

# CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION NEWSLETTER

*See Important Links Below*

[WEBSITE](#)

[CALENDAR](#)

[BITS & BYTES](#)

[EDTECH & INNOVATION](#)



**August 23, 2021**

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# UPDATES



## California Assessment Conference

*Suggested Audience: Administrators, Assessment Coordinators, Teachers*

**John Hattie** and **Keisa Brown** will deliver keynotes at the virtual 2021 California Assessment Conference! Register now to hear the messages these outstanding educators have for our professional community.

- Ms. Brown will open the conference with a lunchtime keynote on October 12. Ms. Brown is the 2021 California Teacher of the Year and a 20-year veteran with the Riverside Unified School District.
- Professor Hattie will close the conference with a lunchtime keynote on October 14. Professor Hattie is an award-winning education researcher and best-selling author with nearly 30 years of experience examining what works best in student learning and achievement.
- The California Department of Education (CDE) invites and encourages all teachers and site administrators to explore the connection between assessments and classroom instruction at the virtual 2021 California Assessment Conference. Find details and register on the [conference website](#).

## Call for Students! Join the Youth Led Leadership Alliance! Deadline: August 31

*Suggested Audience: District leaders, site leaders, teachers*

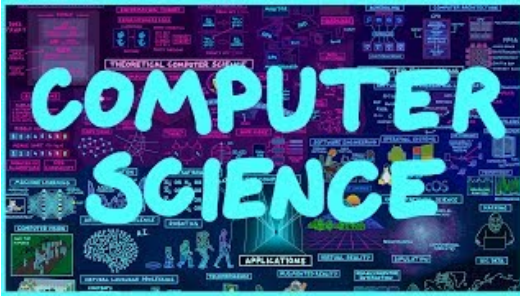


*Please share this information with students and adults who support them! Santa Cruz COE's countywide Youth Led Leadership Alliance's mission is to empower youth with the data and tools needed to implement solutions to the problems they care about.*

Use this [announcement](#) for social media and the links below to more information on the [Youth Led Leadership Alliance website](#) which includes application links for each group:

- [Countywide Black Student Union](#)
- [Queer and Trans Youth Council](#)
- [Racial Equity & Justice Student Community of Practice](#)
- [Youth Artists Taking Action](#)
- [Youth for Environmental Action](#)

Contact Celeste Gutierrez at [cgutierrez@santacruzcoe.org](mailto:cgutierrez@santacruzcoe.org) for more information.



## Computer Science Newsletter

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education is excited to share our **August 2021 edition** of the K-12 Computer Science and Information Technology Newsletter. This newsletter is published every other month and includes the latest information concerning Computer Science and Information Technology opportunities, events and professional learning opportunities. *Click to read the [August 2021 edition](#).*



## Student Events Calendar

*Suggested Audience: All Educators*

The Santa Cruz COE is proud to sponsor multiple student events during the school year. Please review this [Student Events Calendar](#) to see the events we have planned for this year!



## 2020 Hindsight

2020 Hindsight takes a look back at the tumultuous year of 2020 with nearly 100 full-color pages that explore through photography and words Santa Cruz County's experience with the COVID-19 pandemic, social justice, wildfires, democracy and community. The story of 2020 is told through the eyes of noted local photojournalists Shmuel Thaler and Kevin Painchaud, with analysis and essays by local writers and leaders including Wallace Baine, Gail Pellerin, Dr. Misty Navarro, Jacob Martinez, Rachel Anne Goodman, George Ow, Jr., and many more. There is a curriculum

component on the website for all educators to use. The book was made available for free for all high school juniors last spring. If you have any questions, please contact Debi Bodenheimer ([dbodenheimer@santacruzcoe.org](mailto:dbodenheimer@santacruzcoe.org)).

