We know that an arts education helps students develop critical thinking and further motivates them to learn and excel academically. Arts Education stimulates creativity and innovation that supports all areas of academics. Arts Education plays a significant role in supporting a well-rounded education, especially for disadvantaged students who are less likely to have access to arts instruction outside of the school setting."

– Krystal Lomanto, San Benito County Superintendent of Schools

San Benito County Office of Education
San Benito County Office of Education (SBCOE) is participating in the Region 5 VAPA collaborative which aims to bring Arts Standards professional development and conversation to each of the four counties. SBCOE levies relationships with community and region entities to offer current resources to all eleven of our county districts. Our cherished partnerships provide a well-balanced implementation of arts to our districts.

SBCOE is fortunate to be able to work with the San Benito County Art Council in our arts education endeavors. Programs include a collaborative countywide Art Showcase, STEAM Fair, and the ever so popular Teachers’ Art Workshops.

The San Benito County Arts Council also supports San Benito County Office of Education’s alternative education programs through their Dreams Project, a year-round artist in residency program at San Andreas Continuation High School, Pinnacles School and Juvenile Hall. Recently, alternative education students participated in an eight-week skateboard art project with
teaching artists, Sylas & Heidi Jumper, and also attended school-based performances by Common Sound, a music collective of symphony musicians and spoken word artists. SBCOE also works closely with the Arts Council’s Arts Now Community, a network of arts education advocates who are working to promote and expand arts education for all students in San Benito County. In 2019 they successfully advocated for the adoption of the Declaration of Student Rights to Arts Education by the San Benito Board of Education.

One of the county’s greatest achievements in the last year has been the creation of the new 3rd-5th Grade Visual Art Program within the Hollister School District and Aromas San Juan School District. This program, coordinated by the San Benito County Arts Council, brings weekly visual art classes to every 3rd, 4th and 5th grader in our two largest elementary school districts. That’s over 2,000 students per week getting the arts! The program is taught by qualified teaching artists and is expected to expand in 2020-21. We are grateful to Superintendent Ochoa (HSD) and Superintendent Huntoon (ASJUSD) for their leadership in the arts!