

2025 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



Lassen County Office of Education
Supporting Students for the Future



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 3 **About LCOE**
Including a message from the superintendent of schools
- 4 **Lassen County Board of Education**
Meet your Lassen County Board of Education along with their role and responsibilities.
- 5 **Our Work at a Glance**
A summary of the work we do by need/departments
- 6 **Who We Serve**
Analytics of the students in the county
- 7 **LCOE Funding**
Overview of LCOE's Revenues & Expenditures
- 8 **Differentiated Assistance**
Targeted support for District improvement
- 9 **Community Schools**
Connecting schools with community resources
- 10 **Mental Health Services**
Mental Health & Wellness Services provided by LCOE
- 12 **Professional Learning**
Training, development, and learning throughout the county
- 15 **Foster & Homeless Youth**
Connecting vulnerable students with support
- 16 **Student Services & Events**
Engaging & supporting every Lassen student
- 18 **Awards & Achievements**
Staff of the Year, Educator Gala, and LCOE Achievements

ABOUT LCOE



The Lassen County Office of Education (LCOE) is committed to delivering the leadership, support, resources, and services that empower public schools across the county to help every child reach their full potential.

Serving 10 school districts, 3 charter schools, and over 3,700 students from pre-K through 12th grade, LCOE operates as a central hub for collaboration, innovation, and equity in education. Based in Susanville, the county seat, the Office works closely with schools, educators, and community partners to enhance academic programs, improve student outcomes, and provide student-centered services that meet the diverse needs of Lassen County's youth.

A Message from PATRICIA GUNDERSON Lassen County Superintendent of Schools

The Lassen County Office of Education is proud to share our Annual Education Report for the 2024–2025 school year. In collaboration with our dedicated school districts and charter schools, we have had the privilege of serving over 3,700 students across Lassen County.

This report reflects the heart of our mission—providing visionary leadership, essential services, and unwavering support to ensure every student thrives. From early learning to college and career pathways, we remain committed to creating opportunities that inspire success, equity, and connection throughout our educational community.

As County Superintendent of Schools, I am committed to strengthening school safety, advancing academic excellence, supporting youth mental health, broadening access to early education and career readiness, and inspiring the next generation of educators and leaders.



Our progress this year is a direct result of the passion and professionalism of our outstanding educators, staff, and administrators. Their daily dedication to student success makes Lassen County a place where education truly matters. Thank you for your continued partnership and support as we work together to ensure a bright, hopeful future for all students and families in Lassen County.

Lassen County BOARD OF EDUCATION



Patricia Hagata
Trustee Area 1



Dan Ownes
Trustee Area 1



Bruce Davie
Trustee Area 1



Abigail Hale
Trustee Area 2



Rob Erickson
Trustee Area 3



Will Zinn
Trustee Area 4



Dean Growdon
Trustee Area 5

The Role of the Board of Education

The Lassen County Board of Education plays a vital role in shaping and supporting countywide educational services. While it does not directly govern individual school districts—which are overseen by their own superintendents and boards—the County Board provides important oversight and guidance. Its responsibilities include reviewing the annual audit, approving the budgets for the County Superintendent and County School Service Fund, ruling on inter-district transfers and expulsion appeals, and authorizing charter schools operating countywide. The Board also manages property decisions, approves instructional materials for jointly operated schools, oversees county court and community schools, and handles administrative matters such as filling vacancies and reviewing Williams Act reports. Community members with concerns about specific schools, programs, or staff should contact their local district leadership.



