Juvenile Justice Commission

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Stanislaus County
Juvenile Justice Commission
August 27, 2026 – Probation Department

Members Present: Fidel Landeros, Chair; Sharma Uma, Chair-Elect; Marian Martino; Wanda Bonnell; Sandra Ainslie; Antony Little; Kelli Bravo

Members Excused: Craig Orona, Fallon Ferris; Dejeune Melanie Shelton; Jessica Godden

Probation Department Present: Mark Ferriera, Chief Probation Officer; David Costa, Juvenile Facilities Superintendent

Superior Court:

Guest: Brandon Fromm, Stanislaus County Office of Education; Saundra Day, Stanislaus County Office of Education

Call to Order: Chairperson Fidel Landeros called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

Public Comment: No members of the public were present, and no public comments were received.

Chairperson Fidel Landeros announced that Steve Ashman has resigned from the Commission, effective June 5th, ending his 18 years of service.

Approval of February 5, 2026, and June 11, 2026, Meeting Minutes:
MOTION: Marian Martino; SECOND: Saundra Ainslie. The February 5, 2026, meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

MOTION: Kelly Bravo; SECOND: Saundra Ainslie. The June 11, 2026, meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Stanislaus County Office of Education (SCOE) Presentation (Attached to the minutes):
Saundra Day and Brandon Fromm presented a comprehensive overview of the Stanislaus County Office of Education's programming for Juvenile Facilities, highlighting

collaboration with probation, specialized educational supports, and a range of academic and career-focused opportunities for youth.

The staffing structure, including a principal, five classroom teachers, special education services, five paraprofessionals, English Language Arts (ELA) support, Career Technical Education (CTE), mental health support, and guidance tech support, is coordinated to ensure seamless transitions and responsiveness to probation needs.

Academic Curriculum and Resources: The team uses a range of academic resources, including the online curriculum, Math Nation, EOWC, and hands-on teaching methods, to meet students' diverse needs, including a high percentage of English language learners.

Brandon Fromm detailed specialized programs, including the Ablework Financial Literacy Program (financial math), Career Readiness and Soft Skills with Craig Arona, Culinary Arts, Paxton Patterson CTE modules, Digital Art and Media, VOLT, Northern California Construction Training (NCCT), and Truck Driving instruction, each tailored to student needs and unit requirements.

Art instruction has expanded with the hiring of a second teacher to meet high student demand, and plans are underway to offer cosmetology classes for female youth, leveraging staff expertise.

In partnership with UOP and other county offices, a new gaming arena with Esports computers and an Xbox has been introduced to provide positive reinforcement, teamwork, and structured competition for students.

The group highlighted the growing number of opportunities available through colleges and universities for formerly incarcerated individuals and emphasized the need to make students aware that they can pursue higher education and succeed alongside their peers. Currently, approximately 15 to 16 youth are enrolled in college courses, a significant increase from the one or two students enrolled at Modesto Junior College just five or six years ago.

Participants expressed pride in students’ accomplishments, including those who earned a place on the Dean’s List. Students are encouraged to take pride in their academic achievements and to showcase their transcripts and current coursework. The collaboration with Modesto Junior College has also enabled instructors to visit the Probation Department to recognize and celebrate students’ accomplishments. Probation’s support in allowing these instructors to acknowledge students was

recognized as an important way to reinforce their achievements and to show other youth that higher education is attainable.

Probation Department Report:
David provided updates on youth in custody, the impact of the Juvenile Justice Realignment, and highlighted new and ongoing programs including H3 Mentoring, Pine Grove Fire Camp, and expanded Mental Health and Substance Abuse services.

The current population in custody is 73 youth, including 20 adults; 30 with 707 B offenses; 15 who would previously have been sent to state facilities; 9 youth being charged as adults; and 9 females and 64 males.

A new mentoring program, H3 Mentoring Heart, Hope, Healing, led by Marion Martino and Elizabeth Morrison, will launch, pairing trained mentors with selected youth for ongoing support during and after reintegration.

Three youth are participating in the Pine Grove Fire Camp, gaining wildland firefighting experience, earning pay, and demonstrating significant personal growth, with opportunities to transition to full-time roles post-release.

The department partners with Well Path and the Center for Human Services to provide mental health treatment. It is expanding trauma and grief services by adding a clinician and continuing to support in-custody and community members through two substance abuse counselors. The Center for Human Services will continue and expand grief- and trauma-related services previously provided through Hospice, building on support offered to youth for several years.

