



Photo: Kathryn Valentino

ANNUAL UPDATE TO THE COMMUNITY

2025



**Preparing
Students**
for their Preferred Future

HCOE VALUES

TRUST

We align our words with our actions to accomplish shared goals. We model integrity, share transparently, demonstrate professional credibility, and follow through with care.

RESPECT

We create a safe place to learn, work, and serve others. We value input, listen to understand different perspectives, demonstrate empathy, and work to be helpful as a member of our team.

COLLABORATION

We value working together to achieve the best outcomes for those we serve. Our shared commitment is to increase communication, remove silos, reduce barriers, and problem solve effectively.

HCOE PILLARS OF ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE

WE STRIVE FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE.

Our educational community and partners access our services and recommend them to others. Programs and services are relevant and impactful. Our daily efforts are responsive, aligned, and consistent to those we serve using evidence to guide our decisions.

WE DEVELOP OUR PEOPLE AND CULTURE.

We respect our people and value their individual experience and perspective. Each member of our team is empowered and supported to grow professionally. We prioritize time to build trust, collaborate, learn, and contribute to a positive workplace.

WE MAXIMIZE THE IMPACT OF OUR RESOURCES.

We build internal capacity to understand needs and stakeholder feedback. All staff work to align resources (people, money, time), and the impact of their efforts to improve efficiency and sustain value for those we serve.

WE PREPARE STUDENTS FOR THEIR PREFERRED FUTURE.

All children and youth know they are cared for and belong. They are capable, supported, on track, and demonstrate positive relationships and aligned behavior.

Our students grow in their independence. They learn to access and use community resources to advance their financial, social, emotional, vocational, military, and/or education transitions.

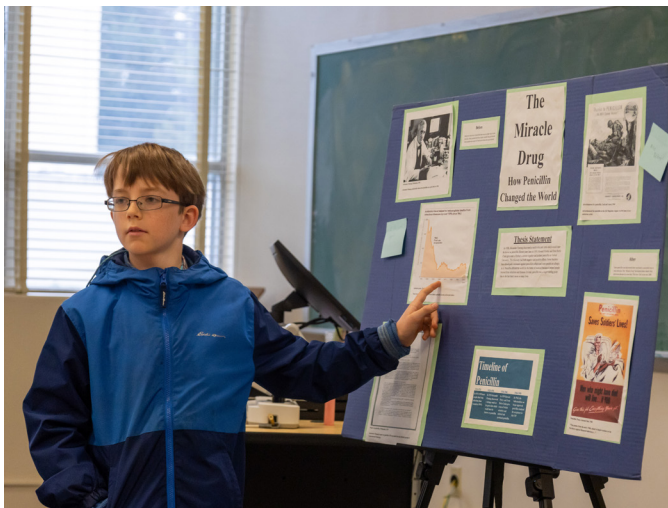


Photo: Danielle Wilfestieg

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Preparing Students for Their Preferred Future

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I present to you the 2025 Humboldt County Office of Education's Annual Update to the Community!

In the following pages you will read about the ways in which we are preparing students for their preferred future. From advanced technology integration and career technical education to social-emotional learning and community partnerships, we are providing our students with the skills, knowledge, and experiences they need to pursue their passions and achieve their goals.

One of our key priorities has been to create a learning environment that fosters creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration. Our dedicated Humboldt County educators play a pivotal role in this process, and I am continually inspired by their ability to adapt to the evolving needs of our students.

In addition to our academic endeavors, we have placed a strong emphasis on equity and inclusion. We believe that every student deserves access to high-quality education, regardless of their background or circumstances. Through targeted support and resources, we are working to close the achievement gap and ensure that all



Humboldt County Superintendent of Schools Michael Davies-Hughes reads to children in the Special Beginnings program.

