



Understanding K12 Strong Workforce Program (SWP) in the South Central Coast Regional Consortium

Rounds 3-5 (2020-2023)

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Key Inquiries & Purpose

What is the current educational attainment in the SCCRC region?

- ❖ Regional Characteristics

How much has K12 SWP invested in the SCCRC?

Who are the grantees and what has been done?

- ❖ NOVA Analysis with course data

Role of the Selection Committee

What implementation activities did grantees engage in?

- ❖ Survey Results

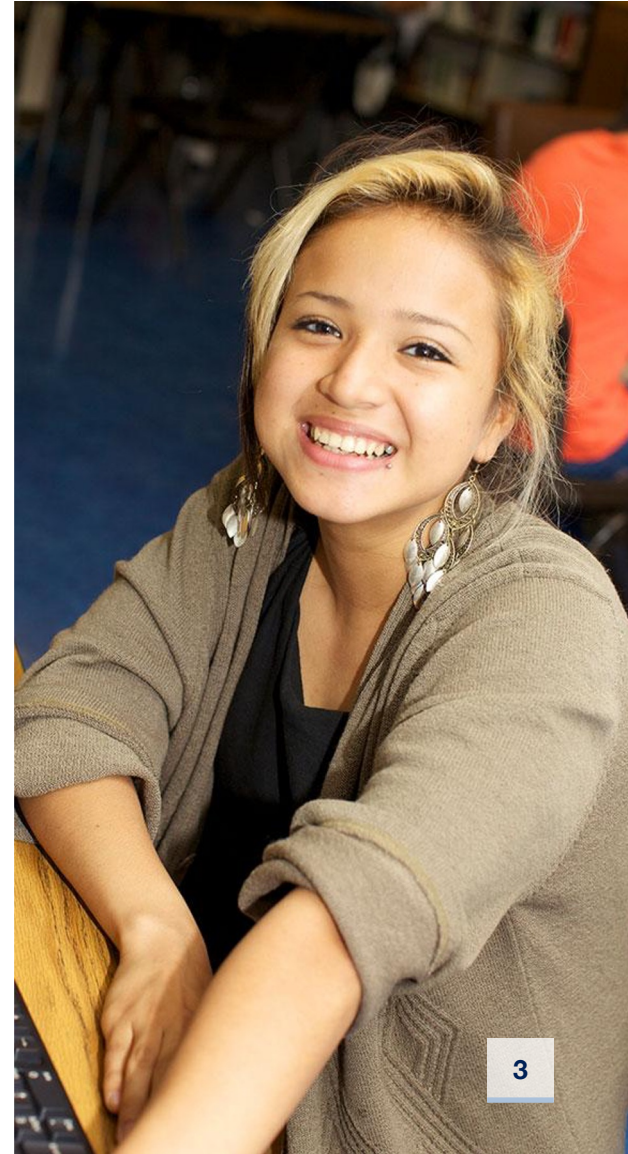
Purpose of this report

This slide deck presents a **descriptive analysis of the statewide investment in the K12 Strong Workforce Program (SWP)** for rounds three, four, and five.

It aims to **provide insights into the millions of dollars allocated across these three rounds of funding** to support K12 career education programs.

It highlights grantee activities, and the distribution of funds applied to the South Central Coast Region's K12 CTE programs to **enhance understanding of K12 SWP implementation and outcomes**, sharing lessons learned from the statewide investment.

The **findings can inform future investments and strategies** to improve the effectiveness of K12 career pathways and transitions to postsecondary education and careers.



Regional Characteristics - Educational Attainment

Overall the SCCRC region has slightly higher rates of educational attainment than California. Still, 52% of residents have less than a post-secondary diploma. Notably, 11% of residents in Santa Barbara County hold less than 9th education.

Population 25 years and over	California	San Luis Obsipo	Santa Barbara	Ventura	North Los Angeles	SCCRC Region
Less than 9th grade	9%	4%	11%	9%	6%	8%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	7%	4%	6%	6%	7%	6%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	21%	17%	17%	18%	24%	19%
Some college, no degree	19%	24%	19%	19%	23%	21%
Associate's degree	8%	10%	9%	9%	9%	9%
Bachelor's degree	23%	27%	22%	24%	20%	23%
Graduate or professional degree	14%	15%	15%	15%	10%	14%

Regional Characteristics - Income by Educational Attainment

The median earnings in the SCCRC region are relatively on par with the state. However, only those with a bachelor's degree or more meet the single person living wage income which ranges between \$54,080 to \$66,560 across the region.

Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months	California	San Luis Obispo	Santa Barbara	Ventura	North Los Angeles	SCCRC Region
Median Population 25 years and over with earnings	\$ 52,520	\$ 54,828	\$ 50,215	\$ 52,373	\$ 60,764	\$ 54,545
Less than high school graduate	\$ 30,843	\$ 32,271	\$ 30,804	\$ 31,296	\$ 36,097	\$ 32,617
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	\$ 38,507	\$ 41,169	\$ 36,489	\$ 40,199	\$ 43,344	\$ 40,300
Some college or associate's degree	\$ 47,535	\$ 50,117	\$ 47,363	\$ 51,090	\$ 51,499	\$ 50,017
Bachelor's degree	\$ 75,688	\$ 74,108	\$ 70,634	\$ 72,914	\$ 82,469	\$ 75,031
Graduate or professional degree	\$ 103,600	\$ 83,921	\$ 94,794	\$ 91,772	\$ 101,306	\$ 92,948

Total Investment in South Central Coast Region totaled \$30 Million across Rounds 3-5



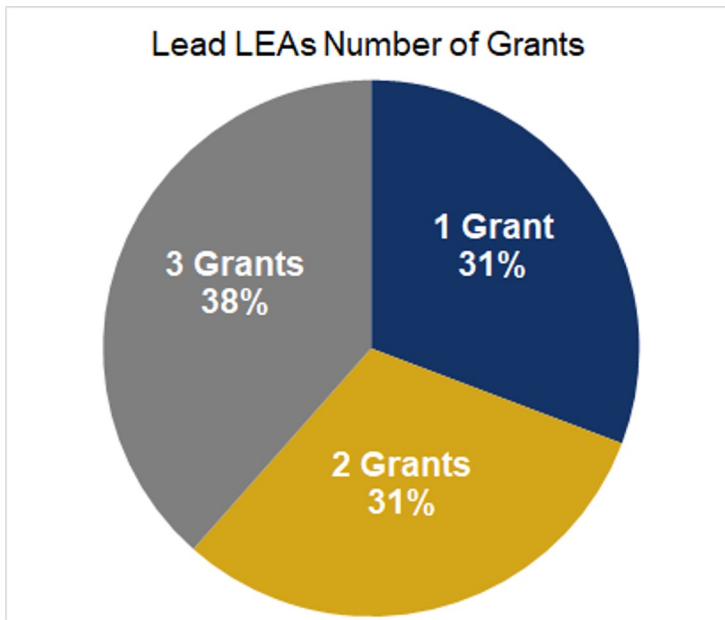
Characteristics of K12 SWP Grants

Data retrieved and analyzed from NOVA which includes self-reported data from Lead LEAs regarding grants purpose.

This data is inclusive of Rounds three, four, and five.

Lead LEA Characteristics

SCCRC Region had 13 distinct Lead LEAs across 27 grants. Individual grants ranged from \$42K to \$674K. Most Lead LEAs received more than one grant.



Lead LEA
Antelope Valley Union High
Career Education Center
Conejo Valley Unified
Fillmore Unified
Guadalupe Union Elementary
Ojai Unified
Oxnard Union High
San Luis Obispo Co. Office of Education
Santa Barbara County ROP-North
Santa Barbara Unified
Santa Paula Unified
Ventura Unified
William S. Hart Union High



Data retrieved from the NOVA system for all Lead LEA grants in the SCCRC Region

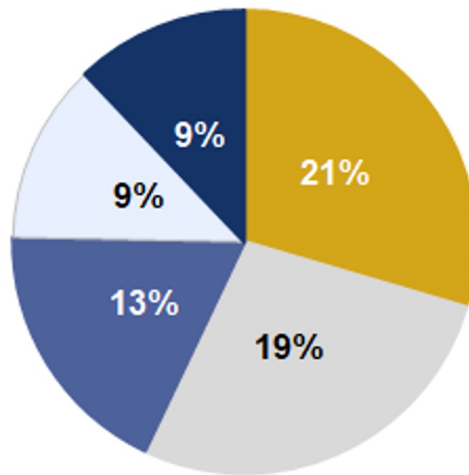
Grant Sectors

Investment in the SCCRC Region generally reflected statewide trends. Notably compared to the state:

