



ANNUAL REPORT TO THE *Community* 2025-2026



**BRIDGES TO
EXCELLENCE**

A Message From The *County Superintendent*



Welcome to the Riverside County Office of Education's Annual Report to the Community, inspired by the theme **Bridges of Excellence**. Bridges represent the vital connections that move us forward, linking where we are to where we aspire to be.

Each day, the Riverside County Office of Education stands as that connection, elevating students as they pursue their hopes, talents, and ambitions.

Through exceptional programs and dedicated services, we enrich learning experiences and open pathways to opportunity. Like bridges, we help students navigate obstacles. We support them as they build a strong foundation for whatever future they choose in higher education, skilled professions, or careers yet to be imagined.

As you explore this report, we invite you to discover the excellence that is connecting students to a brighter tomorrow in Riverside County and beyond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edwin Gomez". The signature is written in a cursive style.

*Edwin Gomez Ed.D.
Riverside County Superintendent of Schools*

OUR *Pledge*

Every student in Riverside County will graduate from high school academically and socially prepared for college, the workforce, and civic responsibility.



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Office of the Riverside County Superintendent of Schools



PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- » Community Engagement and Partnerships
- » Events
- » Internships
- » Communications
- » Creative/Web Services
- » Digital Production Services



LEADERSHIP

Dominique Samario
Chief Strategic Partnerships and
Communications Officer



Governor's Workforce Development Board Visit Highlights State-Leading CTE Programs

Members of the California Governor's Workforce Development Board toured Riverside County in August, and RCOE hosted a panel discussion that included information about RCOE's leadership in the state in apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship placements.

Before the panel discussion, a video production shared highlights of career technical education in Riverside County—from aviation and automotive technology to information technology service careers and emergency medical technician programs.

The event was held in The Arena, the dedicated competition space for the Riverside County Esports League as an example of how students are learning about career opportunities in emerging industries.

The Torch Podcast Showcases Innovators in Education

The second and third seasons of The Torch, an RCOE podcast, continue to introduce the educators and leaders who are shaping education in Riverside County and beyond.

Season three debuted with "Banned, But Never Silenced: Erin Gruwell," an interview with the creator of The Freedom Writers.



THE TORCH
A Podcast by
RIVERSIDE COUNTY
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Learn more at www.rcoe.us/the-torch



Student of the Month Events Honor Top Seniors

Before they graduate and pursue their college and career dreams, top seniors from 29 high schools and RCOE's alternative education programs are honored every month at RCOE-led student of the month celebrations.

Each event features breakfast followed by inspiring stories of resilience, determination, and excellence. In 2024–2025, the events culminated with twelve students of the year sharing \$45,000 in scholarships.

State Treasurer's Office and CalKIDS Honor RCOE for Investing in Financial Literacy

RCOE's focused efforts on developing financial literacy skills and eliminating fiscal barriers to higher education for the 430,000 students in Riverside County were recognized by the California State Treasurer's Office with the first Academic Excellence Award on Thursday, April 10, 2025, in Sacramento.

The award was presented to Riverside County Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Edwin Gomez, by California State Treasurer, Fiona Ma, at the conclusion of the first California Early Wealth Education System Summit: Pathways to Promise. The inaugural event gathered policymakers, educators, financial experts, and community leaders from across the state with the goal of igniting change and fostering prosperity for California's youth. The event also featured an appearance by Tiffany Haddish, acclaimed comedian, actress, and advocate for foster youth.

FINANCIAL
LITERACY
Initiative 



1,570 *Students* Participated in
2024–2025 Student Academic Events:
*Academic Decathlon, Mock Trial,
Science and Engineering Fair, History Day,
and Spelling Bee*



Meet Rigo Oropeza: From Alternative Education to Intern to College

Rigo Oropeza was named as a February 2025 Greater Coachella Valley Student of the Month from the Palm Springs Community School, an alternative education school operated by RCOE. He was selected for the award by educators at his school because of his enthusiasm, eagerness, and motivation.

Rigo's life journey included attending multiple high schools, participating in wrestling and track/cross country teams, and training to become a mixed martial arts competitor.

Later in the year, Rigo was selected as a Greater Coachella Valley Student of the Year. In his acceptance speech, he shared about his challenging educational journey, but credited his mother who worked three jobs to take care of her three sons.

"It's easy to forget what good is being done to you when it's always being done," Rigo said. "I choose not to let my bad decisions and mistakes have a say in who I am or who I'm going to be."

During the summer, Rigo served as an intern at RCOE and will be enrolling at College of the Desert to become a welder.

Division of Educational Services



PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- » School of Education
- » AVID Riverside County
- » College/Career Readiness
- » Educational Technology Services/ Esports
- » Instructional Services (The Arts, STEM, History/Social Science, Multilingual Education)
- » Assessment, Accountability, and Continuous Improvement



LEADERSHIP

Amanda Corridan
Chief Academic Officer



More Riverside County Students Enroll in California State Universities

A pilot program that offered direct admission to Riverside County public school students in the class of 2025 has led to a 6% boost in first-year enrollment at 10 California State University (CSU) campuses. The increase represents 1,000 more local students attending CSU campuses compared to the graduating class of 2024.