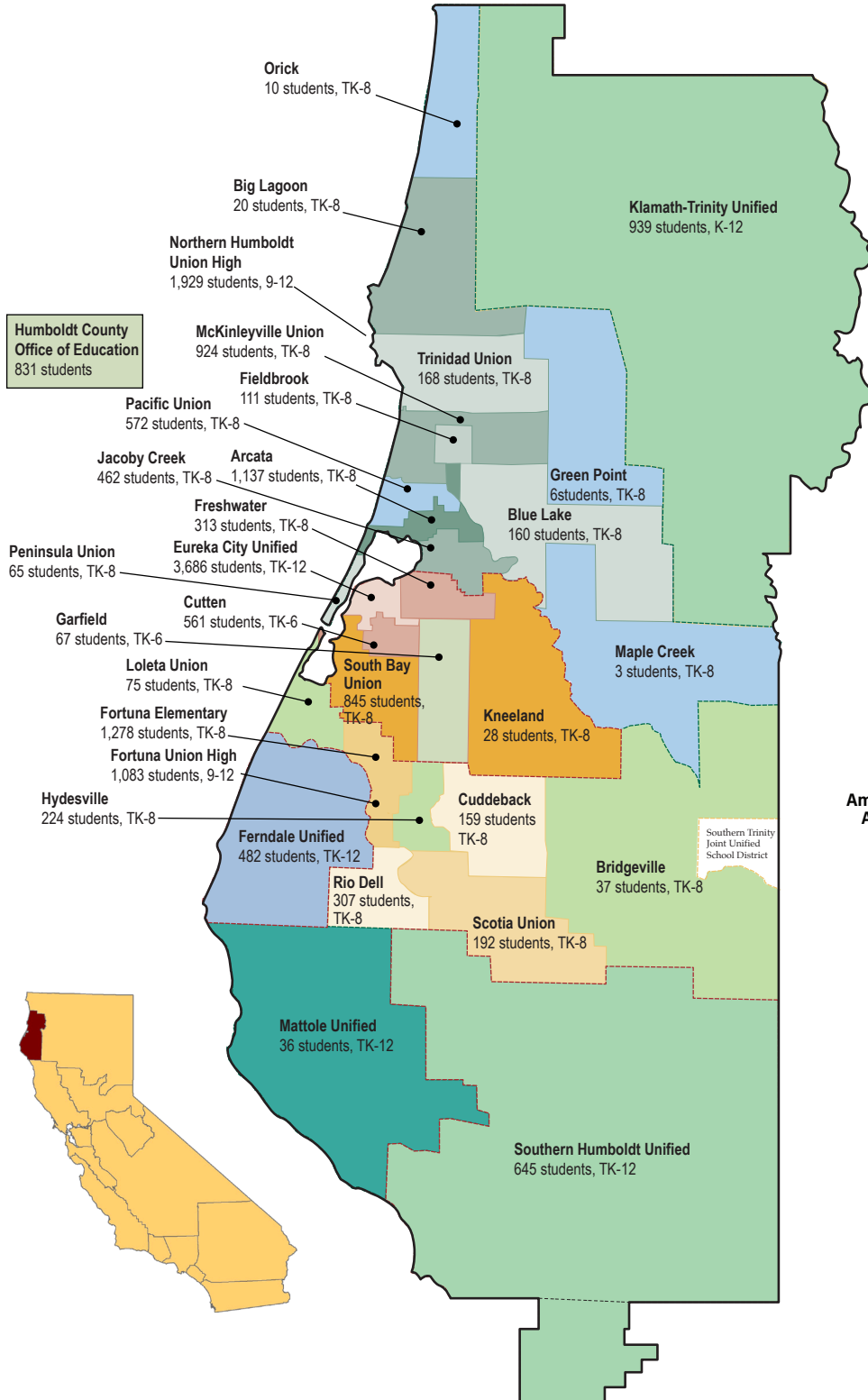
students succeed.

As we move forward into 2025 and beyond, I am confident that our collective efforts will continue to yield positive outcomes for our students and our community. I invite you to explore this publication and learn more about the incredible work being done across Humboldt County. Together, we are preparing our students for a bright and promising future!

-Michael Davies-Hughes

SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN HUMBOLDT COUNTY

2023-2024 TOTAL ENROLLMENT: 17,355



SCHOOL DISTRICT SIZE

Under 500	20
500-999	7
1,000 to 1,999	4
2,000 to 2,999	0
3,000 to 4,999	1

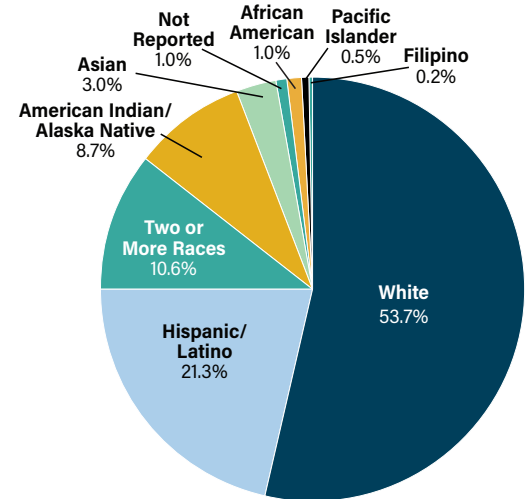
NUMBER OF DISTRICTS

Elementary	24
High School	2
Unified	5
HCOE	1
Total	32

NUMBER OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Elementary schools	41
Middle schools	8
Comprehensive high schools	8
Alternative schools	16
Charter schools	15
Total	88

STUDENT DIVERSITY



English Learners	1,209
Foster Youth	311
Homeless Youth	1083
Migrant Education	1
Students with Disabilities	3,050
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	10,830

Photo: Maggie Peters




HUMBOLDT COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

MICHAEL DAVIES-HUGHES
Superintendent

 901 Myrtle Avenue
Eureka, CA 95501

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SCHOOLS

- Arcata Educational Resource Center
- Eureka Community School
- Eel River Community School
- Von Humboldt Court School
- Glen Paul Center

HCOE-AUTHORIZED CHARTERS SCHOOLS

- Agnes J. Johnson Charter School
- Northcoast Preparatory Academy
- NU-Humboldt Charter School

ABOUT THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

As one of 58 county offices of education in California, the Humboldt County Office of Education is the link between local school districts and the California Department of Education. The mission of the Humboldt County Office of Education is to advocate on behalf of the needs of local districts and students, provide expanded learning opportunities for students, promote improved student achievement, and support fiscal responsibility in our local school districts. This mission is achieved by providing guidance, support, and financial oversight to Humboldt County Districts and Charters, and by offering direct services to students with the highest level of needs through our own programs and schools.

THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION



Loretta Eckenrode
Area 4 | Board President



Thom McMahon
Area 3 | Vice President



Mary Scott
Area 1



Robert Siekmann
Area 2



Dena McCullough
Area 5

The Humboldt County Board of Education is composed of five trustees representing each supervisorial area in Humboldt County. Each trustee is elected by the voters residing within their respective area and serves four-year terms.

The Board of Education is responsible for approving the Humboldt County Office of Education budget and Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP), acting as the governing board for Court and Community Schools, hearing interdistrict transfer and expulsion appeals, and setting the salary of the County Superintendent of Schools.

SUPERINTENDENT'S CABINET 2025



Back row, left to right:
Michael Davies-Hughes, Superintendent; **Katie Cavanagh**, Assistant Superintendent, Student Programs & Services; **Ariel Aaron**, Director of Human Resources; **Colby Smart**, Deputy Superintendent; **Corey Weber**, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services.

Front row, left to right:
Natalie Carrigan, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent; **Erin Aust-Miller**, Administrative Assistant; **Mendie Ballester**, Administrative Assistant; **Terrie Smith**, Administrative Assistant.

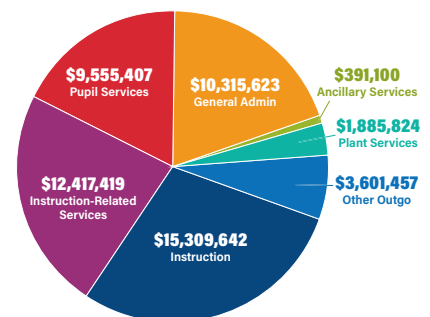
COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION FUNDING

HCOE receives funds from federal, state, and local resources. The main state funding comes through a weighted student formula—the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). For County Offices of Education, LCFF funding is based on total countywide ADA; the number of school districts within the county; Court & Community School ADA; the percentages of English Language Learners, Foster Youth, and those receiving Free and Reduced Meals in Court & Community School programs; and an add-on for Home-to-School Transportation based on funding for that program in 2012-2013.

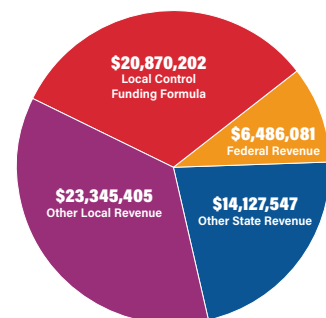
The County Office operates and supports a variety of curriculum and instructional programs. These programs include, but are not limited to, Court and Community Schools, Career and Technical Education support, Special Education, Staff Development, Nutrition, and the California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP). These initiatives are designed to equip students with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in their preferred future careers and life paths.

The majority of HCOE's expenditures are allocated to staffing, including certificated and classified salaries with benefits. These positions provide professional development for educators, support for districts and charter schools, and oversight to ensure compliance with federal, state, and local laws. By investing in high-quality staff and comprehensive programs, the funding directly contributes to preparing students for their preferred futures, ensuring they have the resources and support needed to achieve their goals.

2023-2024 Expenditures



2023-2024 Revenues





The 2024 recipients of the California Seal of Bilinguality

CELEBRATING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS: A JOURNEY OF EXCELLENCE

The Humboldt County Office of Education (HCOE) takes great pride in recognizing and celebrating achievement and excellence in Humboldt County students. HCOE hosts a number of annual events to celebrate everything from academic excellence to artistic prowess.

One of our most popular events is a ceremony honoring recipients of the California Seal of



Academy of the Redwoods students pose with their certificates.

Bilinguality, which was established in 2012 by the California Department of Education to formally recognize students who have become proficient in more than one language. In its first year, HCOE celebrated 39 students from four high schools who earned this prestigious award. This number has grown exponentially, with our 2024 celebration honoring 150 high school seniors in a single year.

To date, over 1,300 Humboldt County students have earned this recognition, demonstrating proficiency in an impressive array of 24 languages alongside English. These languages span the globe, including Spanish, French, German, Hmong, Yurok, among others. The program has also recognized over 100 exchange students attending local high schools, awarding them





Career Technical Education students show off their work at the inaugural CTE Student Recognition Celebration last May.

seal medals and certificates for their English proficiency.

The path to earning the California Seal of Biliteracy demands rigorous dedication and comprehensive language skills. Students must excel in both English and at least one additional language, meeting strict criteria that encompass world language coursework, GPA requirements, and written assessments.

