

2023-2024  
**Annual  
Education  
Report**

*Supporting Student Success*

# MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

## *Dear Partners,*

I am pleased to present the Annual Report for the 2023-2024 school year, offering a comprehensive review of our efforts to support student success. This report highlights our successes and challenges, showcasing our dedication to enhancing the lives of children and families through impactful educational programs. It also aims to foster transparency and accountability within the community by illustrating how our resources have been utilized and the positive impact made with schools and students.

At the office of the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools our mission is to provide educational leadership, foster partnerships and coordinate services to districts to ensure equitable opportunities for ALL students in Fresno County. We work collaboratively within our community, understanding that a child's developmental trajectory spans from birth to age 22. While our primary focus is teaching the three Rs in our TK-12 schools, we recognize the critical importance of the first five years in laying a strong foundation. Our goal is for all children to graduate high school with a plan for college, a career, or service, and to successfully transition into adulthood by age 22. By raising our youth well, we can transform our county, state, country, and the world, and this is best achieved through active parent and community engagement.

We know what it takes to educate a child equitably. The critical components of a child's educational journey include:

### **1. A Healthy Start in the First Five Years:**

We prioritize early childhood education, ensuring that every child gets a healthy and strong start. Our programs focus on physical, emotional, and cognitive development during these formative years.

### **2. Kindergarten Readiness:** Preparing our students for kindergarten is crucial. We emphasize early literacy, math skills, and social-emotional learning to ensure they are ready to thrive in a structured school environment.

### **3. Reading on Grade Level by Third Grade:** Achieving reading proficiency by the end of third grade is a critical milestone. Our dedicated teachers and evidence-based reading programs help students develop the skills necessary for academic success.

### **4. Mastery of Algebra by Eighth Grade:** Algebra is a gateway to higher-level math and science courses. We strive to ensure that all students master algebra by eighth grade, setting them up for success in high school and beyond.

### **5. Robust Offerings in High School:** Our high school curriculum caters to diverse interests and future aspirations. We offer:

- **A-G Courses:** Ensuring students meet the requirements for admission to four-year universities.
- **Career and Technical Education (CTE) Pathways:** Providing hands-on learning experiences and industry certifications.
- **Opportunities for Civic Engagement:** Encouraging students to be active and informed citizens.

These foundational elements lead to high school graduation and a clear plan for their future, whether it be pursuing higher education, embarking on a career, or serving their community.





