

# Stanislaus County

## Stanislaus County Office of Education

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*“I do not want art for a few any more than education for a few, or freedom for a few.”*

- William Morris



Scott Kuykendall,  
Stanislaus County  
Superintendent of Schools

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The Stanislaus County Office of Education (SCOE) is committed to ensuring that every child in the county experiences a comprehensive curriculum. A high-quality education in the arts, including the subject areas of dance, media arts, music, theatre, and visual arts is an integral component of a comprehensive approach. The arts teach our children more than just how to dance,



sing, act, or paint; they facilitate students' learning in all subject areas and foster creative thinking, problem solving, decision making, individual responsibility, and teamwork. The arts in education better prepare students for college and career by giving them the necessary skills to be

creative, successful, and competitive in today's global market.



Arts education is a collaborative effort, and SCOE values and utilizes partnerships to support and grow arts education programs. Stanislaus COE has a long-standing partnership with the Gallo Center for the Arts. Through this partnership, SCOE and the Gallo Center for the Arts develop and host arts education workshops for teachers based on the performances offered as part of the Gallo Center for the Arts *Pathways to Creativity Student Matinee Series*. Since 2015, SCOE has partnered with the State Theatre to offer the *Youth Education Program (YEP)* performance series. The YEP

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provides a series of free matinee performances that are aligned to California State Content and Common Core Standards for teachers and students. The partnerships with the Gallo Center for the Arts, and the State Theatre



help develop, and guide arts education opportunities provided to students, teachers, and administrators.

The work SCOE does to support arts education is not limited to events offered by the county office. SCOE works closely with districts to provide standards-aligned opportunities and workshops for teachers to learn more about the arts, arts education, and arts integration. Districts value the opportunity to offer arts education and arts integration professional development on-site at district schools, and SCOE is proud to be able to support such events. Through these events, SCOE is able to offer a variety of customized



professional development offerings including but not limited to: arts-discipline-specific workshops; arts and

social-emotional learning; defining arts integration; grade-level specific arts integration; specific fine arts course workshops; sketchnotes; STEAM workshops; and utilizing arts integration in the general education classroom.

Through a continuous improvement model, SCOE strives to develop leadership and capacity for quality arts education in county schools and in districts. Countywide leadership continues to be developed through the regularly convening Arts Education Leadership Team, federal and state grant projects, and ongoing advocacy by SCOE. SCOE is a recipient of the California 2019 Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE)

grant, and the US DOE 2017 Professional Development for Art Education (PDAE) grant; these grants total over \$2 million



in funds to support arts education. The SSAE grant, which concluded in 2019, utilized research-based arts integration strategies to enhance the achievement and cognitive growth of English Language Arts of students with disabilities through a professional development module for teachers. Currently, SCOE partners with the Stanislaus Union School District on the PDAE grant, and yearly provides 40 hours of arts integration professional development to district teachers.

As part of the mission to ongoing arts education advocacy, SCOE offers opportunities for students and teachers to showcase



their creative abilities by inviting student groups to perform and showcase their creative talents at stakeholder events. Such events include but are not limited to: the *Art of the Educator Show*, the *Student Photography Show*, the *Transitional Kindergarten - 12th Grade Student Fine Arts Showcase*, and most notably the *Community Photography Project and Juried Exhibition*. The *Community Photography Project and Juried Exhibition* is an opportunity for 7th - 12th Grade students to document what community means and looks like using photography. The artifacts created by students as part of the *Community Photography Project and Juried Exhibition* are showcased at the county office, and special selections of student work are permanently installed at SCOE. In this way, SCOE is able to demonstrate the meaning and value of the many communities represented by county students and stakeholders.