



Report from **Schools:**

Excellence

Leadership

AI

Building

Arts

Community

Future

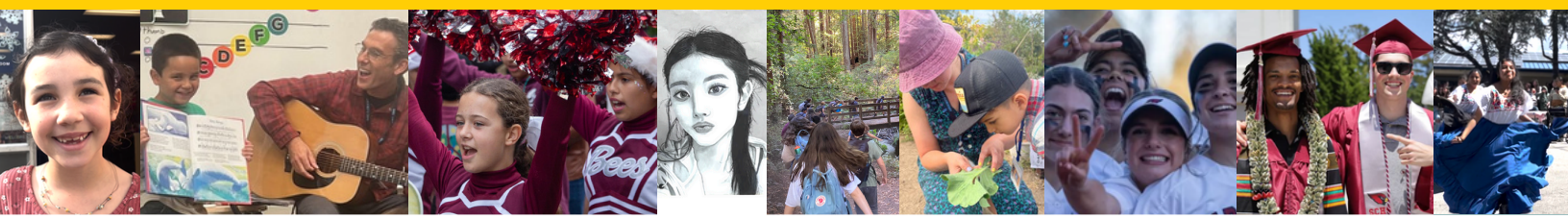
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State of our  
**SCHOOLS**

C O M M U N I T Y R E P O R T

**OUR COMMUNITY**

Public Schools protect property values by providing a world class education & robust community supports.

Find out how our schools support Santa Cruz!



**OUR YEAR**

- Gratitude for **Community Support**
- Student success & **Achievement**
- Update on **Educator Housing**
- Innovation in **AI & Learning**
- Spotlight on **Arts Expansion**
- Success in **College & Career**



**OUR FUTURE**

**2024-25**

Learn how **Santa Cruz City Schools** is driving Academic Acceleration & Personal Growth!





# Santa Cruz City Schools



**Kris Munro**  
Superintendent

October, 2024

## Friends & Neighbors,

At the start of a new school year, we always settle on a theme for our update to the community about the student experience and how your support changes lives. **In 2024, the theme that quickly arose is quite simple: celebration.**

**We are celebrating you & Parcel Taxes T&U** which provide our students college-prep career education, mental health supports, arts & music, athletics, as well as library & garden classrooms.

**We are celebrating the initiative of our tech educators**, who have built comprehensive guidelines and tools for the responsible exploration of **AI in the classroom**. **We are celebrating our expanded Arts & Music education** thanks to **Proposition 28** in California, and want to share how much this has impacted the student experience in our district!

**We are celebrating modern classrooms**, replacing aging portables with modern classrooms, the expansion of our solar program and the ongoing repair of our schools through the work of **Bonds K&L**. **We are also celebrating Educator Workforce Housing** moving forward to help our community attract, retain and provide outstanding teachers and staff to serve our students.

**We are celebrating once again winning awards** for our **Positive Behavioral Intervention & Supports** program, and for **ranking again among America's Healthiest Schools** by the **Alliance for a Healthier Generation**. Of course, **we are also celebrating the class of 2024 as they soar into their post High School endeavors!**

I am humbled and privileged to be able to work in support of such passionate teachers and staff, such collaborative and engaged families, and such dazzling and accomplished students. We are happy to provide this update to our community, and I hope you enjoy getting to know us better.

With Best Regards & Gratitude,

**Kris Munro**  
Superintendent  
Santa Cruz City Schools



**“We are so grateful for the heart & the brilliance of the DeLaveaga staff**

who make the difference in growing the intellectual & emotional intelligence of our child!”