Our Work at a Glance



DISTRICT SUPPORT

- District Support & Improvement
- Technology Integration
- CA MTSS & Supporting All Fellow Educators Community of Practice (SAFE COP)
- MSCS
- Foster & Homeless Youth Services
- Mental Health Services
- School Wellness Systems
- Social Emotional Interventions
- Behavioral Counselors Curriculum
- Differentiated Assistance
- Community Schools



TECHNOLOGY

- Network Server Technicians
- Computer Network Technicians
- Tech Coordinator
- Directory of Technology in schools



ADMINISTRATIVE, EDUCATIONAL & HUMAN RESOURCES

- Human Resources
- Staff Development
- Lassen County Youth Camp
- Williams' Settlement
- Local Planning Council
- Consolidated Application Coordinator
- Child and Family Resources
- Westwood & Susanville State Preschool
- Custodial Maintenance
- Student, Family & Community Engagement
 - After School Program, Children's Fair, Sober Graduation, TUPE, FPM CAIS, Family Engagement, etc.
- Credentialed School Nurses
- Adult Education
- Credentialing
- Building Programs
- County Board of Education
- Administrative Advisory Council
- Communications Support Specialist



SPECIAL EDUCATION

- Community Advisory Committee
- Extended Year Programs
- Far Northern
- Infant Toddler Program
- Interagency CASE Committee
- Lassen Alliance
- LEA Medi-Cal / Admin ACT
- SELPA Administrative Council
- Local Plan
- Behavioral Counselors, Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapist, Psychologist, Special Education Teachers, Speech Language Path, Workability/Student Employment Program.
- Transportation



BUSINESS

- AB-1200
- Accounts Payable
- Accounts Receivable
- Attendance
- Financial Support Services to Districts
- Developer Fees
- Health Benefit
- LCAP Financial
- Liability Insurance
- Review Payroll
- PERS/STRS

WHO WE SERVE

Students Come First



We serve 10 School Districts and 3 Charter Schools.

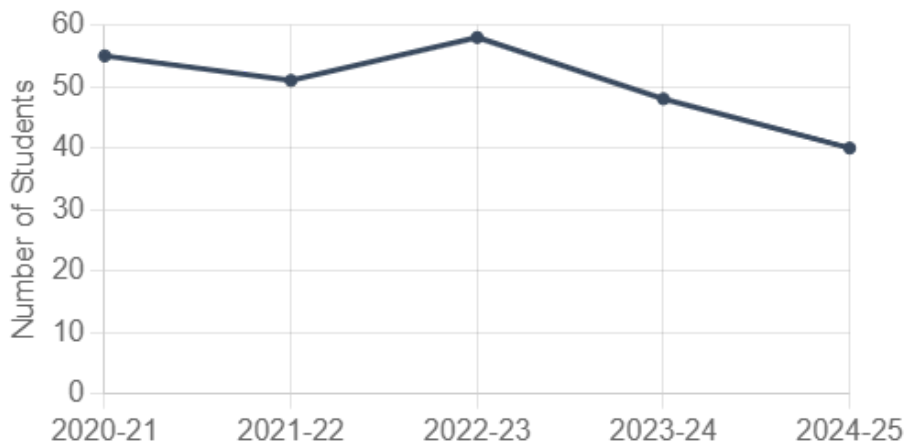


3,751 Students enrolled in Lassen County TK-12 Public Schools.

Lassen County is home to 10 school districts and 3 charter schools, collectively serving 3,751 students from transitional kindergarten through 12th grade during the 2024–25 school year. The Lassen County Office of Education (LCOE) provides critical services and support not only within the county, but in collaboration with partners across the state, working to strengthen outcomes for both students and educators.

Our county's diverse population and expansive geography fuel the dedication of LCOE staff, from superintendents to classroom educators, who are committed to making a difference. Through strong partnerships with local school districts, we ensure every student has access to high-quality, equitable education and opportunities to thrive.

