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Santa Cruz County Office of Education's  
**CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION NEWSLETTER**

*See Important Links Below*

[WEBSITE](#)

[CALENDAR](#)

[PAST EDITIONS](#)

[EDTECH & INNOVATION](#)



**OCTOBER 4, 2021**

**In This Edition**

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# UPDATES



## Grant Funding for MTSS

The California Department of Education in partnership with the Orange County Department of Education and the Butte County Office of Education is excited to share a new grant funding and training opportunity for school sites, consortia and/or county offices. Applications began September 20, 2021 and the deadline to apply is October 20, 2021 by 5:00 pm PST.

The school and consortium grant is intended to provide funding for schools to enable their staff to receive online professional learning and coaching through the California MTSS Pathway Certification for Schools course. Eligible staff, including administrators, teachers, school counselors, school psychologists, school-based mental health clinicians, and paraeducators will complete the course during the grant phase. The site administrator will engage in regular coaching and technical assistance provided by an assigned coach. Expected outcomes include improved school conditions and climate and improved outcomes for all learners. Grant awardees must commit to ensuring a minimum of 90% of their school staff complete the course within the grant period ending on June 30, 2026.

During the application review process, per the trailer bill, priority will be given to schools who have a high number of unduplicated pupils and previous district level training on CA MTSS foundations through either the CA SUMS Phase 1 grant or subsequent training provided by their local COE or LEA.

County offices may apply for funding to help build capacity in their local office to coach schools implementing the CA MTSS framework. County office staff will identify staff to complete the online course and become certified CA MTSS coaches. County office funding may be used to support time to coach awardee sites/consortia in their county.

Applications are available starting: September 20, 2021  
Application Deadline: October 20, 2021 by 5:00 pm. PST  
Award Announcement: December 1, 2021

**Please see our webpage for more details about the CA MTSS grants:**

<https://ocde.us/MTSS/Pages/2021-Phase-3-CA-MTSS.aspx?csf=1&e=2j37bc>

**Additional Resources**

[FAQ](#)

[Revised California MTSS Framework.pdf](#)

[Vimeo CA MTSS Pathway Certification](#)

# California Assessment Conference

*Suggested Audience: Administrators and Teachers*



The third annual California Assessment Conference, hosted by the California Department of Education, will take place on **October 12–14, 2021**, through a virtual conference platform. This is a unique opportunity for classroom educators to explore the connections between assessments and classroom instruction while learning how other California educators use assessment tools and strategies to improve teaching and learning.

Registration for the 2021 California Assessment Conference will close **October 1, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.**, so register your staff soon! The nonrefundable registration fee is only \$79 per person.

The theme of this year’s conference is **“Together is Better: Capitalizing on the Collective Knowledge and Experience of the California Assessment Community.”** The conference is designed specifically for classroom educators. Attendees will have an opportunity to customize their own learning at the conference and to hear from their peers about best practices for utilizing California assessment tools and resources.

The conference will consist of a combination of live and prerecorded sessions and will feature renowned keynote speakers: Teacher of the Year Keisa Brown and Professor John Hattie. Details about this professional learning opportunity, the full conference schedule, and a link to registration are available on the conference website at <https://www.cdecac.org>.

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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](#)

## The 4th Grade Cabrillo College Experience - 10/15 9:00 - 10:00



Mark your calendars! The 4th Grade Cabrillo College Experience will be on October 15th at 9:00. Students from across the county will be able to “zoom in” to learn more about postsecondary education pathways and to hear from college students. More information and interactive curriculum to come!



## Fall 2021 School Counselor Newsletter

### Santa Cruz School Counselor Curriculum Handbook

*Suggested Audience: All counselors*

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

### **Santa Cruz School Counselor Network 21-22**

*Suggested Audience: All counselors*

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. Sessions topics will be based on counselor requests, needs, and feedback. Look for more information this fall!

To provide feedback on future session topics use [this form](#)!

Contact Cristine Chopra with any questions. [cchopra@santacruzcoe.org](mailto:cchopra@santacruzcoe.org).

**Sessions will be held from 9:00 - 10:30 on 11/17, 1/19, 3/23, & 5/18.**

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# CTEP

## **Social Media Prototype**

*Suggested Audience: All Educators*

To what degree can a social media campaign influence community college enrollment and decision making of under represented and historically excluded student groups?