[LEARN MORE](#)

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# COLLEGE AND CAREER

## College and Career Month - October

College and Career Week has grown to College and Career Month! Cabrillo College will offer multiple weeks of programming focused on different topics. This week of [Cabrillo Chats](#) will include financial aid, transfer support, pathway choice and college life balance. UCs and CSUs will kick off the month with their college days and transfer nights. Schools and districts can use this time to build their college going culture by having students engage in virtual college tours and scavenger hunts, holding FAFSA workshops, having students work on college essays in ELA classes, and engage in career exploration activities. For resources and activity examples for elementary, middle, and high school, visit the [S5C website](#).

[LEARN MORE](#)

## Grading Action Research Teams - Cohort 2

Registration is now open for a new cohort of school grading action research teams! The Santa Cruz County Grading Inquiry Project supports classroom educators and site administrators in exploring and implementing equity-focused grading practices. Through this project, site teams can construct and implement equitable grading practices with support from the County Office of Education and in collaboration with other school sites.

Participation in the GIP ART is by [application](#). Applicants must apply in teams of at least three plus a site administrator. Up to two teams may apply from the same school.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## [Santa Cruz School Counselor Curriculum Handbook](#)

Counselors in Santa Cruz County have been working together for over a year to develop a curriculum handbook for any counselor to use as a resource. This handbook has now launched as a [Google Site](#). On this site you will find grade specific core curriculum suggestions along with lessons and materials counselors can use at their site. Individuals can use the feedback form to submit new materials to include and to help us make the site more useful.

## Santa Cruz School Counselor Network 21-22

This year S5C will convene a Countywide Counselor Network. The group is voluntary and will convene bi-monthly with options for middle school and high school to meet together and/or separately. Topics will be based on counselor feedback and requests. Each session will include opportunities to learn from colleagues and topic experts. The first session topic will be on Wednesday 9/22 - **Creating More Inclusive Spaces in Schools for LGBTQ+ Students**. [Zoom link](#)



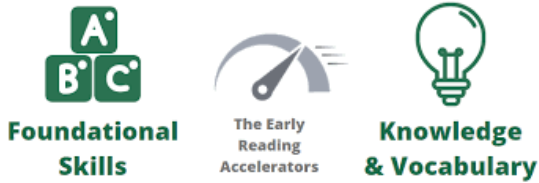
Subsequent sessions will be based on counselor requests, needs, and feedback. Look for more information this fall! Sessions will be held from 9:00 - 10:30 on 11/17, 1/19, 3/23, & 5/18.

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# ELA

## Early Reading Accelerators Quick Start Guide

*Suggested Audience: teachers, reading specialists, instructional leaders, instructional coaches*

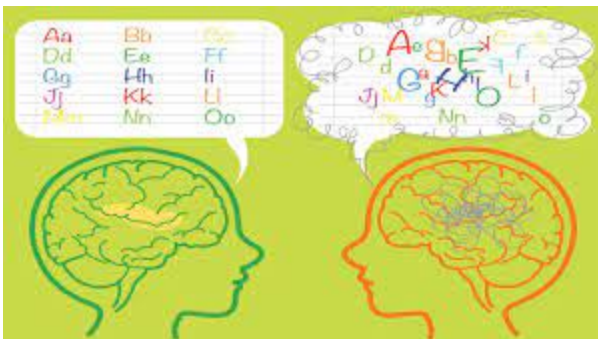


Recommended by the CCEE, this guide from Student Achievement Partners, [Early Reading Accelerators Quick Start Guide](#) emphasizes two critical pieces of early reading instruction, Foundational Skills + Knowledge & Vocabulary. It provides some of the best practices and considerations for supporting the implantation of the Early Reading Accelerators.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## Supporting Learners with Reading Disabilities

*Suggested Audience: teachers, reading specialists, instructional leaders, instructional coaches*



This guide available in the CCEE's [Field Guide](#) examines the needs of diverse learners as schools plan to re-open and students return to traditional and non-traditional modes of instruction. The guide suggests building team capacity to empathize with student needs, develop pragmatic solutions, and define the appropriate actions that improve learning accessibility. Click [here](#) to review critical considerations by scenario to support your learner with a reading disability.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## Online professional learning for disciplinary literacy

*Suggested Audience: instructional leaders, instructional coaches*



CCEE developed the [SOAR Teaching Frames for Literacy learning path](#) in partnership with EPF for Teaching. Explore a unique approach to planning, implementing, and elevating instruction that leads to development in teaching and learning using high-impact teaching practices. **SOAR** stands for strategic observation and reflection. SOAR Teaching Frames for Literacy provides a unique approach to planning, implementing, and elevating instruction that

drives improvement in teaching and learning. SOAR focuses on the high-impact teaching practices that research identifies as key to student learning and includes a focus on disciplinary discussions, communication and reading of complex texts as well as a module on coaching. .

[LEARN MORE](#)

## TeachingBooks: Videos to Engage Readers

*Suggested Audience: teachers, librarians, reading specialists, instructional leaders, instructional coaches, students and families*



TeachingBooks<sup>SM</sup>

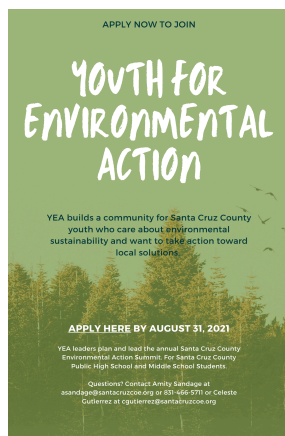
Free resources from the CA K-12 Online Content Project include videos of children's authors such as Jacqueline Woodson discussing their craft and sharing the story of their names, as well as video book trailers.. Many additional resources to "bring books to life" for both students and educators to find the perfect book.

[LEARN MORE](#)

# ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY

## For HS & MS students! Join Youth for Environmental Action (YEA!)

*Suggested Audience: High School and Middle School Teachers--please share this information with your students!*



Please share the [flyer](#) and [application information](#) with HS and MS students and teachers! Applications are open until August 31.

The purpose of YEA is to connect youth who care about environmental sustainability and want to take action for the future!

We are currently recruiting the 2021-22 YEA Student Leaders, Support Teams and Members. These students will share concerns and ideas from across the county, identify ways to take action, and lead the 2022 YEA Environmental Action Summit this Spring!

Our goal is to have 2021-22 YEA Leadership Team representatives from every high school site in the county plus support teams for each site.

### MORE INFORMATION

## Green Schools Working Group for District and School Leaders

*Suggested Audience: Education Leaders in Administration, Facilities, Curriculum & Instruction, and Health & Wellness*



This three-part series will highlight successful models and provide support in using the Green Ribbon Schools Award framework's 3 pillars: Curriculum, Facilities, and Health and Wellness to plan toward increasing sustainable practices and environmental literacy in schools. Join district and school leaders from across the county to share plans, strategies and tools. See [flyer](#)

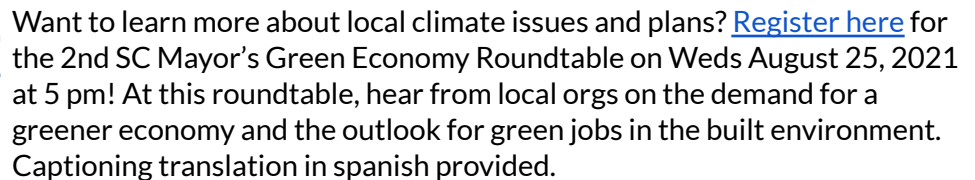
and [registration](#) for more information.

### DETAILS & REGISTRATION

*Suggested Audience: K-12 Teachers*

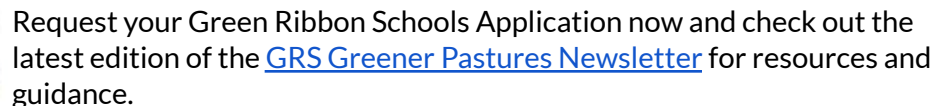
Students are concerned about the environment--we can use that interest to engage them across content areas! We will share a new resource each month and then spend time collaborating with other educators to share resources and best practices for Science and Environmental Literacy integration. Meets on Zoom the first Thursday of the month 4-5pm starting September 2nd. Register [here](#) to receive an invitation with zoom link

*Suggested Audience: Administrators and Educators*



## DETAILS & REGISTRATION

*Suggested Audience: School and District Administrators*



## DETAILS & APPLICATION

# Searchable Hub Connecting Schools to Environmental Lit Programs and Partners

*Suggested Audience: Teachers and Administrators*



CALIFORNIA  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
LITERACY  
INITIATIVE

Community-Based Partner Hub

Santa Cruz County Office of Education is now part of the [California Environmental Literacy Initiative \(CAELI\) Community-Based Partner Hub \(the Hub\)](#). The Hub connects K-12 teachers and administrators to environmental education community-based partners and their programs. This **free** resource is available to all districts, schools, teachers and community partners.

Check out this short [video](#) highlighting some of the key features of the Hub.

The Hub will help support teachers to integrate environmental education into their instruction by highlighting opportunities to engage in standards-aligned community-based programs, with the goal of advancing environmental literacy for all K-12 students in Santa Cruz County.

[VISIT THE HUB](#)



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# EQUITY

## Sept. 28 Community Event: Exploring Environmental Justice in Santa Cruz County

*Suggested Audience: All educators and community members*



Register now for the next event in *Santa Cruz COE's Equity Series: Exploring Environmental Justice in Santa Cruz County*. Come learn what environmental justice looks like in our community with special guests Valentin Lopez, Chairman of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band, Natalie Olivas, Community Organizer at Regeneración: Pajaro Valley Climate Action, and local students taking action as stewards of the land. See the event [flyer](#) and register at [sccoe.link/enviro](https://sccoe.link/enviro).

## My Name, My Identity Educator Toolkit

*Suggested Audience: teachers, site administrators, instructional leaders, instructional coaches*

The Santa Clara COE is excited to introduce the [My Name, My Identity: Creating an Inclusive and Respectful School and Community Educator Toolkit](#), which features activities that emphasize the importance of validating names, identity, and establishing inclusive communities. The toolkit is designed to create assets-based and student responsive schools, a core principle in the [California English Learner Roadmap](#). The activities and resources in this toolkit are in alignment with the core features of the Collaborative for Social and Emotional Learning's [transformative social emotional learning \(SEL\)](#).

## Racial Equity and Justice Community of Practice and Website

*Suggested Audience: All Educators*



The Santa Cruz COE is proud to announce our Racial Equity and Justice Community of Practice that starts on September 10th. This is for educators who wish to learn more about equitable teaching and learning practices for students. If you are interested in registering, please see the [flyer link](#) here. Any questions, please contact Debi Bodenheimer ([dbodenheimer@santacruzcoe.org](mailto:dbodenheimer@santacruzcoe.org)).

Also, we are continuing to update our Racial Equity and Justice Website. Please visit our [website](#) and utilize and share the resources. We are always looking for feedback, so please share your comments with us.

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# HISTORY / SOCIAL SCIENCE

## History, Civics and Environmental Literacy Teacher Collaborative

*Suggested Audience: K-12 Teachers*



Environmental topics are an inspiring context for connecting content with issues students care about. Collaborate with other educators each month to share resources and best practices for History, Civics and Environmental Literacy integration. Meets on Zoom the first Wednesday of the month 4-5pm starting September 1st. Agendas will be driven by participants with facilitation support provided by Santa Cruz County Office of Education and the *UCSC History and Civics Project*. Register [here](#) to receive an invitation with a zoom link.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

## Empowering Students Through Civic Engagement - Join the Conversation!

*Suggested Audience: K-12 History Teachers*



Join the California History-Social Science Project for their latest statewide conversation. Throughout the academic year, the "Civic Engagement, Taking Action, and the State Seal" working group will:

- Offer an interdisciplinary approach to civics education
- Explore new models of civic engagement in and out of the classroom
- Explore how the State Seal of Civic Engagement supports a vision for Action Civics
- We hope you will consider joining us for the free info session on Zoom either on [Aug 25](#) or [Sept 9](#)!

