

BRIGGS

CONEJO VALLEY

FILLMORE

HUENEME

LAS VIRGENES

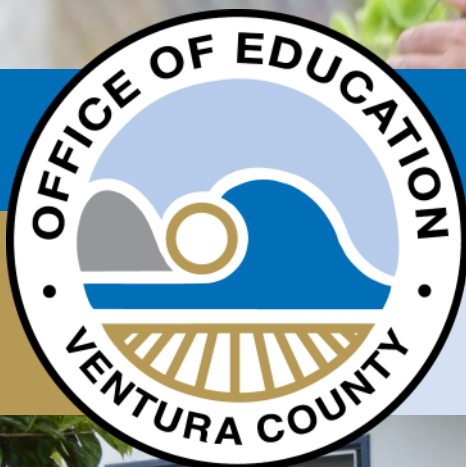
MESA

MOORPARK

MUPU

OAK PARK

OCEAN VIEW



2016 Ventura County

EDUCATION REPORT

TO THE COMMUNITY

OJAI

OXNARD

OXNARD UHSD

PLEASANT VALLEY

RIO

SANTA CLARA

SANTA PAULA

SIMI VALLEY

SOMIS

VENTURA



COMMITMENT TO QUALITY

What's Inside

A Message from Stan Mantooth Ventura County Superintendent of Schools

With a new school year under-way, there's much to be excited about in Ventura County public schools. Scores on the CAASPP state test are on the rise, funding for education is at a record high, more students are graduating and technology is opening limitless possibilities to teach and learn in innovative new ways.

In this report, we'll explore these successes and much more. You'll learn how Ventura County is modernizing its approach to career and technical education and also ensuring that our youngest children have quality learning opportunities in the critical early years. We'll show you how local school districts are getting more control over their spending and how a new accountability system will go

beyond test scores to provide a more complete picture of school performance.

We also look at local efforts to tackle some of education's top challenges, including a serious shortage of teachers, the need to provide equal opportunity to our county's diverse student population, and efforts to protect student privacy in the digital age.

The solutions aren't always easy, but there are more than 7,000 teachers, administrators and support personnel dedicated to finding them and to providing a quality education for all Ventura County students.



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EDUCATION FOR ALL



Enrollment by District

Ventura County 2015-16

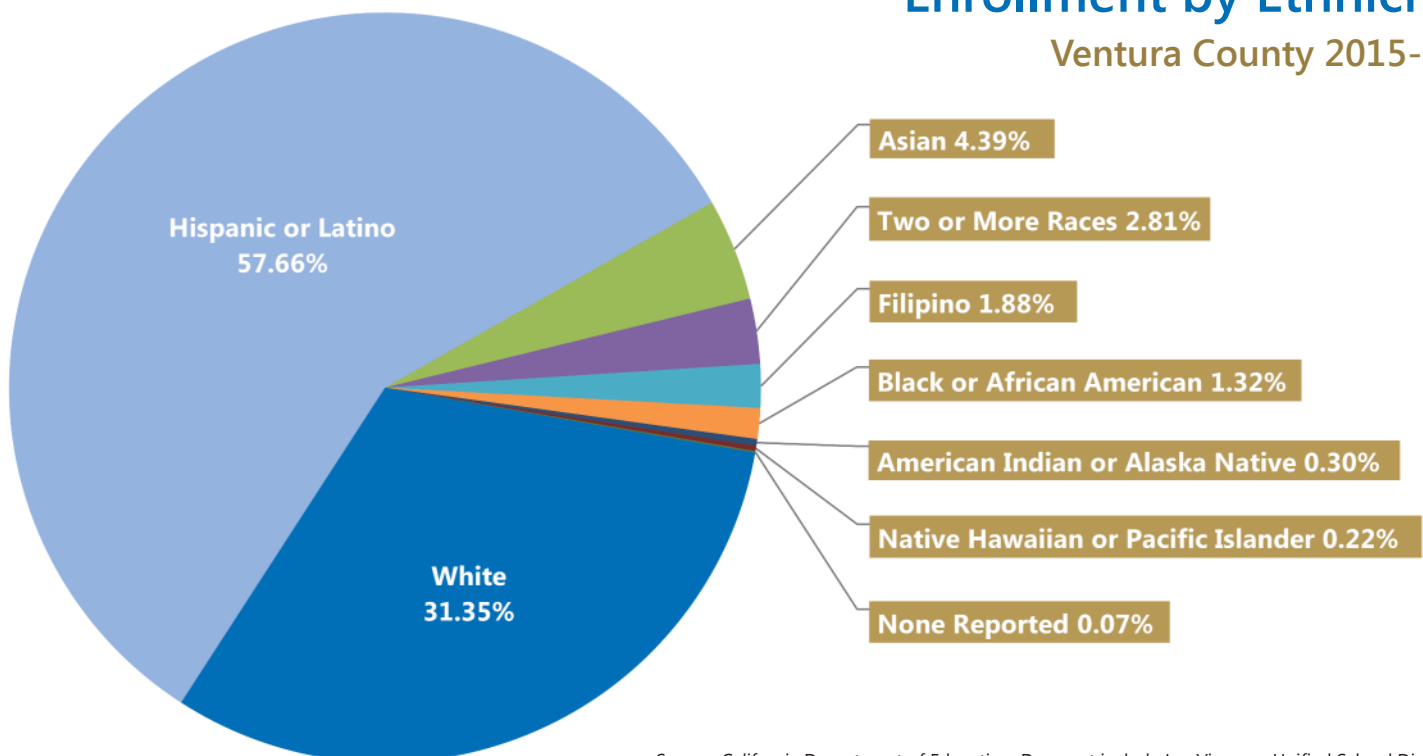
Briggs Elementary.....	575
Conejo Valley Unified.....	19,365
Fillmore Unified.....	3,757
Hueneme Elementary.....	8,458
Las Virgenes Unified*.....	11,374
Mesa Union Elementary.....	1,332
Moorpark Unified.....	6,599
Mupu Elementary.....	584
Oak Park Unified.....	4,638
Ocean View.....	2,717
Ojai Unified.....	2,639

Oxnard (K-8).....	16,918
Oxnard Union High.....	17,271
Pleasant Valley.....	7,388
Rio Elementary.....	5,026
Santa Clara Elementary.....	55
Santa Paula Unified.....	5,557
Simi Valley Unified.....	17,223
Somis Union.....	221
Ventura County Office of Education.....	3,100
Ventura Unified.....	17,125
TOTAL.....	151,922

* Las Virgenes Unified School District is based in Los Angeles County but includes a portion of Ventura County. The district receives support services from the Ventura County Office of Education.