- Engineering had higher investments
- Agriculture had lower investments

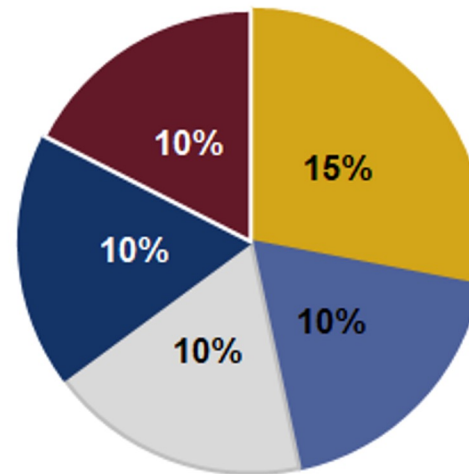
SCCRC Top 5 Sectors

- Health Science and Medical Technology
- Manufacturing and Product Development
- Information and Communication Technologies
- Engineering and Architecture
- Arts, Media, and Entertainment



Statewide Top 5 Sectors

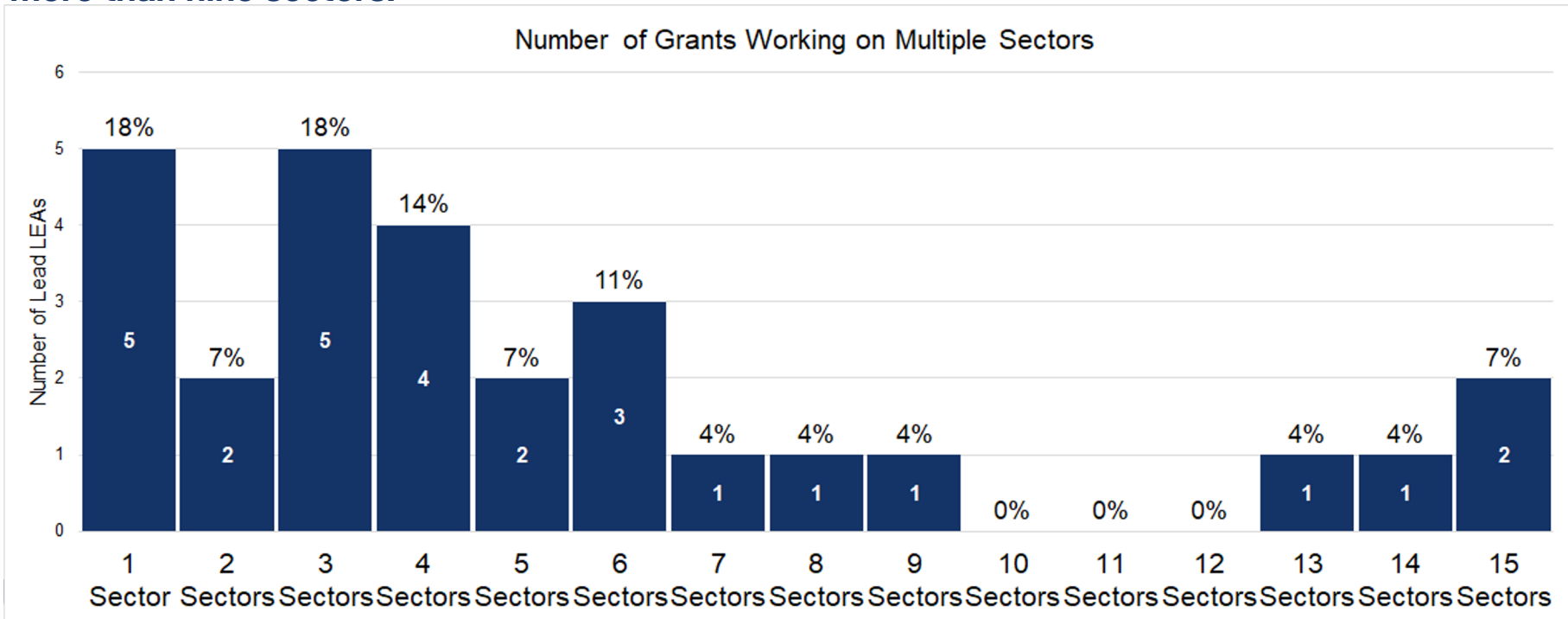
- Health Science and Medical Technology
- Information and Communication Technologies
- Manufacturing and Product Development
- Arts, Media, and Entertainment
- Agriculture and Natural Resources



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Grant Sectors

The vast majority of Lead LEAs, 82% worked on more than one Sector. Only four grants worked on more than nine sectors.