Foster Youth Count

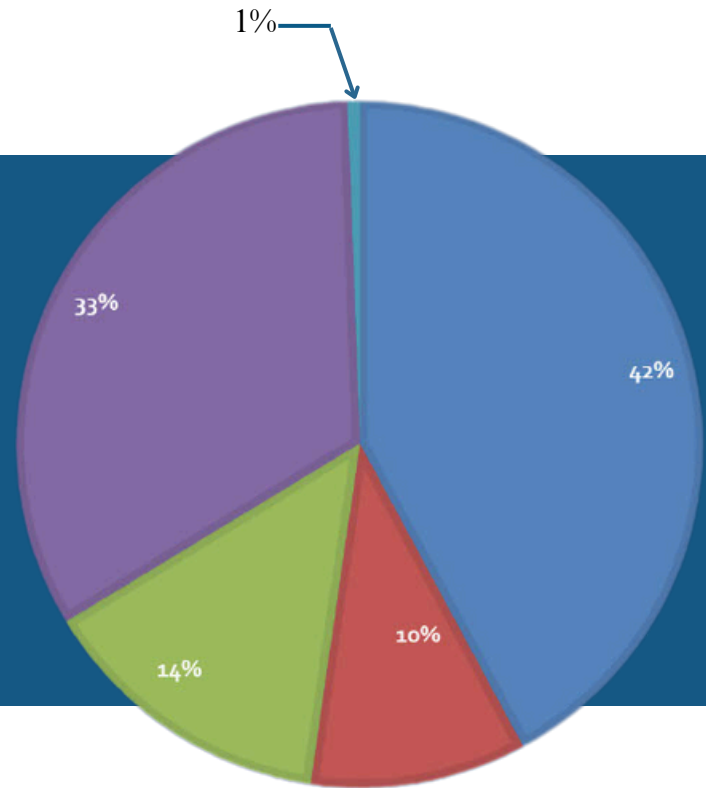


TK-12 School District	Enrollment
Big Valley Joint Unified	114
Fort Sage (Mt. Lassen Charter) (Long Valley Charter)	115 (154) (250)
Janesville Union Elementary	313
Johnstonville Elementary	211
Lassen Union High School	836
Ravendale-Termo Elementary	3
Richmond Elementary	192
Shaffer Elementary	246
Susanville (Thompson Peak Charter)	984 (151)
Westwood	182

LCOE Funding

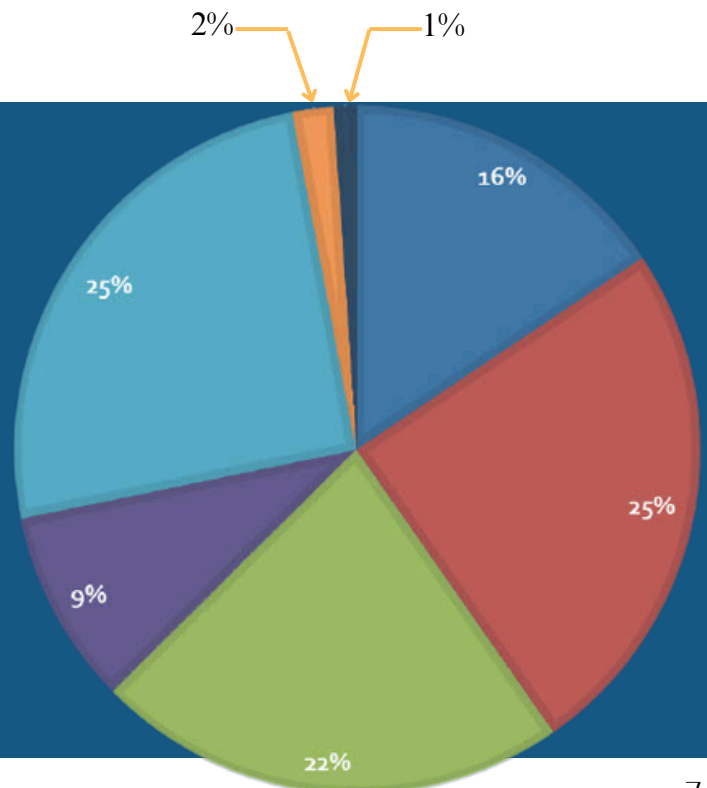
2024-2025 Unrestricted/Restricted Revenue Sources

- Federal Revenue
- Other State Revenue
- Other Local Revenue
- Transfers In
- LCFF Revenue



2024-2025 Unrestricted/Restricted Expenditures

- Class. Salaries
- Employee Benefits
- Books & Supplies
- Services & Other Operating Exp
- Cert. Salaries
- Other/Outgo Transfers Out
- Capital Outlay