Enrollment by Ethnicity

Ventura County 2015-16



Source: California Department of Education. Does not include Las Virgenes Unified School District.

Ventura County CAASPP Test Scores on the Rise

Ventura County scores improved on the statewide California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) test in the 2015-16 school year. Compared to the prior year, the number of Ventura County students meeting or exceeding the state standards increased by four percent in English language arts (ELA) and by two percent in math. The CAASPP test was introduced in 2014-15, making this the first time a year-to-year comparison is possible.

Ventura County scores were up in ELA and math for all but one ethnic group (ELA scores for African American students were unchanged) and all major subgroups, which include English learners and economically disadvantaged students. The percentage of Ventura County students who met or exceeded the standards for math and English language arts was one percent higher than the figures for the state of California as a whole. High school students had the highest ELA scores, while elementary school students performed the best in math.

"We are pleased to see steady incremental progress in the performance of Ventura County students on the CAASPP assessment," says Stan Mantooth, Ventura County Superintendent of Schools. "Some local districts saw double-digit increases in their scores, and we welcome the opportunity to learn from their success and share their best practices countywide."

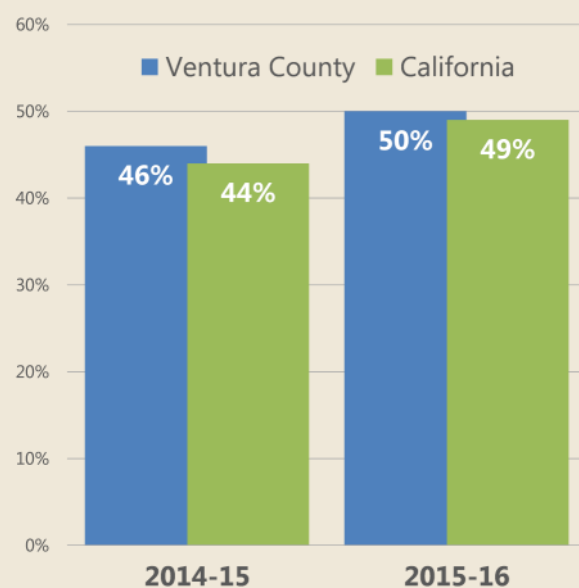
Also known as "Smarter Balanced," CAASPP is a computer-based test administered each spring in grades three through eight and grade eleven. The assessments are aligned to California's new state standards and feature more short answer and extended response questions that require a deeper understanding of key concepts. The test sets a high bar for students and scores are expected to keep increasing as schools continue their transition to the new standards.

See scores for individual schools and districts at:
caaspp.cde.ca.gov/sb2016/Search

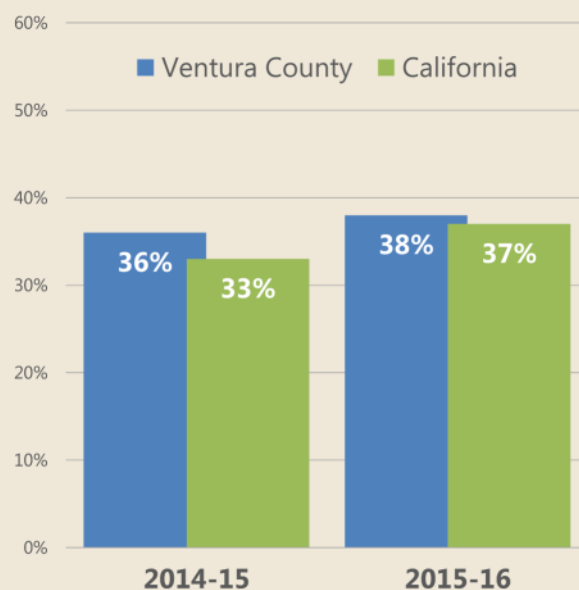
Test Scores at a Glance

The percentage of Ventura County students meeting or exceeding state standards in English language arts and math is up from the prior year and Ventura County students are outperforming their peers statewide.

English Language Arts



Math

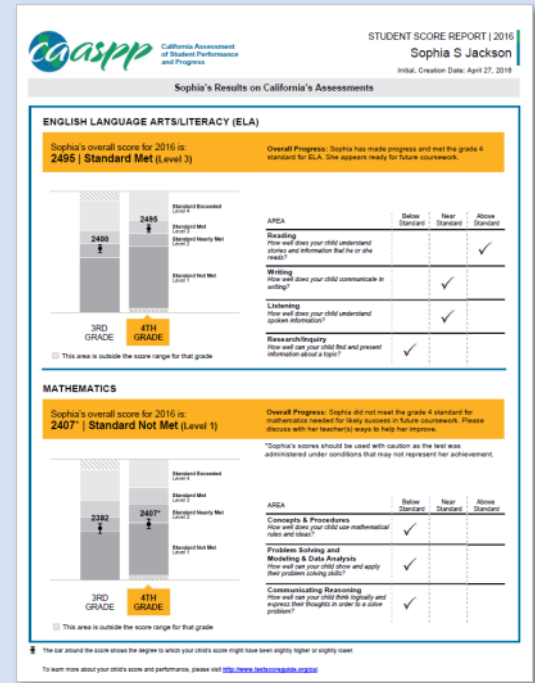


Source: California Department of Education. Includes Las Virgenes Unified School District.

Understanding Your Student's Scores

The customized Individual Student Reports mailed to parents are an important tool that can be used to help kids improve in the areas where they need it most. The reports provide a clear picture of how individual students performed in math and English language arts. The four categories of performance on the assessment are Standard Not Met, Standard Nearly Met, Standard Met and Standard Exceeded.

