

## EDUCATION REPORT

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*Vice President for Education*

Jesus is coming! Do you believe it? Do you believe it for the sake of our children? This is what comes to mind when reflecting on the role and function of Adventist education in the Southern California Conference. God has commissioned us as Adventist educators to “go ye therefore” and collaborate with families from our churches and surrounding communities to help prepare our young people for the second coming of Jesus. We do this by promoting academic excellence in a nurturing Christian environment (2 Timothy 2:15). We do this by serving as evangelism centers, promoting Jesus Christ in how we as educators live

and speak with the students that grace our campuses. We do this by providing our young people experiences that will help them see Jesus for themselves and claim Him as their personal Savior and Friend.

The Office of Education oversees 21 elementary schools, academies, and early childhood education centers within our territory. Our schools engage with preschoolers to 12th graders 180 out of 365 days each year. Close to 50% of each calendar year, we partner with parents to train up children in the way that they should go (Proverbs 22:6). Each day spent with them is a day to educate them for eternity.

### MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Southern California Conference school system is to glorify God through academic excellence in nurturing Christian environments. Here, students establish a lifelong friendship with Jesus Christ while preparing for a lifetime of devoted service to Him and to humanity. The system pursues this mission by educating for eternity.

## Highlights

### 1 COLLEGE ENTRANCE RATES

On average, 97% of our academy graduating seniors enter a four-year college/university. The remaining 3% opt for community college, trade schools, or certificated programs that prepare them for the world of work.

### 2 BAPTISMS

With the help of (a) Bible study groups conducted by church pastors and Bible teachers on our campuses, (b) at least two weeks of spiritual emphasis per year, (c) Friday night vespers and Bible camps, (d) witnessing outings through choir, band, bells, and distribution of spiritual literature, we averaged more than 30 baptisms per year. From the end of the 2019 school term to the first quarter of 2024, the following is reported:

Baptisms of Our Students					
2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	Total
35	41	31	32	35	174

### 3 SCHOLARSHIP DOLLARS SPENT TO SUPPORT OUR FAMILIES

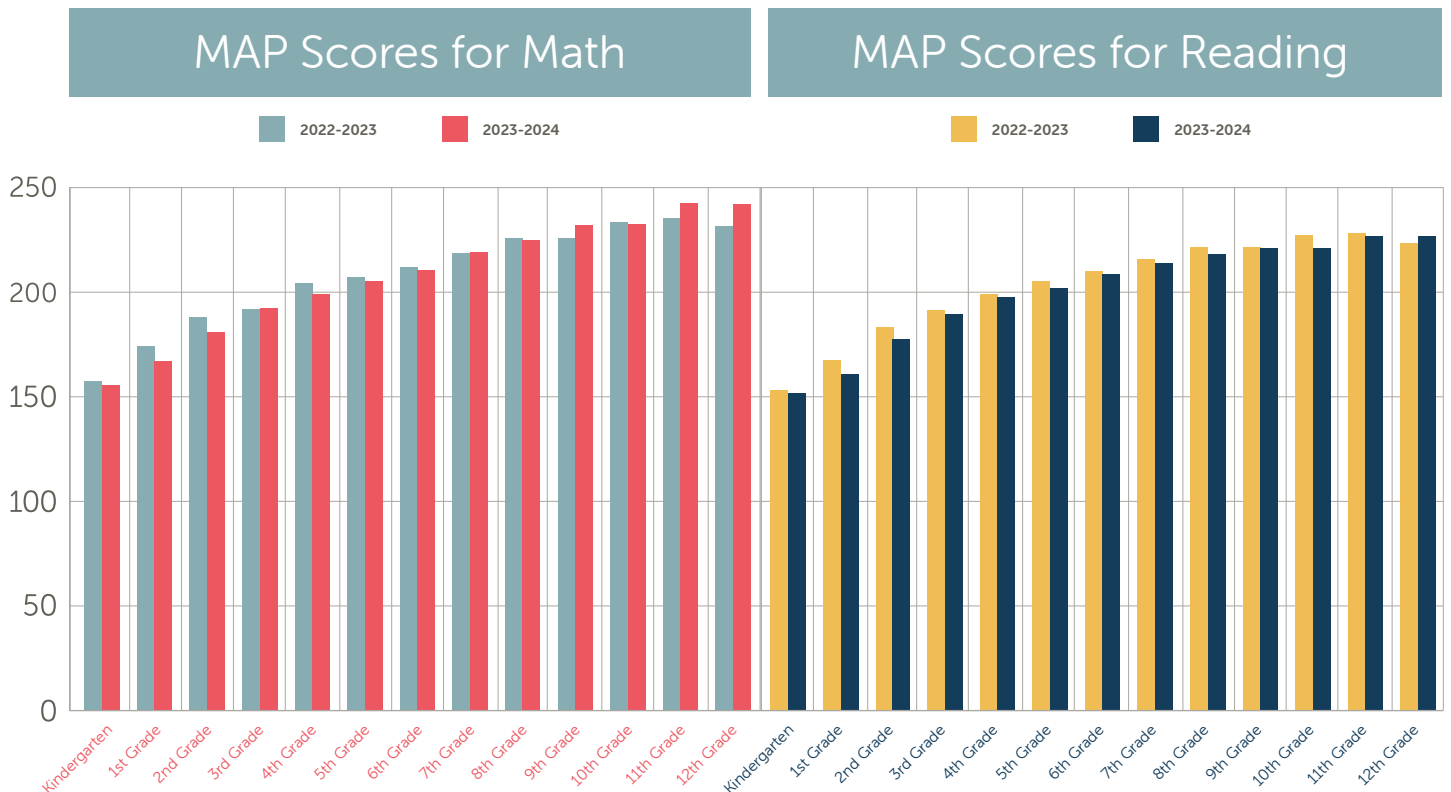
During the past five years, the Office of Education has facilitated the distribution of more than \$950,000.00 to our constituent church families in collaboration with the Pacific Union's Office of Education. Their added initiatives of special scholarships to first-year kindergarteners and 9th graders have made a tremendous positive impact on our enrollment.

