



Joseph A. Ovick, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

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DATE: January 11, 2005

TO: Contra Costa County Board of Education and the Community of Contra Costa

FROM: Joseph A. Ovick, Ed.D., County Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Mid-Term Report

Two years ago, upon starting my third term as Superintendent of Schools for Contra Costa County, I indicated that my three top priorities would be:

1. To support student and school accountability;
2. To maintain and support business/labor partnerships; and
3. To maintain the financial health of our school districts.

The following are highlights of the accomplishments:

In the area of supporting students and schools accountability:

- The County Office of Education student programs have met both their Academic Performance Index (API, a state mandate) growth targets and the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP, a federal mandate). Only 12 out of 58 county offices of education have accomplished this task.
- Convened a task force of school district representatives that developed a common-sense approach to closing the achievement gap. The recommendations address what school boards, district offices, schools, and communities can do to eliminate the achievement gap in Contra Costa County. This document was distributed to all schools and school districts within the county, business and community leaders, and all county superintendents.
- The County Office of Education is the regional lead for AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination). AVID is a unique program that supports student achievement to prepare and encourage them to be ready for college.
- The state grant for Secondary Education Literacy was awarded to the Contra Costa County Office of Education to provide support to high schools within our region.
- The state School Readiness Grant was awarded to the County Office of Education to provide support to early childhood education providers throughout the Bay Area.

- AB 75 (academies for principal development) has allowed the County Office of Education to provide the lead in the Bay Area for both public and private school principals.
- Currently providing technical assistance and support services to improve student achievement to all five districts within Contra Costa County with high-priority schools (low-achieving schools).
- Continue to monitor the alignment of teacher credentials to teacher assignments within our county.
- Provide technical support to the school districts within our county regarding No Child Left Behind (NCLB).
- Launched an Internet Portal Project to provide instructional and administrative support to the schools within Contra Costa County and beyond our county boundaries.
- Convened a K-16 Academic Council to provide a forum for more effective communication within our educational community. This group includes representation from K-12 education, as well as representatives from the Contra Costa Community College District, California State University, and University of California.

In the area of maintaining and supporting business/labor partnerships:

- I continue to be an active member of the Board of Directors of the Contra Costa Council and Co-chair of the Education and Workforce Development Task Force.
- The County Office of Education staff participates in the East County Business Education Alliance.
- Annually, the County Office of Education staff provides the Teacher of the Year awards ceremony with enormous support from the business community.
- Through the Leshner Foundation, the County Office of Education offers CTAG grants to teachers to develop curriculum that is supported by technology.
- I served on the advisory committee for Shaping the Future.
- The business community serves on various advisory committees for the Regional Occupational Program's industry and business clusters.
- The business community offers annual internships for students enrolled in career technical classes.

In the area of maintaining the financial health of our school districts:

- The County Office of Education has provided proactive, preventative leadership that ensures that districts can live within the limited resources available to public education.
- The County Office of Education provides support services at either no cost or lower cost to school districts in the areas of fiscal planning, purchasing, and JPAs for Workers' Compensation.
- The County Office of Education monitors district financial solvency with expertise, leadership, and technological assistance.
- The County Office of Education provides fiscal intervention when necessary as well as on-going training related to financial matters.
- The County Office of Education provides the processing and reimbursement of Medicare administrative activities as a source of additional revenue for local school districts.
- The County Office of Education provides information regarding labor compliance for the school districts of Contra Costa County.
- The General Services Department hosts a facilities consortium of school districts.

All of these services and accomplishments reflect a partnership with our local school districts, a team effort on the part of the staff and Board of the Contra Costa County Office of Education, and support from our business and labor partners.

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