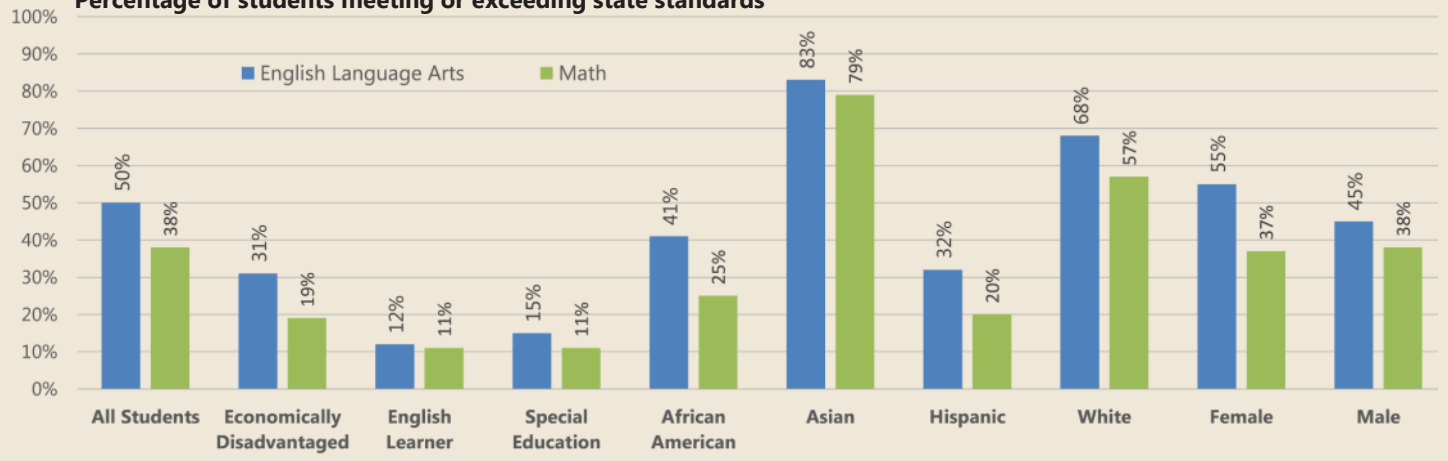
For the first time this year, parents will be able to see how their child's scores have progressed year to year. The reports also detail performance in seven key skill areas known as "claims" which include reading, writing, and math concepts and procedures. This information allows parents and teachers to identify the areas where students can use some extra help. Learn more about understanding and using CAASPP results at testscoreguide.org/ca.



Closing the Achievement Gap is High Priority

Test Scores by Subgroup - Ventura County 2015-16

Percentage of students meeting or exceeding state standards



Source: California Department of Education. Includes Las Virgenes Unified School District.

The new CAASPP test scores reveal that the achievement gap between various subgroups remains a persistent issue. Ventura County educators are working hard to reduce that gap with a variety of initiatives that focus on both educational opportunity and the social and emotional well-being of our students.

For example, expanded career and technical education courses are now designed for students whether or not

they are college-bound. VCOE also trains local teachers to address behavioral issues before they become obstacles to learning and provides special support programs for migrant, foster and homeless children.

These efforts are combined with a more equitable state funding formula and a school accountability system that's being updated to help give all students a better chance at success.

GRADUATION RATE

More Students Graduating, Fewer Dropping Out

Ventura County is seeing sustained improvement in its high school graduation and dropout rates. The graduation rate for the 2014-15 school year was 84.5 percent, which is up from 82.5 percent in 2012-13. Over the same period, the dropout rate has decreased from 10.6 percent to 8.3 percent.

Ventura County's graduation rate in 2014-15 exceeded the statewide rate of 82.3 percent. The County also saw a 2014-15 dropout rate which was better than the state figure of 10.7 percent.

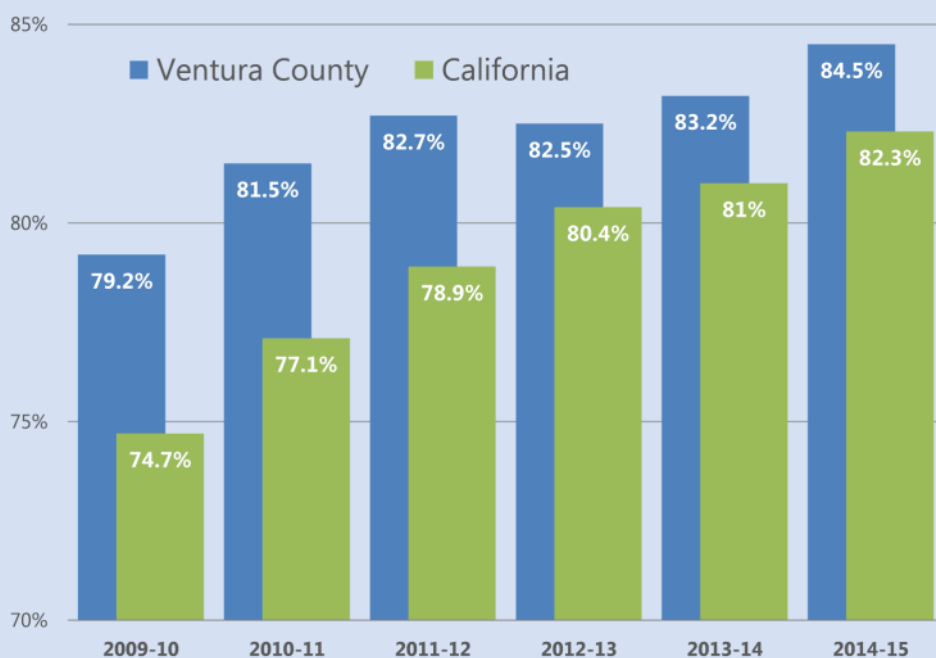
Both the Ventura County and statewide graduation rates are record highs in the six year period since the California Department of Education changed the method it uses to collect the data. The new method implemented for the 2009-10

school year follows the same groups of students, or cohorts, during the data collection period.

"These increases and improvements attest to the sustained efforts of our students, teachers, administrators, support staff, parents and communities in support of the success of every young person in Ventura County," says Ventura County Superintendent of Schools Stan Mantooth. "The leveraging of these collaborations as the future unfolds will ensure that the needle continues moving forward."

The figures also show that Ventura County graduation and dropout rates improved in 2014-15 for major subgroups including English learners, special education students and economically disadvantaged students.

Graduation Rate: 2009-10 to 2014-15



Source: California Department of Education

4.8%

increase in graduation rate
for Ventura County
ENGLISH LEARNERS
2012-13 to 2014-15

11.4%

increase in graduation rate
for Ventura County
**MIGRANT EDUCATION
STUDENTS**
2012-13 to 2014-15

Schools to be Evaluated on More than Test Scores

Testing is an important tool for evaluating performance, however, it doesn't tell the whole story about our schools. Many other factors can illuminate areas where schools are doing well and where they need to improve.

As a result, the State of California is in the final phase of developing a new school accountability system that looks at a variety of criteria, including:

- Graduation and suspension rates
- Chronic absenteeism
- Parent engagement
- School climate
- College and career readiness
- Proficiency for English learners

This new attention to "multiple measures" is the outgrowth of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act, which replaces the controversial No Child Left Behind Act. ESSA retains an emphasis on high-quality state assessments while expanding the types of measures states can consider in developing their own accountability systems.