**DAMIAN PARR**  
DeLaveaga Parent

**“There are so many awesome teachers & staff that make me feel safe & welcome at B40.”**

**FELICE RICKWALD** B40 Middle 7th Grade

**“My teachers have been amazing and I have learned so much at Santa Cruz High that will stay with me in the future.”**

**EMMA BARASANTI**  
Santa Cruz High Senior

**“We are so grateful**

**for the variety of electives & extracurricular options, the enthusiastic and dedicated instructors, and**

**for the welcoming, inclusive environment at Mission Hill!”**

**KENNETH MOODIE**  
Mission Hill Middle Parent

**“We love the teachers & staff at Soquel High for creating such**

**a wonderful environment!”**

**ARI LESSEN** Soquel High Parent

**“Every year, my daughter falls in love with a new teacher. It makes me so happy to see. She'll have these great role models for the rest of her life.**

**She loves coming to school every day.”**

**JESSICA REEVES**  
Bay View Parent

**“The Gault community is unmatched. From the moment we stepped on campus, we felt like we were part of a family.**

**LARISSA ADAMS**  
Gault Parent

**We love the village here.”**

**“School has been a source of support, guidance & community for our whole family.**

**I could not have asked for a better experience.”**

**JENNIFER WOLFENDEN** Harbor High Parent

**“Teachers & staff have done everything to grow**

**a successful & compassionate educational community for all of our children.”**

**GREG LARSON** Alternative Family Education Parent

**“Westlake is so accommodating to my child's needs & goals!”**

**RENEE LAW** Westlake Parent

**“My child loves going to school at Monarch every day.”**

**ANNE HULL SEALES** Monarch Parent



Celebrating:

# Community Support of Student Excellence

We are so grateful our community chose to give their students **Career Training, Arts Education, Athletics, Mental Health Counseling, Garden Classrooms, Teacher Librarians, Music** & more. By supporting **Parcel Taxes T&U**, our community entrusted us with their priorities and opened doors for all students to excel. ***Through T&U, you provide:***

## CAREER TRAINING

Our community has opened pathways for all students to explore careers while they prep for college. This foresight gives students a blossoming of possibility & real-world knowledge to propel them far beyond the classroom with **Career Technical Training Courses in:**

*Healthcare, Biotechnology, Sustainable Agriculture, Welding, Graphic Design, IT Essentials, Floral Design, Auto Technology, Woodworking, Bike Technology, Culinary Arts, Sports Medicine, Construction, Music Production, Photography & More.*

## GARDEN CLASSROOMS

We're so grateful that our community has given students **Life Lab Garden** classrooms at every Elementary where they explore Food Systems, Ecology, Environmental Science, Biology and even Culinary Arts with hands-on learning.

## ATHLETICS

Competition is collaboration; it's communication; it's self discovery and pride-building; it's emotional regulation and skill development. ***Athletics are a vital part of development and it's not part of our base funding - it's only thanks to you*** that we provide championship athletics for our students.

## ARTS & MUSIC

Being able to offer dedicated Music & Art classrooms is a huge difference-maker in the development of young people. You have given them a canvas to fill, and a stage to take, and it has created life-changing enrichment activities that help drive development.

## MENTAL HEALTH & ACADEMIC GUIDANCE

One of the wisest and most compassionate decisions our community has made is giving students licensed counselors beginning in elementary. Our counselors are listeners, guides and leaders on campus. They help all students succeed by providing essential mental health support & academic guidance.

## LIBRARIES

Your support makes libraries come alive as places of welcome, exploration & guided learning. Thanks to you, our **Teacher Librarians** help students develop ***a love of reading, technological literacy, internet safety strategies*** & more while offering a place of comfort & peace for every student, every day.

“The Teachers love to help you!”

”  
**Felice Rickwald**  
B40 Middle

“As teachers, as mentors, our goal is to set the stage for a life where all is possible.”

”  
**Matt Schutz**  
Harbor High Teacher & Coach

“Championship gives a student pride in school & self to say: I am important & I can do this.”

”  
**Dwight Lowrey**  
Soquel High Football Coach

“I have been pushed to be the best version of myself!”

”  
**Dakotah Johnson**  
Harbor High

“**Art is the primary expression for human beings**— it's the first thing we did after learning to feed ourselves.”

”  
**Frank Wessels**  
Harbor High Art Teacher

“**Playing on a team you can see the growth, the evolution of our time in High School.**”

”  
**Justus Grauel**  
Soquel High

“The Library has not just books but kind people to help me find just the right one!”