RECOGNIZING ACHIEVEMENT IN CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION

The Career & College Resources Department understands the significance of Career Technical Education (CTE) and the profound impact it has on the lives of students. We also acknowledge that these programs and students often do not receive the recognition they deserve. This is why we have established an annual event and scholarship program to celebrate outstanding CTE students.

The inaugural CTE Student Recognition Celebration was held in May of 2024. Students were nominated by their CTE teachers, administrators, or counselors based on their engagement and completion status in one or more CTE programs at their school. The event

celebrated 30 students across our county's nine different industry sectors. Those sectors include Agriculture, Arts Media & Entertainment, Automotive/Transportation, Building & Construction Trades, Engineering & Architecture, Health Science & Medical Technology, Hospitality, Tourism & Recreation, Manufacturing & Product Development, and Marketing, Sales & Service.

Students proudly showcased their projects and shared their achievements. School staff, members of the community, and family members attended the event to view projects and celebrate these students. The evening concluded with the presentation of scholarship checks to each student.

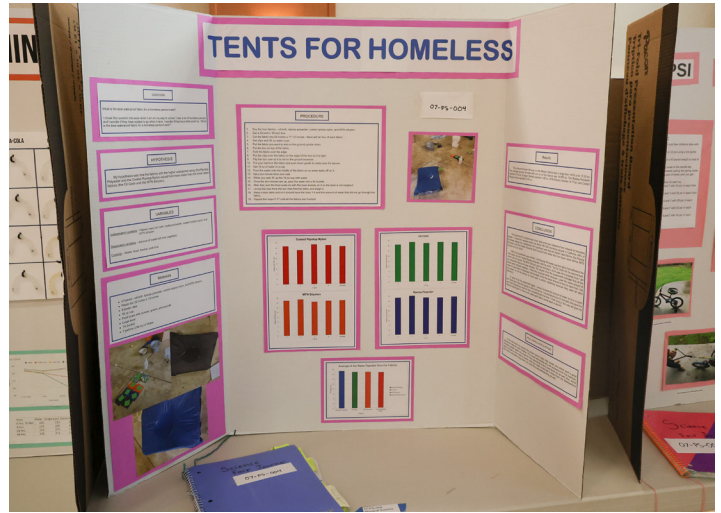
Without the generosity of our donors, we would not have been able to make this scholarship program a reality. A heartfelt thank you to our generous supporters: Coast Central Credit Union, Redwood Capital Bank, American Ag Credit, Harper Motors, O&M Industries, Wing Inflatables, Pierson's, The Mill Yard, Compass Community Credit Union, and Los Bagels. For more information about Career Technical Education in Humboldt County, please visit the HCOE website. The 2025 event is scheduled for April 30, 2025.

ENCOURAGING SCIENTIFIC EXPLORATION AT THE DORIS NILES SCIENCE FAIR

HCOE is also committed to enhancing scientific skills and literacy in our community through support of the Humboldt County Doris Niles Science Fair. Scheduled for March 12-15 in the Sequoia Center, this year's fair again includes a non-competitive poster showcase for TK-12 students, allowing them to present their science learning in various formats.

The competitive showcase for grades 4-12 will employ updated rubrics aligned with Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and enhanced resources for young engineers. Our revised digital handbook now includes strategically linked support for students, families, and coordinators and is also available in Spanish.

Additionally, this year we are asking local youth to redesign our science fair logo, designs will be displayed and voted on at the fair. We continue to evaluate the fair to create a more inclusive event for all young scientists and engineers!



The Science Fair is now held in Sequoia Conference Center.

Spelling Bee Renamed to Honor Longtime Coordinator



The Queen Bee, Paulette Gilliam

Now in its 40th year, the Humboldt County Spelling Bee has been renamed to honor and memorialize its longtime coordinator, Paulette Gilliam.

Paulette worked for HCOE from 1989 – 2017. For many years, Paulette was the organizing force behind the Humboldt County Spelling Bee. She was known to drive students to the state competition if they couldn't travel with family members. She is fondly remembered as the "Queen Bee," and it was one of her favorite events.

"Paulette had a special love for spelling bees, begun when she was the spelling champion at Orick Elementary School," said retired Director of Instructional Leadership Cheryl Ingham. "It was her mission to ensure every detail of the County bee was unquestionably fair and designed to honor the talent and discipline students exhibited. She personally cared about each and every one of them. A missed word, and a teary retreat to their seats pierced her heart as much as any parent."

A UNIFIED VISION FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

Across all programs, the goal at HCOE remains the same: to provide students with the tools, resources, and opportunities they need to succeed. By fostering independence, building confidence, and creating pathways for success, we empower students to pursue their dreams. Through strong community partnerships and a commitment to holistic support, we pave the way for every student to achieve their preferred future.