Now set to expand for a second year to additional counties and districts, the program alerts qualifying high school students that they are automatically admitted to their choice of 10 CSU campuses. Riverside County seniors are also offered an application fee waiver.

More details are available at www.calstate.edu/rcoe

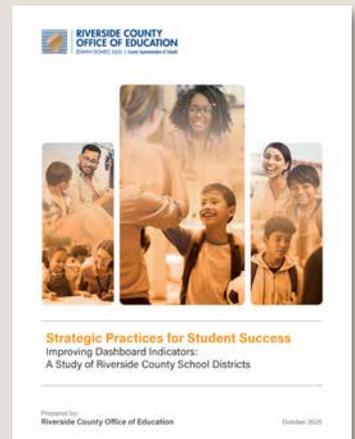
Student Success is a Collaborative Responsibility

Working side-by-side with districts to improve their schools is one of the roles of the Assessment, Accountability, and Continuous Improvement team at RCOE.

Studying their California School Dashboard results and other outcomes begins with identifying the root causes of challenges, providing coaching, and more. Together they strengthen everyday teaching, build tiered supports, and surround students with caring adults and clear goals.

These moves have cut chronic absences and suspensions, raised graduation and college/career readiness, and improved outcomes for foster youth, homeless students, English learners, and students with disabilities.

To learn more, read about the collective impact in ***Strategic Practices for Student Success: Improving Dashboard Indicators: A Study of Riverside County School Districts.***



Read the report at <https://go.rcoe.us/RivCoStudy-StudentSuccess>



Listening and Learning to Support Foster Youth in Riverside County

Beyond continued interagency collaboration and communication, RCOE supported foster youth in a variety of ways during the 2024–2025 school year.

More than a dozen foster youth participated in the Student Advisory Panel—a year-long program that included weekly meetings, in-person workshops, transition training support, and more.

One activity included listening to the lived experiences of foster youth to better shape the development of a mobile app that would better provide resources and tools exclusively for foster youth. Named FosterFerret, the app launched in the fall of 2025 for iOS devices and will be refined through ongoing feedback from students.

Multiple Back to School Resource Fairs and Winter Wonderland events provided free shoes, backpacks, services, and gifts for foster youth. Graduating foster youth pursuing their dreams of higher education received individual support as RCOE advocated on their behalf with local community colleges. In addition, employees contributed donations to a dorm drive for foster youth moving on campus at local universities.

Students in Esports Attended School **9 MORE DAYS** On Average

The Riverside County Esports League conducted a comprehensive study in 2023 and 2024 analyzing data from esports participants in the Moreno Valley Unified School District.

The findings revealed that students in esports attended school 9 more days on average than those who were not part of the esports program. In addition, esports participants in every grade between 4th and 8th grade **performed better** on standardized math tests than non-esports participants.



A Vision for Education: Meet Jasmine Kotsay

Jasmine Kotsay refuses to be defined by her blindness. As a young student, her goal was to grow up and help other students succeed despite visual disabilities. Now, as a professional educator, and thanks to the Center for Teacher Innovation in RCOE's School of Education, Jasmine has met the final requirements of her teaching credential and is helping students navigate their educational dreams.

Learn more about Jasmine Kotsay's inspiring story at <https://go.rcoe.us/CTI-JasminesJourney>

Division of Student Programs and Services



PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- » Court/Community Schools
- » CBK Charter School
- » School of Career Education
- » Career Technical Education
- » Special Education
- » Health Services
- » Supporting Innovative Practices Project



LEADERSHIP

Nereida Gutierrez
Assistant Superintendent



From Locked Doors to Open Minds: How Art Transforms Incarcerated Youth

Creativity can foster expression, build confidence, and create meaningful connections with students who have often felt unseen and unheard.

This became clear when professional artists brought their expertise inside the walls of Riverside County's juvenile court school classrooms to engage learners through creative experiences commonly available in traditional public school settings.

Students who previously had limited access to creative and artistic experiences discovered new ways to express themselves through poetry, art projects, and dance.

The program celebrates purpose-driven education and the belief that all students—regardless of circumstance—deserve access to creative outlets that help them grow, reflect, and heal.

Experience the powerful firsthand reflections from educators and artists in a video produced by the Digital Production Services team at RCOE.

Watch the video at <https://go.rcoe.us/ArtTransforms>



Snow Cone and Popcorn Machines Build Career Skills for Special Education Students

Students in the Adult Transition Workability Program at the Don F. Kenny Regional Learning Center in Indio are turning sweet and salty treats into life lessons and career opportunities.

Special Education teacher David Contreras applied for a Unique Projects Grant from the Riverside County Board of Education that led to the purchase of a snow cone maker and popcorn machine so that students operating the student store could expand their offerings and marketable job skills.