Juvenile Court Report:
Chief Ferriera discussed the ongoing remodeling of the juvenile courtroom, detailing construction schedules, temporary arrangements, and the impact on youth programming and court operations. Additionally, he discussed the probation statistics, noting a 22% year-over-year decline in youth on probation and a 20% decline in wards, attributing the decrease to Assembly Bill 1376, which limits wardship to 12 months unless extended by the court.

As of mid-August, 273 youths were on some form of probation, including 195 classified as wards, the highest-need group; both figures declined significantly from the previous year.

Assembly Bill 1376, effective January 1, 2026, limits wardship to 12 months unless the court extends it and mandates hearings every six months thereafter, reducing probation duration for most youth.

Announcements:
Marian Martino shared the story of a former detainee who, after serving time and participating in Cal Fire, has become a hospital scribe and will be the keynote speaker at the United Way 'Power of the Purse' event on Wednesday, September 23rd, 2026, from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm, sharing her journey and honoring those affected by her actions.

Chairperson Fidel Landeros announced the annual Commission inspections of juvenile facilities, the Modesto Police Department, and the Oakdale Police Department, and asked members to sign up. Executive Assistant Eva Carrazco will remind all Commission members to sign up for one of the three annual inspections and will provide the inspection report template to any Commission member interested in preparing the report for the facility inspections.

The next Juvenile Justice Commission meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2026, at 12:30 pm.

MOTION: Kelli Bravo; SECOND: Saundra Ainslie. To adjourn today’s meeting was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

EDUCATING YOUTH IN CUSTODY

Stanislaus County Office of Education
Educational Options

Saundra Day – Assistant Superintendent, Educational Options
Brandon Fromm – Senior Director, Educational Options

STANCOE.ORG

Stanislaus County Office of Education

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MISSION STATEMENT

Stanislaus County Office of Education provides a safe and engaging alternative learning environment that establishes a foundation for academic success. The Educational Options division offers dynamic programs to empower each student to discover their passions, develop their talents, and become well-rounded individuals who are prepared to thrive in the college or career of their choice.

SCOE STAFF

Principal

5 Classroom Teachers

1 Special Education Teacher

Academic Counselor

5 Paraprofessionals

- EL support

Student Support Advocate

Director II - Digital Curriculum and Technology

Director I - Career Technical Education

Director II - Career Technical Education

Director I - Educational Options/Program Specialist

Mental Health Clinician

Guidance Technician

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ACADEMICS / CTE / COLLEGE AND CAREER SUPPORTS

- Digital Curriculum - Edmentum and Subject.com
- Adopted hands-on, engaging curriculum for Math and English Language Arts (ELA)
  - Math Nation and Expository Reading and Writing Curriculum
- Curriculum matches what is offered at Educational Options sites
- Credit recovery opportunities to support credit recovery and graduation
- All units are supported with Career Technical Education (CTE) exposure and college/career supports
- The level of access and support varies based on the unit and population being served
- Students in the Juvenile Correction Facility (JCF) receive more CTE opportunities and Modesto Junior College (MJC) courses

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ABLEWORKS FINANCIAL LITERACY

- The Ablework Financial Literacy Program brings real-world money skills to life, giving students the tools they need to build confident, independent futures.
- Through engaging, easy-to-understand content provided by Ablework, students gain practical knowledge in budgeting, saving, credit, and financial decision-making.
- The program empowers learners to take control of their financial journeys early, turning knowledge into action and setting them up for long-term success.

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CAREER READINESS & SOFT SKILLS TRAINING



Craig Orona

Students have the opportunity to build valuable life and career skills through an engaging program focused on job readiness.

Through interactive lessons and real-world guidance, students learn about interviewing, workplace expectations, communication, professionalism, and career planning.

This program empowers students with the confidence and practical knowledge they need to prepare for future success in the workforce.

Craig Orona also supports re-integration of students that have graduated and wanting to enter the workforce.