BUILDING STRONG FOUNDATIONS IN EARLY EDUCATION

Early education plays a crucial role in shaping a child's future. For years, programs have focused on the critical birth-to-five period, emphasizing early intervention for children with disabilities, professional development for educators, and support for local childcare providers. Initiatives like the California Preschool Instructional Network and the Local Child Care Planning Council have been instrumental in creating these opportunities.

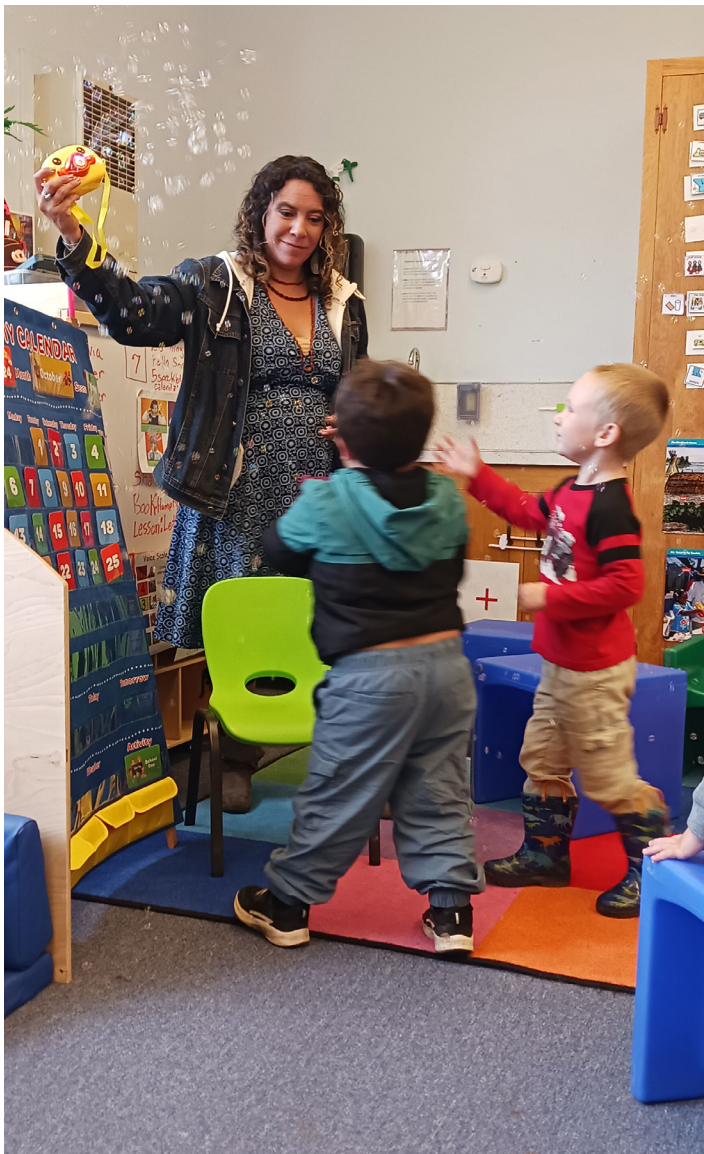
Looking ahead, the commitment to early education continues to grow. Inclusive learning environments are expanding through integrated state preschool programs, parent coaching, and training initiatives like the Early Start and Bridges to Wellness Program.

Family engagement is also a priority, with events held across the region to connect families to essential resources and information. Universal Prekindergarten support ensures that transitional kindergarten teachers and administrators receive the professional development and technical assistance they need to provide high-quality learning experiences.

Efforts in early education also focus on high-quality intervention services for children with special needs, workforce development for preschool to third-grade educators, and expanded mental health supports. By promoting tiered interventions and fostering positive mental health for both children and parents, we aim to empower families and strengthen communities.

INDIVIDUALIZED SUPPORT AT GLEN PAUL SCHOOL

At Glen Paul School, we proudly serve children and youth aged 3 to 22, offering individualized programs tailored to meet each student's unique educational needs. Our mission is to help



HCOE's early education staff work directly with children ages zero to five and their families.



Students take part in last year's Bubble Day at Glen Paul School

students achieve maximum independence—at home, in school, in the community, and in future employment settings. Each year, we celebrate our graduates and their significant achievements, marking the culmination of their personalized educational journeys.

A key element of our program is the Workability Program, which prepares students for meaningful employment. This initiative provides practical job experience, industry-specific skills, and the confidence needed to succeed in various fields. Through strong partnerships with local businesses, students explore career paths aligned with their interests and strengths, gaining hands-on opportunities in real-world settings.

These efforts equip students with the tools to lead fulfilling lives and contribute positively to society. Our dedicated staff, supportive families, and community partners work together to create a pathway for every student to reach their preferred future.

EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES AT COURT AND COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Court and Community Schools (CCS) are dedicated to serving students who need alternative education pathways to achieve their goals. To better support students in northern Humboldt County, CCS recently opened a new site in Arcata. The Arcata Educational Resource Center provides access to students from Arcata, McKinleyville, and surrounding areas, offering independent study options and a hybrid Intensive Supports Classroom model that emphasizes one-on-one contact between students and educators.

