

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY 2021



SAN MATEO
COUNTY
OFFICE OF
EDUCATION



Vision

Excellence and Equity in Education
Every Student • Every Teacher • Every School

Core Practices

Growth Mindset

Believing that everyone can learn, grow, and move the organization forward.

Cultural Humility

Holding a humble and respectful attitude toward individuals of other cultures that challenges our cultural biases and nurtures learning about other cultures as a lifelong process.

Trauma-Informed

Adopting principles and practices that promote safety, empowerment, healing, and shared responsibility for all.

Sustainability

Ensuring the County Office of Education and schools countywide meet the needs of present and future students through practices that are environmentally, socially, and economically responsible.

Accountability

Taking personal responsibility to lean in, develop goals, measure progress, and serve as both a positive team member and a leader within one's sphere of influence.



Superintendent's Message

Nancy Magee

County Superintendent of Schools

2021 had many bright as well as challenging moments as school communities continued to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. Our collective experiences since March 2020 brought into stark focus the need to support all students' social, emotional, and academic well-being and bolster student and staff mental health. Throughout the pandemic, our dedicated educators never failed to put their students' needs first.

Over the past year, the County Office of Education played a critical role in helping educators understand and follow state and federal guidance and implement educational programs to build strong, resilient, equitable school communities. As we look ahead, the County Office of Education will continue supporting educators in delivering high-quality programs to carry our students through the next year and beyond.



Role of the County Office of Education

California's 58 county offices of education provide programs and services that meet the changing needs of school districts and can be offered more efficiently and economically at the county level. These include financial oversight and assistance with developing Local Control Accountability Plans (LCAPs), creating county-wide protocols, and training district staff to implement new standards. County offices also provide a range of instructional programs, including programs for youth with exceptional needs and interrupted schooling and instruction in juvenile detention facilities. These roles expanded during 2021 as the County Office of Education helped schools move from distance learning and return safely to in-person instruction.

Key Functions of the San Mateo County Office of Education:

- Provide fiscal oversight of San Mateo County school districts
- Ensure San Mateo County school districts meet federal and state guidelines
- Provide direct instruction to students in special populations
- Develop the education workforce
- Lead high-impact county-wide initiatives
- Offer professional development to help districts serve students
- Advocate for students and schools

Leadership

Superintendent of Schools

In addition to leading the County Office of Education and its programs, San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools Nancy Magee serves as an advocate for public education and boosts public awareness of educational and legislative issues, trends, and activities. As the county's education leader, she promotes and supports collaboration among school districts, higher education, governmental agencies, community organizations, and elected officials to support children, families, and schools.

Board of Education

The San Mateo County Board of Education serves as the governing board for County Office of Education student programs, approves the County Office of Education's annual budget, and serves as the appellate body for charter school petitions, interdistrict attendance, and expulsion appeals. The board members also serve as advocates of students and families and advance policies that strengthen and support public education.



Susan Alvaro
Trustee Area One



Beverly Gerard
President - 2022;
Trustee Area Two



Hector Camacho, Jr.
President - 2021;
Trustee Area Three



Chelsea Bonini
Trustee Area Four



Jim Cannon
Trustee Area Five



Ted Lempert
Trustee Area Six



Joe Ross
Trustee Area Seven

Personnel Commission

The Personnel Commission consists of three members, appointed to serve three-year terms, who represent the Board of Education, the County Office of Education's bargaining units, and the organization at large. Personnel Commissioners must be residents of San Mateo County and be willing to learn and support the Merit rules.

Responding to COVID-19



Schools Return to In-Person Learning

The County Office of Education supported schools in returning safely to in-person learning through developing and updating the **Pandemic Recovery Framework**, which guided the reopening and safe operation of schools in the county, as well as providing technical assistance and resources to the county's public, private, and charter schools.



San Mateo County Hosts COVID-19 Workshops and Training

The County Office of Education collaborated with San Mateo County Health and health partners to host workshops and trainings on navigating the COVID-19 pandemic. This included the Better Together webinar series, which kept parents and school staff informed and gave school communities the information they needed to transition safely back to in-person learning.



