STATE OF EDUCATION
IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY

Stronger Together

2021

Santa Clara County Office of Education

EQUITY | DIVERSITY | INCLUSION | PARTNERSHIP
Dear Santa Clara County Community,

I am honored and humbled to stand in partnership with you in what has been an unprecedented year. With each new twist and turn that has come our way, the response has been quick, collaborative, and has truly been student-centered. As a community, we have genuinely banded together to demonstrate that we are stronger together.

It is because of this strong community and its efforts to put students first that I am incredibly excited to welcome you to the 2021 State of Education in Santa Clara County. This is an opportunity to celebrate the shared achievements of the past year that have shaped the educational goals and intentions for the future.

The Santa Clara County Office of Education is committed to serving, inspiring, and promoting student and public school success and to bring life to our core principles of equity, diversity, inclusion, and partnership. This booklet is a celebration of recent public school success and an acknowledgement of its impact on children and families.

Educating youth today to be prepared for tomorrow remains an essential goal for every educator in Santa Clara County. Events within the past year have shone a light on the importance of addressing the whole child from basic needs, socio-emotional well-being, equity and inclusion, as well as increasing each student’s fund of knowledge. I invite you to join us as we continue to champion for each child and collaborate to ensure that every child gains the knowledge, the ability, and the support necessary to be successful in life.

This year we are focusing our address and this accompanying booklet on highlights associated with three primary domains and the corresponding implications in the education sector: health and safety, academics and instruction, and essential services.

Educators and partners across the county are hard at work motivating our nearly 280,000 students as they become lifelong learners, and helping them to succeed in a shifting learning environment. Knowing we are working together to achieve this goal, and that we are a community who supports a shared vision of success for every child inspires me and gives me great hope for the coming year. Nothing is possible without partnership. My deepest gratitude to all of our partners. We are stronger together.

Be well,

Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D.
County Superintendent of Schools
| GUEST SPEAKERS |

**Claudia Rossi**  
*Santa Clara County Board of Education President*  
Board President Claudia Rossi was elected to the Santa Clara County Board of Education in 2014. Trustee Rossi represents Area 7, which includes Morgan Hill Unified, Gilroy Unified, Evergreen, and a portion of Oak Grove and corresponding portion of East Side Union High school districts.

**Nicole Taylor**  
*CEO, Silicon Valley Community Foundation*  
Nicole Taylor is president and CEO of Silicon Valley Community Foundation. She brings together a rich background in Bay Area philanthropy, nonprofit administration, and fundraising with extensive experience in both the private and public sectors.

**Ahmad Thomas**  
*CEO, Silicon Valley Leadership Group*  
Ahmad Thomas brings nearly 18 years of experience working both in and on behalf of nonprofits, governments, and businesses. Thomas is charged with leading Silicon Valley Leadership Group (SVLG) in urgent action to address racial justice, equity, and opportunity with its 350+ member companies.

**Cindy Chavez**  
*Santa Clara County Supervisor*  
Supervisor Cindy Chavez represents more than a half million people in East, Central, and South San Jose. Her visionary policies include getting COVID vaccines into the arms of all Santa Clara County residents, affordable housing, equity in all policies, air quality, transportation, and a substantial number of policies to lift up women with a focus on future generations.

**Dave Cortese**  
*California State Senator*  
Senator Dave Cortese was elected in November of 2020 to represent State Senate District 15 which encompasses much of Santa Clara County in the heart of Silicon Valley. Along with his accomplished career as an attorney and business owner, the Senator previously served on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors for over a decade.

