

# Student Support and Resilience During a Global Pandemic

## 2020-2021 Santa Cruz COE Annual Report

In March 2020 the Governor declared a State of Emergency. During the pandemic it was unclear the extent of the danger and the length of the crisis. At the end of 2019-2020 and the 2020-2021 school year we spent most of our efforts partnering and aligning with all districts, charter leaders, private leaders, community healthcare providers, teachers, and other community partners. Through global health crisis, fires, and a movement for racial justice, this journey framed so many of our decisions.



### 2020 SPRING

#### 500+ Teachers

Trained in online learning theories, practices, and tools  
Distance Learning Resources

#### 1,000 Attendees

Hosted Leadership Summit on distance learning • Hired a distance learning teacher to support educators

Internet and food distribution  
Food Distribution Locations

Developed workspace safety protocols for schools  
Restore

### 2020 SUMMER

### 2020 FALL

#### 400 Attendees

Hosted Distance Learning Bootcamp for teachers

Engaged countywide mental health and Public Health to inform school personnel on implications towards school reopening

Support during CZU fires providing classroom space and resources for families affected as well as other services

#### 200 Hours Teacher Training

Series of trainings around student personalization to support students with disabilities and different learning needs and book study around lesson design

Opened up surveillance testing system in partnership with Stanford and California Valencia Labs

### 2020 WINTER

### 2021 SPRING

#### 400 Leaders Attended

Held 2nd Distance Learning Leadership Summit for educational leaders with Google and CDW-G

Developed Reopening Schools Framework in partnership with all 10 school districts

Supported PPE distribution and safety supplies to all districts focused on reopening

Partnered with Dignity/Dominican, County Public Health, Safeway, and Rite Aid.

Developed hybrid professional learning series for teachers

Expanded vaccine distribution to childcare, community member, Cabrillo, educational partners, and students 12 and over

#### 1st County in Bay Area to offer vaccinations to the entire K-12 community.

### 2021 GRADUATIONS

Worked to support and hold safe in-person and online graduations for students



### Partnerships

Education works best in partnerships with local agencies and the larger community. The Santa Cruz COE has worked to strengthen and continue to develop partnerships to support the education of our community from birth through career.

#### This year has strengthened our Collaborations

- Schools: School Districts & Charter Schools, Private Schools
- Health Care: Pediatricians, Dominican/Dignity, Salud Para la Gente, Santa Cruz Health Centers, Santa Cruz Public Health
- Tech Access: Santa Cruz Community Foundation, Cruzio, Santa Cruz Works
- Government: City, County Agencies, Fire and Law Enforcement



10

Districts

81

Schools

15

Charter Schools

50+

Private Schools, Childcare Centers, and Youth Community Service Centers

### Academic Data

The core of the work was ensuring students were provided access to core curriculum to minimize learning disruptions.

12%

Kinder Enrollment Declines

2%

Student Enrollment Declines Across County

#### SANTA CRUZ COE SUPPORT

- Increased tutoring and digital access
- Added counseling staff
- Created independent student support programs online across county
- Outreach to families to ensure enrollment for 2021-2022
- Created Internet hubs of support
- Increased Professional Development support for all schools in the county
- Developed online academic competitions and student events

### Access to Technology

The need for technology and connectivity was foundational for the continuity of learning. The Santa Cruz COE supported these efforts across the county through the Digital Equity Initiative and professional learning opportunities.

#### Digital Equity Initiative

18%

SPRING 2020 of students had no connectivity before pandemic

3%

SPRING 2021 of students had no connectivity

Increased connectivity rate through hotspot distribution and partnership with local Internet Service Provider, Cruzio through the Equal Access Santa Cruz County

### Health and Safety

The Santa Cruz COE took a leading role in supporting students and staff through surveillance testing, vaccine clinics, and distribution of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). The COE also became the liaison between county public health and the California Department of Public Health.