County Office of Education Supports COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics

In Spring 2021, the County Office of Education worked with San Mateo County Health to arrange vaccinations for education workers. As the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine became authorized for school-aged children, the County Office of Education partnered with school districts to host clinics across the county, using an equity framework to ensure that schools serving students from communities with the greatest needs received vaccines first.

2021 Year Statistics

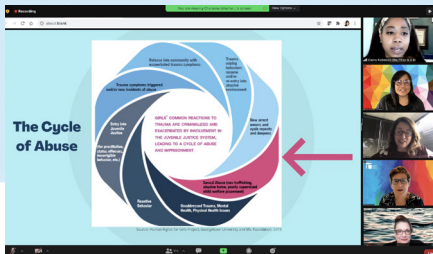
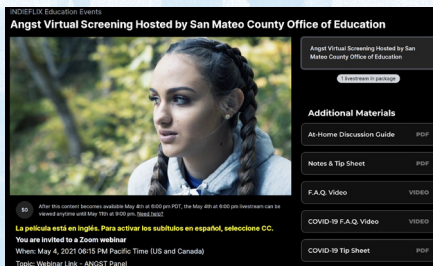
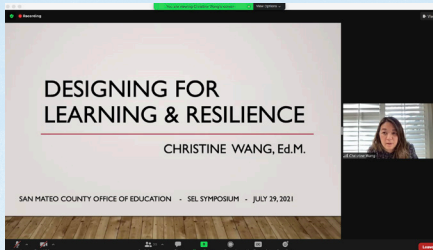
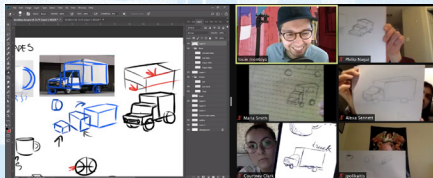
- **150** public schools returned to in-person learning in the 2020-21 school year
- **82.2%** of students aged 12-15 were fully vaccinated against COVID-19
- **51.9%** of students aged 5-11 received at least their first dose of the Pfizer vaccine
- **11,000+** school staff were vaccinated through clinics sponsored by San Mateo County Health and the County Office of Education



Restorative Restart

Strengthening School Communities

The County Office of Education provided training, resources, and supports to help meet the mental health needs of educators and students as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.



2021 Year Highlights

- Provided school staff, students, and families with access to the mental health care navigation agency **Care Solace**, which responded to 1,661 requests for services across 24 school districts in the county.
- Hosted a Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Symposium to provide educators with training and tools to bolster students' social-emotional growth.
- Held multiple parent education nights to help build positive family relationships, prevent teen substance abuse, improve social-emotional learning, and address mental health concerns.
- Contributed to a **joint white paper** sharing promising strategies for supporting students experiencing homelessness across the Bay Area.
- Assisted districts in offering mental health training, hiring wellness counselors, implementing universal mental health screeners, and adopting a curriculum for SEL.
- Led a CSEC (Commercially Sexually Exploited Children) Symposium to help educators learn how to support students who have been or are at risk of being commercially sexually exploited.
- Trained school staff on countywide suicide prevention and trauma-informed Big Five emergency response protocols.
- Supported schools in developing community partnerships with local mental health providers.

Diversity and Social Justice

San Mateo County Launches *Sharing Our Stories* Initiative

In February 2021, the County Office of Education launched *Sharing Our Stories* to highlight and celebrate the county’s diverse education leaders. Over the span of 10 months, the initiative highlighted 12 leaders who are passionate about building a more equitable education system.



School Districts Develop Anti-Hate and Anti-Bias Policies

In response to the *San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury findings* regarding hate incidents in schools, the County Office of Education hosted a two-part symposium on developing effective anti-hate and anti-bias district policies. As a result, 21 public school districts strengthened board policies that reduce hate and bias in their school communities.



