



# CALIFORNIA COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS

PROMOTE | INFLUENCE | ADVOCATE

TAKE 5

BRIGHT SPOTS & PROMISING PRACTICES

AUGUST 2023



Take 5! is a monthly spotlight of *promising practices* happening at county offices of education throughout the state, rotating the five that are featured and the focus areas covered. You can view past *bright spots* by clicking the link at the bottom of this page. The map coordinates with the location of the stories featured this month from across our state.

1

## School Safety Training

In the last year, **Modoc County Office of Education** added two new positions to their team to focus on school safety for all local school sites. They have been working on site vulnerability assessments, updating safety plans, applying for grants for upgrades in equipment and providing training for staff and local responders. They recently held a multi-agency training collaboration with local law enforcement, EMS, and Fire, to become more cohesive and learn the same tactics so they are better prepared for their role in keeping students safe when they return back to school.

[Learn More Here](#)

2

## Foreign Exchange Program

Since 2019, the **Humboldt County Office of Education**, has been forming partnerships with Taiwan with the goal of building a community around global education and to enable Humboldt County students to participate in project-based learning while developing international friendships. To date over 70 local classrooms have sister classroom relationships with teachers in Taiwan. In

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July and August, a group of 25 local educators representing 14 different Humboldt County schools visited Taiwan. A new cohort for all of California is starting up in September.

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### Civic Engagement

While **Glenn County Office of Education (GCOE)** is situated in an area of California referred to as a "civic desert", the county has worked to increase civic engagement in schools around the region. Most recently their **CA Serves Grant** partnership with local districts seeks to increase the number of students earning the **State Seal of Civic Engagement** through monthly **State Seal coordinator meetings**, a **Student, Family, and Teacher Service Learning Website Hub**, and interdisciplinary **Integrated Action Civics** professional development through the **UC Berkeley History Project**. By increasing civic engagement opportunities and training teachers to integrate **Civic Action Projects** into the curriculum, GCOE hopes to offer an equitable **State Seal program** to all learners.

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### Breaking Down Barriers to Help Parents Become Teachers

Through a new program offered by the **Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE)**, 41 **Head Start** parents now have the education and training to enter classrooms as **assistant preschool teachers**. This program is part of LACOE's **Universal Pre-Kindergarten Career Development Initiative (UPK-CDI)** launched in the 2022-23 school year to break down barriers that may keep these parents out of the workforce. More than a dozen parents have already been hired to work in **Head Start classrooms**.

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### Integrating AI into Teaching and Learning

With artificial intelligence poised to

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reshape workplaces and society at large, the **Orange County Department of Education** is moving ahead with an ambitious initiative that will evaluate and determine the best approaches for integrating AI into teaching and learning. This could include more personalized learning, real-time feedback for students and teachers, or the automation of routine tasks, allowing educators to focus more on matters that demand human insight, judgment and creative thinking.

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Here

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