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CULINARY

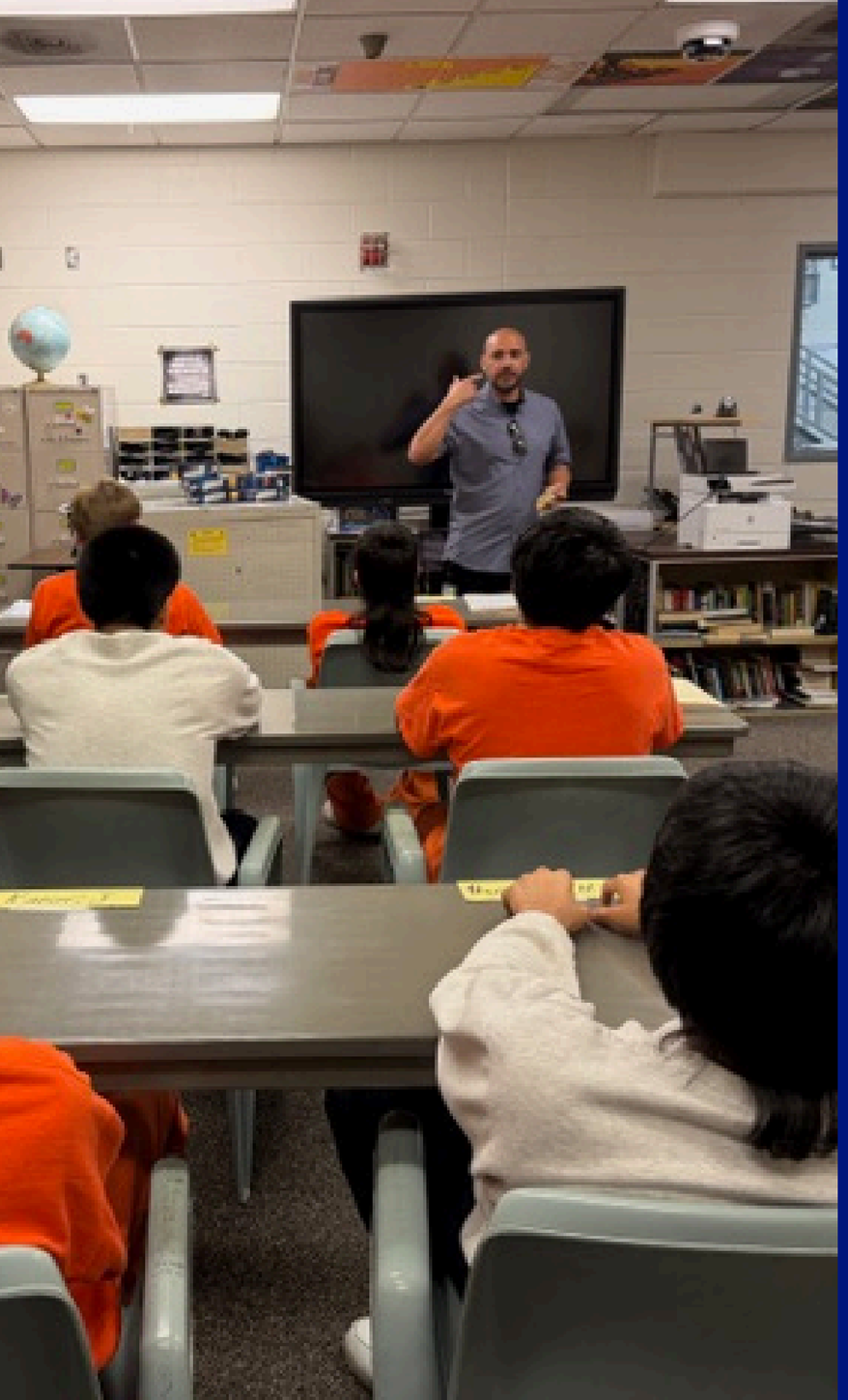
Students have the opportunity to explore the exciting world of culinary arts and hospitality while earning their ServSafe certification.

Through hands-on experiences in food preparation, customer service, and hospitality, students build valuable career skills, confidence, and professionalism.

This program helps students discover their talents, prepare for future employment opportunities, and gain real-world experience in a fast-growing industry.

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PAXTON PATTERSON

Students have the opportunity to explore exciting career pathways through engaging curriculum from Paxton/Patterson focused on health science, career discovery, and criminalistics lab activities.

Through hands-on projects and interactive learning experiences, students can investigate careers, build real-world skills, and discover new interests in a fun and supportive environment.