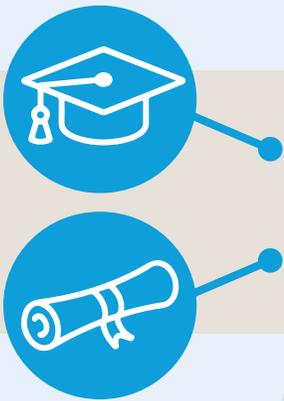
From cash-handling and inventory stocking to customer service and sales, the students are also building self-confidence with each order. Ricky, one of the students in the program, said, "I learned it's not easy to do different things, but you learn and get used to it with practice."

Summer Apprenticeship Bridge Program Offers Paid Hands-On Career Training Experiences to Class of 2025

Twenty-five high school graduates from the class of 2025 in Riverside County spent part of their summer learning valuable hands-on technical skills to prepare them for transitions into higher education and employment opportunities.

Thanks to a partnership with the LAUNCH Apprenticeship Network and Network Kinection, participating students were eligible to earn up to \$3,000 through the program.

RCOE's focus on providing this type of competitive edge to students vying for highly sought-after positions is evidenced by data showing that 70% of all California students enrolled in apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships programs are from Riverside County—the highest figure in the state.



359

Class of 2025

graduates/certificate completers from RCOE special education, alternative education, and CBK Charter School programs



Career Technical Education Student Helps Deliver Baby During Internship

Vista del Lago High School senior, Simon Garcia, did not wake up on April 27, 2025, expecting to witness something he would remember for the rest of his life. He was just starting another day by showing up for his internship as part of the school's Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) program, run through the RCOE's Career Technical Education (CTE) pathway in the Moreno Valley Unified School district.

That Sunday, he was assigned to CAL FIRE Station 101 in Perris, and, by the end of his shift, had helped deliver a baby in the back of an ambulance on the way to the hospital.

Read more about how Simon's classroom training prepared him for an unforgettable internship experience.

<https://go.rcoe.us/CTE-EMTpathway>

Division of Early Education Services



PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- » Family and Child Care Provider Professional Development
- » State Preschool and State-Funded Child Care
- » Universal PreKindergarten Support
- » Head Start/Migrant Head Start Programs
- » Resource and Referral Support
- » State-Funded Programs



LEADERSHIP

Kathy King
Assistant Superintendent

Empowering Early Learning Through Professional Development and Higher Education

The Division of Early Education Services showcased a commitment to supporting families and expanding access to high-quality early learning and child care through offering professional development opportunities to more than 2,400 early childhood educators and child care providers throughout the 2024–2025 school year.

From dynamic symposiums and institutes to targeted training sessions and summits, these learning experiences covered a rich spectrum of topics such as: early literacy, math, science and engineering, technology, art, social-emotional development, mental health strategies, trauma-informed practices, Universal PreKindergarten, classroom and environment design, financial literacy, and play-based learning.

To further support career advancement and academic achievement, more than 1,100 early educators and providers were awarded stipends for completing early education college coursework. In partnership with UC Riverside, college-level classes were also made accessible, empowering both child care providers and parents to move closer to degree completion and long-term success.

Universal PreKindergarten Arrives in Riverside County

Every four-year-old child in Riverside County deserves access to quality and developmentally appropriate learning experiences before they enter Kindergarten.

The arrival of Universal PreKindergarten (UPK) brings together multiple early learning programs to support children in districts and programs across the county.

RCOE's role in UPK is to support early educators and administrators—including the development of the UPK Network to share information and updates from the state, review training/staff development opportunities, provide professional development, and more.

During UPK Network meetings, best practices from districts are spotlighted and all participants learn from one another for the benefit of their youngest scholars.



Grant Builds Educator Skills in Early Literacy

Staff members from RCOE's Early Education Programs recently completed all requirements of the Riverside County Early Learning and Literacy Project (R-CELLP), a congressionally funded community project grant funded to support early literacy endeavors in Riverside County.

Originally awarded in September 2022, the R-CELLP project has provided Early Literacy training to early childhood educators from local school districts, private preschool programs, county office of education programs, and family child care homes.

Outcomes from the funding include:

- More than 700 educators participated in monthly and quarterly literacy trainings
- 5,000+ hours of professional development from early literacy organizations



LITERACY **5**TH
BY GRADE
Initiative



From Preschool to College Graduation, Parent to Local Business Owner

Olivia Villegas, once a farmworker parent with two children enrolled in the Migrant Head Start Program, is now the proud mother of two college graduates.

Olivia's son recently graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering from California State University, Long Beach, and her daughter earned a master's degree in public health from Loma Linda University.

Olivia's decision to enroll her children in the Migrant Head Start Program in 2003 is not only an example of how education can transform the trajectory of a family's future, but her journey also demonstrates the leadership and family engagement opportunities that are available along the way for parents.

While her children were enrolled, Olivia took an active leadership role by serving as president of the Parent Policy Council, helping guide decisions that benefited other families in the program. This experience led to an appointment to the National Migrant Head Start Association Board of Directors Policy Council, an organization providing direction and leadership to programs across the country.