”  
**Kaylee Cervantes Acosta**  
Gault 4th Grade

What a year!

 **State Title:**  
Soquel High Football

 **NorGal Title:**  
Santa Cruz High Boys Basketball

 **CCS Title:**  
Harbor High Girls Volleyball





Celebrating:

# AI Readiness

## ▶ Innovation

The education world is grappling with recent AI advancements, raising issues of *plagiarism & responsibility*. As we are committed to utilizing AI tech for learning & efficiency, our **Tech Task Force** has **developed tools & guidelines for use in our district**.

[sccs.net/AI](https://sccs.net/AI)

## ▶ Responsibility

Specific guidelines & carefully selected tools help our students not only **explore the technology**, but **navigate it with a focus on critical thinking & responsibility**. In this effort, all staff was trained over the summer in these tools and guidelines in order to help students build familiarity & responsibility in this emergent world.

Celebrating:

# Student Leadership

## ▶ Student Trustees

To give students a voice in district matters, our board of trustees includes a student rep from each High School! [sccs.net/BOARD](https://sccs.net/BOARD)

## ▶ District Leadership

Students serve on advisory groups focused on District needs, Race and Equity *& more!*

## ▶ School Leadership

Opportunities from grades 3-12 range from student government, clubs, sports *& more!*

“It’s so great being together for a common goal!”

Amelie Hatfield  
B40 Middle

“This advisory group builds community & I like being part of it!”

Henry Negrete  
Mission Hill Middle

“It is so inspiring hearing younger kids speak up!”

Tala Socco  
Harbor High

“For me, student leadership is important, but it’s also fun!”

Isabella Ducker  
Mission Hill Middle

Celebrating:

# New Arts & Music

## ▶ Thanks to Prop. 28

We were thrilled when California passed Proposition 28 to expand funding for Performing & Fine Arts. It’s made a huge impact already—bringing new endeavors & learning opportunities.

**These arts are transformative:** they provide key development of skills, collaboration & communication. They bring in the community & give students not only a means of expression but an important place of belonging.

## ▶ in Elementary Schools:

**Prop 28** has expanded music instruction to students in all grade levels!

## ▶ in Middle Schools:

**Prop 28** has made it possible to expand: Art, 3D Art, Ceramics, Beginning Music, Drama *& more.*

## ▶ in High Schools:

**Prop 28** has allowed us to expand: Art, Guitar, Choir, Photography, Dance, Music Theory, Electronic Music, Jewelry Design, Play Productions, Coding, Concert Choir, Mariachi Ensemble, Mural Arts, Film Production *& more.*

“Singing is freeing & makes you feel like you’re part of something.”

Natali Blanco  
Harbor High

“Band helps you know yourself, appreciate others & appreciate yourself a little more.”

Hayden Wofford  
Santa Cruz High

“Before we’re born into the earth, we’re moving: moving is dancing & moving is being alive.”

Elizabeth Gentile  
Santa Cruz High  
Dance Teacher

“It feels good to sing. It’s been a good experience to have in High School!”

Leonardo Diaz  
Martinez  
Soquel High





Celebrating:

# Stewardship

## ► District Grants

Because schools work on a fixed, public budget, we work each year to secure grant funding beyond state resources to serve our students.

### Last Years' Grant Revenue:

After School.....	\$305,224
Computer Science (multiple)....	\$222,137
Career Education (multiple).....	\$553,090
Food Services (multiple).....	\$618,000
Mental Health.....	\$500,000
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$2,198,451</b>

## ► District Endowment

To help provide for the longterm stability of services & opportunities available to students, our District is creating an **Endowment Fund** to establish a standalone source of revenue.

Donate or Learn More:

[sccs.net/Endowment](https://sccs.net/Endowment)

Celebrating:

# Expansion

## ► Transitional Kindergarten

Since the 22-23 school year, our **TK enrollment has nearly doubled** - giving more pre-school aged kids a play-focused entry into school, centered around social development, art, music, garden & library classrooms.