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

## UC Santa Cruz History & Civics September Events

*Suggested Audience: K-12 Teachers*



### [Thinking Historically About Race and Whiteness: Possibilities for Antiracist Pedagogies Summer Workshop Follow-Up #1](#)

This summer, over 90 educators joined UCSC History & Civics Project over 3-days for a workshop sponsored by the Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources program: Thinking Historically About Race and Whiteness: Possibilities for Antiracist Pedagogies.

On September 2nd, UCSC HCP is hosting this as the 1st follow-up meeting, which will take place over Zoom. Stay tuned for a Zoom link in your email if you participated in the workshop. Please register here if you did NOT participate in the Summer Workshop.

### **Exploring the Legal Roots of Race and Whiteness with Dr. Jack Chin**

Join UCSD HCP to learn from guest speaker, Dr. Gabriel "Jack" Chin, Professor of Law at UC Davis. Professor Chin is the Edward L. Barrett Jr. Chair and the Martin Luther King Jr. Professor of Law at King Hall. His work includes persuading the California Supreme Court to admit Hong Hen Chang to the bar in 2015 after they denied him because of his race in 1890, and leading an effort to repeal anti-Asian alien land laws which were still on the books in Florida, Kansas, New Mexico, and Wyoming. We will hear from Professor Chin and then discuss classroom applications with fellow educators.

This will be the 2nd follow-up meeting for our Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources summer workshop, Thinking Historically About Race and Whiteness: Possibilities for Antiracist Pedagogies.

This meeting will happen over Zoom, registration will be available soon [here](#) if you did NOT participate in the summer workshop. Otherwise, please look out for an invite link via email.

[MORE INFO](#)

# MATH

## SVMI/SCCOE Math Professional Development Series for 2021-22

*Suggested Audience: Teachers, Instructional Coaches, Administrators*



SCCOE is partnering with SVMI to provide a math-focused PD Series for educators across grades TK-12. Participate either in-person or virtually. In-person events will be from 8:30-3:00, and virtual events will be 3:30-5:30 via Zoom:

- Session #1: In-person 9/23 Santa Cruz COE; Virtual 9/21
- Session #2: In-person 10/28 Watsonville; Virtual 10/28
- Session #3: In-Person 12/9 Santa Cruz; Virtual 12/7
- Session #4: In-Person 1/27 Watsonville; Virtual 1/27
- Session #5: In-Person 2/17 Santa Cruz; Virtual 2/15

Calendar the dates, and stay tuned for flyers, additional information, and or adjustments.

As per previous years, we will focus on strategies to build and sustain community in a mathematically powerful classroom, and will include grade-alike breakout sessions to go deeper into application/reflection.

Session #1 Registration:  
[In-Person](#) [Virtual](#)



## Smarter Content Explorer from CAASPP

*Suggested Audience: All Educators*

Welcome **Educators!**

Assessing the range of knowledge and skills is important for college and career readiness. Use this site to learn how test items connect to academic standards. This is for both Math and ELA.

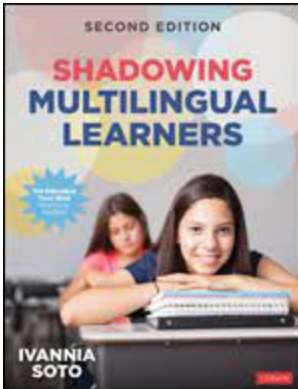
[MORE INFO](#)

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# MULTILINGUAL

## **Santa Cruz County Multilingual Leadership Network**

*Suggested Audience: teachers, site administrators, English learner specialists, instructional leaders, family/school educators and coordinators*



Save these dates now for the MLN: Oct. 6, Dec. 1, Feb. 16, May 4 from 8:30-11:30. We will be bringing Dr. Ivannia Soto back to continue our learning around multilingual learner shadowing. Please invite a team including a district office lead, a site administrator, a teacher and a family/school coordinator to lead implementation of the principles of the CA English Learner Roadmap in your district. Registration more information coming soon.