"It moves us away from a program improvement model that was viewed as punitive," says Dr. Jane Wagmeister, VCOE Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction. "The new focus is on providing assistance and support and that's a big shift."

Wagmeister says the new system will help schools better address students' social and emotional needs to ensure they're ready to learn. It's also intended to make data about school performance more user-friendly for parents, students and educators. The new accountability system is slated to take effect in the 2017-18 school year.



New Science Standards for the Next Generation

Ventura County is at the forefront of California's effort to meet the growing emphasis on STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education by supporting the implementation of new state science standards.

California's Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) are designed to focus on real-world phenomena and hands-on learning to make science relevant to students' lives and help prepare them to fill the demand for careers in STEM fields.

The Ventura County Office of Education is

playing a key role in training teachers to maximize the resources available to them and in supporting the wider use of scientific and engineering principles in the classroom.

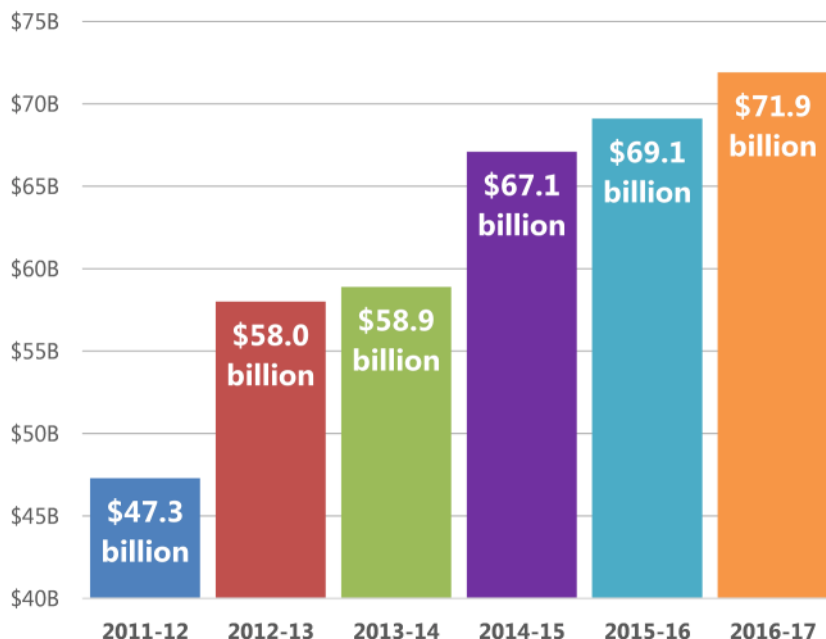
Statewide testing aligned to the new standards is being piloted this year. You can learn more about NGSS at goo.gl/1s9fAM.



State Education Funding Hits an All-Time High

For the sixth year in a row, the state of California is increasing the amount of money it dedicates to K-12 education. This school year, the state is allocating a record \$71.9 billion to public schools, an increase of \$24.6 billion since 2011.

The increase is possible thanks to growth in the state economy following the recession and the approval of proposition 30 in 2012. Proposition 30 temporarily raised the sales tax and increased income tax rates on wealthier taxpayers to provide more money for education.



Source: Office of Governor Edmund G. Brown

Local Districts Get More Control Over Spending

Ensuring that state education dollars are equitably distributed to local districts is the goal of a new funding allocation process that began in 2013. The Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) replaced a rigid and convoluted system of school funding that largely dictated what districts spent their money on.

“There were restricted funds designated for certain uses,” says Misty Key, VCOE Associate Superintendent of Fiscal and Administrative Services. “Districts that needed to spend money on something else often found they were unable to do so.”

The LCFF returns control to the local level by letting districts spend the money where it’s needed most. To ensure accountability, all districts must create an annual plan detailing their

services to students and how they will meet the state’s priorities. The plans also include ways to measure student progress. These “Local Control Accountability Plans” or LCAPs are based on extensive input from parents, teachers and other community stakeholders.

The LCFF aims to put districts on an even playing field by providing a consistent level of funding based on enrollment. It also standardizes the amount of money provided for English learners, students from low-income families and students in foster care.

The LCFF takes an important step toward reducing the achievement gap by ensuring students receive a consistent amount of state funding. The LCFF is being phased in over eight years and is on target to be fully implemented by 2021.

Severe Teacher Shortage Presents Opportunities

Just weeks before the start of the current school year, there were 66 unfilled teaching positions in Ventura County public schools and nearly 7,000 statewide. The numbers reflect a teacher shortage that presents a golden opportunity for people seeking education careers in the Golden State.

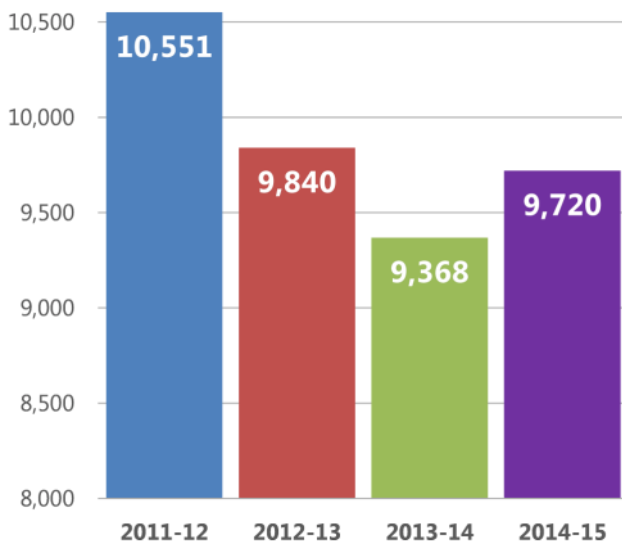
In a dramatic turnaround from the lean years of the recession, California schools now have money to hire teachers. While the number of people seeking teaching credentials is gradually increasing, it isn't keeping pace with the demand.

To fill the gap, some schools are forced to increase class sizes or hire teachers who aren't fully credentialed. Some local districts have even tried recruiting out of state. The need is most acute in specialized areas such as math, science and special education.

To address the problem, this year's state budget dedicates \$35 million to providing grants and in-

Teaching Our Teachers

Enrollment in UC and CSU Teacher Programs



Source: Learning Policy Institute - Addressing California's Emerging Teacher Shortage



centives aimed at recruiting teachers and streamlining teacher preparation programs. David Simmons, Assistant Superintendent of Personnel Services at VCOE says there's also a growing effort to keep experienced teachers from leaving the profession. "We do that by giving them a career ladder and supporting them with mentoring and training."

