

DE ANZA LAW ACADEMY

The De Anza Law Academy prepares students for law-related careers. It focuses on constitutional law, case briefing and broadly transferable skills in the areas of critical thinking, research, clear writing, citing of evidence, and oral communication and persuasion.

Some of the many careers this high-demand Academy prepares students for are:

- *Attorney*
- *Paralegal*
- *Judge*
- *Detective*



**West Contra Costa
Unified School District**
De Anza High School
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De Anza Law Academy



West Contra Costa
Unified School District

*The mission of the West Contra
Costa County Unified School
District is to prepare students for
college and their future careers.*



Photo courtesy of Faviola Leyva, Richmond Confidential



What We Are

Our pathway moves far beyond the old “vocational ed” model. Today’s high-demand, high-wage jobs all require post-secondary education, and we are addressing the need for students who are better prepared for career and college with an emphasis on career preparation alongside traditional education.

We emphasize a rigorous curriculum in critical thinking, creativity, and communication skills, along with specific career technical skills. We are increasingly offering students early college credit in our pathways.

All pathways focus on solid, broadly transferable skills that will serve students well even if they decide to go in another direction after high school.

Students and parents choose a pathway option together during 8th or 9th grade. More information is available at wccusdpathways.org, along with a video presentation of the pathway.

Pathway teachers work together as a team to create connections between their courses and to embed real world projects. As a team, they can provide individualized student support. Most students say their pathway experience is like their school family and that it helped to give them direction and confidence.

WORK-BASED LEARNING

All pathway students have an opportunity to go on experiential study trips to relevant places of employment and education.

Pathway teachers and industry partners work together to help students create résumés and practice interviewing skills during their junior year.

Pathway juniors meet with industry mentors and are assisted to apply for a summer internship before senior year.

During their senior year, students participate in a service learning project in the community. Their pathway experience culminates with a presentation to a panel of professionals highlighting their learning experience and fielding questions.



GET INVOLVED

There are a number of ways we welcome parents, community and business partners to get involved! Please visit wccusdpathways.org and hit the “Get Involved” button to see the various ways we could use your help! You will be contacted by our Work-Based Learning Coordinator, who will help to make the arrangements easy for you and to ensure a positive experience.



- This pathway begins in grade 10 with Introduction to Law, during which students learn about the structure of our legal system, Constitutional due process rights and trial processes. In their second year, students participate in mock trials and may decide to be part of an afterschool team that competes at the County level and beyond. During this process, students practice sound reasoning skills, persuasive argumentation, counter-argumentation through cross-examination, and presentation of evidence.
- This is an excellent pathway for students to become strong writers and communicators, and prepares them for many fields in law, law enforcement, government, and beyond.
- We are fortunate to have a strong partner in the Cal Berkeley Summer Legal Fellowship Program: Youth Law Works, and have an excellent and engaged advisory board. Students are prepared by industry professionals in soft skills and participate in a mock trial, and then are placed in internships with the offices of the Mayor, the District Attorney and the Public Defender, among others.