Differentiated Assistance

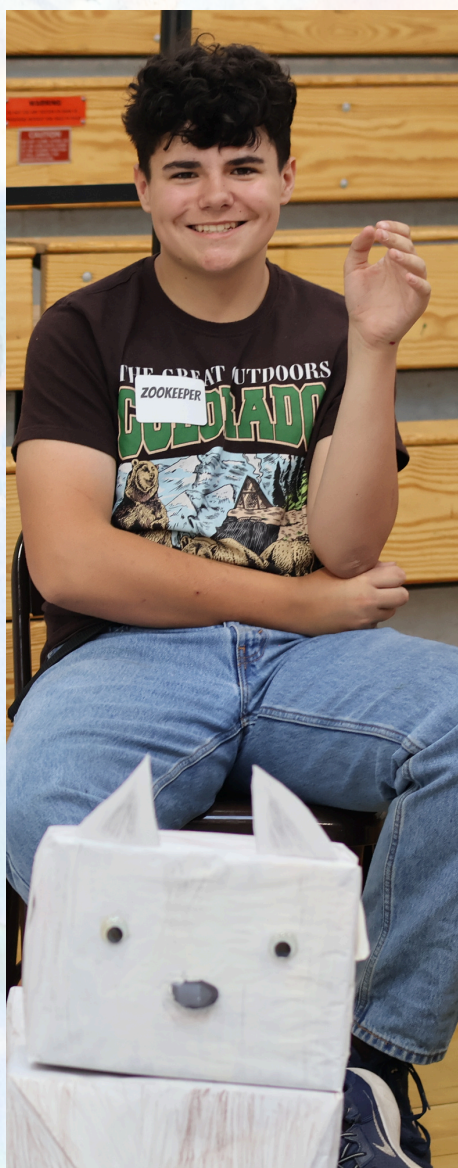
“DA is about partnership, not compliance. Supporting Districts in making meaningful, lasting change.”

— Bryan Young,

Assistant Superintendent of District Support



Differentiated Assistance (DA) is a key part of California’s Statewide System of Support, aimed at helping Local Education Agencies (LEAs) improve outcomes for students. At the Lassen County Office of Education, we work closely with eligible districts to provide tailored, timely, and collaborative support. Our goal is to build each district’s capacity to identify strengths, assess needs, and implement effective practices that address their unique challenges. By focusing on what works best in each local context, LCOE helps ensure continuous improvement and meaningful progress for students across Lassen County.



During the 2024–2025 school year, the Lassen County Office of Education (LCOE) provided Differentiated Assistance (DA) to Fort Sage Unified, Janesville Union, Westwood Unified, Big Valley Joint Unified, and Lassen Union High School Districts. Our work focused on building capacity within districts to identify and address areas of student need through collaborative data analysis and equity-centered leadership practices. LCOE facilitated needs assessment cycles with site and district teams, offering targeted professional development in attendance and social-emotional learning. Through this process, our staff worked alongside district leaders to design action plans that align resources with student outcomes. We aim to see measurable progress in key performance areas identified on the California School Dashboard as data becomes available. Progress monitoring will continue into the next year to ensure sustained improvement and support ongoing growth.



Differentiated Assistance (DA) is a targeted form of technical support established under California’s Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and plays a key role in the state’s Statewide System of Support. Provided by County Offices of Education, DA is designed to help eligible school districts and charter schools address specific challenges, build internal capacity, and improve student outcomes. At LCOE, we deliver this support through a collaborative, solutions-focused approach. Eligible districts receive assistance for at least two years, while charter schools receive support for one year, ensuring all schools have the guidance and tools needed to drive sustainable improvement.

Community Schools



In 2024–25, LCOE advanced its role as a regional hub for California’s Community Schools Initiative, helping 3 different districts build sustainable systems of whole-child support. With grant funding and technical assistance, we supported schools in developing partnerships with local health agencies, mental health providers, and family resource centers to better meet the needs of students and families. LCOE coordinated professional learning communities for Community School Coordinators, emphasizing family engagement, expanded learning, and trauma-informed practices. This year, Community Schools in Lassen County deepened their impact through collaborative decision-making and cross-sector partnerships—ensuring that every student has access to the academic, social, and emotional resources needed to thrive. Fort Sage Unified School District

In Lassen County, three districts—Westwood Unified, Big Valley Joint Unified, and Fort Sage Unified—have been awarded Community Schools Grants. Each of these schools now has a Community School Coordinator, who plays a crucial role in connecting students and families with wraparound services such as food banks, clothing closets, mental health resources, and other community-based supports. These coordinators also help foster stronger ties between schools, families, and local organizations, making campuses true hubs of support and opportunity.