Pathways

Funding by pathway varied by sector. Some sectors had funding concentrated in one or two pathways. For example, of the funding in Health, 48% was used for Patient Care.

Health

Grantees primarily invested in two pathways

- Patient Care 48%
- Biotechnology 36%
- Mental and Behavioral Health 11%
- Other Health Science 3%
- Public and Community Health 2%
- Healthcare Administration 1%

Information

Grantees invested in a wider range of pathways

- Software and Systems Development 29%
- Networking 26%
- Other Information 22%
- Information Support Services 22%
- Games and Simulations 1%

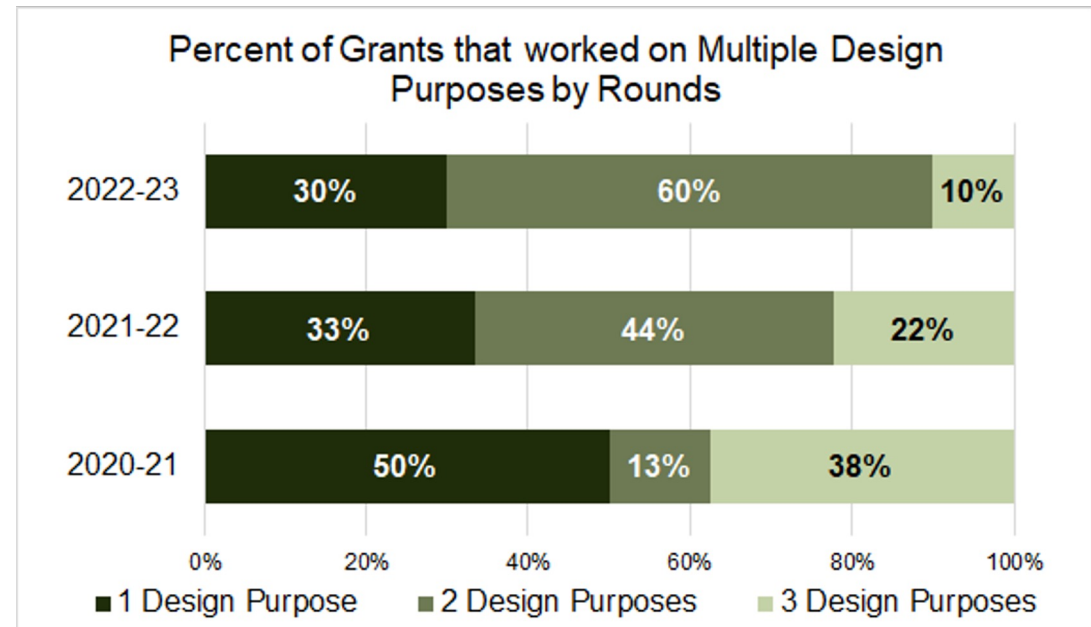
These patterns generally reflect statewide investments by pathways within sectors. With the exception of Health where the Public and Community Health Pathway was less invested regionally than the state.

Design Purpose

A significant proportion of grants (48%) focused on Expanding and/or Scaling an existing pathway, while 26% indicated working on Implementing Cross-Sector work, and 26% indicated working on Creating a New Pathway.

Multiple Design Purposes:

- 63% of granted selected more than one design purpose.
- This is primarily driven by grants selecting more than one sector.
- Grantees that worked on more than one sector often choose a design purpose per sector.