14,000

Vaccinated through Santa Cruz COE support

8% of Santa Cruz County

#### Drastic Change in Percentage of Educators that use Zoom/Google Meet

1%

March 2020 Users

100%

2021 Users



Although I'm not the biggest fan of technology and fully acknowledge its negative effects, I think that technology really helped everyone during this pandemic. For me, at least, it helped me stay connected to the things and people I love most. When everything was starting to lock-down, I was very scared and upset at all the change. Although it wasn't the same, technology gave me an alternative that helped me stay balanced. I attended all those zoom meetings to stay motivated and see the light at the end of the tunnel. — Sophia: SVHS

### Racial Justice

In a year where racial justice was at the forefront of global headlines, the Santa Cruz COE developed renewed urgency to our commitment toward equality and equity.



~140 Attendees

Black Student Graduation event, in partnership with Santa Cruz County NAACP

~500

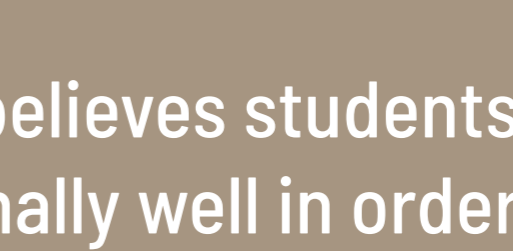
Town Hall attendees (community stakeholders)

The Santa Cruz COE and school districts immediately took action to support all of our students in Santa Cruz County:

- African American Achievement Student Task Force
- Initiative for Racial Equity and Justice website
- Internal discussions with all staff, departments, and managers
- Equity series presentations
- Districts hired consultants, created student task forces, promoted professional development
- Racial Equity and Justice Community of Practice led by Dr. Kofi Akindije
  - Participating developing action plans, finding solutions
- Student activist groups coordinated by Celeste Gutierrez and Amity Sandage
- Highlighted Student Voices with Black Grad Night in partnership with Santa Cruz County NAACP

### Social-Emotional Wellness

The Santa Cruz COE believes students and staff need to be mentally and emotionally well in order to learn and provide effective learning environments, respectively. Our work around wellness was fundamental for our county's educational community.



#### California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS)

I think just being more understanding. People (especially parents) need to be informed about anxiety, depression, and PTSD. It's a lonely time for a lot of my friends. It's not just kids who need to be taught, adults need to as well. - 10th Grade Student in Foster Care

Up 15%

Increase in the sadness, hopelessness, depression indicator, except Alt Ed.

Up 18%

Child Welfare Data Increasing referrals from previous 6 months

#### Response to Social-Emotional Data

Co-hosted 3 rapid response "Family Support Community Calls" (via Zoom) in partnership with Triple P and Cradle to Career in March and April 2020

Developed a behavioral health resource directory via the RESTORE Student and Family Support Committee