Please review this slide deck from Human Centered Design Focus.

### **WHY:**

**Students, families and staff in historically disadvantaged communities lack exposure and understanding of diverse types of success**

### **WHAT:**

**To increase the understanding of diverse means/avenues of success readily available in said communities:**

### **HOW:**

**Launching this Social Media Campaign (Podcast, IG, Twitter Presence)**

Please contact Steve Hoy ([shoy@santacruzcoe.org](mailto:shoy@santacruzcoe.org)) with any questions.

[LEARN MORE](#)

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## ELA

### Reading for Social Justice PLC with CA Reading and Literacy Project

*Suggested Audience: teachers, instructional coaches, educators working in classrooms*



This monthly teacher leadership event will explore **multicultural, anti-bias, antiracist, literature** in support of integrating the Social Justice Standards and Framework. Additionally, we will feature *Textured Teaching* by Lorena Escoto Germán. Read and discuss K-12 literature and think about how to take action in our classrooms and learning communities. **Virtual** for all but the last meeting, Teachers will receive copies of books read including: *Dreamers*, *Stamped for the Beginning* (YA version), *How to Be an Anti-racist*, and *The Proudest Blue*.

[LEARN MORE](#)

### Los Angeles COE Learn it Quick Modules

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



The Los Angeles COE Reading Language Arts Department hosts short 5-10 minute on-demand modules to learn a new strategy including ones on Choices Boards in the ELA Classroom, Representation Matters: Building Positive Self-Image in Young Children Through Diverse Books (Grades TK-2), Representation Matters: Using Picture Books to Explore Activism, Black History and Self-Confidence ((K-5), Using Picture Books for Conversations with Teens on Race and Protest, and Returning to School After Distance Learning. Register to receive the link to view and file of resources.

[LEARN MORE](#)

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# ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY

## Santa Cruz COE is Hosting Monthly Meet-ups to Integrate Environmental Literacy



Connect environmental issues and resources to core content for student engagement and application of learning. Two monthly K-12 networks are available:

### SCIENCE & ENVIROLIT MEET-UP

1ST THURSDAYS 4-5PM

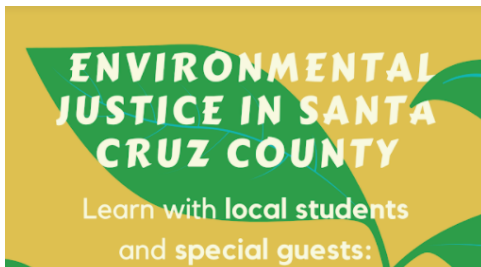
### HISTORY, CIVICS & ENVIROLIT MEET-UP

1ST WEDNESDAYS 4-5PM

We will present a new resource each month and then the rest of the agenda will be driven by participants. This is an opportunity to share favorite resources, problem solve with peers, connect with community partners, and more. REGISTER for [science here](#) and [history here](#).

### EVENT INFORMATION

## Use the Santa Cruz COE's Town Hall on Environmental Justice in Santa Cruz County for Classroom Discussions



Part of the Santa Cruz County Equity Series, this virtual event featured 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. To stay informed about more upcoming events, follow @santacruzcoe on Facebook and Instagram and view the event calendar at <https://santacruzcoe.org/>.

[Youtube Video \(with timestamped agenda for ease of classroom use\)](#)  
[Slide Presentation](#)

### VIDEO LINK

## Check it out! Searchable Directory of Environmental Programs in Our County!



Santa Cruz COE, Ten Strands and Green Guardians have partnered to create a searchable database of environmental programs in our county. This tool makes it easier for schools to get every child outdoors to apply learning to the real world, improve health and wellness, and support the future stewards of our environment. You can filter programs by grade, content area, standards, program type, and more! [Check out the Hub here!](#)

### PROGRAM DIRECTORY



### Watsonville Public Works Conservation Academy programs now open for Watsonville city schools!

Contact: Tami Stolzenhaller, Environmental Education Coordinator, MA Ed  
[tami.stolzenhaller@cityofwatsonville.org](mailto:tami.stolzenhaller@cityofwatsonville.org) (831)768-3161

### Watsonville Green Schools: Waste & Litter Reduction Program

Schools in the Watsonville City recycling zone, contact us to re-charge your school food scrap, recycling, food repurposing, and litter reduction program. Let's take action against climate change by evolving student's daily campus habits.