# Fresno County Board of Education



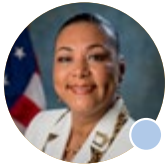
**James Martinez**  
President



**Dr. Allen Clyde**  
Vice President



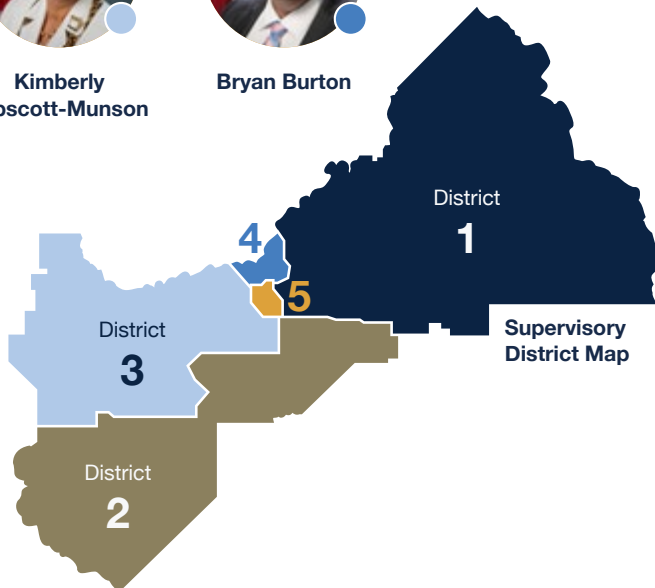
**Dr. Marcy Masumoto**



**Kimberly Tapscott-Munson**



**Bryan Burton**

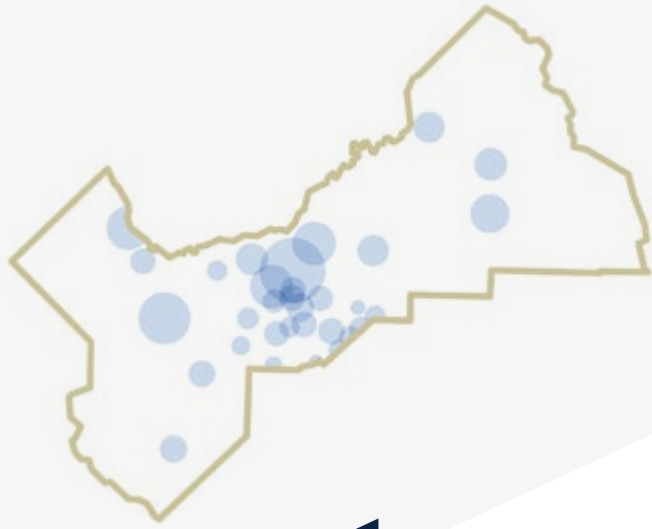


The Fresno County Board of Education (County Board) is comprised of five elected members who play a critical role in supporting the county's educational system. In collaboration with the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, the County Board ensures that school facilities and learning environments promote growth and achievement for students in county programs. Key responsibilities include setting the County Superintendent's salary, approving the superintendent's budgets, and overseeing the Local Control Accountability Plan for juvenile court schools. Additionally, the County Board serves as an important forum for appeals related to inter-district transfers, expulsions, and charter school petitions, carefully considering each matter in accordance with the law to best serve the students, schools, and community of Fresno County.

We are proud of the progress we have made and remain committed to continuously improving our educational programs to ensure equity and success for every student.

Thank you for your support and partnership in nurturing the next generation of leaders, innovators, and engaged citizens.

**Dr. Michele Cantwell-Copher**  
Fresno County Superintendent of Schools



# FRESNO COUNTY

## BY THE NUMBERS

### SCHOOL TYPE

Elementary  
Schools

**204**

Alternative/  
Continuation  
Schools

**35**

Middle Schools

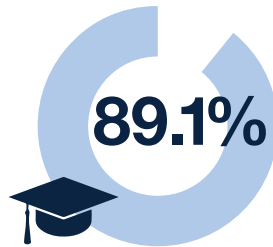
**42**

High Schools

**75**

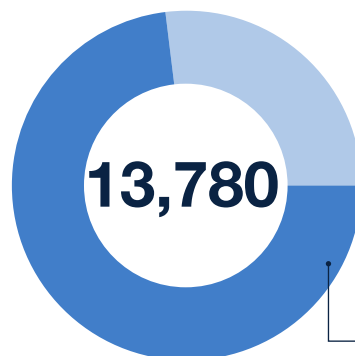
Special Ed  
Schools

**4**



### HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE

(4-year cohort graduation rate 2022-23)