County Office of Education Builds Workforce Diversity

One of the County Office of Education’s strategic goals is to build and strengthen a diverse workforce that reflects the students we serve. To help achieve this, the County Office of Education launched a *teacher residency program* in partnership with the Alder Graduate School of Education to increase the number of people of color earning their teaching credentials. The first cohort includes seven residents who are co-teaching in the Jefferson Union High, San Mateo-Foster City, and Ravenswood City school districts.



2021 Highlights

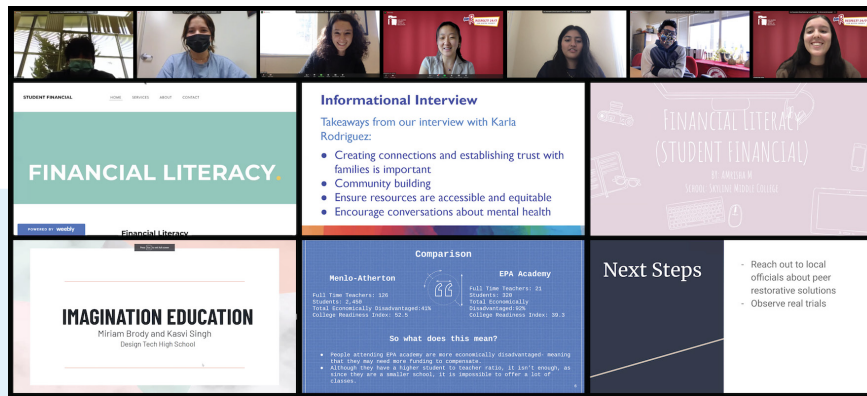
- Passed a *joint resolution* condemning anti-Asian hate speech and behavior following hate crimes against the Asian American community.
- Promoted the theme of “Good Trouble” through the *San Mateo County Reads* initiative to highlight antiracism and racial justice.
- Created a space for County Office of Education staff to share and discuss their individual lived experience.
- Established an Equity Team to lead internal work to strengthen equity within the organization.

Innovative Countywide Programs



County Office of Education Launches Center for Access and Engagement

In October 2021, the County Office of Education launched the **Center for Access and Engagement** to strengthen inclusive practices to support special and general education students across the county. Reflecting the finds of the statewide report **One System: Reforming Education to Serve ALL Students**, the Center helps school districts break down barriers between general education and special education programs and instruction.



Elevating Student Voice

To help empower students, the County Office of Education piloted a Student Advisory Committee where more than 40 students explored their interests and created projects using Youth Participatory Action Research by conducting research to address community challenges.

The County Office of Education also elevated student voice at its annual anti-bullying and civility **Respect! 24/7** Conference to help students share their experiences and advise educators on how to provide more effective supports for all students.

Outdoor Education Returns

After pausing the in-person Outdoor Education program during the 2020-21 school year, the County Office of Education relaunched this week-long program in September 2021 to fifth grade students as well as sixth grade students who were unable to attend previously. Students were excited to experience a memorable week at Camp Jones Gulch and participate in high-quality educational and social experiences while following COVID-19 safety measures.



The Big Lift Improves Student Outcomes by Third Grade

The RAND Corporation released its **final report in its multiphase evaluation of The Big Lift**, a county-wide collaborative effort to improve reading proficiency by third grade. The report found that students who participated in Big Lift preschools had **greater kindergarten readiness, English language proficiency, and attendance rates by third grade** compared with those who didn't attend preschool.



The Big Lift Report Findings

- Big Lift preschoolers were 22 percentage points more likely to be ready for kindergarten than similar children who did not attend preschool.
- Children who received targeted language and literacy supports were more ready for kindergarten by 30 percentage points.
- Preschoolers in The Big Lift had significantly higher attendance rates in third grade than children who did not go to preschool.

Addressing Climate Change in San Mateo County

Schools play a key role in the county's climate change response efforts. In 2021, the County Office of Education expanded its menu of services to help school communities become more sustainable and climate ready.