The Lassen County Office of Education serves as a key partner and facilitator in this work, helping districts implement their vision, build capacity, and align local resources to support students more effectively. Through collaboration, innovation, and a focus on equity, community schools in Lassen County are becoming powerful tools for addressing barriers to learning and building brighter futures.



Care Teams

In the 2024–2025 school year, LCOE Care Teams provided individualized support services for students and their families, focused on identifying and addressing underlying hardships or barriers affecting school attendance, engagement, and academic performance. A dedicated team of professionals worked collaboratively with both families and school staff to build trust, assess needs, and connect families to appropriate resources and community-based services. This personalized approach helped strengthen the home-school connection and ensured students received the comprehensive support needed to thrive both inside and outside the classroom.

Depression Awareness & Emotional Support

As part of our Care Team services, the Lassen County Office of Education provided targeted support to students in grades 3–12 through mental health and wellness initiatives. One key offering was the Erika’s Lighthouse curriculum, a research-based program designed to build awareness and understanding of depression in both oneself and others. This classroom presentation empowered students to recognize signs of emotional distress and encouraged help-seeking behavior. The program also aligned with school and district suicide prevention efforts, offering an additional layer of education and early intervention support. This school year we reach 247 students with this training.



Classroom Connections

Our Mental Health Services Team supported schools by providing in-classroom modeling of Restorative Practices to help address social-emotional barriers that can impact student academic success reaching 209 students this year. This service included an introductory training for educators, followed by up to 10 in-class sessions where restorative strategies were demonstrated directly with students. In addition, ongoing teacher support was offered to assist with effective implementation in the classroom. These efforts aligned with and strengthened existing SEL (Social-Emotional Learning), MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports), and PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) frameworks at participating schools.

Services

Trauma Informed Practices

Trauma-informed practices training is designed to equip school staff with the tools needed to foster resilience and emotional safety in every classroom. This hands-on training helped educators and support staff recognize the impact of trauma on student behavior and learning, and respond with empathy and effective strategies. Participants explored techniques for de-escalation, building strong, trusting relationships, and establishing predictable routines that support emotional regulation. These approaches not only contributed to improved student behavior and academic outcomes, but also helped cultivate a more positive, inclusive school climate across campuses.

PROTECT

LCOE supported schools through the implementation of PROTECT, a flexible, age-appropriate human trafficking prevention education program designed to build awareness, safety, and resilience across school communities. Through engaging sessions, the program educated students (grades 3–12), school staff, and parents on how to recognize, prevent, and respond to both labor and sex trafficking. PROTECT empowers participants with the knowledge and practical skills needed to identify risk factors, support safe interventions, and foster safer environments. By equipping schools with this essential training, we are working collectively to strengthen prevention efforts and protect the well-being of all students.

Suicide Prevention Plan

LCOE offers support to schools through a collaborative review of district suicide prevention policies and procedures. By invitation, our team partnered with school personnel to evaluate and strengthen existing plans, ensuring they reflect the unique needs and structure of each district or school site. This comprehensive process included identifying key staff roles, refining response protocols, and establishing clear resource pathways for at-risk students. Additionally, we provided staff education and guidance to enhance overall awareness and alignment with the district's Suicide Prevention Policy, promoting a proactive, informed approach to student safety and mental health.



PROFESSIONAL

Learning

Learning Day

Each year, the Lassen County Office of Education hosts a countywide Professional Learning Day that brings together educators from across Lassen County for a day of connection, inspiration, and growth. This event provides teachers, administrators, and support staff with opportunities to learn from dynamic keynote speakers and participate in a wide range of workshops designed to enhance instructional practices, promote student engagement, and support the diverse needs of learners in every classroom.