### SCHOOL EMPLOYEES

**3,727** Classified ([2023-24](#))

**10,053** Teachers ([2022-23](#))



**Credentialed Teachers**  
([9,380](#))

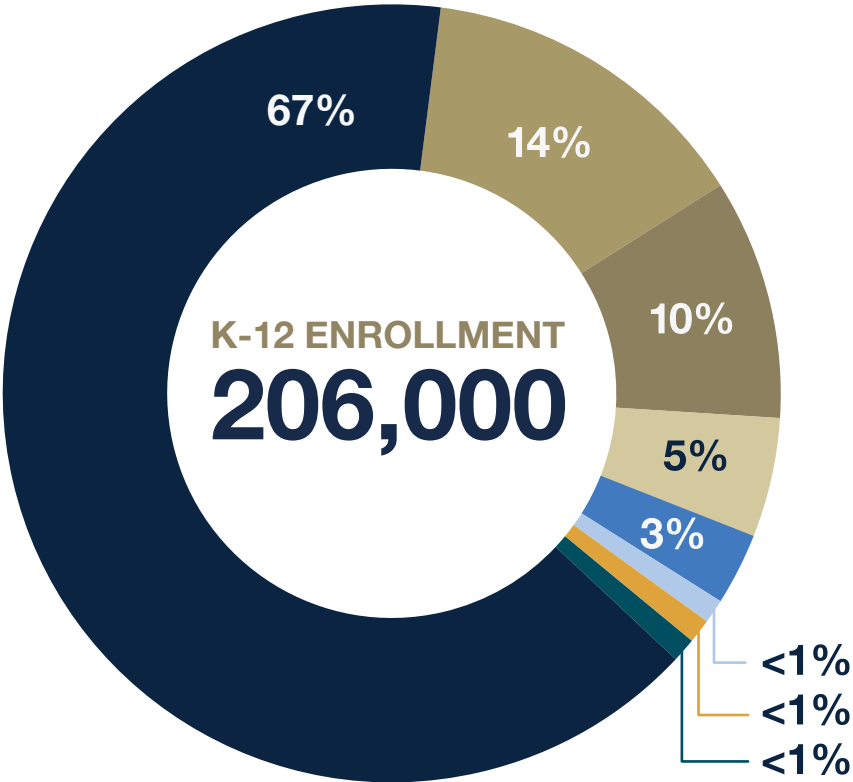
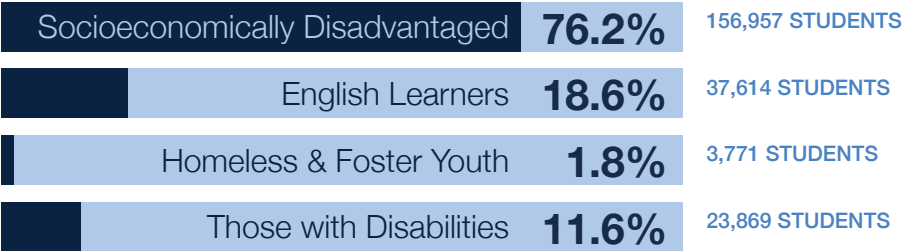
### Total Student Enrollment

Big Creek Elementary	26
Pine Ridge Elementary	68
Burrell Union Elementary	101
Alvina Elementary	176
Clay Joint Elementary	240
Pacific Union Elementary	345
Washington Colony Elementary	434
West Park Elementary	469
Raisin City Elementary	553
Laton Unified	597
Kingsburg Joint Union High	1,227
Sierra Unified	1,292
Golden Plains Unified	1,388
Riverdale Unified	1,456
Caruthers Unified	1,531
Orange Center Elementary	1,680
Kingsburg Elementary	2,151
Firebaugh-Las Deltas Unified	2,193
Fowler Unified	2,523
Washington Unified	2,752
Parlier Elementary	3,226
Mendota Unified	3,949
Westside Elementary	4,071
Coalinga-Huron Unified	4,382
Kerman Unified	5,304
Selma Unified	5,974
Kings Canyon Unified	9,658
Sanger Unified	13,250
Central Unified	15,956
Clovis Unified	43,291
Fresno Unified	71,480

\* Total school numbers represented in the left column include Court Schools, Online Schools, Charter Schools, and Traditional Schools.



# ISSUES FACING THE STUDENTS



- |        |                                  |
|--------|----------------------------------|
| LATINO | TWO OR MORE RACES                |
| WHITE  | FILIPINO                         |
| ASIAN  | PACIFIC ISLANDER                 |
| BLACK  | AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE |

**31** SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN FRESNO COUNTY

**76%** OF STUDENTS ARE RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH

# Supporting Student Success

The Fresno County Superintendent of Schools (FCSS) plays a pivotal role in California's education system, acting as a bridge between the state Department of Education and local school districts. FCSS provides essential services that support districts to deliver high-quality education to students. This includes offering professional development for teachers, supporting curriculum development, and ensuring fiscal oversight to maintain district

stability. Additionally, FCSS ensures that local districts comply with state and federal regulations, offering guidance on legal matters, special education services, and student assessments. By overseeing the implementation of statewide initiatives and policies, FCSS works closely with district leaders to ensure accountability and alignment, ultimately enhancing student success throughout Fresno County.

