

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

Friday Memo
September 22, 2023

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

September 28: Back to School Night - High Schools Only

September 29: High Schools Only - Minimum Day

Next Board of Education Meeting October 11, 2023 – Kenneth Chris Hurst Sr., Ed.D.

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

Annual WCCUSD College and Career Night

This year's College and Career Night is scheduled for Thursday, October 12, 2023 and will be held at Richmond High School from 5-7PM. We have over 40 colleges and universities and 20+ potential employers who have already confirmed attendance and we are adding to the list every day. Participants can save time and skip the line by using the [QR code on our flyer](#) to RSVP in advance.

School Counselors Honor Hispanic Heritage Month



National Hispanic Heritage Month honors the achievements, contributions, culture, and history of Hispanic and Latin American people. The month-long celebration began on September 15 commemorating the anniversary of independence for five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively.

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The 2023 theme for National Hispanic Heritage Month is "Prosperity, Power, and Progress."

School Counselors can utilize [resources](#) promoted by the California School Counselor association to access tools, strategies, PreK-12 curriculum and other resources to bring the themes of Hispanic Heritage Month to our schools and classrooms.

Positive School Climate/Student Recruitment & Retention - Sonja Neely-Johnson (LaShante Smith & Team)

Attendance Awareness Month

Our Attendance Awareness campaign continues to spread awareness to foster attendance improvement.

Sites were encouraged to keep it R.E.A.L and students are reminded to attend today to achieve tomorrow. Using the R.E.A.L acronym, sites were encouraged to:

- **R = Build Routines**
- **E = Engagement**
- **A = Provide Access to resources**
- **L = Support Learning**

In addition, all site Leaders were informed of the site expectations in support of this campaign. Each site was asked to:

- Host 1 (one) attendance improvement awareness school-wide event.
- Campaign via community messaging:
 - Marquee messages
 - ParentSquare Announcements
 - PTA Communications
 - Newsletter Updates, etc
- Explore incentives to recognize attendance improvement at your site
 - Weekly Attendance Shout-outs
 - Site Writing/Art contest: #WhyWeShowUp
- Increase Staff buy-in
 - Share #WhyWeShowUp with your staff
 - Share #WhyWeShowUp with your students
 - Add an Attendance Awareness tagline to your email signature

Lastly, we asked that school sites engage their school community outreach workers, or other support staff to intentionally reach out to Black families who have experienced high absenteeism as a way to reconnect and re-engage. Black families were specifically selected due to the disproportionality that exists related to chronic absenteeism. Principals were provided with a tool-kit that can be used to support the attendance campaign.

Climate Team School Site Visits

The Positive School Climate team has also been visiting schools, meeting admin teams and community school directors (CSD's). Four Tiered Fidelity Inventory (TFI) walkthroughs were completed. We will use the information gathered to help schools develop action plans that focus on areas of need, and the plan is to complete the TFI at all of our school sites to give us baseline data for the school district.

Site Climate Team Training

Grant Elementary's Climate Team has now completed two full days of training as part of the California Integrated Supports Program (CA-ISP). They will work in collaboration with their Seneca coach to strengthen their PBIS/MTSS systems over the next two years. The central office will convene in a few weeks to begin our work with CA-ISP to examine the implementation of positive behavior interventions and support (PBIS) and MTSS at the district level.

Correction to Preliminary SBAC Data - Tracey Logan Chief Technology Officer / Morgan Matthews, Research & Reporting

Please note, we are issuing a correction to SBAC Bright Spots maps that we included in the Board presentation on Wednesday 9/6/23. At this time we need to add a few schools to our preliminary SBAC celebrations. Please see the [corrected SBAC maps at this link](#). Research & Reporting has checked the corrections and put a new process in place going forward so that this does not happen again.

Be advised: The bright spot school stories highlighted by Dr. Gabriel Chilcott are still true, and remain unchanged by this error; the eduCLIMBER data system remains an accurate and timely source of data (the issue was a human copy/paste error).

Communications Update - Liz Sanders[State Superintendent Tony Thurmond Congratulates 33 California Schools Recognized as 2023 National Blue Ribbon Schools](#)

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond today congratulated 33 California schools that have been chosen as 2023 National Blue Ribbon Schools. This prestigious award honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools that close achievement and opportunity gaps and where students achieve high learning standards. Middle College High School was one of the schools nominated as a National Blue Ribbon School.