- Launched the **Sustainable and Climate Ready Schools Partnership Network** to support educators in creating more sustainable campuses and operations.
- Received \$6 million from the State legislature for the development of statewide curriculum resources on climate change and environmental justice.
- Assisted San Mateo County Youth Commission's Environmental Justice Subcommittee members in **drafting climate emergency resolutions for their school districts.**
- In partnership with the San Mateo County Office of Sustainability, supported 53 students in completing a year-long Youth Climate Ambassador fellowship.



Awards and Recognition

County Office of Education Receives Recognition for COVID-19 Pandemic Response

In May 2021, San Mateo County Superintendent Nancy Magee and the County Office of Education were recognized by local organizations for leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- San Mateo County School Boards Association (SMCSBA) recognized the County Office of Education for its leadership and action in equity at the **2021 Kent Awards Ceremony** and presented Superintendent Magee with the Pillar of the County Award for her guidance, resiliency, and advocacy on behalf of school districts.
- Superintendent Magee received the Outstanding Administrator Award from the **17th District PTA** for her leadership and work on behalf of San Mateo County students.
- The **San Mateo County Jobs for Youth program** honored Superintendent Magee with its Community Impact Award for how she and the County Office of Education addressed the needs of students and their families during the pandemic.



Program Spotlight: San Mateo County Awarded Grant to Support Student Mental Health

The County Office of Education and San Mateo County's Behavioral Health and Recovery Services received a \$6 million grant through the **Mental Health Student Services Act** to expand their support to school districts in building capacity to provide mental health supports to students. The funding helped schools connect families to mental health services, adopt a social-emotional learning curriculum, hire wellness counselors, and conduct universal mental health screenings.



Safe Routes to School Program Awarded Grant for Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety

The County Office of Education's Safe Routes to School program received a \$135,000 grant from the **California Office of Traffic Safety** to prioritize the safety of bicyclists and pedestrians. The grant will fund infrastructure projects and support a comprehensive safety program, particularly in high-priority schools based on their proximity to unsafe intersections.

District and School Highlights



Local Education Agencies Receive Green Ribbon Schools Award

In 2021, one school district and two schools received 2021 California Green Ribbon Schools awards for their environmental excellence and commitment to sustainability practices.

- Ravenswood City Elementary School District
- South Hillsborough School (Hillsborough City School District)
- The Nueva School (also recognized at the federal level)

School Districts Move Forward on Workforce Housing

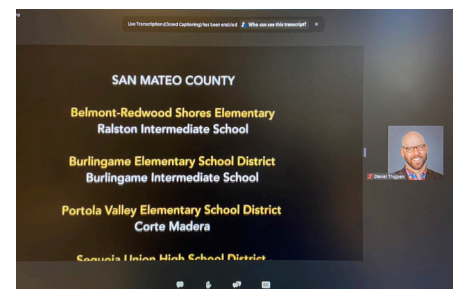
A growing number of San Mateo County school districts are undertaking and exploring workforce housing projects to ease the educator housing crisis. Leading this work is the **Jefferson Union High School District**, which began construction on staff and faculty housing in 2020, and the **Jefferson Elementary School District**, which broke ground on its own educator housing project in August 2021.



Four Schools Receive 2021 Distinguished Schools Award

Four San Mateo County middle and high schools received the **California Department of Education's 2021 California Distinguished School Award**, which honors schools based on their students' performance and progress on several State indicators as described on the **California School Dashboard**. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, each school's performance and progress were measured using pre-pandemic data from 2018 and 2019.