## 23-24 Superintendent's Cabinet



Pictured: 2023-24 Executive Cabinet

**Anthony Ayerza**  
Executive Director  
CTE/ROP

**Lisa Birrell**  
Program Coordinator  
Communications

**Jeff Becker**  
Executive Director  
Facilities & Operations

**Christina Borges**  
Executive Director  
Student Services Division

**Ruben Castillo**  
Executive Director  
Regional Programs

**Brad Huebert**  
Executive Director  
Curriculum & Instruction

**Dr. Diane Lira**  
Deputy Superintendent  
Instructional Division

**Teresa Martinez-Trevino**  
Executive Assistant  
to the Superintendent

**Trina Frazier**  
Assistant Superintendent  
Student Services Division

**Laurie Gabriel**  
Assistant Superintendent  
Human Resources Division

**Dr. Corey Greenlaw**  
Assistant Superintendent  
Educational Innovation & Support

**Kevin Otto**  
Deputy Superintendent  
Business Services Division

**Tannon Pafford**  
Assistant Superintendent  
Human Resources Division

**Jason Parkin**  
General Counsel  
Legal Services Division

**Mike Pronovost**  
Technology Officer  
Information Systems & Technology

**Helena Silva**  
Executive Director  
Safe & Healthy Kids





# ✓ What We Do

- ✓ **Professional Development:** Offering training and development opportunities for teachers and administrators.
- ✓ **Curriculum Support:** Assisting districts with curriculum development and instructional support.
- ✓ **Fiscal Oversight:** Monitoring and approving school district budgets to ensure financial stability and accountability.
- ✓ **District Payroll Services:** Assisting school districts by managing payroll functions to ensure timely and accurate compensation for district employees.
- ✓ **Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) Oversight:** Approving and overseeing districts' LCAPs to ensure alignment with state education priorities.
- ✓ **Compliance and Accountability:** Ensuring that districts comply with state and federal regulations, including special education laws and student assessment requirements.
- ✓ **Special Education Services:** Providing special education and related services to students with disabilities as outlined in their Individualized Education Program (IEP) and supporting districts with these services.
- ✓ **Special Education Local Plan Areas (SELPAs):** Coordinating and supporting SELPAs to ensure equitable access to special education services across districts, addressing the unique needs of students with disabilities.
- ✓ **Alternative Education Programs:** Operating programs for students who are expelled, in juvenile court schools, or need alternative educational placements.
- ✓ **Career Technical Education (CTE):** Operating specialized career pathways programs through schools like CTEC High School, offering students real-world skills in areas such as manufacturing and construction.
- ✓ **Head Start and Child Care Programs:** Managing early childhood education programs like Head Start and child care subsidies to support young learners.
- ✓ **Migrant Education Services:** Providing academic and support services to migrant students and their families across the county.
- ✓ **Foster & Homeless Youth Advocacy:** Offering academic support and advocacy for children in foster care to ensure their educational success.
- ✓ **Outdoor Education:** Delivering high-quality outdoor education programs to students throughout the county, promoting experiential learning in nature.
- ✓ **Teacher Credentialing Support:** Assisting educators in clearing Preliminary Multiple/Single Subject and Education Specialist credentials, and providing credential-related services such as processing, CTC fingerprinting, and assignment monitoring.
- ✓ **Charter School Oversight:** Reviewing and approving county-wide charter school petitions, and providing ongoing monitoring.
- ✓ **Expanded Learning Programs:** Overseeing expanded learning programs to support students outside regular school hours.
- ✓ **Community Schools Initiative:** Assisting local districts in implementing the Community Schools Initiative, providing integrated support services for students.

- ✓ **Visual and Performing Arts Support:** Supporting visual and performing arts instruction to enhance student learning and creative expression.
- ✓ **Events and Academic Competitions:** Hosting academic competitions and events for students from elementary through high school.
- ✓ **Support for Underserved Populations:** Providing programs and resources for vulnerable student populations, including foster youth, migrant students, and English learners.

## ⊘ What We Don't Do

- We do not exercise direct governance over local school districts





# FCSS

# STRATEGIC PLAN

Last year, we created our first Strategic Plan as our blueprint document delineating our foundational goals to meet the needs of all students in Fresno County. In our first Annual Report, we share our achievements in this reporting period as we strive to have greater impact on student learning and engagement.

## Student Safety, Engagement & Social-Emotional Wellness

Focusing on the needs of the “whole child” through support systems that fulfill the requirements of every student to succeed. Whether helping students to feel safe on campus or providing them with the social and emotional support they need to thrive, our focus is to learn what needs are most prevalent and find ways to meet them.

## Youth, Family & Community Voice

Providing opportunities for students and families to have a voice in the educational system. Pursue equity as an organization by listening to the voices of those who we don't often hear from and provide a chance for those without a platform to be heard, especially in traditionally underserved communities.