### 4 COVID PIVOT (FROM IN-PERSON TO ZOOM TO IN-PERSON)

In 2020, life changed across the globe. Though initially discovered in 2019, COVID-19 entered the conversation in the United States in January 2020. It became a national public health emergency resulting in citizens sheltering in their homes shutting down businesses, churches, and schools. Our schools were able to quickly pivot using Zoom technology to continue providing education remotely. As time went on, COVID became more manageable with the use of hand sanitizers, face masks, and vaccines. Once we returned to the classroom, our enrollment numbers remained steady and, in some cases, increased.

### 5 MAP ACHIEVEMENT TESTING TRANSITION

MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) is the newest achievement test instrument now used by North American Division schools. MAP Tests are an advanced tool designed to evaluate and promote our children's academic growth and learning achievements. What makes this test special is its adaptive nature, ensuring a personalized testing experience that adjusts to a child's unique learning level. The result? Teachers and parents get valuable insights into a child's learning trajectory. These insights can identify areas of strength and pinpoint where additional support might be beneficial. This can help tailor a child's learning experience, keeping it challenging enough to foster growth, yet achievable enough to maintain confidence and motivation. Good MAP scores for students generally start at 130 in Grade K and finish with an average score of 240 in high school. Below is a review of our math and reading scores from the past two years:



# Challenges

<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Effectively communicating what is envisioned for the SCC regarding Adventist education.</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Having available and obtaining sufficient resources to provide the requisite training of the workforce.</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Failing to breakthrough with the message to other departmental leaders the need to collaborate and work harmoniously for the success of all entities involved in our ministry.</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Continued status of some constituents who are either unable to afford or reject the opportunity to obtain an Adventist Christian education.</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Understanding the high importance of our school campuses being a relevant ministry utilized to support churches and engage with the surrounding communities.</p>
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# Addressing Challenges

