



Contra Costa Community Colleges Join East Bay Early Childhood Education & Teacher Preparation Regional Network

Martinez, Calif. (Oct. 6, 2026) — Contra Costa College, Diablo Valley College, and Los Medanos College will join seven other local community colleges to form the East Bay Early Childhood Education and Education (ECE/EDU) Regional Network, a two-year regional initiative dedicated to strengthening educator workforce pathways throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

The Network, developed in partnership with the Bay Area Community College Consortium, brings together the community colleges, county offices of education, universities, workforce organizations, employers, First 5 agencies, and community partners to develop and expand career pathways in early childhood education, preK-12 education, and expanded learning. The extensive collaboration is intended to ensure equitable access to program participants and address the workforce needs of the East Bay.

Thanks to considerable state investments in preschool and transitional kindergarten programs, enrollment in early childhood education programs is growing, and demand for qualified teachers is also expected to increase.

“California has made a meaningful commitment to expanding early learning opportunities for young children—and fulfilling that commitment requires a well-prepared workforce,” said Kelly Schelin, Contra Costa Community College District Executive Vice Chancellor, Education and Technology.

“Our three colleges offer early childhood education programs that equip our students with the knowledge and practical experience needed to succeed in the field. Through this regional network, we can learn from one another, share expertise, and implement proven practices that strengthen our future workforce.”

Led by Berkeley City College (BCC), other participating colleges include Chabot College, College of Alameda, Laney College, Las Positas College, Merritt College, and Ohlone College.

BCC will convene and connect expertise across the East Bay, strengthening existing partnerships and supporting colleges and regional partners to develop shared solutions to educator workforce challenges. The effort will focus on:

- Strengthening and aligning educator preparation pathways
- Improving student navigation, career advancement, and transfer
- Expanding apprenticeship and other educator workforce pathways
- Strengthening employer and regional partnerships
- Developing shared resources and sustainable regional infrastructure

Network implementation begins in Fall 2026 with Steering Committee formation, regional partner engagement, governance development, and planning for the inaugural East Bay ECE/EDU Regional Convening.

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The Contra Costa Community College District (4CD) is one of the largest multi-college community college districts in California. 4CD serves 1.2 million residents, and its boundaries encompass all but 48 of the 734-square-mile land area of Contra Costa County. 4CD is home to Contra Costa College in San Pablo, Diablo Valley College with campuses in Pleasant Hill and San Ramon, and Los Medanos College with campuses in Pittsburg and Brentwood. The District headquarters are located in downtown Martinez. Each college is individually accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges. For more information, visit www.4cd.edu.