Through the support and resources she received, Olivia was able to pursue early childhood education and eventually open her own in-home family child care program to serve migrant families. Today, she partners with Migrant Head Start Programs (MHSP) to provide care and education for migrant children in her community.



Division of Leadership, Wellness, and Student Services



PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- » Charter and Community Schools
- » Rural Scholars
- » School Engagement and Wellness
- » Student Support Services
- » Systemic Impact and Change
- » Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program
- » Tobacco-Use Prevention Education (TUPE)



LEADERSHIP

Stephan McPeace
Assistant Superintendent

Exceptional Scholar Awards Program Honors Charter School Graduates

A first-of-its-kind program to honor graduates from charter schools in Riverside County recognized 12 students from 9 charter school programs on Thursday, April 10, 2025, at the RCOE Conference Center.

Students, educators, and families were present at the event that honored the hard work, dedication, and academic success of the graduates. Honorees were recognized for their resilience, character, and limitless potential in preparation for the next chapter of their journey.

The Exceptional Scholar Awards will be held at the RCOE Conference Center on April 29, 2026.



Community Schools Partnership Grows to 80 Schools

The Community Schools Partnership Program is now supporting efforts at 80 campuses in Riverside County that become a hub for students and families in their neighborhood.

The program is focused on encouraging responsible community partnerships to further the work of transforming schools across the county through coordinating and locating resources and services for the whole child and their community.

The offerings of each school differ based on the needs of the local community, but range from parent workshops and food pantries, to mental health services and laundry machines.

Learn more about the community schools in Riverside County at www.rcoe.us/ccspp

Leading Regional Transformations in Student Mental Health

The braiding of funding through multiple grants has contributed to the growth of mental health services and supports for students in Riverside County.

The collaborative work of the Riverside County Wellness Collaborative has led to more than 100,000 students served through a wide variety of services.

Goals for the upcoming year include:

- Actively implementing Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) framework for supporting prevention, early intervention, and intensive services
- Increasing school-based wellness centers
- Growing strategic partnerships to align resources
- Building sustainable program offerings through billing infrastructure
- Co-creating sustainable service pathways across schools and systems

The growth of school-based mental health services in Riverside County has also created a workforce development pathway for mental health professionals and interns with dozens of young professionals from local universities now serving in school mental health roles.



6 out of 19 Recognized Districts in California are in Riverside County

In 2025, the California Department of Education identified 19 districts (six in Riverside County) as **Model Student Attendance Review Board Districts for excellence** in minimizing chronic absenteeism through early intervention, professional development, family engagement, and school connectedness.

Watch highlight videos of these programs in action at [YouTube.com/rcoetv1](https://www.youtube.com/rcoetv1)

YES! Conference Empowers Students to Activate Change

The 2nd Annual RCOE Youth Empowerment Stewardship (YES!) Conference included 150 students and educators from multiple school districts who collaborated on strategies and actions to improve their schools.

Featuring creativity, imagination, arts, and team-building, the one-day event was focused on multigenerational collaboration to build the capacity of students to be change agents in their world. Throughout the day, students learned community-building strategies to enhance school climate, celebrate cultures, and address educational inequities.



Division of Administration and Business Services



PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- » Information Technology Services
- » District Fiscal Services
- » Fiscal Services
- » Operational Support Services
- » Risk Management



LEADERSHIP

Scott Price, Ph.D.
Associate Superintendent



New Conference Center Rises in Indio, Opening Summer 2026

A new 33,000-square-foot conference facility is nearing completion as a desert-area solution for students, teachers, and educators in the greater Coachella Valley who regularly log thousands of miles and hours of travel time for activities hosted more than 50 miles away in western Riverside County.

Following a groundbreaking in December of 2024, and a topping-out ceremony in August of 2025, a grand opening is expected during the summer of 2026.

Located at 47-100 Calhoun Street (directly adjacent to an existing RCOE Administrative Center), the new facility represents a continued investment in learning facilities for the desert region, and will host a wide variety of educational events, trainings, competitions, conferences, and more.



Technology and Fiscal Solutions Drive Success for Schools and Districts

The technology infrastructure and support systems at RCOE support the work of schools, districts, charter schools, and community colleges throughout Riverside County.

Savings to schools include significant discounts on internet access as a result of RCOE's participation in the discounted E-rate program. Additional services that lower the cost of doing business include fiscal services support, business information software, computer service and support desks, and co-location of district data.



Adaptive Playgrounds Bring Joy, Open Opportunities for All

The delightful reactions of students exploring a playground specifically built for all abilities, and riding on a swing for the very first time were a few of the highlights from the opening of inclusive playgrounds for students at Glen Avon South Elementary School and Nuview South Elementary School.

The new playgrounds represent the third and fourth facilities of their kind that incorporate the idea of access and opportunity for all students in Riverside County.

Elements of each unique playground include universal design, a variety of play experiences, safety and accessibility features, intentional areas for social inclusion, and engagement with nature.

