



Lisette Estrella-Henderson, Superintendent of Schools
5100 Business Center Drive, Fairfield, CA 94534-1658
707.399.4400 ★ www.solanocoe.net

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Organization: Solano County Office of Education

Contact: Jennifer Leonard, Assistant Superintendent of Communications & Community Engagement

Phone: (707) 399-4429 **Email:** PIO@solanocoe.net

Robust Career Technical Education Opportunities Continue for Solano Students

SOLANO COUNTY, CA – Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) celebrated Career Technical Education (CTE) month by highlighting some of the CTE classes available to high school students in Solano County on social media throughout February. SCOE is also underscoring partnerships and growth in CTE programs for students in recent years. A summary of current CTE pathway offerings can be found in SCOE's [Solano Schools CTE Directory](#).

In 2018, the California legislature introduced the K12 Strong Workforce Program (K12 SWP) funding program. Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) receives SWP funds and supports K–12 local education agencies (LEAs) in creating, strengthening, and expanding career technical education (CTE) courses, course sequences and pathways for high school students.

Solano County Superintendent of Schools Lisette Estrella-Henderson commented, "Supporting career technical education opens doors to explore various careers, develop practical skills, obtain meaningful employment, and secure economic empowerment for students in Solano County. Preparing young people for success in diverse industries enables them to thrive in our local economy and beyond."

Solano school districts have made extensive efforts to increase CTE pathways for students. SCOE's support role has spanned several years and varies from logistic support to facilitating connections between business leaders and educators. Through these collaborations, SCOE is developing and implementing a work-based learning program that resulted in more opportunities for CTE classroom guest speakers, industry tours and job shadows for students.

One example of a local CTE program offering students real-world work experience is Vacaville Unified School District's (VUSD) automotive pathway internship offered at Will C. Wood High School. This successful internship has resulted in 58 automotive students participating in job shadows, and 14 completing a 20-hour paid internship with seven more students scheduled to complete by May 2024. Students in this program, not only connect with industry professionals, but also have an opportunity to receive early college credit.

SCOE and district partners have also increased articulations between the high schools and Solano Community College (SCC). Articulation is a collaborative effort to align high school and college courses to fulfill college requirements that allow students to earn early college credit. From 2021 to 2023, six articulations



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were added, student participation in existing articulations was increased, and seven new articulations are currently in progress.

SCOE and Solano school districts are working to expand pathways for high school CTE further. This continuum of specialized high school courses, early college credit and internships forge a path to certifications degrees and employment. The recently awarded K12 SWP grant will allow SCOE to continue this work by supporting internship opportunities. SCOE is excited to work with industry partners, school districts and the community college to expand this model and help prepare students for high-demand, livable-wage employment opportunities in Solano County.

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Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) provides leadership, support, and fiscal oversight for charter schools and Benicia, Dixon, Fairfield-Suisun, Travis, Vacaville, and Vallejo school districts which serve approximately 60,300 students. Solano County Superintendent of Schools, Lisette Estrella-Henderson is elected by voters of Solano County. The Superintendent is a state constitutional officer who serves as the chief executive officer of SCOE and as a liaison between local school districts and the state.