



# Community Schools Connection

Issue #1 August 2024

R-TAC  
Professional  
Learnings

## Welcome

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the Capitol Area R-TAC Newsletter! We're thrilled to continue collaborating with those of you who we have established relationships with and to welcome those new to the Community Schools strategy.

September

- 6th- [Capitol Area R-TAC Office Hours](#)
- 12th - [2024-2025 Community Schools Launch](#)
- 20th - [Building Bridges: Strengthening Family and Community Partnerships](#)
- 25th - [Teaching and Learning in Community School Classrooms](#)
- 26th - [COE Network for Community Schools](#)

This year, we'll be sharing four additional newsletters in November, January, March, and May. Each issue will keep you informed about upcoming professional learning opportunities, grantee spotlights, updates from the California Department of Education (CDE), the State Transformational Assistance Center (S-TAC), and Community School implementation resources from our partners at the Community School Learning Exchange (CSLX), Learning Heroes, and the Center for Whole-Child Education.

To enhance coherence among the Community Schools strategy and other whole-child education programs, we will also feature related professional learning opportunities from the Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOPE) and the Placer County Office of Education (PCOE). This aims to support alignment and sustainability across programs.

## October

- 3rd - [Learning Together: A Community for Site-Level Leads](#)
- 4th - [Capitol Area R-TAC Office Hours](#)
- 9th - [Building Bridges: Strengthening Family and Community Partnerships](#)
- 23rd - [Teaching and Learning in Community School Classrooms](#)

We invite you to visit our Capitol Area R-TAC [website](#) to learn more about our team, vision, priorities, professional learning opportunities, and available resources. If you have any questions or would like to connect, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at [caprtac@scoe.net](mailto:caprtac@scoe.net).

Lastly, join us for our Community Schools Launch on Thursday, September 12th, 2024, from 9:00am-3:00pm where we will bring together all CCSPG grantees and anyone interested in community schools from across the Capitol Area. [Register Here](#)

# Meet the Team!

## November

- 1st - [Capitol Area R-TAC Office Hours](#)
- 5th - [Collective Learning Space](#)
- 7th - [Learning Together: A Community for Site-Level Leads](#)



# Related COE Professional Learnings

## SCOE:

- September  
5th-[Providing Reading Interventions for Students in Grades 4-9: What Research Tells Us](#), presented by [Dr. Anita Archer](#)
- September 19th  
-[Expanded Learning-Building Communities of Inclusivity & Belonging](#)
- September 23rd  
-[Coaching and Managing Towards Equity: Designing Effective Meetings](#)
- September 24th -[Part 1 - Navigating Equity with Adult SEL: Leaning into Curiosity](#)
- October 8th -[Part 2 - Navigating Equity with Adult SEL: Beyond Comfort](#)
- October 1st -[Growth Heartset Education with Damian Maldonado](#)
- November 5th -[Identity and Belonging](#)

## PCOE:

- September 9th - [UDL Immersion Virtual](#)

# Grantee Spotlight

## Empowering Students Through Integrated Services: Wheatland High's Success Story



What happens for young people when school is about more than just academics? Wheatland Union High School District can show you; with services to support all young people integrated into the school there are so many ways to succeed. The school has a family resource center, a food pantry, clothing closet, career technical education program, the tutoring lab, a wellness center and the students can earn an AA with their high school diploma, all because the adults at Wheatland High realized that the school is the center of the community.

The Safe Harbor Program, supports students who are experiencing significant life stressors without singling them out. As one student says "this program lets me be a kid again." The Zen Den is another way the school supports students who need a moment of calm and space to emotionally regulate. Last year students access the space 2,539 times for a mental health break and there was a reduction

- September 18th - [Inclusive Learning Circles: UDL, AT, AAC](#)
- October 9th - [California PBIS Conference](#)
- October 10th - [Immersion Virtual](#)

in behavior incidents and increase in attendance related to the Zen Den.

As Aleia Van Dyke, Director of Community Schools and Mental Health at Wheatland High says “There is something profound in trying to be the adult you needed as a kid.” The integrated systems of support show this care from adults and the impact on the students. Watch the video at [www.capareartac.org](http://www.capareartac.org) and get inspired today.

# News & Updates

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## California Department of Education (CDE)

### Welcome Webinar

- The CDE will be hosting a 90-minute Welcome webinar for Cohort 3 grantees on Tuesday, September 24, 2024, starting at 10:00 am. The webinar will include an overview of the CCSPP, introduce the CDE team, introduce the State and Regional TAC teams, and answer questions. [Register here](#).

### Budget Webinar

- The CDE will be hosting a 90-minute Budget webinar for all grantees on Tuesday, October 15, 2024, starting at 1:00 pm. The webinar will include an overview of the process, discuss allowable and non-allowable costs, explain the annual expenditure report and budget change process, and answer questions. [Register here](#).

## State Transformational Assistance Center (S-TAC)

### Collective Learning Space

- The S-TAC will be hosting six Collective Learning Spaces to support planning and implementation grantees statewide. [Register Here](#)

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# R-TAC Partner Highlight

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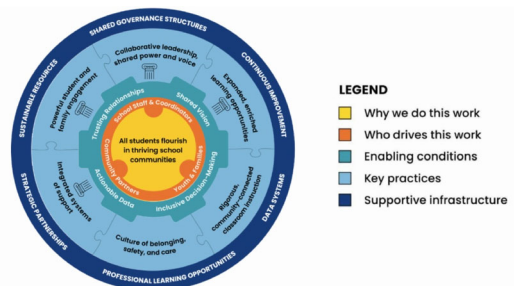
The **CA Community Schools Learning Exchange (CSLX)** is a non-profit coaching organization that fuses the expertise of community school practitioners and leaders across the state and nation, with the growing school improvement and systems research on what it takes to strengthen the conditions for learning. CSLX works directly with districts, municipal agencies, community-based organizations, and the state-wide system of support to build and strengthen community school strategies.

In their latest blog, Director of Resource Development, Melissa Mitchell, outlines three tips on how Community School Coordinators (CSC) can kick off a new school year right, from taking time to understand your new work world, to mapping out the school year. [Give it a read.](#)



A great partnership to build is with the county food bank. Food banks offer a range of valuable programs for schools and families, including school food pantries, food distribution, and weekend meals for students. Additionally, some food banks provide supplementary resources like financial assistance and housing support. Another effective avenue for partnerships is through places of worship, which often run programs to provide meals and food to those in need. If resources in your area are limited, consider collaborating with local farmers who can donate less-than-perfect produce to your school, benefiting both your students and their families. By reaching out to your local food bank, farmers and places

## CS Forward Framework



*Download the full **Framework: Essentials for Community School Transformation** document.*

“

**The future of every community lies in capturing the passion, imagination, and resources of its people.**

**-Ernesto Sirolli**

”

of worship, you can start building relationships that will positively impact your students and their families.



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