49,492 people attended 1,197 events at the RCOE Conference Center in Riverside during the 2024–2025 academic year



Former Intern Lands Full-Time Position at Global Accounting Firm

When Adrian Ruiz started his internship with RCOE's Fiscal Services Unit in 2022, it was the first time working in an office setting. The 2018 graduate from Coachella Valley High School was preparing to graduate from UC Riverside with a major in accounting and auditing.

While at RCOE, he learned that the finance and accounting lessons in his textbooks didn't include all the variables and real-world scenarios that are present in many organizations.

Besides visibility on high-level budget work, Adrian's projects included improving internal financial controls and giving presentations on new laws and procedures related to the implementation of updated accounting standards.

"From the very first day, I really enjoyed being in the department," Adrian shared. "Something great about RCOE is that everybody is so nice and kind and greeted me."

After completing his position at RCOE, Adrian worked with the City of Coachella on grant writing and helped set up a paid internship program. Adrian is now employed as a Senior Audit Associate at RSM in Irvine, the 5th largest accounting firm in the world, where he continues working with clients in the public sector.



"There are accountants and professionals in finance in every entity or company, but working for RCOE made me passionate about working in the public sector," Adrian said. "I want to make sure that resources are provided accordingly to the community, so that programs can be rolled out effectively. Public sector service is geared to helping others, and that is what stood out to me the most from my internship."

Currently, Adrian is studying for his Certified Public Accountant (CPA) exam and plans to work for his community using his professional skills.

Division of Personnel Services



PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- » Recruitment and Selection
- » Employee Services
- » Credentialing Services
- » Read With Me
- » Curriculum, Innovation, and Competitive Edge



LEADERSHIP

Heather Williams, Ed.D.
Associate Superintendent

Record-Breaking Attendance at Recruitment Fair

Many people are unaware that pursuing a career in education includes far more than becoming a teacher or a principal. Positions ranging from facilities and accounting to clerical and specialized skills sets are needed to ensure the educational operations of all schools.

The annual recruitment fair hosted by the Division of Personnel Services welcomed future educators to connect with employment opportunities in TK–12 educational settings.

In March of 2025, a total of 14 districts from across Riverside County met with more than 600 prospective employees to fill positions in their local schools. The record-breaking attendance represented double the number of job seekers from the previous year's event.

Colleges and universities also sent representatives to promote degree and certification programs to help employees strengthen their résumés. The 2026 recruitment fair is scheduled for Saturday, March 28, 2026.



Providing District Support for Human Resources Professionals

Among the 23 districts in Riverside County, there are common goals and opportunities for the professional educators who are leading the human resources function that ensures the educational success of more than 430,000 students.

To support the staff and students within each district, RCOE's Division of Personnel Services hosts quarterly countywide gatherings for district human resources leaders and twice-annual joint meetings for planning and coordinating with educators in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.

Throughout the school year, Personnel Services staff provide professional development sessions for districts across the county on topics ranging from labor relations and legislative updates, to Title IX and non-discrimination hiring practices.

Additionally, in times of school closures that are a result of wildfires, wind events, or other crises, RCOE staff members step up to provide support and collaborate with districts to ensure staff and student safety.

Driving Literacy Through Volunteer Readers

The Literacy by 5th Grade Initiative includes a wide variety of efforts that focus on curriculum, teaching strategies, professional development, and integrating the latest research on reading.

One focus of the initiative is an investment in the Read With Me Program that is driven by 535 volunteers who gave 14,525 hours of time to supporting literacy and learning in classrooms across the Coachella Valley in 2024–2025.

RCOE supports the Read With Me Program through direct staff leadership and additional resources to help them realize their mission of assisting children from low-income limited English-speaking environments, develop to their fullest potential by learning to read, comprehend, and speak English, while understanding that people care about them as individuals.

The core of the program is centered around hundreds of volunteers who spend at least two hours a week on-site at 29 schools in multiple desert-area districts. While on campus, they work directly with students to build a human connection and literacy skills.



During the 2024–2025 academic year, the Personnel Services team hired a total of 457 team members across 6 employee categories.



Tomorrow's Educational Employees Gaining Experience Today

Preparing the next generation for success beyond the classroom is part of the everyday work in the Division of Personnel Services.

Staff collaborated with local employers and RCOE colleagues to place nearly 150 special education

students in the Transition Partnership Program and Workability Programs as they make the shift into adulthood and seek confidence-building, gainful employment.

In addition, during the 2024–2025 academic year, 41 college interns were hired to serve at RCOE in roles from personnel services, fiscal services and event management to facilities and instructional services. For many students, this internship represents their first opportunity to experience a professional working environment.

Cal-SOAP (California Student Opportunity and Access Program) coaches are college students hired to return to local high schools and provide advising, tutoring, parent outreach, and workshops aimed at strengthening the college-going culture with first-generation and socio-economically challenged students. A total of 33 coaches were hired during the 2024–2025 academic year.