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Special Thank You to the Mountain View High School Madrigals • Jill Denny, Choir Director
National Anthem performed by
Mountain View High School Madrigals

Master of Ceremonies
Damian Trujillo
NBC News Bay Area

Opening Remarks
Claudia Rossi
Santa Clara County Board of Education President

State of Education
Dr. Mary Ann Dewan
Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools

Featured Guest Speakers

Nicole Taylor
CEO, Silicon Valley Community Foundation
Introduction to Dr. Dewan

Ahmad Thomas
CEO, Silicon Valley Leadership Group
Introduction to Academics and Instruction

Cindy Chavez
Santa Clara County Supervisor
Introduction to Essential Services

Dave Cortese
California State Senator

Closing Entertainment performed by
Mountain View High School Madrigals
HEALTH & WELLNESS

The ongoing partnership with the County of Santa Clara, the Public Health Department, and all others in various departments with whom we are privileged to work expanded in March 2020. Our agency supported the effective implementation of risk reduction measures.

Personal Protective Equipment

The procurement and distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE) has been an ongoing priority for SCCOE as student and staff safety remains the primary goal through the pandemic. In the span of ten months, the County Office of Education facilitated the delivery of more than 1.6 million PPE equipment to schools and district offices, including disposable and cloth masks for students and adults, face shields and hand sanitizer.

COVID-19 Testing

Free testing sites were made available to local communities through partnerships. Since July, the Santa Clara County’s Emergency Operation Centers, Valley Medical Center Testing Strike Teams have administered nearly 400,000 COVID-19 tests at sites throughout the county, including sites such as the Fairgrounds. More than 53,000 COVID-19 tests were administered at the South County Annex and the Ridder Park campus.

Emergency Response Services

Ensuring the safety of staff at school sites county-wide, employees from our Emergency Preparedness division were on the frontlines of facilitating a safe environment for staff whether working in-person or from home.

- Incident Command Center (ICC)
  The Incident Command Center provides emergency response resources and updates to public health guidance was established at the Ridder Park campus to support employees, educators, and the public navigate pandemic-related challenges. Call the ICC at 408-453-6500.

- Emergency Resource Portal
  The Emergency Resource Portal, featured on the SCCOE website home page, was created to alert our community to natural disasters like wildfires and heat-excessive temperatures and provide updated information about evacuation resources and cooling centers. During the weeks of wildfire evacuations, heat advisories and weather related emergencies, we served approximately 6,000 people.
In partnership with Santa Clara County leaders and organizations, responsive guidance for local schools was developed and teams engaged in thoughtful planning centered on protecting the safety and health of students, staff and families through adherence to guiding principles and health directives.

**Stronger Together/Guidance Reopening And Recovery**
In collaboration with the Santa Clara County Department of Public Health, school reopening guidance was developed for local schools that centered on protecting the safety and health of students, staff and families through adherence to guiding principles and health directives.

[www.sccoe.org/reopening-schools/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.sccoe.org/reopening-schools/Pages/default.aspx)

**Learning Resource Portal**
Many teachers, parents, and students continue to learn online. The Santa Clara County Office of Education offers interactive distance learning webinars for educators, students, and parents all of which are available on the portal. Featured content can be used by Pre K through 12 educators and includes both digital and non-digital options for learning at home.

[www.sccoe.org/covid-19/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.sccoe.org/covid-19/Pages/default.aspx)

**Ways 2 Equity Playbook**
The Ways 2 Equity Playbook offers contextual information, guidance, and tools to support equity work in schools.

[www.inclusioncollaborative.org/ways-2-equity.aspx](http://www.inclusioncollaborative.org/ways-2-equity.aspx)

**Virtual Events and Celebrations**
While limited in our ability to physically connect, we virtually celebrated graduates, encouraged and facilitated youth civic engagement, showcased youth art and expression, and certification ceremonies.

**Youth Voice Live**
Youth Voice Live (YVL) was a collaborative effort between students and educators. Hosted online last year, YVL featured tutorials and breakout sessions as well as renowned civically active speakers that encourage youth to find their voice and engage in socially complex issues important to them.
Virtual Graduation Ceremonies
Transitioning to online instruction also impacted graduation ceremonies. With creativity and spirit, students and families honored this significant milestone by celebrating online.

