

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

Friday Memo
December 1, 2023

Upcoming Events – Kenneth Chris Hurst Sr., Ed.D

December 11: CBOC Meeting, FOC Building, 6:00-8:00pm

December 12: DLCAPS Meeting, Zoom, 6:30-8:30pm

Next Board of Education Meeting December 6, 2023 – Kenneth Chris Hurst Sr., Ed.D.

English Learner Multilingual Achievement - Sonja Neely-Johnson (Esaul Orozco & Team)

Successful ELPAC 3 Family Night at Downer Elementary

The ELMA department presented our second ELPAC 3 Family Night. We had almost 100 participants join in person and virtually. Families were excited that their students were nearing reclassification and eager to practice the new interim ELPAC Test. Our next ELPAC 3 Family Night is January 9th. All of ELMA's professional development offerings, including ELPAC Family Nights can be found on our [linked calendar](#).



WCCUSD Multilingual Learners Showcase Their Talent December 3rd

Our WCCUSD Multilingual Learners will be presenting at The Practice Space Winter Showcase on Sunday, December 3rd, from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm at DeJean Middle School.

The showcase includes captivating performances, heartfelt stories and incredible talents on stage by our students. Also delight in delicious food, mingle with the community, and engage in crafts stations. Your presence will add to the magic of the evening. [RSVP here](#) to ensure everyone experiences the enchantment. Feel free to bring friends and family to share in the joyous atmosphere. We can't wait to celebrate with you!



College & Career - Sonja Neely-Johnson (Dr. Allison Huie & Team)

New Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) goes live 12/31

Devan Mhisani McFadden from the East Bay Solano Consortium of the California Student Opportunity and Access Program presented during the monthly High School Counselors professional development meeting to give counselors information about the newly redesigned Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This version of the application has been redesigned with the goal of significantly improving and streamlining the form that families use to request federal financial aid. Among the many changes, the number of questions has been dramatically reduced and calculations used to determine student aid amounts have been updated with the goal of extending Federal Pell grants to more students. The Department of Education expects that approximately 610,000 more students from low-income backgrounds will receive Pell Grants as a result of these changes. High School counselors are working to learn as much as they can about the new form and processes so that they can be a resource to support the students and families at their schools. Many resources are also being made available online, such as the [financial aid toolkit](#) from the US Department of Education. WCCUSD high schools will begin hosting Cash for College nights next month. These are opportunities for students and families to come to the school in the evening to get in-person help as they work on their FAFSA applications.

Special Education - Sonja Neely-Johnson (Guthrie Fleischman & Team)

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We are excited to announce our second annual Soccer event. We will be inviting 4th, 5th, and 6th grade special needs classes throughout West Contra Costa Unified School District, to participate in the Special Olympics Schools Partnership Program Unified Soccer Event on Friday, December 8, 2023 at Richmond High School! More information is provided in this [flier](#).

The Schools Partnership Program is a unique education program in K-12 schools. It unifies students with and without disabilities through **Sports** and **Whole-School Involvement** activities that provide them with the knowledge, experience, and skills necessary to create and sustain school communities that promote inclusion, acceptance, and respect for all students. Currently, approximately 10,828 special education students and 57,301 general education students participate in the program, at 447 schools in Northern California.

Communications Update - Lisa Towles

Legislative Updates:

[K-12 Education Funding from Prop 98 Funds in 2023-2024 California Spending Plan](#)

Overall K-12 Proposition 98 Funding Decreases Slightly but Still Supports New Commitments. The adopted budget contains \$95 billion in Proposition 98 funding for K-12 education in 2023-24—\$571 million (0.6 percent) less than the 2022-23 Budget Act level. Although overall funding decreases, one-time costs of nearly \$3 billion expire in 2023-24, freeing-up the underlying funding for new commitments. After accounting for these funds and various smaller changes over the 2021-22 through 2023-24 period, \$3.3 billion is available for new K-12 Proposition 98 spending. (As we discuss below, the budget also provides \$938 million outside of Proposition 98 for arts education as required by Proposition 28.) Figure 3 shows how the budget allocates this funding. In the remainder of this section, we describe the K-12 spending actions in greater detail. (The changes related to State Preschool have been covered in our publication, The 2023-24 California Spending Plan: Child Care and Preschool.)

[Full Breakdown Here.](#)