Division of Governmental Relations



LEADERSHIP

Leticia Garcia

Chief Governmental Relations Officer

The Riverside County Office of Education is one of just four COEs in California with a Governmental Relations division dedicated to advocacy at the State Capitol and state education agencies in Sacramento. Representing the County Superintendent of Schools and working closely with local educational agencies (LEAs) in Riverside County, Governmental Relations closely monitors education-related legislation and education proposals in the annual State Budget, the State Board of Education, and elsewhere to ensure the interests of Riverside County students, teachers, staff, and families are fully considered by policymakers.

RCOE advocates actively supported or opposed more than three dozen bills, in subject matter areas such as curriculum, school facilities, foster youth, teacher recruitment and retention, and charter schools.

Co-Sponsored AB 629 Signed into Law

While advocating for students and programs in Riverside County is part of the everyday work of the staff in the Division of Governmental Relations, partnering with districts across the state to improve the service and efficiency of the more than 11,000 schools in California is also a focus.

As an example, team members from RCOE were required each year to fulfill the requirements of an antiquated state law from the 1980s that requires school districts to maintain an exact inventory of all assets above \$500 in value. Although useful and valuable for accountability purposes when first passed, the price threshold had not been adjusted for inflation. While prices and value of common school supplies and the quantity of technology-based school equipment increased dramatically, the overly burdensome task of submitting reports for every item above \$500 had surpassed its initial effectiveness.

As a result, RCOE co-sponsored (with the San Diego Unified School District) Assembly Bill 629 by Assembly Member Christopher Ward, which was signed by Governor Gavin Newsom in July 2025. The bill raises the threshold amount from \$500 to \$1500 for assets and adds a mechanism for the threshold to be adjusted on a biennial basis based on inflation. The bill will go into effect on January 1, 2026.

The bill will save significant time and resources which can now be dedicated to student programs and services to better serve students in charter schools and school districts in California.



Partnership Leads to Millions for College Savings Accounts

As part of its Financial Literacy Initiative, RCOE is one of two local educational agencies to partner with the Scholarshare Investment Board to explore ways to increase participation in the California Kids Investment and Development Savings (CalkIDS) Program to give children in the state a jump start on saving for college or career training by providing free student savings accounts.

Riverside County is home to an estimated 275,000 eligible students which represents a potential of \$137.3 million in savings accounts. This year, RCOE worked with the Legislature to extend the partnership to 2029–2030.



During the 2025 legislative session, Governmental Relations tracked the status of more than

400 bills

impacting TK–12 education

Interns Learn About Educational Policy in Sacramento Trip

Ten RCOE student interns—many of whom had never been to Sacramento or on an airplane—touched down in Sacramento during the summer of 2025 to meet their local elected officials, share their student experiences with legislators, and learn about educational policymaking from staff in RCOE’s Division of Government Relations.

During their visit, the interns attended a hearing on child care, toured the Capitol, and met with Senators Kelly Seyarto, Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh, Sabrina Cervantes, and Assemblymember Dr. Corey Jackson.

The interns were both moved and inspired by the passion displayed by the legislators regarding issues that resonated with their own personal experiences, such as immigration, the foster care system, the cost of living, and unemployment. Because each of these topics affected the interns in different ways, discussing with the legislators about their plans for action for each topic gave the college interns hope for life after graduation.

This experience not only deepened the interns' understanding of California's legislative process, but also showed how each legislator cares about the future generations. Meeting with each elective representative opened gateways for future internships and employment. By the end of the trip, each intern left feeling encouraged to advocate for what they believe in to make a difference for themselves and their communities.



Riverside County Board of Education

The Riverside County Board of Education (RCBE) consists of seven members who represent seven trustee areas of the county. RCBE acts as the appellate agency for student expulsions, interdistrict transfers, and charter school petitions throughout the county. In addition, the trustees serve as the governing board for multiple programs operated by the Riverside County Superintendent of Schools.

RCBE also works with the Riverside County Superintendent of Schools and staff to offer the most effective educational programs possible to the students being served directly by RCOE.

For more information, contact individual trustees by visiting www.rcoe.us/rcbe.



**Kim Joseph Cousins, President
Trustee Area 1**

Serving the following districts:
Corona-Norco USD, Lake Elsinore USD (part),
Riverside USD (part)



**Ben Johnson II, Vice President
Trustee Area 2**

Serving the following districts:
Alvord USD, Jurupa USD, Riverside USD (part)



**Jamie Azpeitia-Sachs, Member
Trustee Area 3**

Serving the following districts:
Moreno Valley USD (part),
Riverside USD (part), Val Verde USD



**Bruce N. Dennis, Member
Trustee Area 4**

Serving the following districts:
Hemet USD, Menifee Union SD, Nuvview Union SD,
Perris Elementary SD, Perris Union High SD,
Romoland SD



**Ray "Coach" Curtis, Member
Trustee Area 5**

Serving the following districts:
Banning USD, Beaumont USD,
Moreno Valley USD (part), Palm Springs USD (part),
San Jacinto USD