Students at all CCS sites benefit from opportunities in sports and Career Technical Education (CTE). Collaborating with other small schools, CCS offers sports programs in basketball, track and field, cross country, and volleyball, with plans to expand further. Career exploration is another highlight, with students gaining valuable experience through programs like Humboldt



Students participate in the Coast League cross country championships at College of the Redwoods in November.

Hydrofarms, the Trails Crew, and the Building Trades Program. These initiatives provide practical skills and insights into potential career paths, helping students envision and work toward their preferred futures.

CHAMPIONING RESILIENCE THROUGH FOSTER AND HOMELESS YOUTH EDUCATION SERVICES

The Foster and Homeless Youth Education Services program at the Humboldt County Office of Education champions resilience and equity for students facing housing instability or foster care challenges. Serving Humboldt County, we collaborate with Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) to provide professional development that upholds student rights and protections while equipping educators with advocacy skills to support positive outcomes for youth and families. Our program promotes comprehensive case management and actively partners with organizations such as Probation, Child Welfare, Children's Behavioral Health, and Tribal Organizations to strengthen cross-system networks for students and families.

We provide ongoing support and technical assistance to district liaisons to address the specific needs of individual students and families. A focused effort is the direct services our program provides for our local Court and Community

schools. Annually, we host a community event for families and partner organizations—the Back-to-School Carnival—a place where students enjoy a day of enriching activities and receive necessary school supplies. This event is a positive, accessible, and successful community asset.

Another highlight is the Bright Futures: Pathways to Success event. This collaboration with College of the Redwoods and Cal Poly Humboldt (TRIO Program) offers a full day of post-secondary preparation for students with disabilities, students in the foster care system, and those experiencing homelessness. Over 160 students attended last year, gaining insights and promoting self-determination for their future.

The Foster and Homeless Youth Program also supports students through professional development opportunities at state and national conferences, where they gain life skills and network with others. This past year, one student shared their lived experience at a conference, offering recommendations to service providers. Their presentation was well received and served as an empowering opportunity to advocate for their community and develop confidence in their voice. This program is a testament to the resilience and capability of students facing adversity, underscoring their ability to succeed with the right support.



A student gets their face painted at the Back to School Carnival.



The 2024-2025 Cal-SOAP Success Coaches. Success Coaches work at local high schools help students with their financial aid applications.



School staff participate in North Coast Cal-SOAP's financial aid training, held every year in October.

SUPPORTING FINANCIAL AID ACCESS THROUGH CAL-SOAP

Financial aid has always been a vital component to the success of students pursuing higher education, and with the FAFSA and CADAA increasingly becoming the gateway to all forms of financial aid in California, completion of a financial aid application is more important now than ever before.

In 2022, California Assembly Bill 469 made completion of a FAFSA, CADAA, or opt-out waiver a high school requirement for all seniors. Since this legislative change, North Coast Cal-SOAP has worked to promote the All-in for FAFSA/CADAA initiative with targeted outreach, educational campaigns, and collaboration with high schools.

OUR CORE SERVICES INCLUDE:

- **Financial Aid Literacy:** Annual in-person and ongoing virtual FAFSA/CADAA trainings for counselors and staff from 14 high schools and 13 community organizations.
- **Cash for College Workshops:** Expert FAFSA/CADAA application support to students and families through in-class and after-school

workshops, providing the opportunity for all seniors at 14 high schools to apply.

- **Application Follow-up Support:** Provided by Cal-SOAP College & Career Success Coaches at specific high schools, helping seniors complete their college and financial aid applications and next steps.
- **Data-driven Goal Setting:** Conducted annually with school counselors and principals to create best practices. Assessment teams compare up to eight years of data compiled by Cal-SOAP that has been pulled into a new single tool for analysis. It includes A-G completion, FAFSA/CADAA completion, College Going Rates, and one-year persistence in college for each high school.

Cal-SOAP's information and support help high school students successfully navigate the college and financial aid application process while working together with schools to make sure students opt in to receive financial aid for education beyond high school!



North Star RTAC Team County Coordinators at our County Community School Leads Training in August. We hosted the training here in Humboldt.

SUPPORTING SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND CHARTER SCHOOLS: **The Humboldt County Office of Education's Role in Building Stronger Communities**

HCOE plays a vital role in supporting local school districts and charter schools through various innovative initiatives. By addressing unique challenges and fostering collaboration, HCOE ensures that all schools in Humboldt County are equipped to meet the needs of their students and communities effectively.

ADVANCING THE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS MODEL

HCOE has been instrumental in implementing the California Community Schools Partnership Program (CCSPP) across Humboldt County. Twenty-one school districts, encompassing 35 school sites, have received funding to develop community school models tailored to their local needs. These districts work closely with education

staff, students, families, and community partners to identify specific needs, set actionable goals, and implement sustainable solutions.