### Watsonville Wastewater Recycling Tour

Watsonville 6th grade Science classes are invited for a virtual or in-person tour of the wastewater recycling plant and Utilities laboratory. Engage with the science behind water treatment, interview a water operator and participate in a laboratory demonstration. [Our Water Works in Santa Cruz County: A Discovery Book About Our Fresh Water Resources](#) for Watsonville 5th and 6th graders is available online or in print by request.



## **Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History Seeks Input on New Middle School Nature Program!**



Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History has exciting news about Nature Club, an upcoming program for 6th-8th grade students that is launching this November. Nature Club is a program that takes kids out into nature, explores Museum collections in greater depth, and connects kids to new people in their community. The museum is soliciting feedback from families to inform program development. We invite you to forward this along to

those you think might be interested in registering for this program. Feel free to contact [education@santacruzmuseum.org](mailto:education@santacruzmuseum.org) with any further questions.

[Nature Club Survey Link](#)

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# EQUITY

**A Race & Equity Affinity Action Group** is a space for teachers to connect, reflect, share and learn from each other on their journey of becoming antiracist educators.

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education and the Santa Cruz/Silicon Valley New Teacher Project are pleased to provide this opportunity for **all teachers, veteran and new**, across the county, to join in our commitment to:

- Increase equity for all students.
- Develop a community of practice based on culturally responsive and antiracist pedagogy.
- Promote and sustain the leadership of teachers of color.

Please share [THIS](#) Registration Flyer. **Gatherings begin October 5th.**

**October is LGBTQ+ History Month! Educators, teachers, students, and families are invited to join in upcoming activities sponsored by the Santa Cruz County Office of Education.**

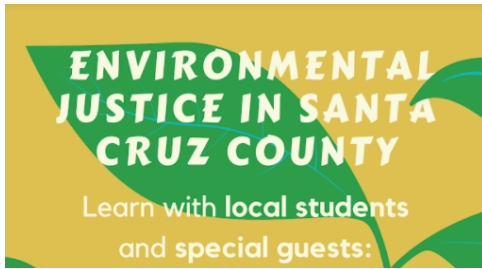
- **Students, Parents, and Teachers:** Join the LGBTQ+ History Month Challenge. Learn more about important people and events during October and join our student trivia game online on October 27. [Learn more »](#)
- **Teachers and Educators:** Use these curriculum resources to teach about LGBTQ+ people and events throughout the month. [Learn more »](#)
- **LGBTQ+ Equity Town Hall | October 4, 6-8p** All community members are invited to join a virtual town hall featuring guest speaker Peter Dewitt, student panel members, and opportunities for community input. [Register here »](#)
- **Queer, Trans and Allied Student Summit | October 9, 12-3pm** Students are invited to join a virtual summit sponsored by the Queer Youth Task Force, Safe Schools Project Santa Cruz County and Santa Cruz COE. [Learn more »](#)

## **SC/SVNTP Fall Breakfast, Thursday, October 28th 8:00am-10:00am (Virtual)**

*Suggested Audience: All administrators and teacher leaders.*

We would be pleased for you to join us virtually for our annual Fall Breakfast where we will continue to grow as antiracist educators. If you haven't done so already, please [register](#) today.

## Use the Santa Cruz COE's Town Hall on Environmental Justice in Santa Cruz County for Classroom Discussions



Part of the Santa Cruz County Equity Series, this virtual event featured 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. To stay informed about more upcoming events, follow @santacruzcoe on Facebook and Instagram and view the event calendar at <https://santacruzcoe.org/>.

[Youtube Video \(with timestamped agenda for ease of classroom use\)](#)  
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[VIDEO LINK](#)

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## HISTORY / SOCIAL SCIENCE

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1ST THURSDAYS 4-5PM

**HISTORY, CIVICS & ENVIROLIT MEET-UP**

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We will present a new resource each month and then the rest of the agenda will be driven by participants. This is an opportunity to share favorite resources, problem solve with peers, connect with community partners, and more. REGISTER for [science here](#) and [history here](#).

