



Contra Costa County  
Children's Report Card  
2003



## 2003 Contra Costa County Children's Report Card



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# Welcome to the 2003 Contra Costa County Children's Report

[www.cocoschools.org](http://www.cocoschools.org)



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On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, I am pleased to introduce the 2003 Contra Costa County Children's Report Card. This Report Card provides significant insights into many pressing challenges that our communities face and successes of our collaborative planning for health and human services. It also highlights promising practices and successful approaches to meeting children's many needs. This year's report card makes it clear that state and local budgets cannot fund all solutions to the wide array of social needs of our diverse populace.

The information assembled in this year's Report Card supports keeping measurable child outcomes at the front of decisions on how best to spend our time, energy and funds. Tremendous return on investment by individuals, businesses and elected leaders can be realized through committed focus on positive outcomes for our most sensitive and vulnerable population: our children.

The report provides considerable insight into children's issues. As the author of the legislation creating the Report Card it is my hope that it will inspire and rally all of us to take action in improving the lives of all our children.

Collaboration, child-focused commitment to services, and community mobilization are huge goals for a 60-page report. They will not be achieved without the participation of you and other committed readers who we trust will take to heart the stories behind the numbers, graphs and charts.

We hope that the 2003 Contra Costa County Children's Report Card will be prominently displayed on your conference table and be used as a tool to plan critical services for children. We are all key stakeholders who must support efforts to bring about successes for Contra Costa County children.

**Mark DeSaulnier**  
Chairman  
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors