



# PCOE

GOLD IN EDUCATION

Program Impact



## Early Childhood Education Supports School Readiness

In the fall of 2016, a single mother reached out to the Placer County Office of Education's Early Childhood Education (ECE) Department which provides school readiness and family support to young children, their families, child care providers and the larger Placer County community. ECE's services primarily target low to moderate income families who are working, attending school or seeking employment.

This mom had just escaped domestic violence and was looking to create a better life for herself and her child. Through the support of the dedicated team at PCOE, she enrolled her child in an Early Head Start school readiness program and enrolled herself in community college. While in school, her child was making friends and participating in science, math and reading programs designed to ensure school readiness socially, emotionally and academically.

Fast forward three years later and this single mom is now poised to graduate in December 2019 with a degree in nursing – and she already has a job offer. Most importantly, her child is thriving in preschool and ready for kindergarten.



## Prevention Supports and Services Aids Family to Secure Housing

*In Placer County alone, there are an estimated 1,700 homeless children and youth – and this Colfax family was once part of those devastating statistics.*

For more than three years, the family of five had been living from motel to motel and the children were missing school frequently. The family reached out to the Placer County Office of Education Prevention Supports and Services department which helps local schools, and the 16 school districts it serves, develop systems of support for children and families to eliminate barriers to success. The department also provides direct support to Placer County's most at-risk populations including foster youth, homeless youth, and youth at the Crisis Resolution Center and the Juvenile Detention Facility.

The Colfax family began meeting weekly with PCOE and working collaboratively with local housing agencies including Advocates for Mentally Ill Housing. After several months of communication and relationship building, the Colfax family moved into an apartment.

The family is now thriving in permanent housing and both children are doing well in school with significant improvements in attendance. The family is more connected to their local community and they have hope for a brighter future.



## Dreams Become Reality through the Transition Partnership Program

*For many, escaping a life of drugs and poverty is a nearly impossible feat. It's a story John knows all too well.*

John was a student in the Placer County Office of Education's iCARE community school program which serves students who are probation referred, expelled or voluntarily placed by a parent. He struggled in school, but wanted more for his future. He wanted to work. He wanted to learn a trade. He wanted to be a barber like his uncle.

Luckily for him, the Placer County Office of Education also provides programs to support students as they prepare to transition to adult life. In the Transition Partnership Program (TPP), in partnership with the Department of Rehabilitation, employment is a primary focus where students learn valuable skills such as workplace etiquette, time management, organization and budgeting.

Nearly one year later, John's dreams became a reality. Program staff connected him with a local barber who mentored him. He graduated from the iCARE program and barber school, and has the education and confidence to continue his success into the future.

"I'm going to make something of myself. Nobody ever thought I could, but I'm going to do it," stated John.



## Mild/Moderate Education Specialist Credential Program Takes Teaching to the Next Level

Meet Rachel. She's a first-year special education teacher in the Auburn Union School District working with four Instructional Assistants and 11 students in second through fifth grade who have a variety of academic, social-emotional and behavioral needs – each with their own Individual Education Plan. On a daily basis she juggles a million little things while meeting the needs of her students.

She's also an intern in the Placer County Office of Education's Mild/Moderate Education Specialist Credential Program which offers a comprehensive approach to educator preparation through training, lesson planning, coursework and coaching. Accredited by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC), the program is designed to prepare future education specialists in Placer County.

*"I'm learning more than I expected," shared Rachel. "And, through the PCOE program, I feel more prepared to ensure my students have the world-class education they deserve."*

Rachel took her education to the next level and is building the background, knowledge and resources needed to ensure her students have a safe, positive, productive and structured learning environment.



## Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports Helps Lower Suspension Rates

The Placer County Office of Education's Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) program is a tiered approach to positive student behavioral interventions and acknowledgement which is designed to enhance the capacity of school sites, families and communities. PBIS helps set the stage for a positive school climate where all students can achieve and learn – and that's just what Rocklin Elementary School needed.

Nearly four years ago, Rocklin Elementary School sought to lower referrals and suspension rates, but didn't have an established school-wide behavior model in place. They formed an exploratory team to investigate models and took advantage of the PBIS trainings offered to school leaders through PCOE.

The Rocklin Elementary School team developed school-wide behavior expectations based on the school's Bulldog mascot, called "PAWS" which focuses on problem solving, always caring, working hard and showing respect. They developed videos supporting each expectation, recognized student behavior with "dog tags" at school assemblies, and began to unify as a staff team under the PBIS model. And, they saw improvement. Students were no longer loud and wild while lining up for class after recess and disciplinary referrals to the office declined.

Fast forward to present day, Rocklin Elementary School continues to see dramatic reductions in referrals and suspension rates – by more than 50 percent – which earned them recognition as Platinum Award PBIS School for the 2017-2018 school year.