The Professional Learning Day reflects LCOE's ongoing commitment to supporting educators through high-quality, relevant professional development. By fostering collaboration and sharing innovative strategies, the event empowers educators to strengthen their craft and bring new ideas back to their schools. Whether exploring emerging educational technology, deepening understanding of student well-being, or refining classroom management techniques, Lassen County educators leave this day re-energized and equipped to make an even greater impact on their students and school communities.



Educator Summit

The Lassen County Office of Education (LCOE) successfully hosted the 2025 Educator Summit on February 1, 2025, at the Lassen County Fairgrounds, bringing together 75 educators from across the county for a day of professional learning, collaboration, and inspiration. The summit featured an engaging lineup of speakers and sessions, including keynote speaker Jason Kotecki, who shared insights on fostering creativity and joy in the classroom; a Learning Lab with Matt Reddam on "Collaboration as Healing," highlighting teamwork and student well-being; and Yogapalooza, a mindfulness and self-care session for educators. Superintendent Patricia Gunderson expressed deep appreciation for the educators' commitment to growth and the LCOE staff's dedication in creating such a meaningful event, emphasizing that opportunities like the Educator Summit strengthen collaboration, promote self-care, and equip educators with innovative strategies to support student success.



*Are You an
Educator Who
Needs Support?*



SAFE COP

The Supporting All Fellow Educators (SAFE) Collaborative is dedicated to fostering educator growth. Through professional learning opportunities, educators explore evidence-based strategies to foster engaging, inclusive, and effective learning environments. Participants benefit from practical tips on instructional practices, classroom management, and brain development and regulation, empowering them to enhance their teaching effectiveness and foster student success. This collaborative also equips educators with the knowledge and skills to effectively integrate educational technology and artificial intelligence into their classrooms, while maintaining student data privacy.



Lassen County Math Workgroup

The Lassen County Math Workgroup is a professional learning community, bringing together teacher leaders from every district in Lassen County to collaboratively explore the 2023 California Mathematics Framework, strengthen instructional practice, and prepare for the 2026 math curriculum adoption. Originating from work made possible through the Cal-MSCS grant, the group embodies a statewide commitment to improving mathematics teaching and learning through collaboration and continuous professional growth.

The workgroup's purpose is to help educators deepen their understanding of the "why" behind the instructional shifts in mathematics education. Together, participants study the framework's principles, investigate research-based strategies, and reflect on best practices for equitable and engaging math instruction.

This collaborative work allows them to review and identify high-quality instructional materials that will support their districts through the adoption process.



Jodi Neuenschwander & Bobbie Kirkpatrick

(530) 251-1629
coaches@lcoe.org



FOSTERING STUDENT SUCCESS & INCLUSION THROUGH UDL & EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICES

During the 2024–25 school year, LCOE strengthened its commitment to inclusive education through a comprehensive paraeducator professional learning series grounded in Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and evidence-based practices. These trainings focused on enhancing instructional and behavioral supports, promoting collaboration, and using data to drive decisions that ensure every student’s success and sense of belonging in both general and special education settings.

Participants developed practical skills to deliver high-quality instruction, foster positive behavior, and support students’ social and emotional growth. They also deepened their understanding of assessments, collaboration, and strategies that promote student engagement and independence. Additional professional learning for education specialists emphasized data-driven planning, explicit instruction, intensified interventions, and evidence-based practices for supporting students with autism and diverse learning needs.

Through these efforts, LCOE empowered paraeducators and specialists to become stronger partners in building inclusive classrooms and equitable learning environments. By aligning professional development with UDL principles, educators expanded their capacity to ensure that all students have the opportunity to thrive academically and socially.

“Supporting paraeducators means strengthening entire school communities. Together, we’re building inclusive, engaging environments where students and staff grow side by side.”

— Dawn German-Howe, Special Education Teacher, State Preschool



“Every student deserves stability, support, and a chance to succeed, no matter their circumstances. Our work ensures that foster and homeless youth are seen, supported, and given the tools to thrive in school and beyond.”