[sccs.net/TK](https://sccs.net/TK)

## ► High School

Despite statewide declining enrollment, our High School **enrollment is up by 200 students** over the last 3 years as our **College & Career Prep & Unmatched Enrichment Programs** continue to draw students from private and charter schools.

Celebrating:

# Modernization & Housing

## ► Thanks to You & K&L

Since school districts are not funded to repair, rebuild or modernize school facilities, we are so grateful to have a community that supported **Facilities Bonds K&L in 2022**. This allows us to:

- Repair Schools
- Modernize Classrooms
- Replace Infrastructure
- Increase Sustainability
- Remove Hazardous Materials

## ► A Home for Educators

K&L will allow our district to provide **100 units of reduced-rent housing** to district teachers & staff, helping us continue to recruit & retain amazing staff to serve students and families during our **national teacher shortage**.

The project is planned for the lot already owned by the district at 100 Swift Street (Between Gateway School and Derby Park). Now in the final stages of design, **we hope to break ground in the near year & open in 2028!**

[sccs.net/BONDS](https://sccs.net/BONDS)

Celebrating:

## Reduction of:

**6,417 Tons**  
of Green House Gasses  
with LED Lighting

**5,500 lbs.**  
of Carbon Every Year  
with Native Landscaping  
& Turf Fields

**460,000 lbs.**  
of Green House Gasses  
with Water Stewardship



**Achieved: Santa Cruz' 1st "Net Zero" Campus at Bay View!**

[sccs.net/SUSTAINABILITY](https://sccs.net/SUSTAINABILITY)



# Your Schools are Excellence.

## Our Elementary School Enrollment

<b>GAULT</b> 314	<b>BAYVIEW</b> 412	<b>WESTLAKE</b> 455	<b>DELAVEAGA</b> 483	<b>MONARCH</b> 115
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## Our Middle School Enrollment:

<b>MISSION HILL</b> 508	<b>BRANCIORTE</b> 411
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## Our High School Enrollment:

<b>SOQUEL</b> 1,107	<b>HARBOR</b> 1,034	<b>SANTA CRUZ</b> 1,122
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## Our Alternative Schools Enrollment:

<b>COSTANOA</b> 82	<b>APE</b> 113	<b>ARK</b> 56
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## Your Class of 2024 is Absolutely Soaring:

### University of CA

UC, Berkeley  
UC, Davis  
UC, Irvine  
UC, Los Angeles  
UC, San Diego  
UC, San Francisco  
UC, Santa Barbara  
UC, Santa Cruz

### Out-of-State Public

Arizona State University  
Boise State University  
Colorado School of Mines  
Colorado State University  
Evergreen State College  
Fort Lewis College  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
Keene State College  
Montana State University  
Morgan State University  
Northumbria University  
Oregon State University  
Purdue University  
SUNY Purchase  
Temple University  
Trinity College Dublin  
UMass Amherst  
University College, Dublin  
University of Colorado, Boulder  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa  
University of Nevada, Reno  
University of New Mexico  
University of Oregon  
University of Tennessee, Martin  
University of Utah  
University of Washington  
University of Wisconsin  
Western Washington University

### Community & Trade Colleges

Cabrillo College  
Cuesta College  
Hartnell College  
Sacramento City College  
San Diego Community College  
Santa Barbara City College  
Santa Rosa Junior College  
West Valley College

### California State University

Cal Poly Humboldt  
Cal Poly Pomona  
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo  
CSU Channel Islands  
Chico State University  
CSU Monterey Bay  
CSU Fresno  
CSU Long Beach  
CSU Maritime Academy  
CSU Sacramento  
San Diego State University  
San Francisco State University  
San Jose State University  
Sonoma State University

### Private

Bard College  
California Lutheran University  
Chapman University  
Claremont McKenna College  
Concordia University, Irvine  
Cornell University  
Dominican University of California  
Duke University  
Emerson College  
Grand Canyon University  
Harvard University  
Loyola Marymount University  
Loyola University, Chicago  
Loyola University, New Orleans  
Menlo Business School  
Northeastern University  
Occidental College  
Pace University  
Santa Clara University  
Savannah College of Art & Design  
Seattle University  
Unitek College  
University of Denver  
University of Puget Sound  
University of San Francisco  
Vanguard University