#### EVENT INFORMATION

### New Current Context: Redlining from California History-Social Science Project



Use the recent *Current Context*, "[Redlining](#)," to explore the social and environmental consequences of discriminatory housing policy decisions from the 1930s and how these policies continue to shape Americans' lived experiences. Students will consider linkages to social and climate justice issues nationally and in their own communities and learn about how some cities are tackling these entrenched issues. A teaching support page outlines relevant resources for deepening students' engagement in the

history, government, geography, ethnic studies, and economics classrooms. Recommended maps and databases can prompt small group and full class discussions about California-specific redlining connections.

#### RESOURCE LINK

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# MATH

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

*Suggested Audience: Teachers, Instructional Coaches, Administrators*



SVMI Math Session #2 is coming up, October 28, and is open to all educators, including those who were not able to attend the first session in September! **Please register ASAP** - registration closes October 22.

3:30-5:30 via Zoom:

- **Session #2: 10/28/21**
- Session #3: 12/7/21
- Session #4: 1/27/22
- Session #5: 2/15/22

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 #2**  
**[Registration](#)**

## Santa Cruz County High School Math Network

*Audience: High School Math Educators 9-12*



Join a Network of High School Math educators from across Santa Cruz County to surface and discuss topics of interest to the group. Possible topics may include sharing promising instructional practices during COVID, digging into the Draft Math Framework (due for adoption May 2022), intervention programs, 4th-year courses, or other topics suggested by group members during registration. Our Flyer is [HERE](#). Meetings are on Zoom, 3:30-4:45

- Tuesday, 10/19/21: **Successful Intervention and Peer Tutoring at Soquel High**
- Monday, 12/6/21
- Tuesday, 3/1/22

**[REGISTER](#)**

## Fall Virtual Lesson Study Symposium

Audience: Instructional Coaches, Teachers, Teacher-Leaders K-12



[FLYER](#)

Thursday, October 14 4:00-7:00 PM ZOOM, Free

California Action Network for Mathematics Excellence and Equity (CANMEE) is hosting a Fall Virtual Lesson Study Symposium.

Participants will:

- See examples of a lesson study team's efforts to maintain a dual focus on equity and mathematics
- Engage in group discussion about maintaining a dual focus
- Work in job-alike groups to share strategies to support teachers in maintaining a dual focus

## Equity Commentators: Online Course for Lesson Study (CANMEE)

Audience: Instructional Coaches, Coordinators, RTI Coordinators K-12



[FLYER](#)

A Japanese tradition in Math Lesson Study is to include a “knowledgeable other” to summarize key insights and learnings after a team engages in Lesson Study. In this 4-part series, learn how CANMEE has adapted this practice to also include commentary on equitable instruction. Whether you are currently facilitating Lesson Study and wish to become an Equity Commentator, or just want to learn more about the practice, this session should be a valuable learning experience. Sessions are 4:00-5:30 Oct. 19, Oct. 28, Nov. 17, Dec. 16, and include asynchronous assignments between online meetings

## Math Intervention Screeners

Audience: Math Educators, K-12



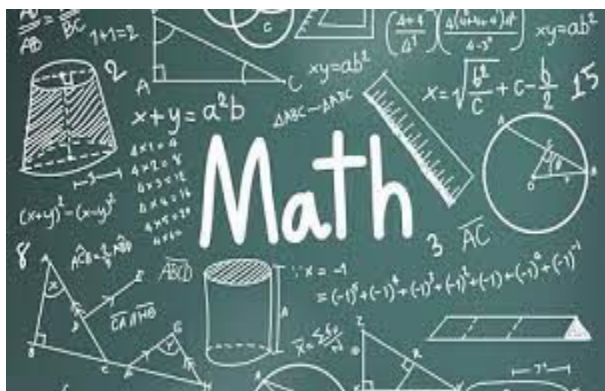
[LINKS](#)

A list of recommendations and tools for early detection, prevention, and support of students struggling with mathematics. Includes formative assessments and evidence-based practices. Resources for grades K-8.

High School Teachers interested in Intervention are encouraged to participate in the High School Math Network (linked above) to learn about a successful Intervention Model used at Soquel High School.