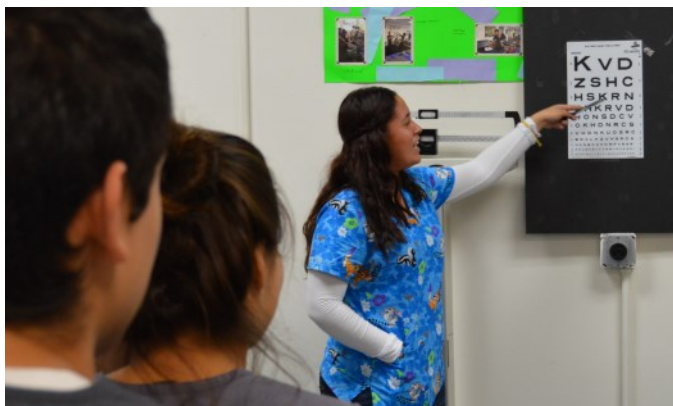
Kim Uebelhardt, VCOE's Executive Director of Teacher Support Services says Ventura County school districts are helping make it easier for new teachers by covering the cost of "induction" training, which is the last stage of the credentialing process.

A former teacher herself, Uebelhardt says the rewards that come from shaping young lives can't be matched. "It's the satisfaction of knowing you made a difference and that your students are going to make a difference and the cycle will continue. It's just so wonderful."

Learn more about starting a career in teaching at www.teachcalifornia.org.

Career Education Soaring to New Heights

Using drone technology to meet the demands of business is just one of the cutting edge skills Ventura County students are learning at the VCOE Career Education Center (CEC). The CEC represents a dramatic evolution from the old ROP vocational education model into a coordinated program that prepares students for careers *and* college.



CEC students have access to the latest technology, including a computer-controlled metalworking lab and a new state of the art flight simulation classroom.

Courses are now geared toward all students, whether or not they're headed to college. "Going to college isn't always the end goal, but having a career

is," says Dr. Tiffany Morse, VCOE's Executive Director of Career Education.

For students with college in their future, CEC offers more courses than ever that earn college credit. And most courses meet the "a-g" requirements for admission to UC and CSU schools.

More traditional courses such as auto repair and welding are still offered, but the focus has shifted to the technology that now drives these industries. Course offerings are constantly changing based on the needs of local business. The new high tech metalworking class, for example, is the result of a demand for workers certified to use the technology.

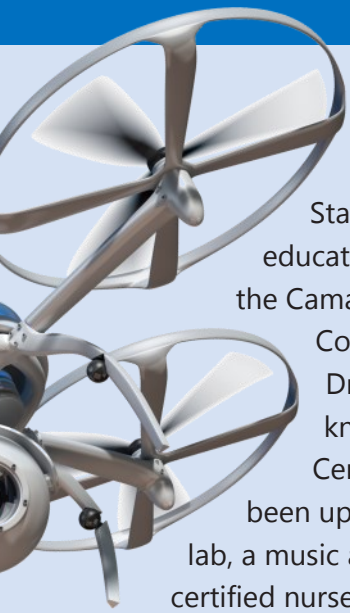
Many courses also include career search skills such as interviewing and résumé preparation so students are well-equipped to land that first job. To enroll, students should contact their school counselor.



Thousands of Ventura County middle and high school students are on pathways to careers from engineering to law enforcement thanks to an unprecedented collaboration known as VC Innovates. The program, operated by the Ventura County Office of Education, brings together educators and businesses to prepare students for high-demand careers in the local workforce.

With a structured series of courses, students gain skills to find jobs in sectors recognized as the economic drivers of our region, including information technology, health science, agriculture and energy. VC Innovates also coordinates networking and internship opportunities so students can learn directly from industry professionals and make contacts with future employers. Learn more at vcinnovates.org.





Moorpark Expansion Serves East County

Starting this school year, students in Moorpark and surrounding areas are able to take career education courses in their own backyard. In addition to serving students at its original campus near the Camarillo Airport, VCOE's Career Education Center is now offering classes at the former site of Community High School on Condor Drive in Moorpark. The school is now known as the Career Education Center Moorpark. The campus has been upgraded to include a digital media lab, a music and sound production lab, and a certified nurse assistant training facility.

The Moorpark Unified School District is partnering with VCOE in this effort through a multiyear lease agreement. The arrangement benefits the district, which gets additional programs and services for its students, while allowing CEC to operate at a second location.



Dedication of the new high-tech metal and woodworking lab at the CEC Camarillo campus

Cutting Edge Courses at CEC

Preparing Students for College & Career

- Computer Aided Drafting and Design
- Cyber Security
- Digital Video Production
- Engineering
- Game Design and Animation
- International Business
- Mobile Application Development
- Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Systems

See the full catalog at vcoe.org/cec

\$29.1

million dollars in
GRANTS EARNED
for Ventura County career
education since 2014

46

courses now earn
COLLEGE CREDIT
for students entering
UC or CSU schools

120

career education
PATHWAYS
created with local
community partners

1,711

Career Education Center
GRADUATES
received certificates
in 2015-16

Simi Teacher’s Dedication Earns Her Top Honor

A Simi Valley teacher who gives her all to her students and her colleagues is the 2016 Ventura County Teacher of the Year. Jamie Reese of Mountain View Elementary School in the Simi Valley Unified School District is the 44th teacher to receive the honor since it was first bestowed in 1973.

Reese has eight years of teaching experience and currently teaches kindergarten through third grade students with emotional disturbances. Mountain View principal Jennifer Goldman says Reese has distinguished herself in numerous ways. “It has been incredibly satisfying to watch her grow. Teachers go to her for tech guidance and curricular collaboration. Parents go to her for emotional support and advice on managing behaviors in the home. Students go to her for just about everything. Every time I turn around, Jamie is bringing something new to the table.”

Reese says her students are her inspiration and she works to build a bond with each one. “If a student doesn’t feel a connection with you, then nothing I have discussed will have impact or meaning for them,” she says. “Connection is the glue that allows everything else to come together for a student.”

Reese has also demonstrated leadership in integrating technology into the learning process. Through conferences such as the California Educational Technology Professionals Association (CETPA) and Computer Using Educators (CUE), she brings new ideas to her campus.

Additionally, Reese is helping advance the teaching profession by serving as a mentor for new teachers who are enrolled in VCOE’s training program for beginning teachers. She also runs a weekly chat session on Twitter where teachers from inside and outside her district come to discuss homework, student motivation, technology and more. Reese is now eligible to be considered for the 2017 California State Teacher of the Year award.