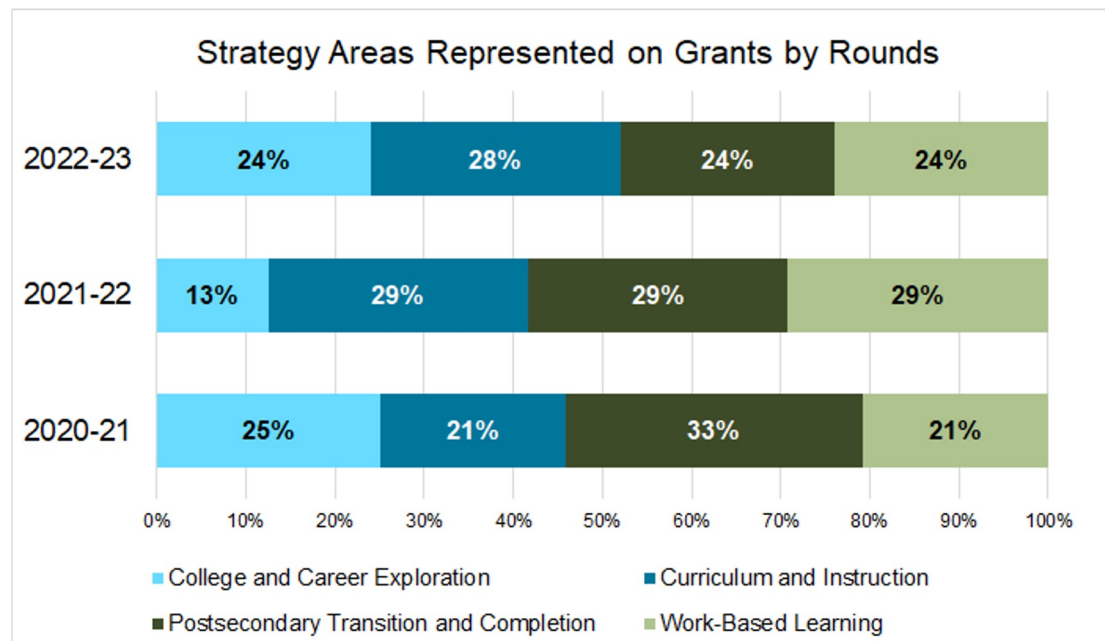


Strategy Areas

The strategy areas selected were fairly evenly distributed within grants.
The majority of grants worked on two or four strategy areas.

Overall grantees selections in the SCCRC region reflected state trends:

- Postsecondary Transition and Completion 29%
- Curriculum and Instruction 26%
- Work-Based Learning 25%
- College and Career Exploration 21%



Deeper look at Strategy Area Activities

Grantees focused on a wider range of activities in these strategy areas



Survey
Data

Postsecondary Transition and Completion: 29% of grantees focused on this strategy. Within this strategy grantees focused on:

- Dual-enrollment - top three choice 78% of the time.
- Other early college activities - top three choice 67% of the time.
- Articulation agreements - top three choice 56% of the time.

Curriculum and Instruction: 26% of grantees focused on this strategy. Within this strategy grantees focused on:

- Alignment with area postsecondary programs to make programmatic and curricular decisions - top three choice 50% of the time.
- Integration between core academics and CTE/technical content and pathway theme - top three choice 50% of the time.
- Hands-on learning experiences - top three choice 50% of the time.

Deeper look at Strategy Area Activities

Grantees concentrated work in certain activities in these strategy areas

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Work-Based Learning: 25% of grantees focused on this strategy. Within this strategy grantees focused on:

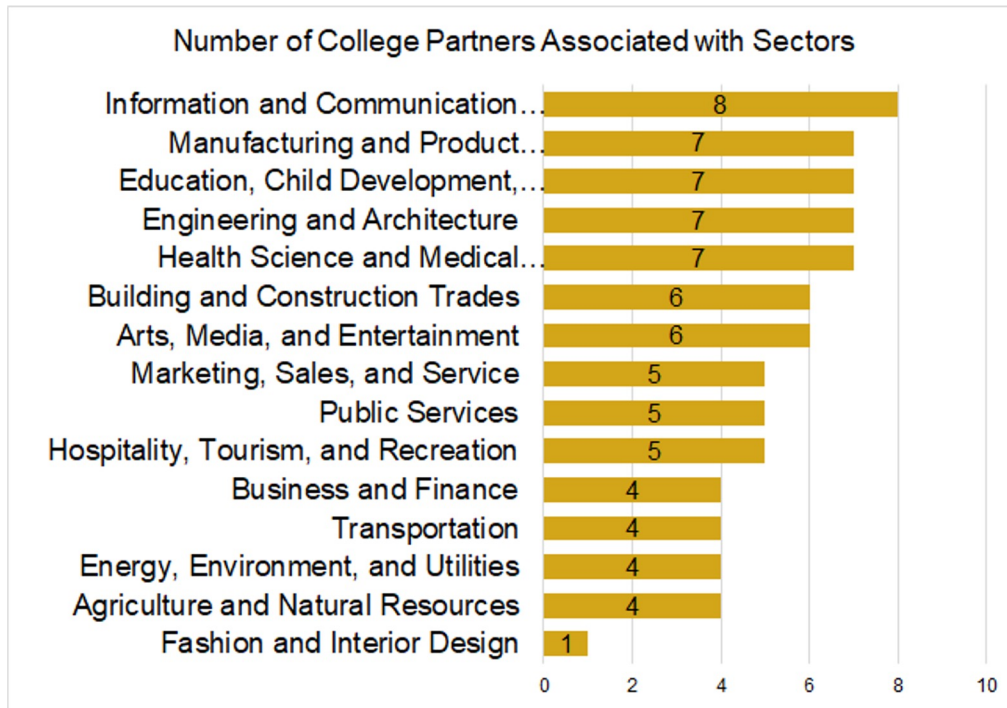
- Internships (unpaid) - selected 21% of the time.
- Service learning - selected 17% of the time.
- Site visits - selected 17% of the time.