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DIGITAL ART MEDIA

Students have the opportunity to explore their creativity and build valuable technology skills through an exciting digital media program.

GAME DESIGN



Students use Scratch to design and develop their own video games while showcasing creativity, problem-solving, and digital design skills in a fun and engaging way.

CODING



Scratch gives students a fun and interactive way to learn coding by creating animations that are built into the games they create.

REALLYGREATSITE.COM

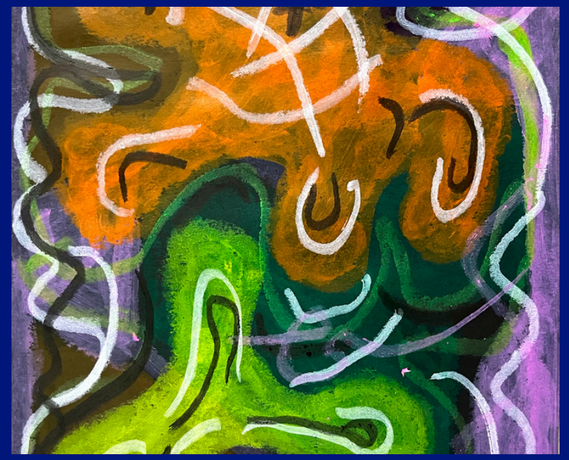
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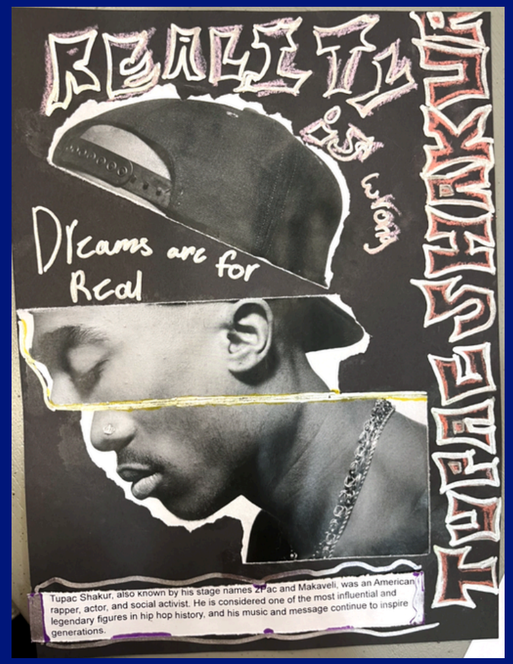
ART

Students have the opportunity to participate in an engaging art course that encourages creativity, self-expression, and imagination. Through drawing, painting, and other creative projects, students can explore their talents while also developing positive outlets for stress, emotional expression, and behavior regulation. This supportive environment helps students build confidence, strengthen mental wellness, and experience the joy of creating.











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TRUCK DRIVING

The Educational Options Division at West Campus is creating exciting opportunities for students through a collaboration with Cal Valley Trucking.

This hands-on program allows students access to truck driving curriculum and earn a certificate of completion while training on a state-of-the-art driving simulator.

Students gain valuable career skills, build confidence, and explore a pathway into the transportation industry in an engaging and supportive learning environment.

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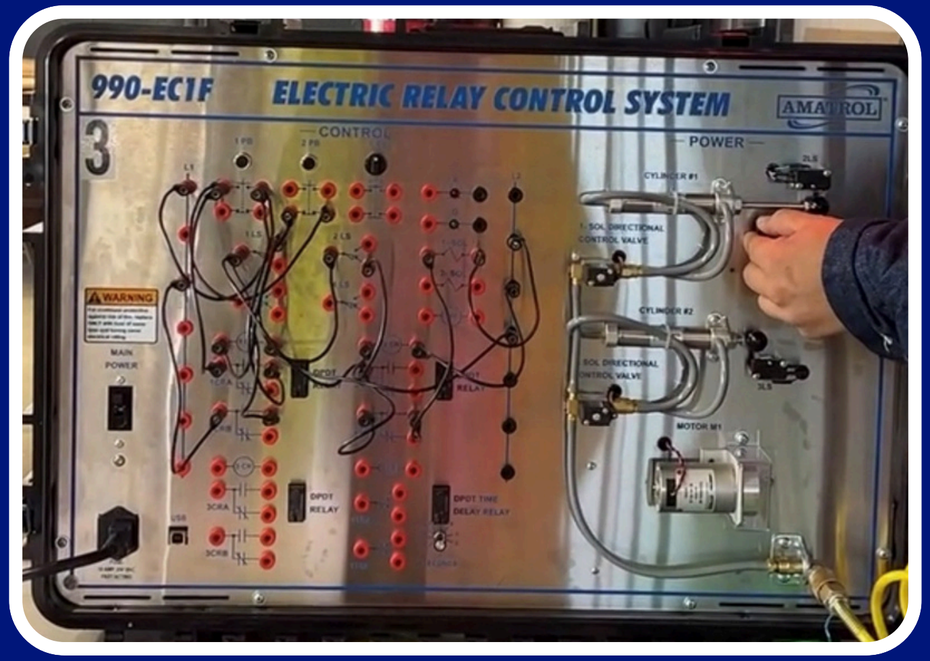