- Ralston Intermediate (Belmont-Redwood Shores School District)
- Burlingame Intermediate (Burlingame School District)
- Corte Madera (Portola Valley School District)
- Carlmont High (Sequoia Union High School District)



School District Information

Enrollment per District

ELEMENTARY

Bayshore Elementary	361
Belmont-Redwood Shores	4,152
Brisbane	474
Burlingame	3,387
Hillsborough City	1,268
Jefferson Elementary	6,653
Las Lomitas Elementary	1,116
Menlo Park City	2,781
Millbrae	2,238
Pacifica	3,006
Portola Valley	491
Ravenswood City	2,993
Redwood City	8,086
San Bruno Park	2,275
San Carlos	3,265
San Mateo-Foster City	10,969
Woodside Elementary	369

HIGH SCHOOL

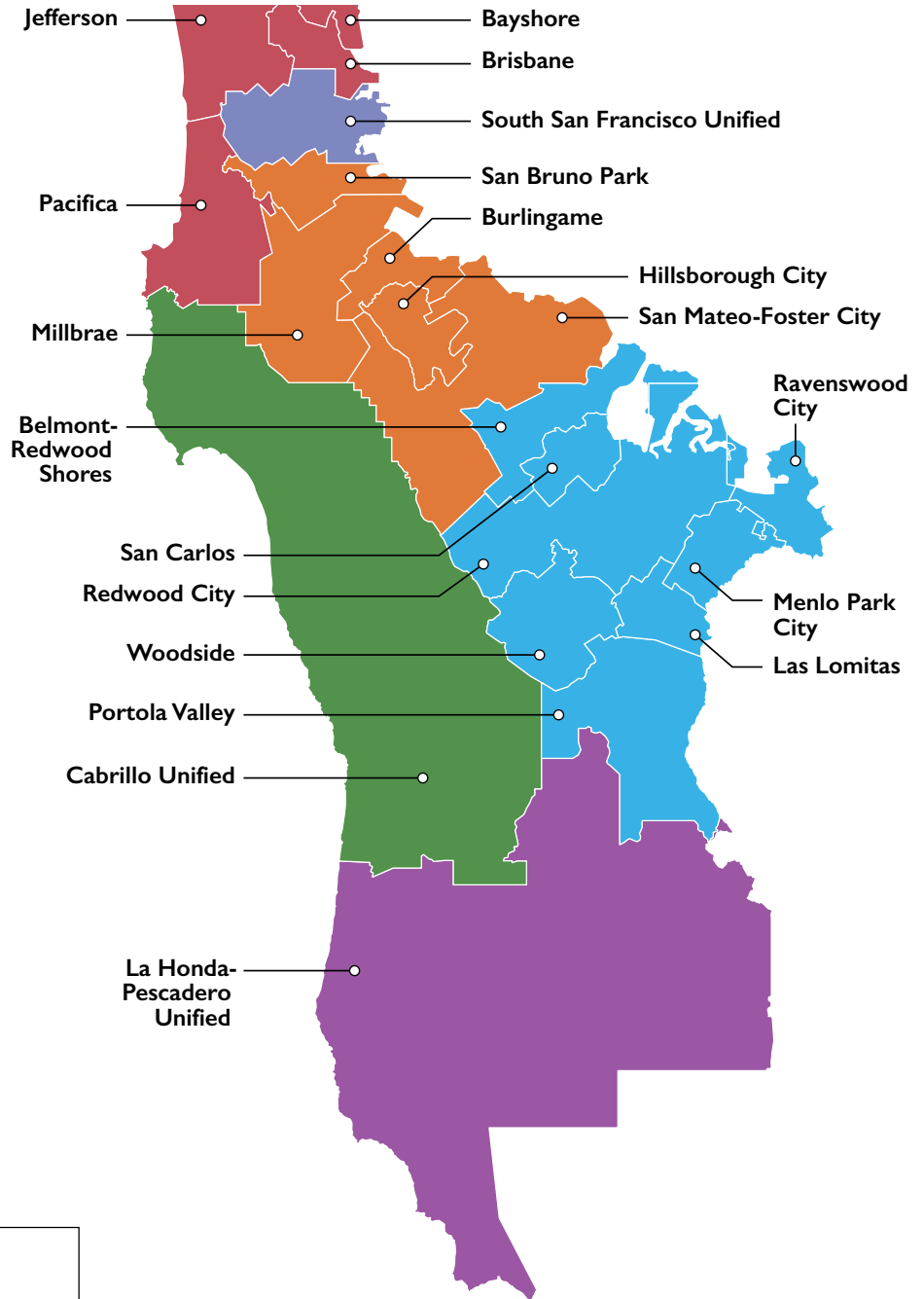
Jefferson Union High	4,705
San Mateo Union High	9,760
Sequoia Union High	10,327

