Reintroducing San Joaquin A+

Working together to create a shared vision for education in our region

November 21, 2019
California's progress toward the goal

By 2025, 60 percent of Americans will need some type of high-quality credential beyond high school. To count toward this important goal, any credential must have clear and transparent learning outcomes that lead to further education and employment. California's attainment rate is 49 percent, but it has not formally established a statewide attainment goal that meets Lumina's criteria for rigor and efficacy (i.e., the goal is quantifiable, challenging, long-term, addresses gaps, and is in statute and/or a strategic plan).

How California compares to the nation

Educational attainment in California exceeds the national average, but work remains before it reaches 60 percent.
Comparing California Counties

Exploring educational attainment at the local level can be especially helpful to local leaders as they work on talent development. For example, by pinpointing counties or regions where attainment lags, resources can be targeted where they’re needed most. Conversely, in areas of high attainment, other regions may find practices or processes they can emulate.

Compare degree attainment rates across California’s 58 counties. Attainment is shown here as the percentage of people ages 25-64 with at least an associate degree.*
“WE ALWAYS OVERESTIMATE THE CHANGE THAT WILL OCCUR OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS, AND UNDERESTIMATE THE CHANGE THAT WILL OCCUR IN THE NEXT TEN. DON’T LET YOURSELF BE LULLED INTO INACTION.”

- Bill Gates
San Joaquin A+ is a group of educators, business leaders, active citizens and philanthropists.

Collectively the organization has supported education since 1996 and has almost a quarter century of experience and commitment to Stockton and SJ County.

We are encouraged by the momentum we see at leadership levels across our region, and are engaging in a renewed effort to improve schools for our young people.
Our Goals

1. **Exceed the Need:** Bring More Great Educators and School Leaders to San Joaquin County.

2. **Inform our Community:** Provide Transparent and Valuable Information About School Quality.

3. **Fuel the Workforce:** Prepare Young People with the Knowledge and Skills to Earn a Family Sustaining Income.
Exceed the Need:
Bring More Great Educators and School Leaders to San Joaquin County
Exceed the Need: With More Great Educators

Currently, if you are a school leader in our region looking for great educators to teach in your school:

- You are facing a large gap in the supply of highly qualified and credentialed new teachers coming into the workforce.
- It is difficult to find certified educators in hard to staff subjects like math, science, and special education.
- Your school district likely has outdated systems that make recruiting, supporting, and retaining your best educators challenging.

This not only makes your job harder, it makes it harder to provide the highest quality education for your students.
Exceed the Need: National Research

Nationally, research tells us that:

1. Teacher qualifications are the most important school-related predictors of student achievement.

2. Teacher preparation matters. Percent of teachers holding substandard credentials is significantly, negatively associated with student achievement.

3. Teacher experience matters. Teacher average experience level within a district positively associated with achievement for African American and Hispanic students.
Exceed the Need: The Challenge

The Challenge: Since 2008, we've seen a massive national teacher shortage, particularly in mathematics, science, and special education.

- The California Department of Education estimates that the need for new teachers is approximately twice the current graduation rate in teacher preparation programs.
- Applications and enrollments in teacher education programs have dropped 70% in the last ten years.

Figure 1: Teacher Demand Continues to Grow

With your help, we can make San Joaquin County a destination where the best educators from around the country want to teach, and where we exceed the need for great educators in even our highest need subjects and classrooms.
Exceed the Need: Task Force

- This past Spring, A+ brought together a group of experts from across our region to make recommendations on how to solve these problems locally.

- Task force members included representatives from local educator prep. institutions, school districts, and charter school organizations.

- This group made 15 core recommendations across 3 focus areas.

- The report is available for you today to read.
Exceed the Need: What We Can Do

We are pleased to announce that A+ will provide funding in a few core areas of recommendation:

- We will provide a direct $200,000 grant to SUSD to modernize recruitment, support and retention systems.

- We are exploring high school pathways to careers in education as well as affordable paths from para-professional teacher aid roles, to become fully credentialed teachers.

- We are making plans to provide direct grants to local universities to prepare more educators in hard to staff subjects in our region.

- We will provide a planning grant to study a potential ‘Teacher’s Village’ Initiative in Stockton.

AND WE NEED YOUR PARTNERSHIP:

1. We need you as a community to do small things to make this a place where educators want to teach.

2. We must work together on grant opportunities and other formal partnerships to pursue priorities laid out by our exceed the need task force.
In Charlotte, North Carolina, the University of North Carolina’s Cato College of Education and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg school system have teamed up to create the **Charlotte Teacher Early College High School**.

The high school is housed on the UNC college campus and welcomed its first group of 55 ninth graders in 2017. The **aspiring educators** spend their first two years completing high school requirements and the subsequent three years taking general education college requirements and observing and supporting district classrooms.

Graduating students will acquire up to 60 college credits that can be transferred to the Cato College of Education to earn teaching degrees.
NEWARK TEACHERS’ VILLAGE
Inform our Community

Provide Transparent and Valuable Information About School Quality.
Currently, if you are a parent in San Joaquin County, trying to find information about schools for your child:

- Information about school quality is hard to find
- It is segmented across districts, charters, and school types
- You must rely on confusing state or 3rd party produced information.

This not only makes it hard to find the right school, it makes it harder to know how best to support your local schools, or how to hold elected leaders accountable for their results.
Inform Our Community: The Challenge

If you are looking for information about schools in San Joaquin County, this is what you will likely find online.

District information below. Individual school example at right.

We want to work with schools and districts in San Joaquin County to provide easy to access information that is easier to understand and more actionable...
With your help, we can make it easier for local parents and community members to find information about schools in a central place, with the engagement and support they need to make decisions about school quality.
Inform Our Community: The Opportunity

We can build on efforts already underway here locally to bring more and better information to families.