VOLT

VOLT energizes learning by putting students at the center of real-world technology and innovation.

Through hands-on experience with VOLT Program, students dive into Process Controls, Electrical Motor Control, Smart Machine Sensors, and Hydraulics—building the skills that power modern industries.

This immersive approach transforms curiosity into capability, giving students the confidence and technical know-how to spark their future careers.





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NCCT

The Northern California Construction Training (NCCT) Program opens the door to high-demand, hands-on careers in the skilled trades.

Through NCCT, students gain real-world experience and foundational skills that prepare them for careers as electricians, carpenters, laborers, plumbers, ironworkers, and operating engineers.

With a focus on practical learning and industry readiness, the program empowers students to build strong futures—one skill, one project, and one opportunity at a time.

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MODESTO JUNIOR COLLEGE

Once students earn their high school diploma, they have access to enroll in courses at Modesto Junior College, giving them a head start on higher education. With a supportive bridge from high school to college, students can explore career pathways, earn credits, and continue building a future full of possibility and purpose.

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GAMING ARENA

Our mission is to provide structured and purposeful competitive video game playing opportunities for our students. We believe that this type of opportunity creates more pathways for a largely underrepresented student population in K-12 school systems.



Esports: By the Numbers

79% of students that participated in esports were NOT involved in ANY other Activity

88% of the population that participated in esports were Socio-Economically Disadvantaged

93.5%. → 95.2%

The data suggests that involvement in esports is associated with improved school attendance.

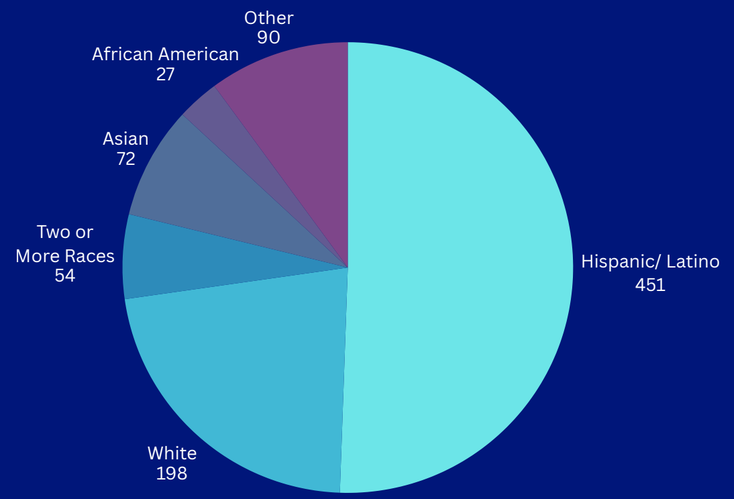
- Two or more Races 2.77%
- 7th Graders 2.49%
- Females 2.26%
- SWD students 2.04%

2.8 → 3.04

AVG GPA - 902 UNIQUE STUDENTS

Overall positive trend in academic performance among participants, suggesting involvement in esports may have a beneficial impact on students' grades.

Participation By Subgroup



Student Survey Results

Do you feel your grades have improved from participating in esports?

Yes: 67%. No: 33%

Do you feel your attendance have improved from participating in esports?

Yes: 73%. No: 27%

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NEW IN 2026–2027 COSMETOLOGY



Students can learn knowledge of skincare, hair care, and makeup artistry.

Cosmetology allows students to build practical skills, express their creativity, and gain confidence while preparing for future opportunities in a high-demand field.

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THANK YOU

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