## Internal Support & Development

Valuing personal development and opportunities for furthering our own education so that we can successfully meet the needs of the communities we serve. We can achieve this through developing cross-department support, teamwork, equity, technology and student safety, as well as job-specific training.

## Student Achievement

Ensuring all students have access to a high-quality education in order to improve student achievement. Our top priority should be to provide academic programs and guide curriculum development across the county to improve disproportionate student outcomes. Measure the success of the entire system – birth through career.

## Responsive Community Leadership

Prioritizing responsive community leadership, which is characterized by leaders who actively engage with and listen to the needs, concerns and aspirations of the community they serve. We must foster an environment where community members feel empowered to contribute their ideas and perspectives.





## 2023-24 Student Performance Highlights

**The Office of the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools** is pleased to share the latest student test scores, which reflect a continued commitment to educational improvement across Fresno County. Our districts have made notable progress, especially in key areas that demonstrate our dedication to academic growth for all students.

### **Increases in English Language Arts (ELA) and Math:**

Fresno County students showed improvement in both ELA and Math, outpacing California's overall gains year-over-year. Fresno County ELA scores increased from 42.8% in 2023 to 44.3% in 2024. Math scores saw an increase from 30.4% in 2023 to 32.18 in 2024. This achievement is a testament to the hard work of our students, educators, and families.

### **Economically Disadvantaged Students' Performance:**

We are particularly proud of our progress in supporting our economically disadvantaged students, who outperformed their peers across the state in both ELA and Math. ELA scores increased from 35.27% to 36.81%. Math scores saw an increase from 22.91% to 24.98%. This success underscores our focus on equity and access to high-quality education for every student, regardless of their economic background.

*The data also points to areas where more attention is needed, and we are committed to addressing these challenges head-on:*

**African American Students' Performance:** While we saw a slight decrease in ELA scores for African American students, from 27.95% to 27.76%, we are encouraged by their growth in Math, rising from 16.78% to 18.04%. We recognize the need for targeted interventions to support continued improvement and are actively working with schools and community leaders to close these achievement gaps.

**Support for English Learners and Students with Disabilities:** Long-term English learners (LTELs) and students with disabilities remain our lowest-performing groups in both ELA and Math. This is a call to action for our organization to increase support through focused strategies and resources to uplift these students and ensure they have the tools needed to succeed.

At The Office of the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, we see these results as both an achievement and a roadmap for future growth. While we celebrate our gains, we are committed to addressing the disparities highlighted by this data. Every student deserves the opportunity to thrive academically, and we will continue to partner with districts, educators, families, and the community to provide the support necessary for success.







## SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS











# TEAM FCSS

## *SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS*

2023/24 STATS

### DEPARTMENTS

52

### Actual Retirement Contributions for Employees

\$8,717,540

### TOTAL EMPLOYEES

1,521

### Salary and Benefits Actual Expenses

\$158,505,179

## Retirees

On behalf of FCSS, heartfelt congratulations and deepest gratitude are extended to the 2024 retirees. Their dedication and contributions have left a lasting impact on the lives of students, colleagues, and the entire Fresno County education community. As they embark on this exciting new chapter, their legacy of service will continue to inspire others. FCSS thanks them for their many years of hard work and commitment to education, and congratulates them on a well-deserved retirement.





## Employees of the Month



**Gina Wolf**  
July



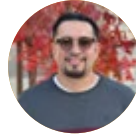
**Dominic Johnson**  
August



**Abby Petropulos**  
September



**Stephen Bock**  
October



**Jacob Cavazos**  
November



**Chinda Xayarath**  
December



**Andrew Moreno**  
January



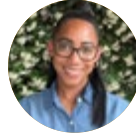
**Leslie Cox**  
February



**Leonel Mendez**  
March



**Angela Gonzalez**  
April



**Jayla Alvarez**  
May



**Annie Sharp**  
June

## Pillar Award Honorees



**Titus Karvon**  
Administrator of the Year



**Cynthia Ramirez**  
Teacher of the Year



**Lynn Bartels**  
Employee of the Year

## Discover FCSS

This past year, FCSS launched a new employee orientation program called **Discover FCSS**, aimed at welcoming and engaging new team members as they begin their journeys with the organization. The program offers an in-depth introduction to the mission, values, and the essential work that FCSS performs throughout Fresno County. Through interactive sessions, new employees are provided with

insights into available resources and learn how their roles contribute to the organization's vision of empowering students and strengthening the educational community. Discover FCSS ensures that each new employee feels valued, informed, and prepared to make an immediate impact for students.