## **Santa Cruz County EL RISE Trainings and Communities of Practice**

*Suggested Audience: teachers, site administrators, English learner specialists, instructional leaders, instructional coaches*



Enrollment is now open for the EL RISE Trainings including a English Learner Master Plan Institute, an Elementary English Learner Roadmap Teacher Strand, a Dual Language English Learner Roadmap Teacher Strand, a Secondary English Learner Roadmap Teacher Strand and Communities of Practice to support implementation. Details on our Professional Learning Plan site.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## **Improving Outcomes for English Learners with Disabilities**

*Suggested Audience: teachers, site administrators, English learner specialists, instructional leaders, instructional coaches, special ed staff*



The Imperial County SELPA: *Improving Outcomes for ELs with Disabilities* content-lead team is happy to announce that registration is open for each of our 2021-2022 PD offerings.

Our PD events will be hosted in-person in Imperial County and live via-Zoom. Below is a list of PD offerings for September & October...as always, all events are free to SELPA staff & staff from each of your

respective LEAs...all are welcome to attend. [Evaluation of Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Populations: A nondiscriminatory assessment framework for all practitioners](#); [Follow-up: Evaluation of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Populations: A nondiscriminatory assessment framework for all practitioners](#) - Q&A Session with Dr. Ortiz; [Improving Outcomes for ELs with Disabilities: A focus on each section of the CA Practitioners' Guide for Educating English Learners with Disabilities](#).

[LEARN MORE](#)



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# SCIENCE

## Science and Environmental Literacy Teacher Collaborative

*Suggested Audience: K-12 Teachers*



Students are concerned about the environment--we can use that interest to engage them across content areas! We will share a new resource each month and then spend time collaborating with other educators to share resources and best practices for Science and Environmental Literacy integration. Meets on Zoom the first Thursday of the month 4-5pm starting September 2nd. Register [here](#) to receive an invitation with zoom link

## CAST Assessment Resources

*Suggested Audience: Administrators, Science Teachers*



### New Resource—Organization of 2021–22 CAST!

Check out the new flyer [Organization of the California Science Test \(CAST\)](#), now available to assist educators in understanding how the 2021–22 CAST is organized. It is posted along with other CAST resources on the CAASPP [CAST web page](#).

Included on the new flyer are the following:

- § A graphic presenting the six CAST segments and the student survey
- § A breakdown of the number of items in each segment
- § A recommendation for when to pause the test during administration

Students taking the 2021–22 CAST will receive fewer test questions overall, and each student will now receive a minimum of three performance tasks. These changes come as a result of the implementation this year of the revised State Board of Education-approved CAST blueprint.

Be sure to tell your colleagues about this new resource, and let us know what you think on Twitter at [@CDEAssessments!](#)

## CAST Range Achievement Level Descriptors

*Suggested Audience: Science Teachers, Administrators*



The California Department of Education has released CAST Range Achievement Level Descriptors. The CAST Range ALDs provide very specific 4-point descriptors for all the the DCI of the NGSS. The range ALDs are detailed descriptions of observable evidence of student performance by grade level and content. Range ALDs are developed to provide evidence of how a student's knowledge, skills, and abilities change and become more advanced across the achievement levels. Click "Learn More" to access the 5th, 8th or HS Range ALD documents.

[Learn More](#)

# VAPA

**HUGE APPRECIATION to all our VAPA Teachers for persevering last year to bring the ARTS to our students! Welcome back to the 2021-2022 school year!**



**We will have Music, Visual Art, and Theater Teachers' Meetings Monthly**

**Explore Google Arts & Culture [Art as Activism](#)**

*Suggested Audience: Administrators and Teachers*

Explore this website for lots of resources for the Arts and Art as Activism.



[LEARN MORE](#)

**Arts Council Santa Cruz: Virtual Classroom in All Art Forms**

*Suggested Audience: Teachers, Students, Families*

Welcome! Here you'll find lesson plans, activities, and video tutorials in visual arts, dance, music, and theater with our talented Mariposa Arts, SPECTRA, and Artist Teacher Partnership teaching artists. We hope that these pages engage you, students, and families to learn about the arts at home until we can be together again in the classroom.