College and Career Exploration: 21% of grantees focused on this strategy. Within this strategy grantees focused on:

- Career-readiness and soft skills development (i.e. self-management, communication, collaboration, goal setting) - top three choice 80% of the time.
- College and career fairs - top three choice 50% of the time.
- CTE programs that lead to industry credentials - top three choice 50% of the time.

Community College Primary Partners

All of the community college partners were connected to multiple sectors, including those that were only the primary partner for one grant.



College or District	Number of Grants
Moorpark College	7
College of the Canyons	3
Antelope Valley College	3
Ventura College	4
Santa Barbara City College	4
Allan Hancock College	3
Cuesta College	1
Oxnard College	1
Ventura CCD	1

Data retrieved from the NOVA system for all Lead LEA grants in the SCCRC Region

Course Characteristics

Representing Rounds 1 and 2

- With an estimated 1,868 courses and 543 CTE Pathways.
- 90% of courses are CTE and have a CTE sector indicated.
- 9% of courses were other courses not included in the CTE standard classification.
- Other courses driven by Career Exploration courses represented 6% of all courses.

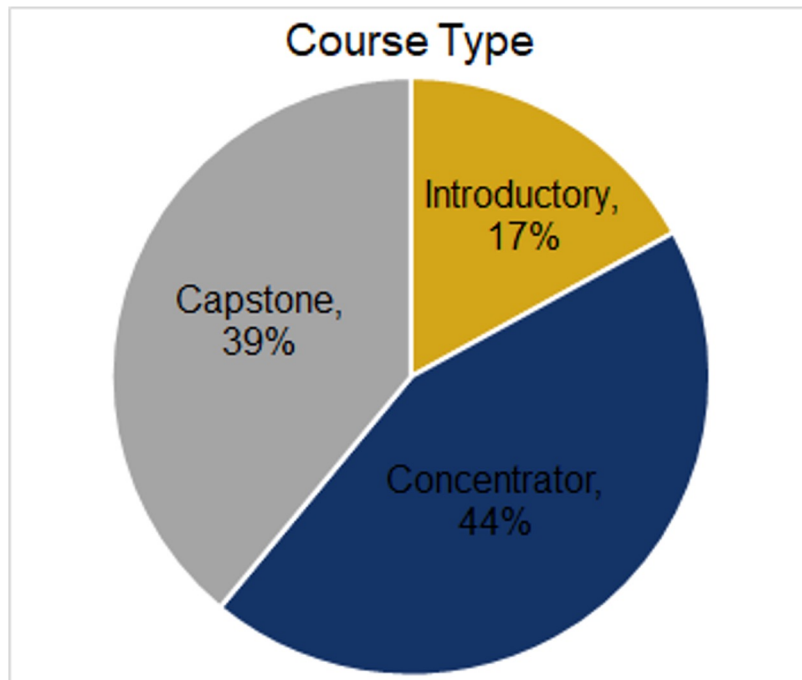
Top 5 CTE Sectors by Courses	Count of Courses	Percent of Total
Agriculture and Natural Resources	366	20%
Arts, Media, and Entertainment	348	19%
Health Science and Medical Technology	171	9%
Information and Communication Technologies	123	7%
Engineering and Architecture	122	7%
Manufacturing and Product Development	122	7%

Course Characteristics

Representing Rounds 1 and 2

Among CTE courses, course levels included:

*38 courses excluded due to missing data



Data retrieved from the NOVA system for all Lead LEA grants in the SCCRC Region

Among Pathways, course features included:

- Approximately 29% of pathways included a college credit course.
*69 pathways excluded due to missing data
- Approximately 36% of pathways included a course that provided an industry credential.
*20 pathways excluded due to missing data

Selection Committee

The K12 SWP Selection Committee process is a unique facet of the K12 Strong Workforce Grant. Each funding cycle a committee convenes to review applications based on the rubric develop and agreed upon in their region.

