



# CALIFORNIA COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS

PROMOTE | INFLUENCE | ADVOCATE



TAKE

5

BRIGHT SPOTS & PROMISING PRACTICES

MAY 2024

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.

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## California Multi-Tiered System of Support

The Orange County Department of Education and the Butte County Office of Education are once again teaming up to host the annual California Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) Professional Learning Institute. The three-day event will bring together educators, administrators, school counselors, psychologists, mental health clinicians, district leaders, county education leaders, higher education faculty and community-based organizations to support inclusive and equitable learning environments.

The 2024 PLI theme, “Inspire, Innovate and Thrive,” emphasizes promoting excellence, equity and access for all learners through the California MTSS framework. Participants will engage in professional learning specifically designed to achieve these outcomes.

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2

## Preparing Students for Growing Cybersecurity Field

Lake County Office of Education has taken the lead in spearheading the Rural Math

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Collaborative (RMC), aimed at bolstering the foundation of math education in 22 rural counties across the state. This initiative seeks to empower educators in rural and remote areas where access to quality math instruction is often limited. Key components of the Rural Math Collaborative include ongoing, high-quality professional development, coaching, Professional Learning Networks (PLNs) dedicated to mathematics instruction, and targeted interventions tailored to the unique challenges faced by small, rural support providers.

Counties involved in this grant include: Butte, Glenn, Inyo, Lassen, Modoc, Mono, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama, Colusa, Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino, Nevada, Plumas, Sutter, Trinity, Yolo and Yuba.



### Foster Youth

For the last 30 years, Placer County has had an integrated System of Care structure that supports consistent and effective collaboration among county partners serving children and their families. These partners include the Placer County Superior Court, Health and Human Services, Child Welfare, Children’s Mental Health, Juvenile Probation, and the **Placer County Office of Education (PCOE)**. This collaboration benefits all students and families, but especially children who are in foster care.

PCOE operates the local Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program (FYSCP), linking local school districts and Children’s System of Care (which includes Child Welfare) in order to support and advocate for system-involved students. A unique and critical component of Placer’s FYSCP is the *handle with care* notifications. All PCOE FYSCP staff receive Detention Info Sheets, distributed within 24 hours of child welfare taking custody of a child or opening a non-detained case. The assigned PCOE educational case manager immediately sends a *handle with care* notification email to the Foster Youth District Liaison of the school(s) attended by the students, to ensure trauma-informed care in the days

[Learn More Here](#)

ahead.



## Equity and Wellbeing

The Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), in partnership with CalHope, hosted their inaugural two-day Equity and Wellbeing Conference on May 16 and 17. The free conference was at capacity and focused on empowering L.A. County educators with resources for greater equity in classrooms and highlighting the importance of wellness and the wellbeing of educators and students.

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The conference had a variety of powerful keynote speakers that talked about the need to embrace equity, diversity and inclusion in our schools. The conference also had a reflective message that encouraged attendees to look inward to the type of educator we want to be and the educator our students need. Of the 40+ percent of conference attendees who completed the feedback survey 98 percent agreed that they left the conference enlightened, motivated, inspired and better equipped to serve students.



## Alternative Education/Social and Emotional Learning

The Hershey Heartwarming Project, in collaboration with Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE) Alternative Education, is making significant strides in enhancing the social and emotional well-being of youth through meaningful community engagement and empathy-driven initiatives. This project underscores the powerful impact of nurturing key social and emotional skills among young people, particularly those in alternative education settings.

[Learn More Here](#)

Behavioral health therapists have worked closely with students to deepen their understanding of empathy and inclusivity. One notable initiative involved students providing blankets to Harrison House, part of Safehouse. This activity not only supported the shelter but also educated the

students about the services offered there, enhancing their awareness and sense of community responsibility. These experiences are cultivating environments where empathy, connection, and proactive community service are at the forefront. These efforts not only improve immediate youth outcomes but also equip students with the emotional and social tools necessary to lead fulfilling lives.

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