Young Artist Showcase
Each year, the Young Artist Showcase features various forms of student expression including paintings, drawings, watercolors, photographs, sculptures, and digital art. Designed to encourage students’ interest in art, and to emphasize the importance of art in our schools, the Young Artist Showcase gives students the opportunity to envision and create meaningful works of craftsmanship for all to enjoy. This year’s theme was “My Voice,” and students were encouraged to create art with an idea that reflected emotion, imagination, creativity, and originality. Winning artwork is displayed at the Santa Clara County Office of Education which hosts the largest collection of student adjudicated art in California. artsiration.sccoe.org/students/Pages/Young-Artist-Showcase.aspx

My Name, My Identity:
Advocating & Celebrating Bilingual/Multilingual Learners
The My Name, My Identity Initiative is co-led by the SCCOE and the National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE) and is designed to bring awareness to the importance of respecting one’s name and identity in schools. This year the theme Self-Identity: Maximizing My Potential encourages young people to explore their sense of self and belonging through artistic expression, and submit their art in a county-wide contest. For more information, please visit bit.ly/2021studentartmnmid.

“...I am so grateful that together we continue to strive to provide caring, compassionate education in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Team GUSD continues to model flexibility and the importance of being a lifelong learner to our students and families.”
– Dr. Deborah A. Flores, Superintendent
Gilroy Unified School District

“...There have been so many instances in which they (our teachers) have gone above and beyond the call of duty to make sure students are fed, are getting high-quality instruction and access to services to support them and their families.”
– Ayindé Rudolph, Superintendent
Mountain View Whisman School District
In partnership with many county and private organizations, we serve where we can, and continue to advocate for additional resources on behalf of our community.

**Basic Necessities**

In partnership with community organizations such as Second Harvest, RAFT, Silicon Valley Strong, County of Santa Clara, and First 5 of Santa Clara and the City of San Jose, basic necessities such as food, hygiene products, and diapers were provided. To meet academic needs distance learning toolkits and lessons, online resources and support, and calming kits were distributed.

**COVID-19 Education Partnership Fund**

This fund provided essentials that supported the immediate needs and longer term recovery efforts of local school districts related to COVID-19. Thank you to the SVCF and all the donors. [www.sccoe.org/covid-19/Pages/SV-Grant.aspx](http://www.sccoe.org/covid-19/Pages/SV-Grant.aspx)

**Early Learning**

We guide districts through the funding challenges that follow declining enrollment; strongly advocate with the administration and legislature and highlight the profound impact that the pandemic has had.

- **Steps to Success**
  The Steps to Success Campaign is designed to raise awareness about the benefits of enrolling and regularly attending early learning programs. The goal is to increase enrollment in early learning by 5% every year and create a unified enrollment platform that facilitates the enrollment process for families. [www.sccoe.org/stepstosuccess](http://www.sccoe.org/stepstosuccess)

- **Resource and Referral (R&R) Childcare Agency**
  R&R connects families and providers in Santa Clara County to high-quality early care and education. With the Santa Clara County Resource and Referral Child Care Portal, families now have the ability to filter program information based on their personal needs, such as zip code, distance, and child’s age. Childcare providers can update their own account information, including up-to-date vacancy information, and use the portal to connect with families directly. [www.childcarescc.org](http://www.childcarescc.org)

- **Step Into Teaching**
  Representatives from local universities and teaching programs in Santa Clara County contribute to this virtual event to help career changers, high school students, and others make a plan to become a teacher. [www.sccoe.org/events/stepintoteaching/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.sccoe.org/events/stepintoteaching/Pages/default.aspx)

“...When the pandemic forced schools to close, it started a journey for which there was no navigation, no guidebooks, no previous experience to lean on. And with the creativity, resilience, and resourcefulness MVLA staff are known for, we embarked on this new path.”

– Nellie Meyer, Superintendent
  Mountain View Los Altos School District
Golden Quill Award Winner
Since 1996, Damian Trujillo has been a NBC Bay Area News reporter, host and producer of “Comunidad Del Valle,” the longest running public affairs program in the Bay Area. Comunidad Del Valle now also airs in Spanish on Telemundo 48. Damian is a recipient of the prestigious Emmy Award. He has also been honored with awards from the Associated Press, the Radio and Television News Directors Association (RTNDA), and the National Association of Hispanic Journalists. Damian was named “2004 Reporter of the Year” by the Associated Press Television and Radio Association for California and Nevada. In 2020, Damian was a recipient of the Golden Quill award, presented by the California School Boards Association (CSBA) in recognition of fair, insightful, and accurate reporting on public school news by print, broadcast and online news.

Golden Gavel Award Winner
An alumnus of Milpitas high school, Milpitas Unified School District Board President, Chris Norwood has served Milpitas Unified since 2014. During this time, he has exemplified what it means to be a student-centered leader, advocating for the schools, the youth, their families, and the community in which they reside. Heavily invested in the community, Chris has co-hosted multiple, local discussions on violence prevention, housing for teachers, and vulnerable families. He has even expanded his service by working with the Silicon Valley Community Foundation and the Silicon Valley Education Foundation to help shape California math placement and education finance legislation. Chris was the recent recipient of the Golden Gavel award, which recognizes an individual school board member who exemplifies best practices in effective governance and boardsmanship.

President’s Medal for Exemplary Service
On December 14, 2020 the SCCOE was presented with the President’s Medal for Exemplary Service During the COVID-19 Pandemic by the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors. Dr. Dewan and the SCCOE team were honored for leadership and collaboration with school districts and staff, and partnership with county agencies, organizations and private entities to provide essential services and support to the community.

Golden Bell Recognition
For the ninth consecutive year, the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) was selected as one of 40 recipients of California’s prestigious educational honor, the California School Boards Associations’ Golden Bell Award. Celebrating their 41st year, the Golden Bell Awards promote excellence in public education and school board governance by recognizing outstanding programs and governance practices.

The SCCOE was awarded the Golden Bell this year for the initiative, My Name, My Identity: Advocating & Celebrating Bilingual/Multilingual Learners. The initiative recognizes the cultural contributions of Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) that ensure equity in district policies and support bi/multilingual language. At least 27 of the County’s LEAs have adopted at least one board resolution that supports developing academia, multilingual, and/or socio-emotional skills for students; impacting over 231,000 students in Santa Clara County.

California Distinguished Schools in Santa Clara County
The California Department of Education (CDE) recognizes outstanding educational programs and practices that contribute to closing the achievement gap and assisting students in achieving at high levels. Distinguished School award winners represent not only excellent teaching, learning, and collaboration, but also highly effective school climate efforts ranging from real-time conflict resolution to positive behavior intervention. The California Distinguished School Awards allows an opportunity to collaborate for excellence and celebrate the accomplishments of remarkable schools in our county. Please visit the CDE website to view the complete list of schools in Santa Clara County. www.cde.ca.gov/ta/sr/cs/awardees2020.asp
Teacher Recognition

For the last 51 years SCCOE has honored and saluted teaching excellence in Santa Clara County. Typically, teachers of the Year are selected by the 31 school districts for exceptional dedication to students, skill in the classroom, and commitment to lifelong learning. While traditional celebrations were not possible this past year, we celebrate ALL of our teachers for their heroic efforts in 2020.

Thank you messages from our District Superintendents

Dr. Robert Bravo
Campbell Union High School District

Dr. Roxane Fuentes
Berryessa School District

Dr. Shelly Viramontez
Campbell Union School District

Dr. Carrie Andrews
Cambrian School District

Jeffrey Baier
Los Altos School District

Polly Bove
Fremont Union High School District

Nellie Meyer
Mountain View Los Altos School District

Ayindé Rudolph
Mountain View Whisman School District

Recognitions are featured on the State of Education web page: www.sccoe.org/SOE2021
On March 4, 2020 Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-30-20 suspending academic testing for the 2019-2020 school year. On June 29, 2020, Governor Newsom signed Senate Bill 98, stating that the California Department of Education shall not publish the California School Dashboard which reports progress on state and local performance indicators. The decision to suspend testing and accountability was based on the concern that the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the state’s ability to produce valid and reliable data on indicators related to attendance, academic progress, and school climate.

