

County Offices of Education

●●● At a glance



CALIFORNIA COUNTY
SUPERINTENDENTS



**California's public
education system
consists of three levels.**



STATE

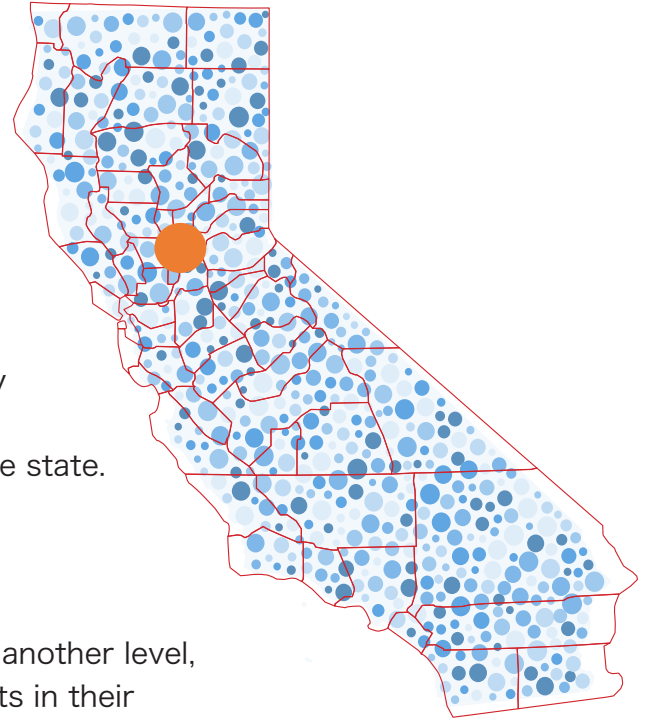
Regulations, funding and fundamental policy are established at the state level through the California Department of Education (CDE), the State Board of Education (SBE), and the state legislature.

LOCAL

The day-to-day education of students is the responsibility of individual school districts at the local level. There are more than 1,000 individual school districts throughout the state.

COUNTY

58 County Offices of Education — or COEs — represent another level, providing an important support system for school districts in their counties and serving as a liaison with the state.





COEs do not directly oversee or govern local school districts, but provide valuable support & services that are essential to school district operations.



Common COE functions



Ensure school districts are fiscally accountable and solvent.



Approve school district Local Control Accountability Plans (LCAPS).



Provide professional development opportunities.



Assist districts with academic performance initiatives.





Many COEs also directly serve their county's most vulnerable student populations.

For example, students who have been **expelled**, students who are **incarcerated** or are on **probation**, students with severe **special needs**, and **early learners**.



Additional supports



Hosting student events and academic competitions.



Student enrichment programs.



Residential outdoor education programs.

...And so much more!



Each County Office of Education is overseen by the County Superintendent of Schools. In all but five counties, the Superintendent is a publicly-elected official.



County Board of Education

Each county also has an elected **County Board of Education**, whose responsibilities include approving charter schools, hearing school district inter-district transfer and expulsion appeals, and approving the COE budget and LCAP.

The County Board of Education has no authority over individual school districts.





A school district's governance team is composed of the school district administration and a locally elected board of trustees.



Local School Boards

Local school boards have broad power to approve and create budgets, hire district superintendents, develop and select curricula aligned with the state's standards, and set district-level policies, including those related to facilities and health and safety.

For parents and students, local school districts are the most relevant agency for policies and decisions impacting a child's education.