**Elizabeth F. Romero, Member
Trustee Area 6**

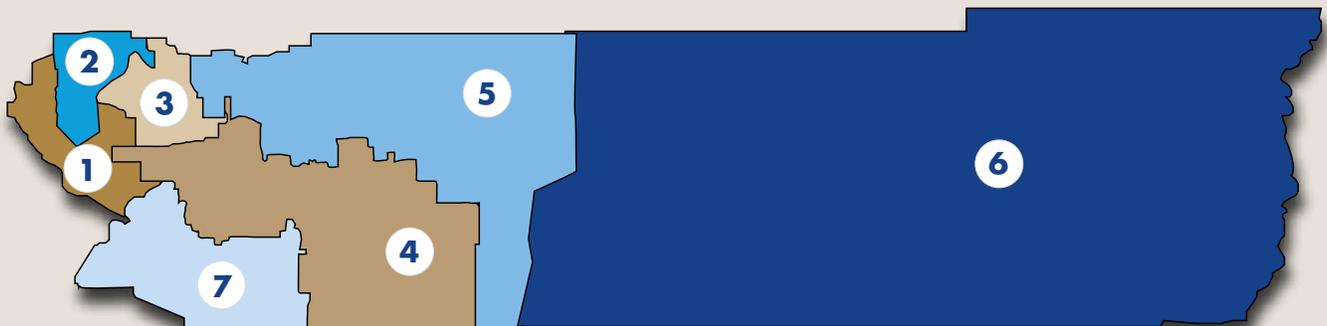
Serving the following districts:
Coachella Valley USD, Desert Center USD,
Desert Sands USD, Palm Springs USD (part),
Palo Verde USD



**Jennifer Mejares Pham, Member
Trustee Area 7**

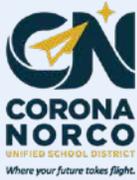
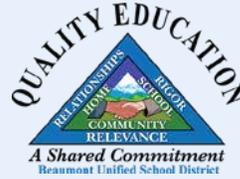
Serving the following districts:
Lake Elsinore USD (part), Murrieta Valley USD,
Temecula Valley USD

Trustee Areas



RIVERSIDE COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

PROVIDING *Extraordinary* SERVICE ACROSS THE COUNTY



By the Numbers

(2024-2025)

Student Enrollment

K-12 Students

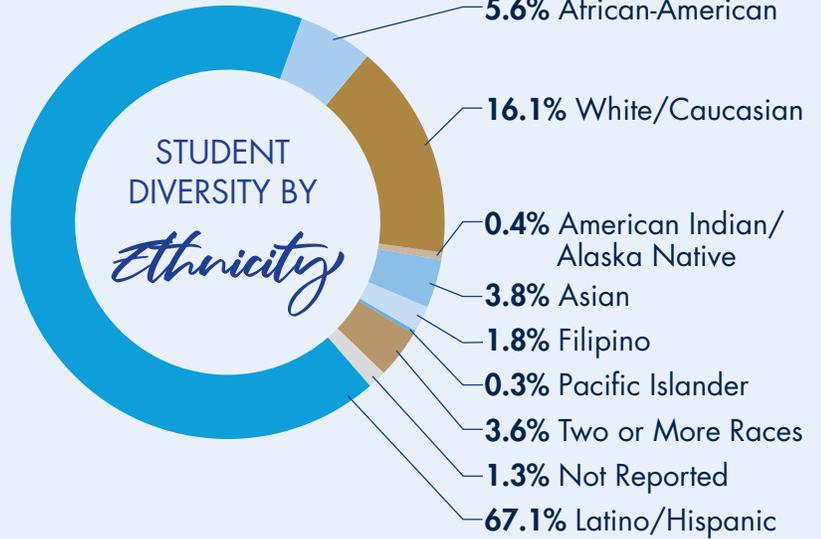


CALIFORNIA
5,806,221

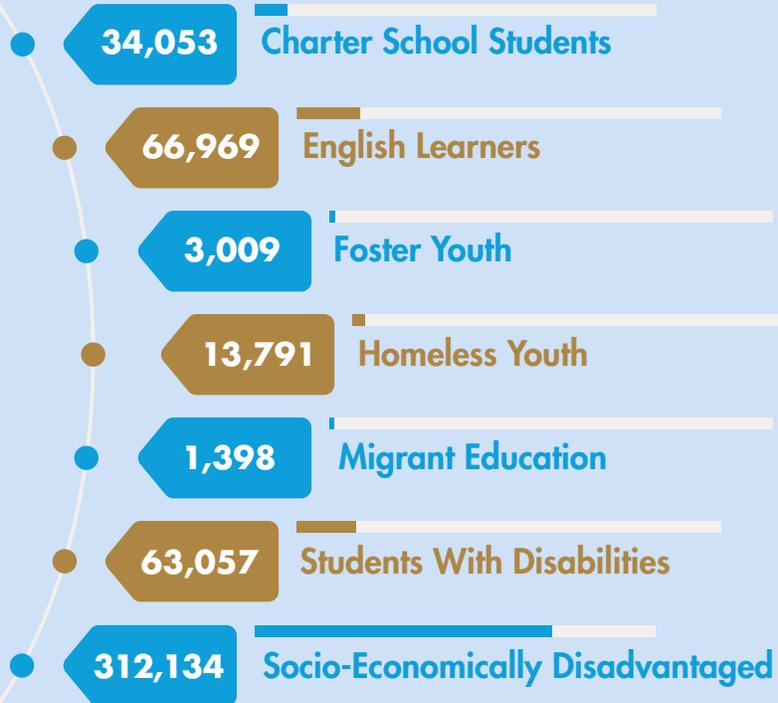
RIVERSIDE
419,992

(4th largest county, 7.23% of students in CA)

