



# CALIFORNIA COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS

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## TAKE 5 BRIGHT SPOTS & PROMISING PRACTICES

NOVEMBER 2023

Take 5! is a monthly spotlight of *promising practices* happening at county offices of education throughout the state, rotating the five that are featured and the focus areas covered. The map coordinates with the location of the stories featured this month from across our state. You can view past *bright spots* by clicking the link at the bottom of this page.



### Early Literacy

In an effort to improve early literacy for Lake County's children and help prepare them for kindergarten, the **Lake County Office of Education** has sent out over 200,000 books to children ages 0-5 since they began participating in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in 2012. Imagination Library is a book gifting program that mails free, high-quality books to children from birth until their 5th birthday, no matter their family's income. Imagination Library provides 2,300 books to Lake County children every month.

[Learn More Here](#)



### Severe Multiple Disabilities Program

The **Placer County Office of Education (PCOE)** Severe Multiple Disabilities (SMD) program is a specifically designed instructional program for students who are medically fragile and/or severely medically disabled (SMD). Serving students from preschool through 22 years of age, take a look inside the PCOE SMD classroom located at Twelve Bridges High School in Lincoln, CA to see augmentative communication supports, physical and occupational therapy, and medical assistance for feeding, orientation and

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mobility – and a lot of love, compassion and care from highly-trained and dedicated staff.

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3

### Student Mural Unveiled

The **San Mateo County Office of Education** unveiled its student mural celebrating student voice and honoring former Congresswoman Jackie Speier and County Supervisor Don Horsley for their unwavering support for youth and their leadership on behalf of safe and supportive schools and communities. The mural, which was conceived earlier this year and created by students in collaboration with muralist Pedro Rivas Lopez, depicts students and families amid local landmarks and elements that reflect a diverse and vibrant community. "I think the beautiful thing about the mural is that it really reflects children's hopes and dreams. They continue to inspire us and remind us about what they think is possible," shared San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools Nancy Magee.

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4

### Overnight Coding Event for Students

Coming up in January, **Ventura County Office of Education** will be hosting students who will be staying up all night working on high-tech projects at the 2024 Hackathon by the Sea. At this fun, free event, teams of high schoolers put their heads together to create apps and websites that address problems in our community and our world. After burning the midnight oil, they will present their projects in a Shark Tank-type competition in hopes of winning the top prize. Last year's event had more than 100 students from 40 different high schools come together to "hack" with industry experts who served as mentors.

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5

### What's in the DNA of a STEM School?

When a school district decides to designate an elementary school as a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)-focused campus, what does that mean? What does it look like inside the

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classroom? What changes for students and educators on campus? These questions and more, were being asked of educators at the **Riverside County Office of Education** (RCOE) over the years without a formal pathway to follow.

After multiple years of collaboration with higher education partners, business leaders, and educators, a framework emerged. Now, a partnership with Carnegie Science Center and the Coachella Valley Unified School District has put the plans into action at multiple schools.

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