



**CAPITOL AREA**  
**R★TAC**  
California Community Schools  
Partnership Program



# Community Schools Connection

Issue #3 January 2025



**R-TAC**  
**Professional**

**Joy in Learning:**  
**Expanding Possibilities**

## January

- 16th - COE Network for Community Schools
- 21st - Teaching and Learning in Community Classrooms and Building Bridges: Strengthening Family and Community Partnerships
- 30th - District Systems for Community Schools

## February

- 6th - Learning Together: A Community for Site Level Leads
- 7th - Capitol Area R-TAC Office Hours
- 12th - Building Bridges: Strengthening Family and Community Partnerships
- 26th - Teaching and Learning in Community Classrooms
- 27th - Parent Cafe: Host Training Day 1
- 28th - Parent Cafe: Host Training Day 2

## March

- 6th - Learning Together: A Community for Site Level Leads
- 7th - Capitol Area R-TAC Office Hours



When you walk through the halls of Esparto's elementary and middle schools after hours, you're greeted not by quiet, empty corridors, but by the sounds of music, laughter, and conversations. Classrooms are filled with dance, robotics, unkeles, space exploration and support, turning after-school hours into a vibrant extension of the school day.

Esparto's after-school program is a shining example of how expanded learning opportunities can transform a community. This dynamic program showcases the power of what happens when a community comes together to nurture and support student growth. In October, participants in the Study Tour had the opportunity to witness this firsthand—learning from students, families, educators, and community members about the unique environment Esparto has cultivated. The experience is beautifully captured in the video linked below, highlighting how the school and district have expertly leveraged different funding sources and partnered with the community to create a program that goes far beyond childcare.

With 80% of students receiving free or reduced lunch and many migrant families, Esparto has embraced the principles of Community Schools and Expanded Learning to address unmet needs, foster a love for learning, and ensure that every child has a safe and joyful place to grow.

As Sherrie Vaughn, Director of the program, puts it: "This isn't just a program; it's a community."

Get inspired by the possibilities that arise when schools are more than just programs—they are places where students, families, and communities come together to grow, learn, and thrive. Watch the film [here](#).

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## Related COE Professional Learnings

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### SCOE:

- January 9th - [Harnessing the Power of Instructional Rounds: Dual Language Immersion \(DLI\) Programs ToT Cohort 1 or Cohort 2](#)
- January 11th - [EPICC Professional Learning Network](#)
- January 16th - [Centralizing the Needs of English Learners](#)
- January 21st - [Maker Education Institute \(SEL & Academic Integration\)](#)
- January 28th - [SEL & Sports Alignment \(Me, You, We\)](#)
- January 31st - [Streamlining Your Process: Understanding Assets and Needs](#)
- February 4th - [SEL & Restorative Practices to Support School Counselors](#)
- February 5th - [SEL and Academic Integration Series](#)
- February 13th - [An Overview of Preschool Transitional Kindergarten Learning Foundations](#)
- March 15th & March 16th - [SEL & Wellness Summit](#)

### PCOE:

- January 16th - [Suicide Prevention Training Series-Be Sensitive Be Brave](#)
- January 22nd - [Inclusive Learning Circles-AAC in Elementary and Middle School](#)
- February 6th and February 7th - [Suicide Prevention Training-ASIST](#)
- February 19th - [Inclusive Learning Circles: UDL and Variability](#)
- February 23rd - [Suicide Prevention Training-Safe Talk](#)

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## News & Updates

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### California Department of Education (CDE)

#### CCSPP Cohort 4 Implementation Grant Request For Applications (RFA)

The CDE has released the Cohort 4 Implementation Grant RFA, which you can find linked [here](#).

- Our Capitol Area R-TAC will be hosting a Cohort 4 Implementation Grant Prep

Webinar on January 17th from 11am-12pm ([flyer](#)) to assist with the grant application process.

## State Transformational Assistance Center (S-TAC)

### Collective Learning Space

- The S-TAC will be hosting the next Collective Learning Space on February 4th from 3:00 - 4:30 pm. The topic will be focused on Community Based Learning ([registration](#)).

### California Community Schools EMPOWER Summit

- The California Community Schools EMPOWER Summit will be on June 12th and 13th, 2025, at the Fresno Convention Center and DoubleTree Hotel ([registration](#)). The deadline to submit a proposal for the EMPOWER Summit is on January 31st ([call for presenters](#)).

## Regional Transformational Assistance Center (R-TAC)

### State Board of Education

- The Community Schools team from **Folsom Cordova Unified School District (FCUSD)** delivered an outstanding presentation at the November State Board of Education meeting. They highlighted how FCUSD is creating an integrated system of support, partnership, and empowerment for students in the City of Rancho Cordova by embracing the Community Schools model. The district's community schools strategic planning process is led by a diverse leadership team, including labor groups, community partners, and district leaders from programs such as ELOP, mental health, preschool, curriculum and instruction, and health services. This collaborative approach aims to foster sustainable change. During the presentation, the team shared how they are leveraging collaboration to drive early improvements in key areas such as student attendance, staffing stability, reduction in exclusionary discipline, and increased family engagement. They also discussed the challenges of implementing a comprehensive, Pre-K through high school Community Schools pipeline in a high-potential community.



# R-TAC Partner Highlight

## Center for Whole-Child Education



The **Center for Whole-Child Education** advances key insights from educator practice, scientific research, and the student experience so that together we can create equitable learning environments - settings that affirm the strengths, meet the needs, and fully develop the abilities of each and every learner. We work directly with educational systems across the nation, partner with other support organizations, and provide content and resources to the Teachers College at ASU.

Please visit our [website](#) to see our menu of services, to learn more about us, and to engage with our [Toolbox](#), which is full of free resources and tools that you can implement in your context tomorrow.



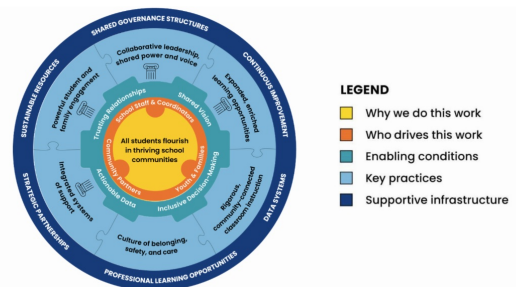
Resource

### Supporting Immigrant Families:

Supporting immigrant families is crucial for fostering an inclusive and equitable school environment where all students can thrive. By valuing the strengths, cultural contributions, and understanding the unique perspectives and needs of our families, we can foster stronger partnerships that enhance the educational experience for everyone in the school community.

For more information on supporting immigrant families, please refer to the resource ["Becoming an Ally: Partnering with Immigrant Families to Promote Student Success" by the Carnegie Corporation of New York.](#)

## CS Forward Framework



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

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"Honoring communities means recognizing the strength, resilience, and richness that each group brings, and working together to create a future where everyone's voice is heard and valued."

-Anonymous

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