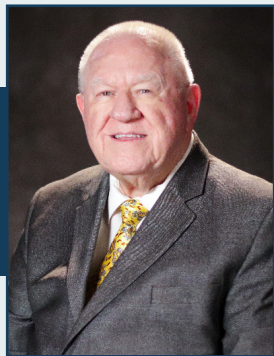
<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Utilize all the media tools available to communicate the mission and vision of the Office of Education to SCC constituents.</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Collaborate! Collaborate with all ministries for the purpose of advancing Adventist education as a team effort versus a silo effort.</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Invest in strategic planning and initiatives designed to set a clear course of action:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="699 835 919 968"> <p>to improve the organization of our system of education.</p> </td> <td data-bbox="927 835 1146 968"> <p>to improve our delivery of our system of education.</p> </td> <td data-bbox="1154 835 1536 968"> <p>to improve our financial condition that can sufficiently support and sustain our system of education.</p> </td> </tr> </table>		<p>to improve the organization of our system of education.</p>	<p>to improve our delivery of our system of education.</p>	<p>to improve our financial condition that can sufficiently support and sustain our system of education.</p>
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On behalf of our instructional personnel, ancillary service staff members, and school administrators of the Southern California Conference, we thank you. Thank you for allowing us the privilege of ministering to your children through Adventist education. Our prayer is that we continue working together to add to the kingdom of God. We take seriously the vision given to us in the following quote in the book *Education*: “True education means more than the pursual of a certain course of study. It means more than a preparation for the life that now is. It has to do with

the whole being, and with the whole period of existence possible to man. It is the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers. It prepares the student for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come” (page 3). Jesus is coming, soon! We are committed to providing an Adventist education that prepares students for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come.



**Nancy Garcilazo**  
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT



**Bob Dennis**  
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT



**Nelly Martin**  
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/  
REGISTRAR



**Andrei Toma**  
DEPARTMENTAL ASSISTANT

# Goals for the Next Term

## ENSURING STUDENT SUCCESS/ACHIEVEMENT

**1**

Maintain in our schools, classrooms, and one-on-one encounters that a relationship with Jesus is essential to student success and achievement.

**2**

Communicate at all levels a purpose and direction for continuous improvement that commits to high expectations for learning.

**3**

Challenge central office and local school governance and leadership to promote and support successful, positive student performance.

**4**

Utilize curriculum, instructional design, and assessment practices to guide and ensure teacher effectiveness and student learning at all grade levels.

**5**

Generate data about student learning and instructional effectiveness, utilizing the results to guide continuous improvement.

## WORKFORCE NEEDS

**1**

Highly trained and retained personnel to distinctively address the unique needs of our SCC constituents and local communities.

**2**

A workforce dedicated to the study, practice, and incorporation of the best education practices available to meet the needs of parents and students.

**3**

A workforce committed to operating as customer servants to everyone admitted to our schools, regardless of race, gender, socio-economic status, and religious and lifestyle backgrounds.

**4**

A workforce that is celebrated and valued for their dedicated service and success in meeting the needs of students and families of their school.

Implement periodic retreats and ministry summits designed for social building and problem solving among colleagues.

Provide public recognition that acknowledges and celebrates the careers of our employees.

## A COLLABORATIVE MINISTRY

**1**

Engage the SCC region ministries directors/ departments on how to better support and advance Adventist education throughout the SCC.

**2**

Pinpoint, with the help of SCC's communication department and expert consultants, the best marketing strategies that can attract most, if not all constituents and the communities served by our schools.

**3**

Identify, with assistance from administration, what can prove key to engaging all pastors under the watch of their offices and regional directors to be more present in support of Adventist education across the SCC.

**4**

Address, with the help of treasury, what can be done collectively to make Adventist education affordable for all families vs. an exclusive few.

## SCHOOL CAMPUS USES

**1**

Promote school campuses to become more user friendly and accessible for our constituencies and communities.

**2**

Host constituency and community events (e.g., sports programs/leagues; community awareness campaigns; concerts; dramatic plays/presentation; that are adult and/or student driven).

**3**

Foster quality evangelistic campaigns with local constituent churches.

**4**

In collaboration with local constituent churches, engage as community service centers: for food distribution, clothing distribution, medical clinic services, adult training programs, such as ESLs, tech training, CPR/first aid, self-defense and exercise classes.