Cities around the country are finding new and innovative ways to share information about schools in more family friendly ways that include important information about academics.
Inform Our Community: What We Can Do

We are pleased to announce that A+ will provide support in a few core areas of recommendation:

- We will fund the facilitation of a local working group, similar to the ‘Exceed the Need’ Task Force, to determine how best to create an easy to understand school quality guide for our community.

- We will provide direct grants to improve data systems for local education agencies.

- We will support local community organizations to increase their capacity to engage with families to provide better access to information about schools.

AND WE NEED YOUR PARTNERSHIP:

- Participate in working groups, focus groups, or in surveys to provide feedback on potential tools.

- Work with us to identify underutilized systems for family and community engagement in our community.
Fuel the Workforce
Prepare Young People with the Knowledge and Skills to Earn a Family Sustaining Income.
Fuel the Workforce: With the Skills to Succeed

Currently, if you are an employer in San Joaquin County:

- Many young people are coming out of high school underprepared for college and the workforce.
- The majority of local high school and local college programs are not aligned to the opportunities at your businesses.
- You may want to grow your business here, but depending on your industry, finding talent locally can be difficult.
Fuel the Workforce: The Challenge

1 in 4 Stockton students were proficient in reading last year.

And just 1 in 5 Stockton students were proficient in math.
In addition to our students not graduating with the skills and knowledge they need to go to college, they are also not receiving enough exposure to growing industries in our region.

For example, the fastest growing industries between 2012 – 2017 in our region shown here.
With your help, we can increase the number of quality schools and programs in San Joaquin County that create pathways to meaningful career success in our region.
BUILD HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION + EMPLOYMENT PATHWAYS.

WHAT WE SEE:

• Employers are critical actors, and increasingly motivated.

• Policymakers are creating incentives to align systems more aggressively.

• Education and workforce systems will not integrate themselves.

• New narratives about the value of multiple pathways can build confidence in young people.
GUIDING ASSUMPTIONS IN OUR WORK:

• Attainment of a postsecondary credential (2-year or 4-year degree) is a prerequisite for upward mobility.

• Work-based learning experiences and professional skill development starting in high school can help young people understand the opportunities they face, envision their futures, develop requisite skills, and make optimal choices about their life path.

• To achieve upward mobility, young people of color and those from low-income families need consistent access to multiple high-quality education and employment pathways aligned to local labor market demands.

• These pathways enable young people to improve credential completion and develop the skills, assets and continuous learning mindset needed to navigate the dynamic future of work.
EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS:

- **86%** of graduates enroll in college the next semester after high school graduation.
- **91%** of early college graduates earn transferable college credit.
- **44%** of graduates at schools open 4+ years earn at least one year of college credit.
- **24%** of graduates at schools open 4+ years earn two years of college credit or an associate degree.
The Mustang Early College Pathway is a partnership between Delta College and Mountain House High School. We are fortunate to have forged this relationship with Dr. Jessie Garza-Roderick, Associate Dean, and Pablo Ortega, Counselor, at Delta College.

This program will help our students gain experience in taking college level courses, earn dual credit for classes taken at Delta, earn a high school diploma, and earn either the IGETC transfer pattern of courses for a state university or an associate's degree while in high school.

There is also a HUGE financial savings for students and families by getting general education requirements fulfilled. We currently have 105 students in the Mustang Early College Pathway.
STUDENTS CHOOSE BETWEEN TWO PATHWAYS.

The Liberal Arts Pathway. College courses include Art Appreciation, Music, Theater, Social Psychology and Literature. Students graduate with 30 college credits; enough to put them a full year ahead in college.

The Ag Prep Pathway. College courses include Intro to Ag Business,Intro to Plant & Soil Science, Ag Sales & Marketing, Ag Leadership, Agriculture, Environment & Society. Students graduate with an associate degree, and can enter a four-year university with 1-2 years under their belts.
Michigan Early College Builds Pipeline into Health Careers

Ahmed Gellani, a 9th grader at Henry Ford Early College, works at the pharmacy at Henry Ford Health System in Dearborn.

Pharmacy assistant is one of 12 medical careers students can pursue at the early college.

—Brian Widdis for Education Week
Fuel the Workforce: What We Can Do

We are pleased to announce that A+ will provide support in a few core areas of recommendation:

- We will fund the facilitation of a local working group of experts to create more schools and programs in Stockton that create direct pathways into jobs that will create a family sustaining income for our young people.

- We will provide funding local school districts to turnaround their lowest performing schools and create innovative schools with pathways to success.

- We will support non-profit charter school operators who have been approved by the SUSD board to bring innovative and quality new schools to Stockton

AND WE NEED YOUR PARTNERSHIP:

- Participate in working groups, focus groups, or in surveys to provide feedback on programs or school models needed in our region.

- Participate in visits to successful models of innovative schools around California
In Summary: What We Can Do Together

We are relaunching San Joaquin A+ not because we think we have all the answers, but because of the great work and momentum already happening here.

Our goal is to provide renewed resources and assistance to enhance your work.
In Summary: What We Can Do Together

Here is how we hope you will work with us to create a better future for the youth in our community.

1. **Keep doing what you are doing**: Make the pledge to continue to serve the children and families of San Joaquin County.

2. **Participate in working groups, visits, and discussions** to create a shared vision for quality education in SJ County.

3. **Raise your hand for partnership** or grantee opportunities when they arise by becoming a friend of San Joaquin A+.
Together, we can help students in San Joaquin County achieve quality educational outcomes, and in doing so, create a brighter future for our region.
Thank You.