Humboldt's rural context presents unique challenges, including limited resources and geographically isolated communities. To address these, HCOE facilitates partnerships with local organizations, health providers, and social services. This collaborative approach ensures that schools can provide wraparound services for students, particularly those from historically underserved or underrepresented communities.

To support these efforts, HCOE offers professional development for educators and administrators, focusing on integrating services, addressing student needs holistically, and

creating inclusive environments. Participation in the North Star Regional Technical Assistance Center (RTAC) enables HCOE to access specialized training and share innovative practices, fostering continuous improvement across schools.

STRENGTHENING HUMAN RESOURCES TO EMPOWER SCHOOLS

HCOE's Human Resources Department plays a pivotal role in supporting staff and departments across the organization. Key services include recruitment and retention efforts, leave administration, employee data management, compliance, labor and employee relations, workers' compensations, credentialing services, and onboarding new employees. By ensuring seamless administrative functions, Human Resources empowers educators and staff to focus on their primary mission: serving students.

One innovative initiative is the countywide Substitute Consortium, which provides participating districts with a reliable pool of vetted, qualified substitutes. This "one-stop shop" streamlines the onboarding process for substitutes, reducing administrative burdens on districts while offering career advancement opportunities for substitutes to become fully credentialed teachers. This program strengthens the educational workforce and ensures continuity in classrooms across the county.

Additionally, the HR Department administers the Paraprofessional Exam, a critical step for Paraeducators seeking certification. Paraeducators play a key role in classrooms, assisting with management, individualized student support, and maintaining a safe learning environment. By certifying and placing qualified Paraeducators, HR is able to contribute to the educational experience for both students and teachers.

COLLABORATION AND ENGAGEMENT FOR EQUITABLE OUTCOMES

HCOE's commitment to equitable, student-centered environments extends beyond individual districts. Through the integration of services, professional learning opportunities, and partnerships with families and community organizations, HCOE is creating a resilient network that addresses the diverse needs of local schools. This holistic approach fosters improved student outcomes and strengthens the broader community.

Looking forward, HCOE's Human Resources Department will host its Countywide Career Fair on March 22, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Sequoia Conference Center. This event will showcase career opportunities in education, encouraging community members to join efforts in supporting schools and students across Humboldt County.



Arcata Elementary School District Community Schools Table at Back to School Night



Local school bus drivers attended a California Association of School Transportation Officials (CASTO) training and ceremony at HCOE in June.

BUSINESS SERVICES: FINANCIAL STABILITY AND OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

The Business Services division ensures that schools remain financially stable and operationally sound. By offering workshops, strategic planning, and personalized support, the division helps districts manage their resources effectively. This includes:

- Assisting LEAs with budgeting and financial literacy.
- Hosting professional development and training sessions.
- Supporting payroll and financial transactions for nearly 6,000 public school employees.

These services enable districts to focus on delivering quality education while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

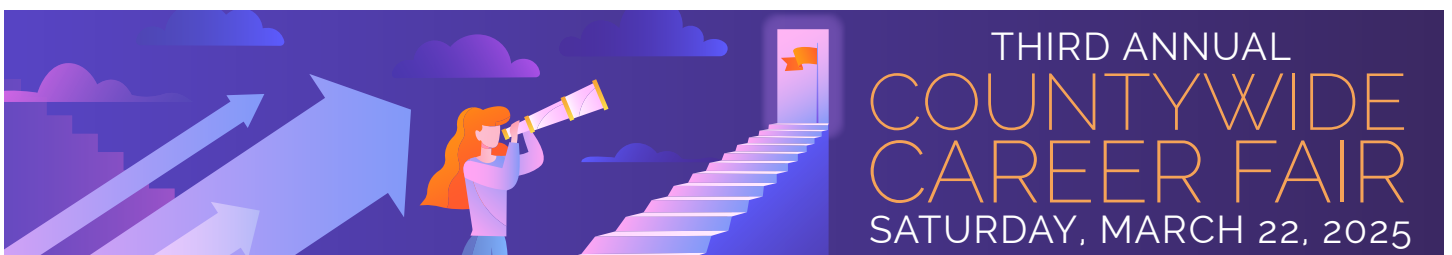
TRANSPORTATION: ENSURING SAFE ACCESS TO EDUCATION

HCOE's Transportation Department provides specialized services for students with disabilities, operating eight routes across nine districts and serving approximately 85 students. With a fleet of buses equipped with wheelchair lifts and other features, the department prioritizes safety and inclusivity. Rigorous training and maintenance protocols ensure that students arrive at school ready to learn in a supportive environment.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: PREPARING STUDENTS FOR A DIGITAL FUTURE

HCOE's IT Department supports teaching, learning, and administration by providing:

- High-speed internet and cybersecurity protection for schools.



- Technology integration into curricula, including assistive technologies for Special Education.
- Enhanced physical security systems, such as upgraded video surveillance and mass notification tools.

The IT team continually explores emerging technologies to enhance education and cybersecurity, ensuring students are prepared for their preferred futures.

MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS: CREATING SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

The Maintenance and Operations team ensures that school facilities are safe, clean, and conducive to learning. By maintaining eight sites and proactively addressing operational needs, the team supports programs that foster creativity, collaboration, and exploration.

SEQUOIA CONFERENCE CENTER: A HUB FOR COLLABORATION

The Sequoia Conference Center serves as a premier venue for educational events, student activities, and community gatherings. Since its

establishment in 2015, the center has hosted events such as the Humboldt County Science Fair, Spelling Bee, and Innovate Business Challenge. Its state-of-the-art technology and welcoming staff make it an invaluable asset for the community.

Through these programs and initiatives, the Humboldt County Office of Education demonstrates its unwavering commitment to supporting schools, empowering educators, and enriching the lives of students. Together, HCOE and its partners are building a brighter future for all learners in Humboldt County.

A SHARED COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

HCOE's multifaceted support for school districts and charter schools demonstrates a shared commitment to helping students achieve their preferred futures. From advancing the community school model to strengthening the workforce through innovative HR initiatives, HCOE is building a foundation for sustainable success. Through collaboration, professional development, and resource integration, HCOE ensures that every student in Humboldt County has the opportunity to thrive.



Sequoia Conference Center hosted a professional development event featuring renowned author Zaretta Hammond in November.



The 2024 Excellence in Teaching and Jean Olson winners, left to right: Superintendent Michael Davies-Hughes, Maggie Tedder, Joe Kencke, Justine Smith, Margie Cunningham, Cassandra Moulton-Rizzo, Shawn Kingstrom, Owen Moore, Shayne Sines. (Not pictured: Dr. Garry Eagles)*

RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE: CELEBRATING THE HEART OF EDUCATION

The Humboldt County Office of Education (HCOE) is proud to celebrate the dedication and achievements of the educators and staff who make a difference in the lives of students every day. Through various recognition programs, HCOE highlights the vital roles that teachers, classified staff, and other educational professionals play in preparing students for their preferred futures.

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AND CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE AWARDS

Since 1985, HCOE has honored outstanding educators through its annual Excellence in Teaching Ceremony. This cherished event recognizes teachers who go above and beyond to inspire and empower their students. Four years ago, HCOE expanded this tradition to include Classified Employees, acknowledging the invaluable contributions of those who support students and schools behind the scenes. From

office personnel and technology specialists to food service workers, bus drivers, custodians, and accountants, these dedicated professionals form the backbone of our educational system.

STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CELEBRATION

The Excellence in Teaching and Classified Employee Awards Ceremony is a community-centered event that brings together students and staff in a unique and meaningful way. Local high school students play an integral role in honoring these educators and support staff by contributing their skills and talents to the event. Students provide catering, create floral arrangements, and perform music, showcasing their learning and creativity. Additionally, students craft personalized gifts such as wooden cutting boards, designed and made in their schools, adding a special touch to the celebration.

This collaboration not only highlights the

impact of educators and staff but also offers students valuable hands-on learning experiences. By participating in this event, students develop practical skills while expressing gratitude to those who guide and support them every day.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

HCOE's Community Outreach and Engagement Department plays a key role in organizing these recognition programs. From printing materials and promoting events in the media to coordinating partnerships with community organizations, the department ensures that these celebrations truly reflect the excellence and dedication of Humboldt County's

educational community.

The annual awards ceremonies are just one example of how HCOE fosters a culture of appreciation and collaboration. By recognizing the contributions of educators and classified staff, HCOE strengthens the bond between schools, students, and the community, reinforcing the shared commitment to student success.

LEARN MORE

To learn more about HCOE's recognition programs and how you can participate, visit <https://hcoe.org/awards>. Join us in celebrating the people who make a difference in education every day.



Scenes from the 2024 Classified Employee Awards Ceremony. In the group photo, Left to right: Michael Davies-Hughes, Humboldt County Superintendent of Schools; Francisco Aguirre, Maintenance, Ambrosini School; Emily Reinhart, Technical Services, HCOE; Cherie Circe, Clerical, Kneeland School; Valorie Heidger, Paraprofessional, Grant Elementary; Amy Black, Transportation, Northern Humboldt High School District; Amy Kinser Hansen, Nutrition Services, Sunny Brae Middle School.

Humboldt County Office of Education Equity Statement

HCOE is committed to equity, diversity, inclusion and belonging. We believe that the circumstances children are born into should not predict their access to the resources and rigor necessary for success. We strive to create a work environment and schools that cultivate a sense of belonging; grounded in safety, dignity and respect. We are committed to building a culture of connectedness, allowing us to grow and learn better together.

We see and celebrate the range of human differences as a source of strength. We welcome the unique contributions that each person brings. We recognize that inequitable systemic barriers exist, and that our work, individually and collectively, is to eliminate these opportunity gaps that result in disparate educational outcomes for our most vulnerable students. We accept that our equity work is a journey and not a destination.



**Preparing
Students**
for
their Preferred Future

Humboldt County Office of Education

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