## Math Talks - Organized by San Benito County and the Monterey Bay Area Math Project (MBAMP)

Audience: Teachers, TK-12

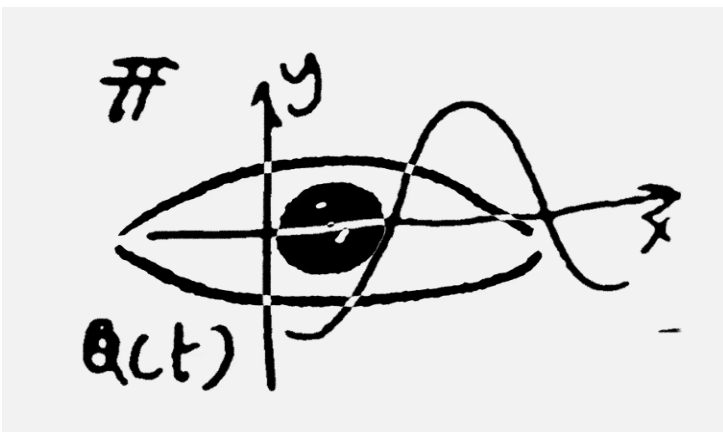


The Central Coast has a rich history of high-quality, engaging Math Talks. This year, San Benito County COE, in collaboration with the Monterey Bay Area Math Project (MBAMP), is hosting 7 Math Talks using a hybrid model that will allow in-person attendance as well as Zoom participation, and all are invited. The goals of the sessions are to encourage teachers as mathematicians, connect math professors (often from UCSC/CSMB) with local teachers, and build a community of math professionals committed to fostering a love and understanding of math among all students. Dates and times vary. Download the flyer, save the dates, and register ... these will be mathy ... and FUN :)

[FLYER](#)

## Shared Reading: Math Is Personal - How one professor changed the culture of mathematics for his students (*The Atlantic*, 9/25/21)

Suggested Audience: Teams of Teachers



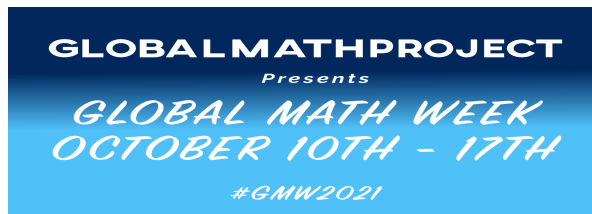
"Research has shown, STEM students from ethnic and racial minorities often feel isolated ... and women STEM students find themselves routinely denigrated and underestimated, even when outperforming men."

Consider incorporating this article, published 9/25/21 in the *Atlantic*, in a grade-level, department or PLC conversation. It describes how one professor, "Through language, through class policies, through an environment of respect, curiosity and mutual encouragement ... communicated that everyone had room to succeed."

[ARTICLE](#)

## Global Math Week (from the Global Math Project - Uplifting Mathematics for All)

Audience: Teachers K-12, Students, Families



Loads of cool math is a-foot for **Global Math Week**: Oct. 10-17! Join virtual talks, challenges, opportunities to crack codes, interactive challenges. Learning opportunities for students, as well as teachers. Events from around the world, lots of fun to be had in English/Spanish (or Português, Dutch, and French!). Register for events that interest you.

[WEBSITE](#)

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# MULTILINGUAL

## Elevating World Language Classroom Practice with SEL

*Suggested Audience: World language teachers, dual language program staff, instructional leaders,*



Learn to build a positive world language learning environment using SEL and prepare students for the future Global World. Participants will also explore ways to elevate their teaching practice to the next level with SEL integration into their lesson design to support the whole student. Oct. 2, 16, 23. It's not too late to join. Those who register now can view a recording of the first session.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## Bridging Self-Identity and Social Justice: How to Spark the Joy of Literacy in the Spanish Heritage Language Classroom

*Suggested Audience: World language teachers, dual language program staff, instructional leaders,*

