What does The Trinity County Office of Education do?

There are 58 county offices of education (COEs) in the state of California that provide services to the state’s school districts. The county offices have governing boards elected by county residents and are administered by elected or appointed county superintendents. In Trinity County the Superintendent is elected.

The county superintendent is responsible for examining and approving all school district budgets and expenditures. The passage of Assembly Bill 1200 in 1991 gave the county superintendent additional responsibilities to enforce sound budgeting to ensure the fiscal integrity of each district. The county superintendent is also responsible to assist with school district emergencies by providing necessary services.

The county superintendent must assure that local school districts’ Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAPs) are prepared properly and that a district’s budget is sufficient to implement the improvement strategies outlined in its LCAP. The county superintendent is also in a position to evaluate district plans, not just on the basis of fiscal issues, but on the basis of other concerns including equitable use of educational resources.

The Trinity County office of education (TCOE) also support school districts in at least five main categories:

1. **Administrative services:** These services support the business function of education. Many of these services are mandated by state law, such as attendance accounting, district audits and budget reviews, interdistrict appeals, and teacher credentialing. TCOE also helps local school districts save money by offering services such as facilities improvement assistance, data development, payroll processing, group insurance plans, and cooperative purchasing. Other forms of oversight TCOE has over school districts include: approving each district’s annual budget and two interim financial reports, ensuring districts’ sound fiscal operation, and taking specific actions if a district may not be able to meet its financial obligations. Some districts outsource business office functions to TCOE. TCOE also supports district administrators with training, direct assistance, and providing resources especially in the areas of LCAP development and continuous school improvement.

2. **Instructional services:** TCOE offers local educators professional learning and assistance in areas such as curriculum development, instructional resources, clarification of mandates, and processes for monitoring and documenting the effectiveness of the instructional program. In addition, TCOE provides adult education services such as high school diploma testing and parenting classes.

3. **Special Education:** TCOE supports school districts with special education services that include school psychologists, speech therapists, mental health counseling, and work training programs; services are provided to all students from birth through age 22. Additionally, TCOE serves as the administrative unit for the special education local plan area (SELPA) which provides professional development to school districts and supports the local community advisory committee, a group that acts in an advisory capacity for all Trinity County special education students.
**Student services:** TCOE provides county-wide programs for special populations of students including: early childhood education programs, After School Safety & Education (ASES) program, prevention education, and Indian Education as well as other direct services to students such as through the RISE Academy (Raising Individual Success in Education), STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Music) activities, homeless and foster youth support, and nursing, among others.

**Technology Support services:** TCOE is the Internet Service Provider for almost all districts in Trinity County. The technology department at TCOE provides primary tech support to the smaller districts as well as acting as additional help to the larger districts for special projects and situations.