Past Ventura County Teachers of the Year

Year	Teacher	School	District
2015	Kathy Elliott	Pacific High School	Ventura Unified
2014	Lizabeth Hoppe	Blackstock Junior High School	Hueneme Elementary
2013	Laura Todis	Sierra High School	Fillmore Unified
2012	Sebastian De Clerck*	Ventura High School	Ventura Unified
2011	Peggy Walker	Newbury Park High School	Conejo Valley Unified

* 2013 State Teacher of the Year



Twenty-nine local elementary schools are being honored as 2016 Gold Ribbon Schools by the California Department of Education. The Gold Ribbon Awards recognize California schools that have made gains in implementing the academic content and performance standards adopted by the State Board of Education. These include the California Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics, California English Language Development Standards, and Next Generation Science Standards.

School	District	Principal
Acacia Elementary School	Conejo Valley Unified	Kirsten Walker
Arroyo West Active Learning Academy	Moorpark Unified	Angela Ryals
Berylwood Elementary School	Simi Valley Unified	Robin Hunter
Brookside Elementary School	Oak Park Unified	Sara Ahl
Camarillo Academy of Progressive Ed.	Oxnard Union High	Doreen Learned/Maryellen Lang
Campus Canyon College Prep. Academy	Moorpark Unified	Elizabeth Brown
Chaparral Elementary School	Las Virgenes Unified	Stephanie Brazell
Conejo Elementary School	Conejo Valley Unified	Kari Taketa
E.P. Foster School	Ventura Unified	Carlos Covarrubias
Garden Grove Elementary School	Simi Valley Unified	Martha Feinstein
Glenwood Elementary School	Conejo Valley Unified	Vivian Vina
Juan Lagunas Soria School	Oxnard (K-8)	Aracely Fox
La Mariposa School	Pleasant Valley	Kelly M. Borchard
Ladera Elementary School	Conejo Valley Unified	Lori Wall
Laguna Vista School	Ocean View	Antoinette Dodge
Lupin Hill Elementary School	Las Virgenes Unified	Sheila J Grady
Maple Elementary School	Conejo Valley Unified	Dr. Juan Manuel Santos
Oak Hills Elementary School	Oak Park Unified	Erik Waren
Park View Elementary School	Simi Valley Unified	Erin Taggart
Peach Hill Academy	Moorpark Unified	Vicky Yasenchok
Red Oak Elementary School	Oak Park Unified	Jon Duim
Round Meadow Elementary School	Las Virgenes Unified	Jeremy Resnick
Somis Elementary School	Somis Union	Dr. Colleen Robertson
Sunset Elementary School	Ventura Unified	Kelsie Sims-Schneider
Township Elementary School	Simi Valley Unified	Lori Neiman
Vista Elementary School	Simi Valley Unified	Julie Ellis
White Oak Elementary School	Las Virgenes Unified	Eric Anhalt
Willow Elementary School	Las Virgenes Unified	Dr. Jessica L. Kiernan
Yerba Buena Elementary School	Las Virgenes Unified	Dr. Erin Roderick

STUDENT COMPETITIONS

These popular countywide competitions provide engaging hands-on learning opportunities to students throughout Ventura County. To find out how your student or school can participate, visit vcoe.org/competitions or contact VCOE Student Competitions at 805-437-1502.

Robotics - The VEX Robotics Competition, presented by the Robotics Education & Competition Foundation, lets middle and high school students learn engineering skills while having a great time. Each year, an engineering challenge is presented in the form of a game. Students, with guidance from their teachers and mentors, build innovative robots designed to score the most points possible in exciting qualification matches, elimination matches and skills challenges.



Academic Decathlon - The Academic Decathlon is a scholastic competition for teams of high school students. The events include written exams in art, economics, literature, math, music, social science and science. In addition, students deliver speeches, write essays and participate in conversational interviews. Westlake High School was the winner of the 2016 county competition and local teams have gone on to win the National Academic Decathlon in 2009, 2008, 2003 and 1999.

Mock Trial - Mock Trial lets students assume the roles of lawyers and witnesses and stage a trial in a real courtroom in front of an actual Superior Court judge. Local attorneys volunteer to score their performance. Participants learn about the judicial system while developing public speaking and presentation skills. Adolfo Camarillo High School was the winner of the 2016 Ventura County Mock Trial. Ventura County schools have been honored as State Mock Trial champions four times since 2008.



Science Fair - With categories from animal sciences to physics, the Ventura County Science Fair rewards the achievements of our students in various scientific fields. By developing skills in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), students are laying the groundwork for their future success. The 2016 science fair featured 796 entries from 1,093 Ventura County middle and high school students. Awards were presented to 148 students in 13 different categories.

Robotics	Saturday, November 5, 2016	Ventura County Office of Education
Academic Decathlon	Saturday, February 4, 2017	Pacifica High School
Mock Trial	Monday, February 27 – Thursday, March 2, 2017	Ventura County Superior Court
Science Fair	Friday, March 24, 2017	Ventura County Fairgrounds

Parents Key to Helping Kids Excel in School

A growing body of research confirms what many parents instinctively know — active involvement of family members in a child’s education greatly improves their odds of success in school and in life. That’s why school districts are now required by the state to set annual goals for increasing parent involvement.

Claudia Frandsen, who oversees VCOE’s family engagement programs, says schools are increasing their efforts to make parents partners in their child’s education in ways that go beyond running bake sales and chaperoning dances.

Many schools are now seeking parent input on everything from lesson plans to budgets. “Schools are moving away from the old fortress mentality,” Frandsen says. “They’re inviting parents on campus to share concerns and become part of the solution.”

At home, parents can build learning opportunities into everyday activities. Shopping, for example, can be a great chance to teach your kids about math. Or if you’ll be visiting the zoo, read a book to your child about animals before you go.

Learn about ways to become more engaged with your child’s education at vcoe.org/engage.



Schools and Families Working Together to Increase Engagement

Ventura County educators are strengthening partnerships with parents to get them more connected with what’s happening in their children’s schools. By working together at a deeper level, schools and families can enhance educational opportunities for students. Here are some steps schools are taking to involve families and ways parents can be more engaged with education at home.