## Your Class of 2024 is Highly Awarded.

IB DIPLOMA CANDIDATE  
ADELANTE SCHOLARSHIP  
OMEGA NU SCHOLARSHIP  
DOROTHY EMIGH MEMORIAL  
DIANA JO PETERS MEMORIAL  
SHS FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP  
SENDEROS SOQUEL HIGH FUND  
C.E. "DOC" FEHLIMAN MEMORIAL  
SANTA CRUZ FLY FISHING SCHOLARSHIP  
SANTA CRUZ ELKS LODGE SCHOLARSHIP  
SOQUEL HIGH COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP  
BOB ENZWEILER SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD  
NATIVE DAUGHTERS OF THE GOLDEN WEST  
CTE CAREER EXPLORATION SCHOLARSHIP  
SANTA CRUZ ROTARY CLUB SCHOLARSHIP  
CAPITOLA & APTOS ROTARY SCHOLARSHIP  
JEFF WEST BIG STICK SURFING SCHOLARSHIP  
ELAC SCHOLARSHIP CALARTS MERIT GRANT  
UNIVERSITY OF PUGET SOUND, SCHOLARSHIP  
HELLENIC CULTURAL INSTITUTE SCHOLARSHIP  
YOUR FUTURE IS OUR BUSINESS SCHOLARSHIP  
CHARLES WALTERS ENDOWED ART SCHOLARSHIP  
UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY, BALLET SCHOLARSHIP  
RUBY LINDON MEMORIAL (MEDICAL ORIENTATION)  
UNIVERSITY OF PUGET SOUND, VISIT SCHOLARSHIP  
SKYLINE COLLEGE, PROMISE SCHOLARS PROGRAM  
LOUISE AND HENRY PARKER SCHOLARSHIP TRUST  
LOREN INGOLS MEMORIAL HOWARD RHEIN MEMORIAL  
JACK & LILLIE CHIORINI 4 YEAR \$1,000.00 PER YEAR  
BOB NASH & TOM SCHMIDT HOT RODS AT THE BEACH  
BARBARA SAMPER STEM SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT  
BAY AREA ALL-STAR SCHOLARSHIP TEAM PROGRAM  
CABRILLO ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP  
CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY, PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP  
JACK WEAVER MEMORIAL VOCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP  
HENRY & LOUISE PARKER SCHOLARSHIP (COMERICA)  
CABRILLO COLLEGE AMERICAN DREAM SCHOLARSHIP  
ALPHEUS GREEN MEMORIAL (VIA RICHARD ALDERSON)  
BURT LOWE SCHOLARSHIP PAMF PREMED SCHOLARSHIP  
SIGMA ALPHA OF OMEGA NU SCHOLARSHIP - VOCATIONAL  
UNIVERSITY OF PUGET SOUND, PRESIDENT'S SCHOLARSHIP  
HARBOR HIGH SCHOOL PARENT BOOSTER CLUB SCHOLARSHIP  
WHARF TO WHARF HOWARD MARCUS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP  
CALARTS ACCESS GRANT ROSALES SISTERS' SCHOLARSHIP  
O HASTINGS HUTCHINS SCH VIOLET & WALTER WARREN SCHL  
ETHEL McDOWELL SCHOLARSHIP TOSTA FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP  
SC HIGH - THURSTON SCHLRSHP FRANK GEORGE SCHOLARSHIP  
GINO PANELLI MEM SCHOLARSHIP NEW HORIZON SCHOLARSHIP  
MCNELLIS LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP ADELANTES SCHOLARSHIP  
ERNEST V. COWELL SCHOLARSHIP WOOLPERT FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP  
CAL LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY, PUBLIC PRICE PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP  
SC SUNRISE ROTARY SCHOLARSHIP LISA LARKIN OR MARK HODGES  
CARDINAL CLUB ATHLETIC BOOSTERS EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS  
MARIJANE ADAMS EXCEL IN MUSIC A G WILSON FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP  
R. H. BEEL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP COUNSELING DEPARTMENT AMARD  
BOB & BETSY DARROW SCHOLARSHIP AMERICAN DREAM SCHOLARSHIP  
THE SANTA CRUZ HOST LIONS CLUB BILL DOYLE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP  
UNIVERSITY OF PUGET SOUND, GRANT DISTRICT TEACHERS ASSOCIATION  
RON ZABALLOS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP CASTAGNOLA FAMILY MEMORIAL  
DIANE TRAPIN MEM SCHOLARSHIP F MARCUS KENNETH MARTIN SCHOLARS  
BARBARA SAMPER CABRILLO COMMITMENT S4C SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT  
SOQUEL CLASS OF 2016 REGENTS UNDERGRADUATE BENEFIT SCHOLARSHIP  
KIWANIS CLUB: KEN & RUBY MARION MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FOR BUSINESS  
SANTA CRUZ KIWANIS MAS SUGIMOTO MEMORIAL ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIP  
SURF CITY - SANTA CRUZ KIWANIS CLUB NATURE 1ST FDN/DINO SCOPPETTON  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION SANTA CRUZ - BARBARA J. THOMPSON SCHOLARSHIP  
KIWANIS CLUB: JACK WEAVER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FOR VOCATIONAL TRAINING  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION SANTA CRUZ - BURTON SCHOLARSHIP & CROCKER SCHOLARSHIP  
SCHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION: CLASS OF 1954, CLASS OF 1957, CLASS OF 1962 LUNCH BUNCH