Student Diversity

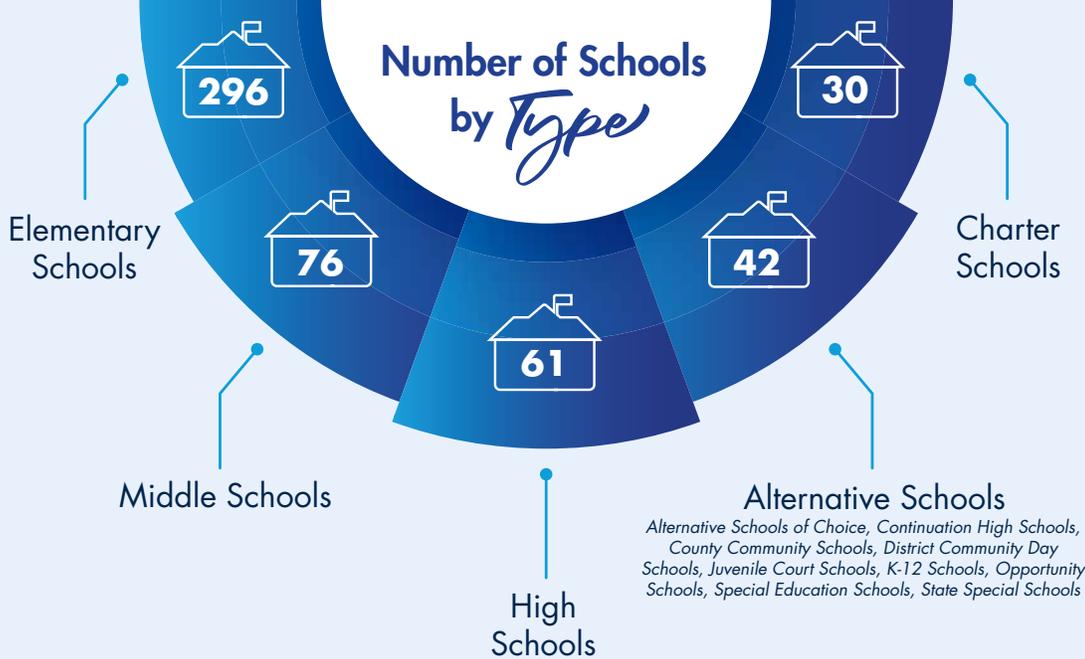


Student Groups



SOURCES:

Most recent information available from California Department of Education Dataquest, CALPADS, Ed-Data.org, Riverside County Office of Education



School Employees

21,213
Classified Employees

17,643
Full-Time Teachers

Student Performance

Graduation Rate

Class of 2025



The ten largest counties in California graduated 353,364 (71%) of all Class of 2025 graduates in California. Here is how Riverside County students performed compared to students in the ten largest counties in California.

RIVERSIDE: 93.2%

- Orange: 92.9%
- Alameda: 88.7%
- San Bernardino: 87.8%
- Los Angeles: 87.7%
- Kern: 87.6%
- Santa Clara: 87.4%
- San Diego: 86.3%
- Fresno: 86.2%
- Sacramento: 67.8%

WE'RE #1
HIGHEST GRADUATION RATE
among ten LARGEST COUNTIES in California



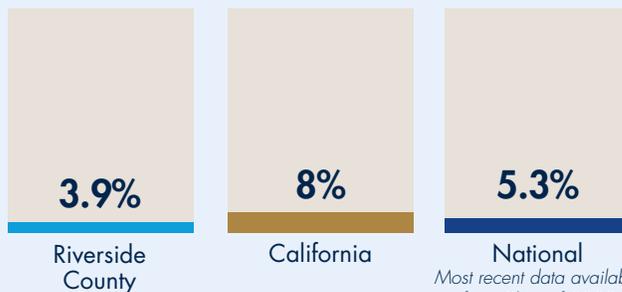
Of all the students who started high school in California in 2021, a total of 496,796 students graduated four years later in 2025—a statewide graduation rate of **87.5%**.



34,044 GRADUATES
in Riverside County

Dropout Rate

Class of 2025



- Sacramento: 26.5%
- Kern: 9.0%
- Los Angeles: 7.4%
- Santa Clara: 7.4%
- San Bernardino: 7.3%
- Fresno: 6.9%
- San Diego: 6.8%
- Alameda: 6.6%
- Orange: 4.2%

RIVERSIDE: 3.9%

WE'RE #1
LOWEST DROPOUT RATE
among ten LARGEST COUNTIES in California



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OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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