UNIFIED

Cabrillo Unified	2,934
La Honda-Pescadero Unified	275
South San Francisco Unified	8,182

SMCOE SCHOOLS 248

TOTAL 90,315



Jefferson Union High School District
Cabrillo Unified School District
La Honda-Pescadero Unified School District
San Mateo Union High School District
South San Francisco Unified School District
Sequoia Union High School District

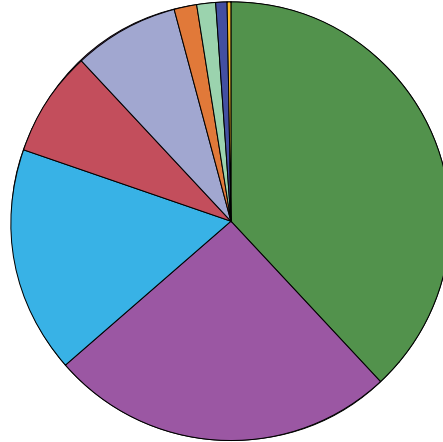
Source: California Department of Education, 2020-21

Student Demographics

90,315 students were enrolled in San Mateo County public schools in the 2020-21 school year.

- **10,971** (11.6%) enrolled in special education programs*
- **17,224** (19.1%) are English Learners
- **28,293** (31.3%) receive free and reduced-price meals
- **30,364** (33.6%) are socioeconomically disadvantaged

(*2018-19 SY data)



Ethnicity

- Hispanic or Latino38.0%
- White25.5%
- Asian16.8%
- Filipino7.9%
- Two or More Races7.7%
- Pacific Islander1.7%
- African American.....1.3%
- Not Reported1.0%
- American Indian or Alaska Native0.1%

Top Six Languages

Spoken by San Mateo County Multilingual Students (by percentage)

1. Spanish (72.0%)
2. Tagalog (6.3%)
3. Cantonese (3.7%)
4. Arabic (2.9%)
5. Mandarin (2.6%)
6. Portuguese (2.3%)

State Reports New Stability Rate

In 2021, the California Department of Education released its first **Stability Rate report** to show how many students received a full year of learning in the same school. In San Mateo County, the stability rate increased from 2017-18 through 2019-20 from 93.3% to 94.1%.

- **94.1%** of San Mateo County students received a full year of learning in the same school in 2019-2020, 2.1 percentage points higher than the state.

Multilingual Learners*

2016-17	37,696
2017-18	37,370
2018-19	36,883
2019-20	36,406
2020-21	32,941

*Multilingual learners are students who are currently identified as English Learners (EL) or formerly designated as English Learners who have been reclassified as Fluent English Proficient (RFEP).

Supporting Multilingual Learners

San Mateo County schools serve a diverse range of students, including multilingual learners who are developing their English language skills. Achieving biliteracy and becoming fluent in the English language is an important step for high school completion and college and career success.