431 certificated teachers  
394 classified supporters  
45 administrators

CERTIFICATED SALARIES..... \$ 44,699,982  
CLASSIFIED SALARIES..... \$ 18,641,193  
BENEFITS..... \$ 30,486,090  
BOOKS & SUPPLIES..... \$ 4,285,670  
SERVICES & OP EXP..... \$ 17,267,579  
CAPITAL OUTLAY..... \$ 1,329,234  
OTHER..... \$ 176,457

TOTAL EXPENDITURE \$ 116,886,205

## Our Community Partners:

PAJARO VALLEY PREVENTION & STUDENT ASSISTANCE (PVPASA)  
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION DIGNITY HEALTH  
PACIFIC COOKIE COMPANY PALO ALTO MEDICAL FOUNDATION  
OUTRIDE - RIDING FOR FOCUS & THE SPOKESMAN BICYCLES  
SANTA CRUZ BEACH BOARDWALK SUBARU OF SANTA CRUZ  
COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH SANTA CRUZ COMMUNITY HEALTH  
ENCOMPASS COMMUNITY RESOURCES ROCKY'S FITNESS  
SANTA CRUZ PUBLIC LIBRARIES TOYOTA OF SANTA CRUZ  
SANTA CRUZ SYMPHONY SANTA CRUZ HOST LIONS CLUB  
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY COLLEGE & CAREER COMMITMENT  
O'NEILL SEA ODYSSEY BOOKSHOP SANTA CRUZ  
WALNUT AVENUE FAMILY & WOMEN'S CENTER  
SAFE SCHOOLS PROJECT MONARCH SERVICES  
SANTA CRUZ AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
SANTA CRUZ WARRIORS WHARF TO WHARF  
SANTA CRUZ & SUNSHINE ROTARY CLUBS  
SANTA CRUZ EDUCATION FOUNDATION  
SANTA CRUZ CHILDREN'S NETWORK  
SANTA CRUZ PARKS & RECREATION  
SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT  
YOUR FUTURE IS OUR BUSINESS  
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY SHERIFF  
SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK  
THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB  
THE DIVERSITY CENTER  
CITY OF SANTA CRUZ  
CABRILLO COLLEGE  
UC SANTA CRUZ  
SENDEROS  
CSUMB

**\$1,800,946**  
in scholarships

Our students are consistently well prepared for Public University, Private University & Professional Success.