, County Superintendent of Schools. “It is the hope of the SCCOE that this membership will drive networking and collaboration between the districts of Santa Clara and some of the most forward-thinking schools and districts in the country.”

EdLeader21 is a national online network of school and district leaders focused on integrating “the 4Cs” (critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity) into education. Membership allows educators to have access to established and well-vetted best practices to integrate the 4Cs; keep up to date with important news, insights, trends, case studies and practical advice about 21st century district initiatives; network with and learn from like-minded education leaders across the country, and; work with the nation's pre-eminent 21st-Century education experts. EdLeader21 currently has 180 school and district members, which support over 3.4 million students in the US and internationally.

The SCCOE is also improving services to districts by absorbing more of the cost of professional development offerings. The 2015-16 fees for curriculum and instruction have been reduced for districts and schools using a sliding scale based on average daily attendance.

The costs have been reduced by almost half in recent years with the last reduction coming in 2012. This is the second time the costs have been reduced in three years and represents a significant savings for all, but specifically for the county’s smaller districts.

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