Developed Social Emotional Learning and Wellness resource web pages

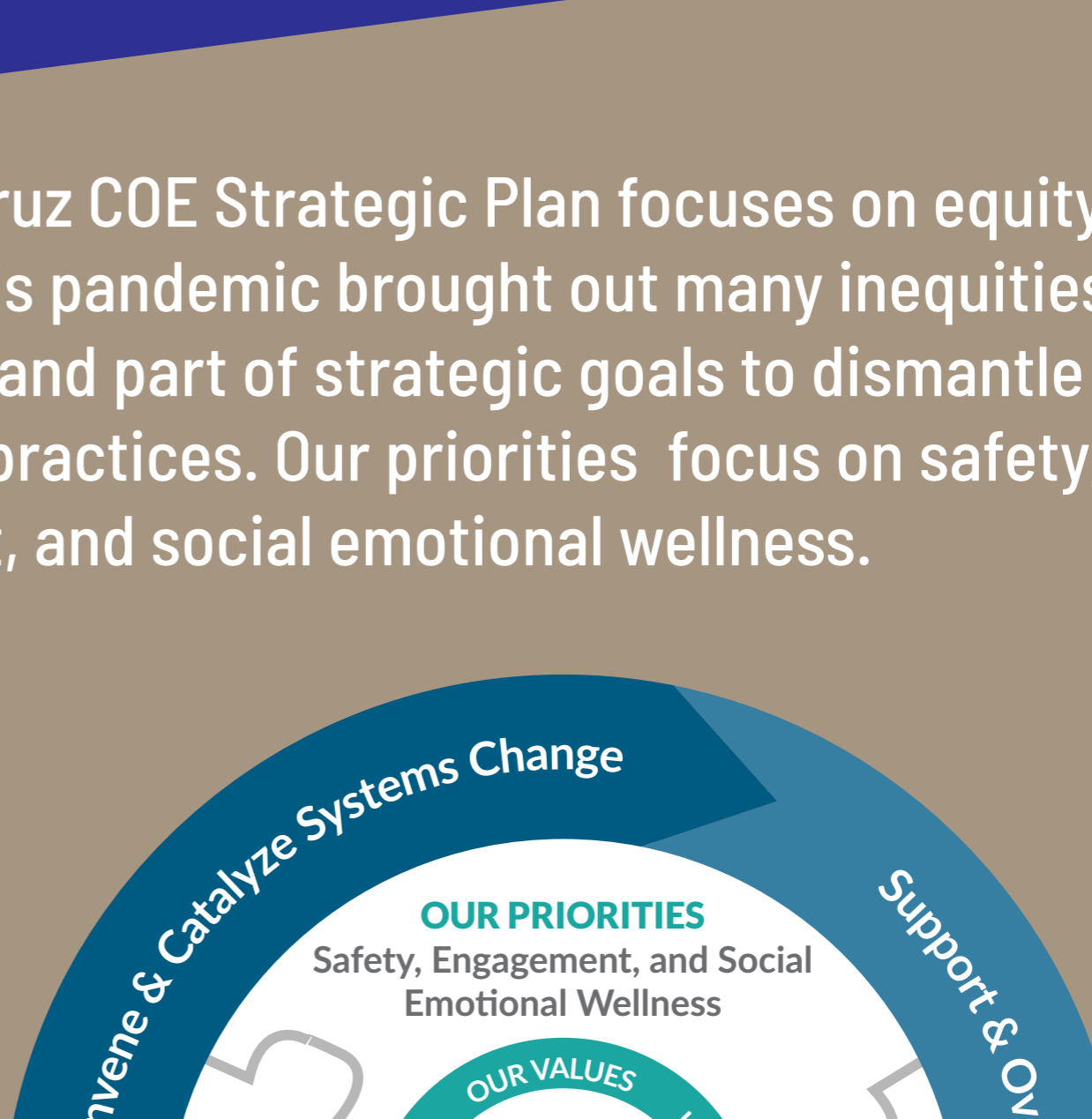
Supported LGBTQ+ students and families through Diversity Center countywide Collaboration Group

### The Path Ahead

Focused on equity and supporting innovation, the Santa Cruz COE will continue to support our entire educational community now and into the future.

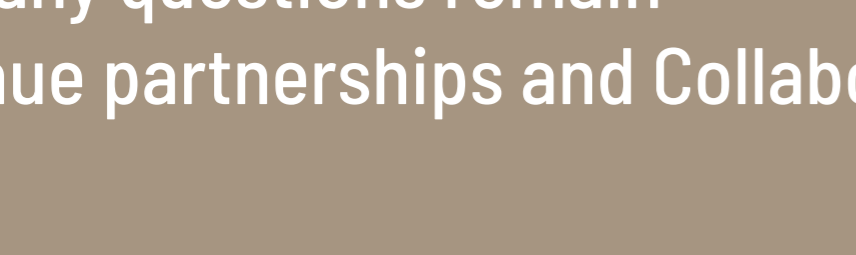


The Santa Cruz COE Strategic Plan focuses on equity for all learners. This pandemic brought out many inequities that exist. It is our aim and part of strategic goals to dismantle these inequitable practices. Our priorities focus on safety, engagement, and social emotional wellness.



We as an educational system must be committed to ensure the safety of our students. To ensure they are engaged in their education and schools and that we are protecting the social well-being of our students now more than ever!

— Dr. Faris Sabbah, Superintendent of Schools



To view other data trends, visit our Data Portal at [dataportal.santacruzcoe.org](http://dataportal.santacruzcoe.org)

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