What Schools Can Do

- Solicit input from families
- Provide training on curricular and budgetary decision-making
- Create parent centers at school sites
- Celebrate families and the assets they bring to schools
- Provide information on expectations and standards
- Inform families about student progress

What Families Can Do

- Provide quiet space for homework
- Limit TV watching and video games
- Read out loud to your child
- Talk about the importance of learning
- Respond to school surveys
- Communicate with teachers
- Talk about college and careers
- Help organize homework
- Link learning to current events

Source: California Department of Education Family Engagement Framework: A Tool for California School Districts

Helping Migrant, Homeless and Foster Kids Succeed

Imagine trying to succeed in school if you had no bed to sleep in or no one to call mom or dad. Imagine trying to focus on your education if your family was constantly on the move or if you were a teen parent. These are realities for thousands of Ventura County students, and helping them overcome their unique challenges is the job of VCOE's Special Populations Department.

The department coordinates with local schools and districts to provide tutoring, counseling and teacher training to help students stay in school and earn their diplomas.

One program is geared toward children of migrant farm workers, who often move multiple times during a typical school year. "They will not succeed in school if they don't receive the extra help," says department director Joe Mendoza. "They come after school and on Saturdays to learn English so they can keep up with what's going on in the classroom." There are currently about 140,000 students in the program statewide. The numbers are declining as crossing the border has become riskier and more expensive.

One of the other special populations is increasing in size. A 2014 report on homelessness in Ventura County found 6,544 homeless students in local schools, which was up four percent from the prior year.

For children in foster care, one of the key goals is ensuring they don't have to change schools once they enter the system. A new software program that makes it easier for the juvenile court to match kids with foster families in their neighborhoods is expected to help.

Since he started working with at-risk kids in the 1970s, Mendoza has seen many success stories. "We have doctors, lawyers and principals who are former migrants," he says. "I can attest to the fact that the program is a success."



Student Worked the Fields While Pursuing College Dreams

While many of his peers were filling their weekends with sports and friends, Rio Mesa High School graduate Jose Luis Mendoza didn't often have that luxury. Instead, he worked grueling ten hour shifts picking crops. "It's really hard because it's like a race. You want to earn a lot and you want to beat those who are faster than you," he says.

When he was eleven years old, Jose Luis's family came to Oxnard from a remote village in the Mexican state of Oaxaca. Adapting to school wasn't easy because English isn't his second language, it's his third. He grew up speaking an indigenous Mixtec dialect before learning Spanish and then English.

Jose Luis says picking crops motivated him to dedicate himself to school and expand his opportunities. He also received extra tutoring and guidance from the Migrant Education Program.

Now attending CSU East Bay in northern California, Jose Luis plans to study environmental science. He dreams of returning to his village in Oaxaca to help the people there build better and more prosperous lives.



Courtesy: Fettlemap/Wikimedia

Expanding Access to Preschool and Child Care



High quality early education programs can set the stage for a lifetime of learning and success. And as the demand for preschool and child care continues to rise in Ventura County, VCOE is working to make it available to more families.

A 2015 study conducted by the Local Planning Council of Ventura County found that 29 percent of families are unable to find child care for their children who are five and younger. “We experienced significant cuts during the recession and now we’re looking to restore the spaces that were lost,” says Carrie Murphy, Director of Early Childhood Programs at VCOE. The 2016-17 state budget allocates \$100 million to create nearly 9,000 new full-day preschool slots statewide over four years.

It’s not only about getting a child into a program, but ensuring the programs are doing a good job. That’s why VCOE is implementing the Rising Stars Quality Rating and Improvement System, which assesses programs and assigns them one to five stars. The ratings are based on criteria such as staff training, adult-child interactions, and adult-to-child ratios. The ratings show Ventura County is home to many well-run programs, with 95 percent of rated sites earning scores of three stars or more.

Transitional Kindergarten

A new option for early childhood education is Transitional Kindergarten or TK. It’s actually a new grade level in California that’s open to four-year-olds with birthdays between September 2 and

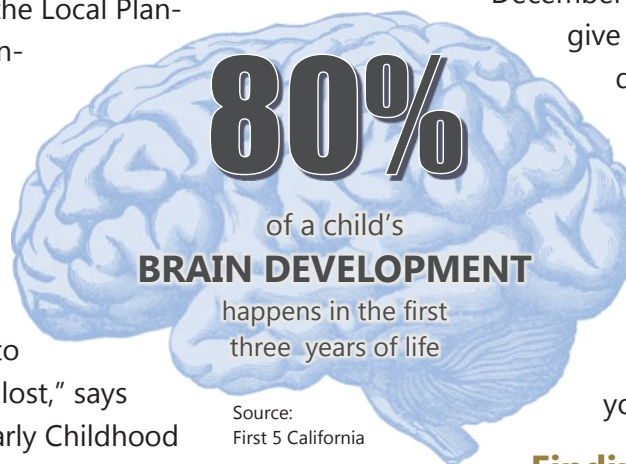
December 2 in most cases. TK programs give these children an extra year of developmentally appropriate education that bridges the gap between preschool and traditional kindergarten.

TK programs are in place at your local school district. You can learn more about them on your district’s website.

Finding a Program

To locate an early childhood learning program or child care center in your area, call Child Development Resources at 805-485-7878, ext. 1512 or visit goo.gl/zDPbkx.

First 5 Ventura County coordinates a variety of additional programs for young children and parents. They’ve established eleven “Neighborhoods for Learning” throughout the county that provide services to promote health and early learning in the first years of life. You can find your local Neighborhood for Learning on the First 5 website at first5ventura.org or by calling 211.



Protecting Student Privacy in the Digital World

The use of technology in Ventura County schools is growing at lightning speed. In many schools, past efforts to keep technology tightly locked down are giving way to the understanding that today's digital tools have a vital educational role to play.

But as more students are given online accounts and digital devices in class and use their cell phones for school work, the risk of their personal data being misused increases.

e-Safety Task Force

To help address the problem, the Ventura County Office of Education created an e-Safety Task Force that includes representatives from every local school district and is charged with creating safe digital environments for students.

One of the goals is to standardize the way that apps and web-based tools are evaluated for privacy practices before they are used in the classroom.

As a result of VCOE's leadership, California has joined a group of other states and school districts in the Student Data Privacy Consortium. The consortium is working with software vendors to ensure their privacy policies and practices conform to the various state and federal laws intended to protect students. The result will be a public database where teachers and parents can

easily access a list of apps and websites that are in compliance.