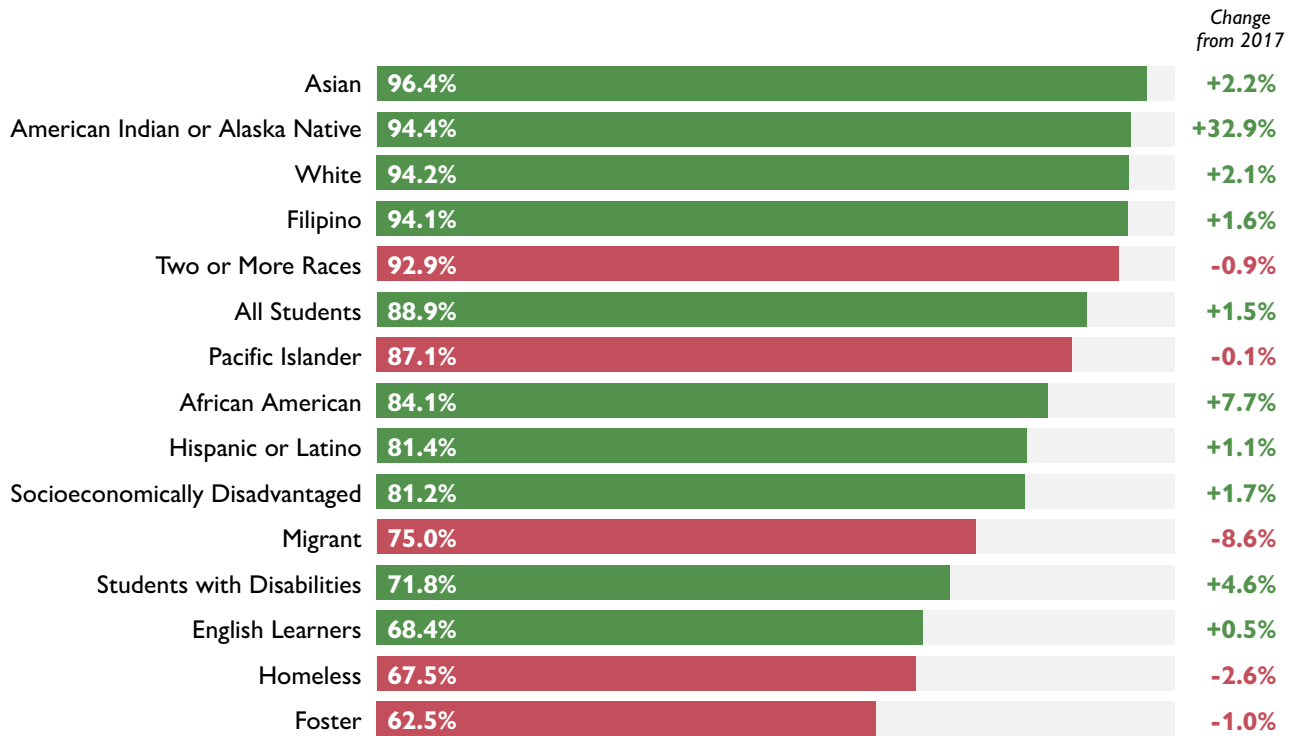
More than 36% of students countywide spoke a language other than English at home during the 2020-2021 school year, reflecting the rich cultural diversity of the county.

Source: California Department of Education

College and Career Readiness

More and more students are on a pathway to success, with San Mateo County experiencing a higher graduation rate across multiple student groups.

2021 Four-Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate



10 student groups increased graduation rates from 2017 to 2021

88.9% of students graduated in 2021, higher than 2017 rates (87.4) and the state average (83.6%)