### Santa Clara County By the Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Districts</th>
<th>Total Enrollment</th>
<th>Number of Schools</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>263,449</td>
<td>412</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: CDE, DataQuest 2019-20

### Student Groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Students</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Special Education</td>
<td>28,206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homeless</td>
<td>2,899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foster Youth</td>
<td>518</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migrant</td>
<td>776</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socioeconomically Disadvantaged</td>
<td>98,102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Learners</td>
<td>57,276</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: CDE, DataQuest 2019-20

### Public School Sites

**Traditional Schools**

- Elementary: 256
- Intermediate/Middle/Junior High: 66
- High School: 55
- K - 12: 4
- Preschool: 2
- Charter **: 63
- Total: 383

**Non-Traditional Schools/Programs**

- Alternative: 13
- Community Day: 3
- Continuation: 11
- Metro Ed: 1
- Other ***: 6
- Total: 34

**All Schools**: 417

Source: CDE, Public Schools and Districts Data File, January 28, 2021

* Traditional Schools total excludes: Continuation, Community Day, Alternative, Special Education, and other types of non-traditional schools

** Included in elementary, middle, and high school counts

*** Other schools include: Juvenile Court Schools, ROC/ROP, and Special Education

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### Digital Equity

**Bridging the Digital Divide**

The Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) is actively working to close the digital divide – the gulf between students and their families who have ready access to computers and the internet, and those who do not. By closing the digital divide, we can ensure digital access so all youth have the resources, skills, and connectivity to learn, engage, and thrive.

Since April 2020, the SCCOE has partnered with local government, philanthropic foundations, community-based organizations, businesses, and internet service providers to raise over $14 million in goods and funds to distribute computing devices, hotspots, and internet service to students in need. To learn more, visit [www.sccoe.org/covid-19/Pages/Closing-the-Digital-Divide.aspx](http://www.sccoe.org/covid-19/Pages/Closing-the-Digital-Divide.aspx).

**$14.5M In Funds Raised**

- **19.6K Computing Devices Provided to Students**
- **13.6K Hotspots Provided to Students**
- **15.1K Students Provided with Internet Service**

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COVID-19 Response and Recovery

• Safe Schools for All/Stronger Together
  This guidance, available on the Safe Schools for All Hub at schools.covid19.ca.gov provides parents and teachers with instruction on how to plan and implement reopening measures based on the needs of their family and community.

• Learning Resource Portal
  The Santa Clara County Office of Education offers interactive distance learning webinars for educators, students, and parents – all of which are available on the S-C-C-O-E learning resource portal. Featured content can be used by PreK-12 educators and includes both digital and non-digital options for learning at home. www.sccoe.org/covid-19/Pages/default.aspx

Steps to Success
Funded in part by the Morgan Hill Family Foundation, this campaign is designed to raise awareness about the benefits of enrolling and regularly attending early learning programs. The campaign features an online hub created to give parents access to information about early learning and childcare services. www.sccoe.org/stepstosuccess

Equity Driven Initiatives
The Ways 2 Equity Playbook offers contextual information, guidance, and tools to support equity work in schools, districts, and county offices of education throughout California and nationwide. www.inclusioncollaborative.org/ways-2-equity.aspx

Silicon Valley Reads 2021
More than just a community reads program, Santa Clara County’s Silicon Valley Reads hosts a full schedule of community engagement events suitable for all ages. How we connect with others is of paramount concern during the Pandemic. As a means to help the community connect with art, music, food, nature, etc. as well as with each other in a virtual setting while celebrating a love for books and reading, this year’s theme for Silicon Valley Reads is “Connecting.” www.siliconvalleyreads.org

Thank You
to all our partners for your support and collaboration

Connect with us

Santa Clara County Board of Education
Victoria Chon • Joseph Di Salvo • Rosemary Kamei • Kathleen King • Grace Mah • Peter Ortiz • Claudia Rossi