**make art happen.**

[LEARN MORE](#)



## BRING CLASSICAL MUSIC INTO YOUR CLASSROOM

No cost and no teacher preparation  
Support for students' Social Emotional Learning: Listening to Music  
5 minutes/day  
Easy to access online  
Ready to start? [APPLY HERE](#)  
Need more information?  
Contact [Audrey Sirota](#), COE Visual and Performing Arts Coordinator  
or  
[Lee Duffus](#), Symphony Volunteer CMC Coordinator



**SANTA CRUZ**  
COUNTY OFFICE OF  
**EDUCATION**  
DR. FARIS SABBAN • SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



## Dance and the English Learner: Promising Practices

**Suggested Audience:** For K-8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers and administrators; the professional learning can be adapted for high school students

In these experiential professional learning workshops, Peggy Burt offers 4 sessions exploring the connections between standards-based dance/creative movement; the ELD domains of speaking, listening, reading and writing; and the components of social emotional learning. Based on research currently underway, these practices hold the promise for more actively engaged students across the curriculum.

**All Sessions - 2:00-3:30pm**


**Session 1: Sept 15, 2021 - *The Dance of Identity***

**Session 2: Oct 20, 2021 - *Dancing with Others***

**Session 3: Nov 17, 2021 - *The Dance of Cultural Awareness***


**Session 4: Dec. 15, 2021 - *Storytelling through Dance***

[LEARN MORE](#)




The Santa Cruz County Office of Education in collaboration with the Santa Cruz Symphony and Carnegie Hall offers our county's 4th and 5th grade students Link Up Orchestra Swings!

Wednesday, September 8 and Wednesday, September 29, 2021  
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm  
Amesti Elementary School  
25 Amesti Rd, Watsonville, Room #9




Scan to Register  
[HTTP://SANTACRUZ.K12OMS.ORG/830-208917](http://santacruz.k12oms.org/830-208917)

Friday, September 10, 2021  
3:30 pm - 5:00 pm  
Soquel Elementary School  
2700 Porter St, Soquel, Room # 11




Scan to Register  
[HTTP://SANTACRUZ.K12OMS.ORG/830-208920](http://santacruz.k12oms.org/830-208920)

A Professional Development Opportunity for Music Teachers and 4-5th Grade Teachers!  
Explore how to teach classical Swing selections to your students including Florence Price's "Juba" and Duke Ellington's "It Don't Mean a Thing".  
Presented in partnership: Santa Cruz County Office of Education, Santa Cruz Symphony & Carnegie Hall



Santa Cruz County Office of Education  
400 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
Phone: (831) 408-5600



SANTA CRUZ SYMPHONY  
1000 N. ZED STREET, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060

## The Santa Cruz Symphony, Carnegie Hall, and the Santa Cruz COE bring you

**Link Up:**

**[The Orchestra Swings](#)**

**For the 2021-22 School Year**

This program is for students in 4-5th grade. Students learn selections such as "It Don't Mean A Thing, If It Ain't Got That Swing" - Duke Ellington and "Juba" from Symphony No. 1 by Florence Price.

**[PLEASE REGISTER](#)**

## Call for Students! Join the Youth Led Leadership Alliance! Deadline: August 31

*Suggested Audience: District leaders, site leaders, teachers*



Please share this information with students and adults who support them! Santa Cruz COE's countywide Youth Led Leadership Alliance's mission is to empower youth with the data and tools needed to implement solutions to the problems they care about.

Use this [announcement](#) for social media and the links below to more information on the [Youth Led Leadership Alliance website](#) which includes application links for each group:

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- [Queer and Trans Youth Council](#)
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- [Youth Artists Taking Action](#)
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Contact Audrey Sirota at [asirota@santacruzcoe.org](mailto:asirota@santacruzcoe.org) for more information about [Youth Artists Taking Action](#)