



COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Supporting Whole-Child Success
Across the Central Valley

May 2025



Fresno CoP: Collaborative Leadership panel with Fresno Unified, El Nido Elementary School District, and Riverdale Joint Unified School District

CCSPP Annual Reporting

Stay on track with this year's APR deadlines!
Here are the details:

Due Dates:

Site-Level APR: June 30, 2025

LEA-Level APR: July 30, 2025

AER: Sept 12, 2025

Submit:

APR Draft Template
Site Level | LEA Level

APRs via Qualtrics:
Site Level | LEA Level

Email AER to CCSPP@cde.ca.gov

In-Person Support:

Kern (May 14, May 28)

Fresno (May 9)

Virtual Support:

CV R-TAC Office Hours
(1st & 3rd Wed. from 3–4 PM)

STAC Learning Sessions

CDE Budget Webinar (May 21)

Need Assistance?

Use the APRIL chatbot or email
cvrtac@fcoe.org

From Engagement to Collaborative Leadership: Youth as Change-Makers in Community Schools

On April 7, 2025, the CV R-TAC, in partnership with WestEd, hosted a virtual learning session focused on student voice in community schools. Titled "**From Engagement to Leadership: Youth as Change-Makers in Community Schools**," the event spotlighted student leadership as a catalyst for meaningful change.

A powerful highlight was the student panel featuring **Maya Cheek**, **Natalie Cascio**, **Shayra Castillo**, and **Leslie Herrera**. These students spoke about their experiences, offering thoughtful responses to questions like: "**What does a community school feel like to you?**" and "**How can schools inspire students to lead change?**"



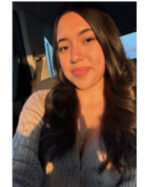
Maya Cheek
12th Grade,
Rosamond High Early College



Natalie Cascio
11th Grade,
Rosamond High Early College



Shayra Castillo
10th Grade,
South High School



Leslie Herrera
11th Grade,
South High School

Their input was clear and heartfelt—students want to be heard, trusted, and included in real decision-making. They shared personal stories and bold ideas, showing that youth are not only capable of leading, but eager to do so. Moderated by **Jenny Betz of WestEd**, the session also featured student co-hosts **Isaac and Hope Medina** and gave educators space to reflect on their own engagement practices.

Breakout discussions encouraged attendees to identify youth engagement strategies.



Hope Medina
5th Grade,
El Nido Elementary School



Jenny Betz
Senior Program Associate,
WestEd



Isaac Medina
5th Grade,
El Nido Elementary School

The student voices were **clear and powerful**—a reminder that they're not just the future, they're leading now. **It's time we truly listen and lead alongside them.**



LEADING AND LEARNING AT ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY

On March 11, 2025, **Roosevelt Elementary** in the **Kingsburg Elementary Charter School District** hosted a dynamic Leading and Learning visit, led by **Community Schools Coordinator Linda Simmons**. **Superintendent Dr. Wesley Sever** warmly welcomed attendees, sharing the district's mission and the early stages of their implementation journey. Throughout the day, participants engaged in a school tour, presentations, and collaborative discussions that highlighted Roosevelt's commitment to whole-child development and community-centered learning. District staff played an instrumental role, sharing valuable insights about family engagement, strategic partnerships, sustaining resources, and collaborative leadership. A special highlight included the partnership with **Kingsburg Community Assistance Program (KCAPS)**, demonstrating how local collaborations strengthen student and family support systems. Attendees experienced how Kingsburg's investment in Community Schools is creating meaningful systems of support, offering grantees a firsthand look at how strong partnerships and intentional strategies are transforming education and making Kingsburg a Bright Spot in the Central Valley.




Cost of Poverty Experience – Kern County

Join us for **COPE (Cost of Poverty Experience)**, an interactive simulation designed to deepen your understanding of poverty's impact, and its connection to Community Schools work.

 **May 14, 2025** |  **1:00–3:30 PM**

 KCSOS – Larry E. Reider Center, Room 101

 **Audience:** Community Schools Coordinators, Admins, Educators, and Partners

 **Register Here** - Don't miss out!

Join the Fresno County Student Advisory Board!

Are you a **7th–12th grade student** at a Fresno County community school who's ready to lead?

Now's your chance to speak up, be heard, and help shape the future of education in your school and community. We're looking for passionate, motivated students to be a voice for change.

 **Watch the video**

 **Apply now - Due May 7th!**

Contact Us
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CV R-TAC EVENTS

Keep up-to-date with upcoming professional learning opportunities, networking events, and technical support.

FCSS Calendar

KCSOS Calendar

CV R-TAC WEBSITES

FCSS Community Schools

KCSOS Community Schools

STANCOE



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