Source: DataQuest – California Department of Education

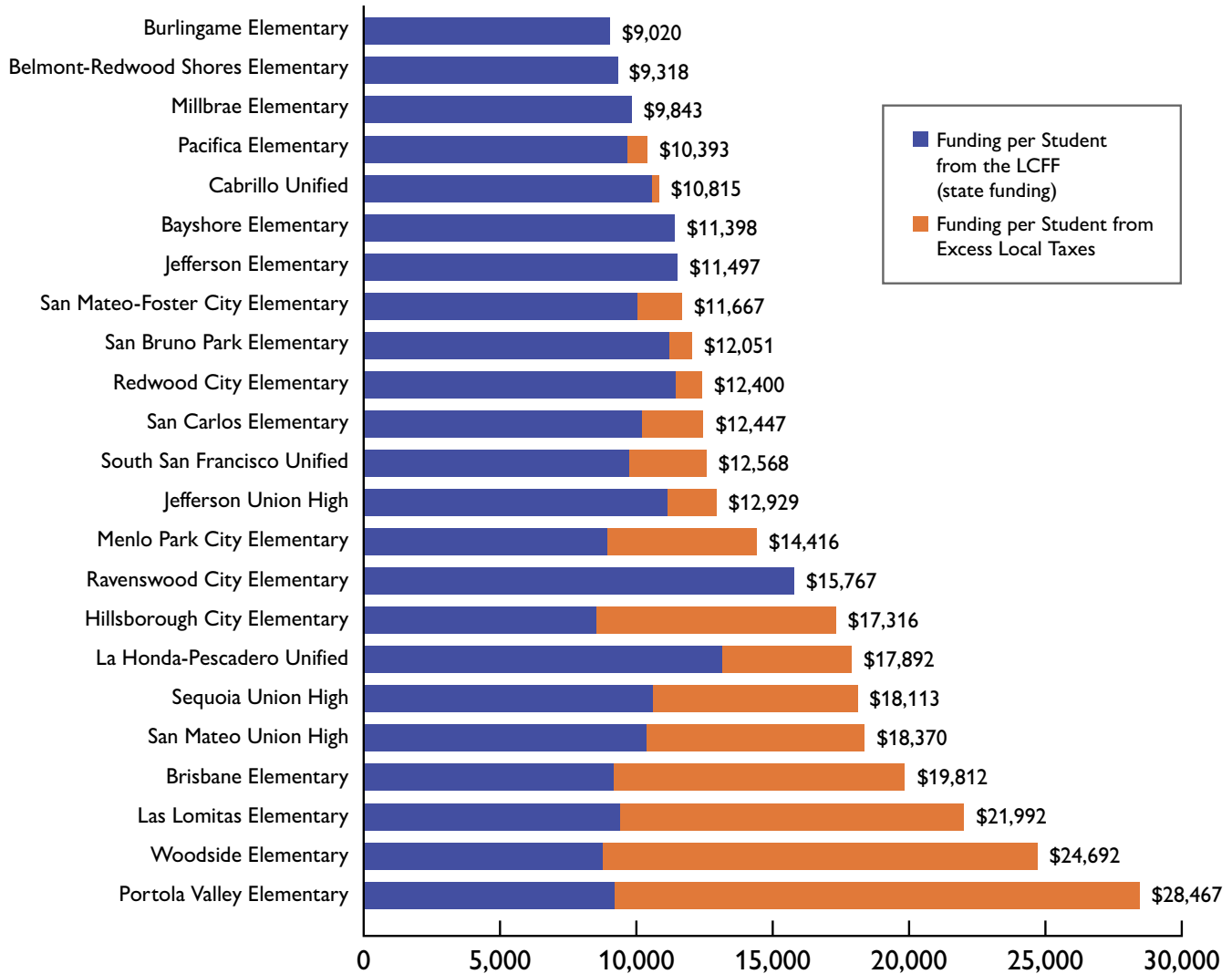
Program Spotlight: San Mateo County Receives Grants to Improve College and Career Readiness

The County Office of Education received two separate **K12 Strong Workforce grants** from the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office to help K-12 schools and districts create, support, and expand high-quality career and technical education (CTE) programs.

- In January 2021, the County Office of Education received a \$1,208,184 grant to extend STEM career technical education pipelines into middle schools.
- In November 2021, a consortium led by the County Office of Education was awarded a \$2 million grant to enhance college and career readiness among students of color and low socioeconomic status in north San Mateo County through K-14 pathways, work-based learning programs, and other strategies.

Public School Funding

Funding per Student: Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) vs. Local Taxes



Source: California Department of Education

**California
Rankings
in Education
Spending**

\$14,413 average student spending in 2020-21¹

32nd in per-pupil funding in 2019,
increased from 41st in 2013²

¹ Rankings of the States 2020, National Education Association

² Making the Grade 2021: Education Law Center



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