— Brie Buckler, Foster and Homeless Youth Educational Services Coordinator



Foster & Homeless Youth

In Lassen County, every student has the right to attend school—regardless of their housing situation. When a student or family experiences housing instability, schools are committed to providing immediate and supportive access to education. In accordance with federal and state law, students without “fixed, regular, and adequate housing” must be enrolled in school within 24 hours, even if they are missing documents like proof of residency, immunization records, or legal guardianship paperwork.

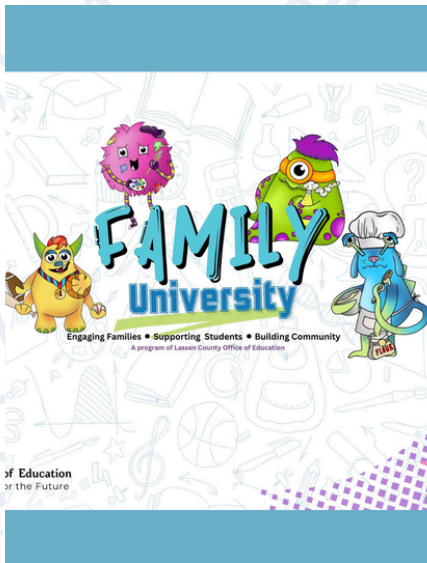
To ensure these students can fully participate and succeed, schools offer free or reduced-price meals, assist with transportation needs, and provide school supplies along with referrals to support services. The goal is to remove barriers to learning and ensure that every student, no matter their circumstance, has the tools, resources, and support needed to thrive.

Foster Youth Services Coordinating Programs (FYSCP) support the unique needs of foster children who often face the challenges of frequent moves and disrupted education. These programs help ensure timely access to school and health records, support stable placements, and coordinate services such as academic support, mentoring, counseling, and life skills training. By improving educational stability and personal achievement, FYSCP plays a vital role in helping foster youth succeed while also contributing to long-term positive outcomes for communities and the state.

**Scan Here to Visit our
Lassen Foster Youth
Services Site:**



STUDENT SERVICES



Family University

Family University, part of the Family & Community Engagement program is a dynamic initiative designed to bring families, students, and communities together in the pursuit of learning through interactive, hands-on activities and inspirational messages.

Family University aims to provide resources and support for students throughout their preschool through 12th grade educational journey. By offering a variety of engagement nights, events, mini-online lessons, and community pop-ups, Family University creates opportunities for families to connect, explore, and gain valuable insights into educational topics and academic subjects.

Watch Here:



Lassen After School Program

The Expanded Learning After School Program supports Lassen County students at participating school sites through academic assistance, educational enrichment, nutritional snack, and moderate to vigorous physical activity. Our goal is to provide a fun, safe, and healthy environment for students to grow academically through hands on activities and achieve their full potential.

Our Programs are a partnership between the state and the Lassen County Office of Education. We are state funded through the Prop. 49 After School Education and Safety Programs (ASES).

We oversee programs at McKinley, Fletcher Walker, Sierra Primary, and Big Valley. Last year we served roughly 300 students!



Adult Education

Lassen County Office of Education is proud to offer the Opportunity Academy Adult School to support adult learners across Lassen County, including Doyle, Susanville, Westwood, and surrounding areas. This flexible, no-cost program is designed to help individuals 18 and older complete their high school education while balancing work and life commitments.

Students can choose online or printed curriculum options that match their learning style, receive one-on-one tutoring, and access supportive guidance every step of the way. The program offers free transcript reviews, career and college guidance, and flexible scheduling options so you can go at your own pace.

Classes are offered locally at the Lassen Library and other community sites. Whether you're finishing what you started or beginning a new educational journey, Opportunity Academy is here to help you achieve your goals—one credit at a time.

& EVENTS



You Matter Conference

LCOE was proud to announce the successful conclusion of the 2025 You Matter Conference, held January 21-24. This transformative week-long event reached over 1,500 middle and high school students throughout Lassen County, inspiring them to make smart decisions, prioritize mental health, and build resilience in the face of challenges.

