

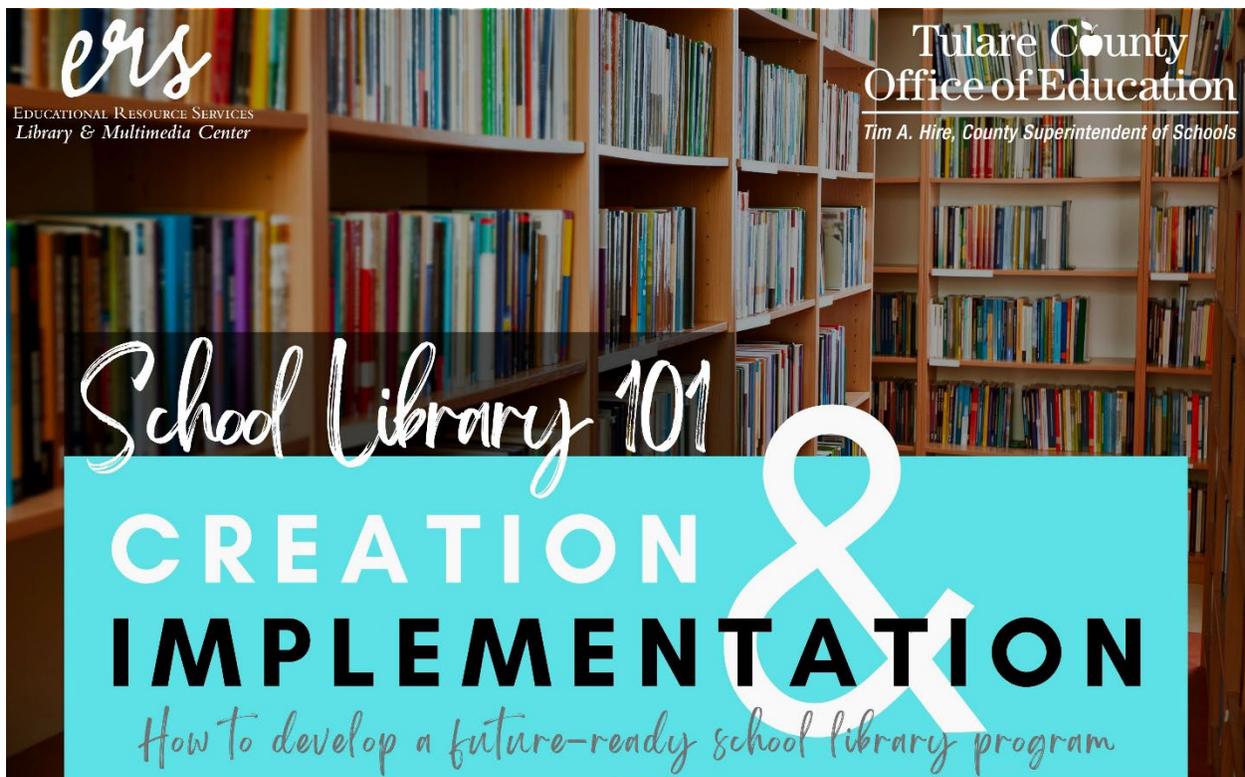
Tulare County  
Office of Education

*Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools*

news  
galleryweek

July 27, 2022

## New School Library 101 series launches in September



The ERS Library team has developed a new School Library 101 workshop series for both newly hired and seasoned school library staff. The goal of this first-ever series is for staff to gain an understanding of the vital role they play in providing literacy support services for students, how to create a welcoming library environment, and best practices for managing the school library.

The series will cover making a school-wide impact, ideas for student engagement inside and outside the library, the importance of a collection development plan, best practices for maintaining a healthy print collection, familiarity with California's K-12 digital resources, advocacy strategies, and essential reporting and data collection tools.

School Library 101 will include five virtual sessions on Wednesday afternoons from 2:00 until 3:30 p.m. in September, October, November, February, and March. The sixth and final session will be held in person April 12 at the Doe Avenue Campus. At the final session, attendees will celebrate their successes and develop a plan to implement their ideas in the upcoming 2023-24 school year, receive a certificate of completion, and tour the ERS Library.

For registration information (which opens August 1), visit <http://tulare.k12oms.org/147-219389>, or contact Sara Torabi at [sara.torabi@tcoe.org](mailto:sara.torabi@tcoe.org) or (559) 651-3031.

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## KSEE24 to hold special to honor students profiled through Your Character Matters program



Tonight, Central Valley viewers will have an opportunity to meet the wonderful students profiled in 12 Your Character Matters stories this year. The stories, featured weekly on KSEE24 News, are heartwarming accounts of students of all ages from throughout the county displaying good character at school and in their communities.

This year, students showed good character in numerous ways. Some took on leadership roles and used their voices to help others. Others made sure their peers felt – and were – included. One student even went out of his way to provide food to his community.

“Your Character Matters is a great vehicle to remind the Central Valley the importance of teaching and modeling good character,” said Tim Hire, Tulare County Superintendent of Schools. “We support it because we believe that an investment in student character is an investment in the future of our communities.”

For the past seven school years, the Tulare County Office of Education CHARACTER COUNTS! Program has partnered with KSEE24 to produce weekly stories beginning in November each year. The partnership has produced more than 125 segments in seven years.

To watch the Your Character Matters recognition special, tune in to KSEE24 tonight (Wednesday, July 27) at 7:00 p.m. For links to all 12 stories, visit [tcoe.org/YourCharacterMatters](http://tcoe.org/YourCharacterMatters).

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## Sullivan to coordinate TCOE's new Universal PreKindergarten program



Last year, legislation passed requiring California schools operating kindergarten programs to also provide a transitional kindergarten (TK) program for all four-year-old children by 2025–26. Universal TK – or UTK – means that every child will have access to quality learning the year before they enter kindergarten.

Universal PreKindergarten – or UPK – is an umbrella term that includes all prekindergarten options available for parents. UPK includes California State Preschool Programs (CSPP) and school TK programs, as well as Head Start, district and local community-based preschool programs, early learning services for students with disabilities, private pay preschool, and expanded learning options.

This month, TCOE launched a countywide support program designed to assist districts in preparing for their TK staffing needs. The program is creating partnerships with College of the Sequoias and Porterville College, as well as other institutions of higher education, to provide staff easy access to complete the 24 units of early childhood education coursework required to teach TK. To lead the new program, TCOE has hired Amy Sullivan as UPK coordinator.

Prior to her joining TCOE, Sullivan was a kindergarten and TK teacher at Visalia Unified School District. Most recently, she served as coordinator of the district's Early Learning Department. Sullivan also serves in roles to advocate for young learners in Tulare County and throughout the state on several committees, including the Tulare County Council on Child and Youth Development (Executive Committee), the TCOE Early Stars Quality Rating Improvement System, and the Every Child California Central Section.

For questions about UPK or UTK, please contact Amy Sullivan at [amy.sullivan@tcoe.org](mailto:amy.sullivan@tcoe.org).

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To receive the News Gallery Week, sign up [here](#), or contact Jennifer Fisher at [jenniferf@tcoe.org](mailto:jenniferf@tcoe.org) or (559) 733-6172.