

Tulare County
Office of Education

Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools

news
galleryweek
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Special Services programs spotlighted during two-day learning institute



This week, many of the programs developed by the Special Services Division were featured at a two-day conference held at the Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE) but organized by the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE).

The conference, entitled EmbraceAbilities, is the result of a multi-year study of special education programs provided by county offices of education and school districts throughout the state. Through a grant provided by the California Department of Education and the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence (CCEE), LACOE determined that TCOE's special education programs are exemplars for the state. The ongoing work of LACOE's EmbraceAbilities is to provide support to county offices and

Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) to improve systems for the inclusion of students with the most significant support needs.

The conference began yesterday with a virtual presentation by Glenna Wright-Gallo, the assistant secretary of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services at the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, D.C. Wright-Gallo challenged attendees, “How do we make sure that every student has multiple pathways to college and career, and that just because they are on an IEP they don’t have fewer opportunities but greater opportunities towards working towards competitive, integrated employment rather than tracking into systems that keep them out of competitive employment?”

Following the keynote address, attendees transitioned to breakout sessions, some boarding vans to tour the Dream Center for foster and homeless youth, Behavioral Health Services’ clinic, the Alternative Achievement Program (AAP), the Bright Start/Bright Future program that provides in-home services for young children and their families, and several AcCEL classrooms for students and young adults. Sarah Hamilton, Rebecca Hendrickson, and Megan Hatherly presented on the success of behavior intervention in the county’s AcCEL classrooms, while Tiffany Stark and Abraham Munoz presented on the Intervention Resource Classrooms (IRC) program.



Over 100 educators from California and several other states attended the conference. “We are tremendously proud that the state has recognized the qualities of inclusion and innovation in our special education programs,” said Tim Hire, Tulare County

Superintendent of Schools. “Our success stems from the fact that our staff has – first and foremost – hearts for students with special needs.”

Photos above:

~ Abraham Munoz, program specialist with Intervention Resource Classrooms, was a co-presenter at one of the breakout sessions at EmbraceAbilities, a learning institute organized by Los Angeles County Office of Education to showcase exemplary programs developed by Special Services.

~ Myrna Cortez, administrative assistant to the assistant superintendent, helps conference attendees board vans that took them on tours of various Special Services programs.

Inaugural Tulare Kings/Central San Joaquin Valley K-16 Partnership Job Shadow Week is February 3-7



The Tulare-Kings College and Career Collaborative, in partnership with the Central San Joaquin Valley K-16 Partnership, is launching the inaugural Tulare Kings/Central San Joaquin Valley K-16 Partnership Job Shadow Week, happening February 3-7. This dynamic initiative, inspired by National Groundhog Job Shadow Day, will give local high school students the unique opportunity to explore various career paths by shadowing professionals in the workplace.

Job Shadow Week is designed to bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world careers. Over the course of the week, students will step into the shoes of industry professionals across Tulare and Kings counties, gaining invaluable hands-on exposure to the skills and responsibilities needed to succeed in today's workforce. These experiences will range from just a few hours to an entire day, providing students with deeper insights into careers they might be interested in pursuing.

For businesses, participating in Job Shadow Week gives them the unique opportunity to raise awareness about their business and industry, provide valuable career guidance and support, and ensure students are better prepared for future job markets.

Tulare and Kings county businesses are encouraged to contact participating school districts and chambers of commerce to be a part of this unique opportunity. A list of participating school districts and chambers of commerce can be found at <https://bit.ly/4a8sqAu>.

For more information, contact:

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Photo above:

~ Students from various high schools listen to an instructor during the 2024 Tulare-Kings College & Career EXPO at College of the Sequoias in Visalia.

Registration open for 40th Annual Tulare & Kings Counties Teacher Recruitment Fair

Registration is now open for the 40th Annual Tulare & Kings Counties Teacher Recruitment Fair. The fair is hosted by the California Center on Teaching Careers and will be held on Friday, February 21 from 4:00 until 7:00 p.m. at the Tulare County Office of Education at 6200 South Mooney Boulevard in Visalia.

Candidates are encouraged to preregister online at thecentervirtualevents-tk2025.vfairs.com/en/registration-form. Applicants who have preregistered and received an email confirming their registration will be admitted at 4:00 p.m. Interested candidates who do not preregister will not be admitted until they have registered, which can be done onsite.

School districts in Tulare and Kings counties (K-12) are seeking the following candidates for the 2025-2026 school year:

- Credentialed Multiple Subject, Single Subject, Education Specialist, and Career Technical Education teachers
- Candidates in all subject areas, including Speech Language Pathologists, who will be eligible for a teaching credential for the 2025-2026 school year



The Teacher Recruitment Fair includes a technology component that enhances candidates' experience and communication with school districts. By using The Center Virtual Events app, candidates will have easy access to their uploaded documents and be able to scan QR codes at district booths to quickly record contact information. Candidates wanting the best experience at the fair are highly encouraged to bring a mobile device and download The Center Virtual Events app when they attend.

A district booth layout map and information on the agency recruitment needs will be provided to registered candidates.

A list of participating districts is available at thecentervirtualevents-tk2025.vfairs.com. For more information, contact Jonathan Mendoza at jonathan.mendoza@tcoe.org or Jose Covarrubias at jose.covarrubias@tcoe.org.

Theatre Company announces spring workshops

Yesterday, the Theatre Company announced dates for its annual spring classes. Open for students in grades 1-12, the six-week classes in voice, dance, and acting will be held once or twice per week beginning February 18 and concluding March 27.

The vocal class will be led by vocal director Charlotte Garcia Da Rosa on Tuesdays. Sessions are available for grades 1-3, grades 4-6, and grades 7-12.



Theatre Company director Bethany Rader will lead the acting classes. Three sessions will be offered on Wednesdays each week for grades 1-3, grades 4-6, and grades 7-12.

The tap dance classes will be led by choreographer McKenna Friend-Hoffman. Three sessions will be offered on Thursdays each week for grades 1-3, grades 4-6, and grades 7-12.

Students in grades 7-12 will have an additional intensive/workshop each week. Visit tcoe.org/TheatreCo for date information.

Each class in voice, acting, and dance is \$30 per student. To learn more or register for the classes, visit tcoe.org/TheatreCo. Scholarships are available.

Around the County

Dinuba opens new high school campus



This morning, Dinuba students and families were invited to tour the new Dinuba High School campus at the intersection of Kamm and Alta avenues. Students will attend classes on the new multi-million dollar, 76-acre campus next week.

On December 18, the district organized a ribbon-cutting ceremony to give community members, board members, and former students a sneak peek at the expansive new campus. Among its features are a two-story academic building, and numerous career technical education (CTE) buildings for the school's Medical Academy, the Engineering/Construction Management Academy, the Agriculture and Natural Resources pathway, and the Systems Diagnostic, Service and Repair pathway.

The campus also features a gymnasium, performing arts theater, and a student union, which feels like it belongs on a college campus. Future additions include a farm, a stadium for track and field, football and soccer, a baseball stadium, a softball stadium, an aquatics complex, and additional practice fields and outdoor basketball and tennis courts.

Photo above:

~ Member of the Dinuba High School ROTC attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new high school on December 18. Dinuba students will begin attending classes on the new campus January 13.

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