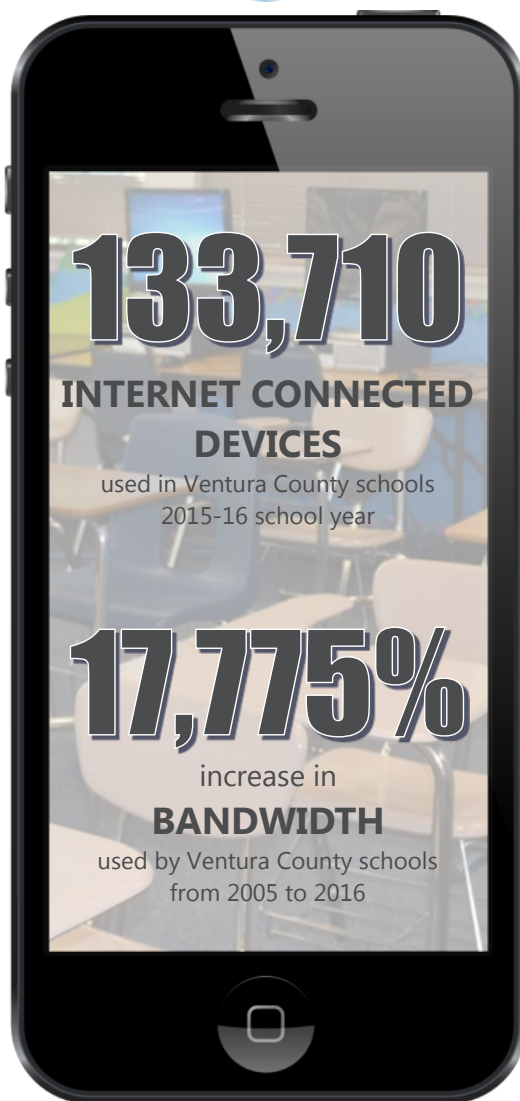
VCOE's Chief Technology Officer Steve Carr says major software vendors are starting to get the message. "It's really exciting to see them coming to the table, updating their privacy policies and making sure that they're not mining the data inappropriately for financial gain."

Digital Citizenship

Another important priority is teaching students to be good citizens of the digital world. That means helping kids build a solid ethical foundation about the appropriate ways to integrate technology into their education and their lives.

Digital citizenship encompasses important skills such as avoiding cyberbullying, respecting intellectual property and protecting personal information.

"It's also about building awareness," Carr says. "And making sure that people understand when they sign up for something online and click that little check box about the terms that we know what we're agreeing to."



Source: VCOE Technology Services Department

More information about the Ventura County e-Safety Task Force can be found at vcoe.org/esafety.

Local Partners Help Complete the Education Puzzle

Providing a quality K-12 education for Ventura County's diverse student population is a big job, but local school districts aren't in it alone. These are some of the many partners that provide invaluable services and support to help ensure students succeed in school and are well-prepared to enter college or the workforce.



Channel Islands CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

The CSU Channel Islands (CI) School of Education prepares teachers, education specialists, and administrators through credential and masters programs, and its newly launched Collaborative Online Doctorate in Educational Leadership degree with Fresno State. CI partners with VCOE and many of the County's schools to bring innovative programs to teachers and students alike.

California Lutheran UNIVERSITY

At its Graduate School of Education, California Lutheran University is training the next generation of educators, many of whom will start careers in local schools. Based in Thousand Oaks, the school is known for maintaining close ties with area schools and districts and is well-poised to help place newly trained teachers, counselors and administrators in positions at Ventura County schools.

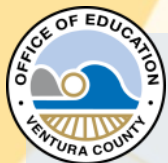


With research showing that 80 percent of brain development happens in the first three years of life, First 5 partners with families, school districts, government and community agencies and businesses to promote school readiness. Investing in health, early learning and family strengthening programs through countywide Neighborhoods for Learning, First 5 sets the stage for a lifetime of learning.



Ventura County Community College District

The Ventura County Community College District works closely with local schools and VCOE to help put students on a pathway to a college education or a rewarding career. VCCCD is a lead agency in VC Innovates, that unites educators and businesses to provide career education. VCCCD also offers dual and concurrent enrollment opportunities so students can take college courses while still in high school.



Ventura County Office of Education

With services ranging from teacher training to payroll processing to providing internet connectivity, VCOE plays a vital role in supporting every school in each Ventura County school district. VCOE also operates specialty schools for students with disabilities and behavioral issues, provides career education, curriculum support and coordinates countywide competitions including Mock Trial and the Science Fair.



Ventura County P-20 Council

Unique to Ventura County, this collaborative effort brings together key decision-makers in education, business and government. The council works to advance academic achievement and eliminate the achievement gap at all levels of education from pre-school (P) through college (20). The council provides grant funding, supports mentoring programs and promotes college and career readiness.

Ventura County Office of Education

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Ventura County School Districts

District	Superintendent	Phone	Website
Briggs Elementary	Deborah Cuevas	805-525-7540	www.briggssed.org
Conejo Valley Unified	Dr. Ann Bonitatibus	805-497-9511	www.conejousd.org
Fillmore Unified	Dr. Adrian Palazuelos	805-524-6000	www.fillmoreusd.org
Hueneme Elementary	Dr. Christine Walker	805-488-3588	www.huensd.k12.ca.us
Las Virgenes Unified	Dr. Dan Stepenosky	818-880-4000	www.lvusd.org
Mesa Union Elementary	Jeff Turner	805-485-1411	www.mesaschool.org
Moorpark Unified	Dr. Kelli Hays	805-378-6300	www.mrpk.org
Mupu Elementary	Sheryl Barnd	805-525-6111	www.mupu.k12.ca.us
Oak Park Unified	Dr. Tony Knight	818-735-3200	www.oakparkusd.org
Ocean View	Dr. Craig Helmstedter	805-488-4441	www.oceanviewsd.org
Ojai Unified	Dr. Henry Bangser	805-640-4300	www.ojai.k12.ca.us
Oxnard (K-8)	Dr. Cesar Morales	805-385-1501	www.oxnardsd.org
Oxnard Union High	Dr. Penelope DeLeon	805-385-2500	www.ouhsd.k12.ca.us
Pleasant Valley	Dr. Angelica Ramsey	805-482-2763	www.pvsd.k12.ca.us
Rio Elementary	Dr. John Puglisi	805-485-3111	www.rioschools.org
Santa Clara Elementary	Kari Skidmore	805-525-4573	www.scesd.k12.ca.us
Santa Paula Unified	Alfonso Gamino	805-933-8800	www.santapaulaunified.org
Simi Valley Unified	Dr. Jason Peplinski	805-306-4500	www.simi.k12.ca.us
Somis Union	Dr. Colleen Robertson	805-386-8258	www.somisusd.org
Ventura Unified	Dr. Michael Babb	805-641-5000	www.venturausd.org

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