Interviewees discussed the importance of the Selection Committee and described how it supports:

- Fair peer-reviewed assessment and approval of grant applications
- Opportunity for conversations that clarify and add nuance to the region's goals and priorities

Interviewees highlighted a key transformation within the committee that significantly improved both efficiency and collaboration. This transformation fostered an ethical and supportive environment, moving the committee from a previously excessively deliberative atmosphere to one marked by positivity and trust. Selection Committee meeting hours reduced from 8 hours to 2 hours.

Grantee Success Stories

Grantees particularly discussed successes with implementing new and expanding access to tangible career oriented activities for students such as implementing new career exploration or increasing the number of site visit opportunities available to students.

“We were able to update our junior high elective programs to include career exploration courses that included introductory activities in multiple industry sectors” [Business, Engineering, Fashion/Interior Design, Hospitality, Manufacturing, etc.]

Grantees also emphasized the way K12 Strong Workforce funding has been a game changer for increasing and improving collaboration across the region.

“The collaboration between our secondary and post-secondary educators has been invaluable. Sharing ideas, identifying necessary skills for success in post-secondary and workplace has helped focus secondary teachers on essential areas for student development.”



Highlight: South Central Coast Region



ROUNDS 3-5 TOTALS

Funds Allocated: \$ 30,494,907

Grants: 27

-
- **Transformation within the selection committee** process improved efficiency and collaboration - markedly improved efficiency and collaboration, fostering a more ethical, transparent, and supportive environment of trust.
 - **Development of K14 pathway maps as strategic resources for intersegmental partners**, enhancing alignment and continuity between secondary and postsecondary education sectors.
 - K12 Strong Workforce Program (SWP)-funded professional development projects aligned with regional priorities, **Vision 2030**, and the **California State Plan**, supporting a cohesive approach to workforce and education alignment statewide.

Considerations for Future Study

Key Study Areas for Future Insights

Variation in the number of Local Education Agencies (LEAs) engaged across regions underscores the need for deeper exploration into how these differences affect program impact and outcomes.

Regional disparities in median household income and poverty rates point to the importance of tailoring K12 SWP strategies to meet the unique needs of each region.

Lead LEA districts show higher college-going rates and greater economic need than the statewide average, highlighting their key role in advancing educational and economic equity and may require additional support to sustain success, warranting further research to align future K12 SWP investments with broader statewide trends.



Considerations for Future Study

Key Study Areas for Future Insights - Continued

Obtaining comprehensive course-level data across the state is crucial for understanding pathway implementation, but current manual data retrieval from LEAs in NOVA is hampered by data entry errors and missing information. A large-scale effort to clean and analyze this data could provide valuable insights into industry credentials and dual-enrollment trends.

There is significant variance in funding allocation across pathways, with some sectors, like hospitality, seeing 73% of funding concentrated in a single pathway, while others, such as information technology, show more balanced distribution across multiple pathways. Future interviews could help clarify the reasons behind these variations in investment in statewide trends.





Recommendations to Strengthen K12 SWP

Support career exploration in middle school

- Continuing to develop earlier exposure experiences, curricula and opportunities can go a long way toward furthering the impact of intersegmental partnership work.

Build capacity for improved data access and use

- K12 institutions often lack the staff and resources for effective data collection and analysis, which are critical for both grant proposals, designing pathways and measuring program success.

Increase incentives or penalties for stronger K12 and CC collaboration

- To strengthen partnerships and create seamless transitions between K12 and community colleges, it is crucial to mandate collaboration across education levels.

Considerations for Future Study

Key Study Areas for Future Insights

- **An equity analysis** comparing student outcomes—disaggregated by race and gender—between funded and unfunded schools could reveal whether resources are reaching those most in need and highlight disparities for future focus.
- **Examining trends in pathway investments across sectors**, particularly in alignment with regional labor demands, would help guide more strategic funding decisions.
- **A qualitative exploration of cross-sector collaboration**, particularly the role of community colleges in K12 SWP grants, could provide deeper insights into the sustainability and impact of these partnerships.
- **Regional disparities in LEA engagement and income levels** suggest the need for tailored approaches to investment and resource allocation.





Questions or Comments?

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