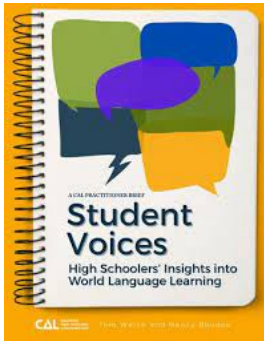


In this three-day workshop, participants will understand the importance of personal narrative writing to amplify student voices and leverage their assets as diverse learners. Teachers will be encouraged to explore recent issues of social justice through authentic texts by U.S. Latinx and Latin American writers. By engaging in strategies to promote literacy and reigniting a passion for reading and writing, participants will assist students in crafting their voice as a bridge to engage with more complex texts. Participants will receive resources, including student samples, teaching strategies, and authentic texts, and be encouraged to exchange additional resources as a community of teachers and learners. Led by Harbor High's Anne Cappiello as well as CSUMB professors as part of the Monterey Bay World Language Project. Begins Oct. 9.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## Student Voices: High Schoolers' Insights into World Language Learning

*Suggested Audience: World language teachers, dual language program staff, instructional leaders, counselors*



Report from the Center of Applied Linguistics (CAL) focuses on appropriate methods for helping students learn languages by sharing perspectives of the learners. A focus group of diverse high school students explored themes such as: students' motivations for learning a language, learning speaking skills, increasing interaction in the classroom, increasing cultural competency, and activities that students recommend and using technology to reach beyond the classroom.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## CABE Fall Parent and Paraeducator Conference

*Suggested Audience: parents of multilingual learners, para-educators, family-school coordinators, parente educators*



Two virtual conferences, one especially for families and the other for para-educators with topics such as Understanding ELD and the ELPAC, Addressing Racial Justice with your Children, Family Engagement and Building Relationships, Supporting Biliteracy Development in Dual Language Classrooms and Supporting English Learners Success in SEI classrooms, Parent sessions are presented in Spanish and English.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## Language Ambassadors Information Sessions

*Suggested Audience: teachers, site administrators, family-school staff*



The COE's Language Ambassadors program is a student recognition for grades TK-6 to promote and celebrate multilingualism as an asset for all students. It promotes family engagement and supports classroom communities that are culturally and linguistically sustaining. Attend a virtual session to learn more about how to bring this to your school.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## ELD Connectors for students with most significant cognitive disabilities

*Suggested Audience: Special Ed staff serving dually-identified students with the most significant cognitive disabilities*



The CDE is pleased to announce that the resource *English Language Development Connectors for the Alternate ELPAC* is available on the CDE [Alternate ELPAC web page](#), under “Technical Documents.” This document describes the relationship between the 2012 California English Language Development Standards and the English Language Development Connectors, which are reduced in breadth, depth, and complexity for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

[LEARN MORE](#)

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# SCIENCE

## Air Quality Workshop from the Green Ninja



Wednesday, October 6, 3-4pm on Zoom

Green Ninja will be hosting a workshop for our Fall Air Quality Program to improve your understanding of air pollution science and prepare you to teach a unit on air pollution using real-time air quality measurement tools. To attend the workshop and get access to the curriculum which has been modified for remote instruction, sign up through the link below.

All teachers are welcome to attend the workshop. Teachers who are living in the Bay Area will be able to borrow a PocketLab sensor for their classroom through a regional grant if they participate in the Fall Air Quality Program.

[REGISTRATION](#)

## Access our local K-12 Science & Environmental Literacy Lesson Sequences!



Teacher Leaders and local environmental Education Partners collaborated to develop NGSS-based lesson sequences that integrate a field trip program into grade level NGSS standards focused lessons. . Last year, the group produced distance learning sequences--these are still available and can be adapted to add back in person lessons and field trips!

Teacher who piloted these lessons shared the following highlights:

- Action Projects Empowered Students
- Mental Health Benefits from Connecting to Nature
- Learning about Local Environments on a Deeper Level

Teacher-led peer training in using these lesson sequences will be coming in early 2022!

[LINK TO LESSONS](#)

## Free Middle School Climate Change Unit: Saving the Monarchs



Wednesday, October 6, 3-4pm on Zoom

GGreen Ninja has created a special collection of lessons to help teachers make climate change engaging and relevant for their students. The unit integrates content across multiple science disciplines (i.e., life science, earth science, and physical science) and finishes with a solutions-oriented project.

[LINK TO UNIT](#)