The conference empowered students to understand that life's difficulties are temporary and that resources and support are always available to help them navigate through tough times. The conference had highlights from Keynote speakers Trinity Wallace-Ellis and Kate Garnes along with workshops, interactive activities, and discussions throughout the week. All of these topics reinforced the importance of mental health awareness, personal growth, and making positive life choices.

Scan Here
for a full list of
Events &
Programs



Lassen County Children's Fair

The 39th Annual Lassen County Children's Fair was a joyful celebration of community, families, and childhood! Held at the Lassen County Fairgrounds, the event welcomed hundreds of children and families for a day packed with fun, education, and entertainment.

With more than 50 booths and exhibits, local organizations and agencies came together to provide free, hands-on activities and resources for families. From crafts and games to safety demonstrations and giveaways, there was something for every child to enjoy.

Highlights included the egg drop sponsored by LMUD, Hula Hoop Stations where every child went home with a free hula hoop, appearances by local heroes including fire, police, and EMS, windsock creations by Wonder Art Kids, bouquet making with Milwood Florist, cookie decorating with Crafty Lady Cookies, and so much more!



Career Skills & Opportunity Day

The Lassen County Office of Education, in collaboration with Lassen County District 5 Supervisor Jason Ingram, proudly hosted the third annual Career Opportunities and Skills Day at Lassen High School. The event welcomed more than 800 high school students from across Lassen County to connect with over 30 local and regional employers, offering students a hands-on look into a wide range of career paths.

"This day is one of the highlights of our year," said Patricia Gunderson, Lassen County Superintendent of Schools. "It reflects the strength of our community when it comes together to invest in the future of our youth."

From welding and plumbing to aviation and emergency response, the event provided students the chance to explore real-world skills and discover new passions.

Staff of the Year



Alice Speiker
Lassen High



Angie Kingsley
Thompson Peak



Callie Carlton
Richmond



Ida Bruce
Richmond



Jennifer Smith
Diamond View



Jhonnelle Wright
Diamond View



**Lisa Urquiza &
Katie Zimmerman**
Johnstonville



Kathi Sherman
Long Valley



Maria Liz Alexandru
McKinley



Mike West
Lassen High



**Saray Martinez-Bowers &
Lori Alexander**
Long Valley



**Elise Williams &
Mikalah Gray**
Shaffer

This year, we proudly celebrated outstanding certificated and classified staff from across Lassen County who go above and beyond to support students, schools, and their communities. These incredible individuals were recognized for their dedication, excellence, and impact during the 2024–2025 Educator Gala, where we came together to celebrate the heart of education, our people. Congratulations to all of our honorees!



Whitney Zubillaga
LCOE

Educator Gala

On April 25th, 2025, the Lassen County Office of Education hosted its Second Annual Educator Gala, celebrating the outstanding contributions of educators, staff, volunteers, and community partners from across the county. With over 150 community-nominated submissions for the Excellence in Education Awards, the event brought together nearly 275 attendees for an evening of recognition, gratitude, and celebration. Awards were presented in categories including Certificated and Classified Staff Excellence, Volunteer and Program Recognition, Administrator and CBO Awards, Countywide Impact, Retiree Recognition, and more. The Gala highlighted the vital role education professionals play in shaping our schools and communities.

Scan here for a full list of honorees



LCOE Achievement

The Lassen County Office of Education was honored as the "Most Honorable County Office of Education 2024" by the California School Employees Association (CSEA), receiving the prestigious Super Star Award in recognition of its exceptional support for classified school employees. The award was presented by CSEA Regional Representative Deborah Smith to Superintendent Patricia A. Gunderson, highlighting LCOE's dedication to collaboration, equity, and excellence across the educational community. As the largest classified school employees union in the nation, CSEA represents nearly 250,000 school support staff statewide, making this recognition a meaningful testament to LCOE's commitment to those who keep our schools running every day.



Lassen County Office of Education

Supporting Students for the Future

Lassen County Office of Education

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WWW.LCOE.ORG



(530)257-2196



**Lassen County Office of Education and Schools
Across Lassen County Are Hiring!**