Alexandra Rosario and Brenda Cabrera Lopez getting welcomed to the team during Discover FCSS. From July 2023 to June 2024, we **welcomed 159 new employees** to the team through this fun, day-long orientation.



# THE FOUNDATION @ FCOE

The philanthropic arm of the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, the Foundation supports essential programs and services to ensure students achieve their full academic potential. Our mission is to extend greater opportunities to Fresno County students. We serve over 206,000 students, with a focus on closing the achievement gap.

## Board of Directors

R. Michael Alexander  
Dr. Michele Cantwell-Copher  
JD Davis  
Elizabeth Dooley  
Jose A. Elgorriaga  
Armida Espinoza  
Sally Gallagher  
Thilani Grubel  
Mendy Laval  
Dr. Fenglaly Lee, MD  
Dr. Diane Lira  
Dr. Marcy Masumoto  
Yery Olivares  
Kevin Otto  
Artie Padilla  
Gursharan Rahal  
Lorenzo Rios  
Virginia Madrid-Salazar  
Jennifer Smith  
Vinay Sreekumar  
Raye Michelle Vang  
Tyrone Roderick Williams  
Tom Zimmerman

## Executive Committee

Debbie Jacobsen  
**President**  
Al Galvez  
**Vice President**  
NeFesha Ruth Yisra'el  
**Treasurer**  
Courtney Shapiro  
**Secretary**  
Tracy Kashian  
**Director-At-Large**  
Anna Brooks  
**Immediate Past-President**  
  
MaryEllen Galvan  
**Executive Director**

2023 Honorees (left to right)  
Matty Matoian, Mary Curry,  
[Dr. Copher], Amy Kitchener,  
Danella Barnes-Penman  
[MaryEllen Galvan]



# \$1,057,001

issued to FCSS Programs

# \$226,500

Secured in Grant Funds

# \$170,250

Student Event Sponsorship

# \$656,720

Raised through Corporate Sponsorships

# \$23,229

Raised by FCSS Employees

Every year, the Foundation hosts the FCOE Honors Gala to recognize four community members who have significantly impacted Fresno County students through their profession or community involvement. Proceeds from the Gala support academic events, special projects, and programs in academics, agriculture, the arts, and athletics for Fresno County students. Through these partnerships, FCSS enhances students' educational experiences, helping them develop talents, interests, and skills for a bright future.





Every year, the Foundation awards one grant of up to \$1,000 to each of Fresno County's 31 school district to fund an innovative project or program that promotes student development and achievement. The annual Innovation Grant Awards are made possible by the generous contributions of FCSS employees, primarily through monthly payroll deduction.

This year the Foundation celebrated the 15-year anniversary of its formation. The impact that the Foundation has made to support exemplary programs and services through a shared community responsibility has been far-reaching and totaling over \$25.5 million that has helped enhance, sustain, and advance educational opportunities for Fresno County students.

The Foundation @ FCOE has been awarded the 2024 AFP-National Philanthropy Day Award for Outstanding Program, recognizing the Innovation Fund Campaign. This campaign is supported by employees of the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools (FCSS), many of whom contribute through monthly payroll deductions. For over 13 years, the Innovation Fund Campaign has made a significant impact by supporting innovative learning in classrooms across Fresno County. The campaign raises \$25,000 annually, which is distributed to Fresno County's 31 school districts (including FCSS and the category for Non-Traditional Schools) through the annual Innovation Grants. Grants of up to \$1,000 are awarded to each school district following a review and selection process of grant proposals submitted to the Foundation. To date, the campaign has raised nearly \$370,000 and funded over 350 programs and projects in Fresno County schools. Special recognition is extended to the FCSS employees who champion the Innovation Fund Campaign.







# *Supporting Student Success*

**Fresno County Superintendent of Schools**

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559 265 3000

[fcoe.org](http://fcoe.org)

