



Our Vision

Our vision is to foster a globally connected and culturally enriched educational environment that empowers students to become empathetic, competent, and responsible global citizens. Through the Global Classroom Connect program, we aim to enhance international learning experiences, promote project-based collaborations, and integrate sustainable development goals into our curriculum.

By building strong partnerships with educational institutions in Taiwan and other countries, we strive to provide our students with the skills, knowledge, and perspectives needed to thrive in an interconnected world. We are committed to promoting academic excellence, cultural understanding, and environmental stewardship, ensuring that every student is prepared to contribute positively to the global community.





Program Overview

The Humboldt County Office of Education (HCOE) is expanding its global partnership program, which aims to enhance the region's profile in providing youth with a global education. Since 2019, HCOE has partnered with Taiwan to build a community around international learning, enabling Humboldt County students to participate in project-based learning and develop international friendships. More than 170 local classrooms have established sister classroom relationships with teachers in Taiwan.

The Global Classroom Connect Program has shown potential for integration with areas such as the Next Generation Science Standards, English language arts, mathematics, visual and performing arts, and career technical education. This partnership not only opens up job opportunities for students but also builds empathy, a sense of global belonging, and global citizenship. Taiwan has set a goal for every citizen to be fluent in English by 2030, and the program allows students to engage at different levels, from cultural exchanges to deep project-based learning.

The program is rooted in the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), providing professional development and classroom-based learning experiences around these goals.



Primary Program Goals

Here are five primary goals for the Global Classroom Connect program, linked to information about Humboldt County, California, and Taiwan:

1. **Enhance Global Competence:** The program aims to develop students' global competence by engaging them in international learning experiences. This includes understanding different cultures, languages, and global issues. Humboldt County's diverse climate and rich cultural heritage, including its famous coastal redwoods, provide a unique backdrop for these learning experiences¹. Taiwan's goal for every citizen to be fluent in English by 2030 aligns with this objective, offering students opportunities for language exchange and cultural immersion².
2. **Promote Project-Based Learning:** The program encourages project-based learning, allowing students to work on real-world problems and collaborate with peers from different countries. Humboldt County students have already participated in such projects, developing international friendships and enhancing their problem-solving skills³. Taiwan's educational system, which emphasizes critical thinking and creativity, complements this approach⁴.
3. **Build Empathy and Global Citizenship:** By connecting students with their peers in Taiwan, the program fosters empathy and a sense of global belonging. This helps students understand and appreciate different perspectives, building a more inclusive and compassionate world. Humboldt County's commitment to community and environmental stewardship supports this goal⁵. Taiwan's rich cultural heritage and diverse communities provide a wealth of learning opportunities⁶.
4. **Integrate with Academic Standards:** The program integrates with various academic standards, including the Next Generation Science Standards, English language arts, mathematics, and career technical education. This ensures that students' global learning experiences are aligned with their academic goals. Humboldt County's educational framework supports this integration, providing a robust foundation for student learning⁷. Taiwan's focus on educational excellence and innovation further enhances this goal⁸.
5. **Support Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** The program is rooted in the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, providing professional development and classroom-based learning experiences around these goals. This aligns with Humboldt County's efforts to promote sustainability and environmental awareness⁹. Taiwan's commitment to sustainable development and environmental conservation offers valuable insights and collaboration opportunities⁴.

These goals aim to create a comprehensive and enriching educational experience for students, fostering global competence, empathy, and academic excellence.

1: Humboldt County Office of Education (HCOE) 2: Taiwan's educational goals 3: Project-based learning in Humboldt County 4: Taiwan's educational system 5: Humboldt County's community and environmental stewardship 6: Taiwan's cultural heritage 7: Humboldt County's educational framework 8: Taiwan's focus on educational excellence 9: United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



The partnership and friendship between the United States and Taiwan are of paramount importance, fostering significant economic, social, and political alignment. Economically, Taiwan is a top U.S. trade partner, ranking as the 7th-largest merchandise trading partner with a total goods trade of \$128 billion in 2023¹. Taiwan's economy is highly dependent on global trade, with exports accounting for about 70% of its GDP¹.

Socially, the United States and Taiwan share similar values, deep commercial and economic links, and strong people-to-people ties, which form the bedrock of their friendship². Politically, the United States maintains a robust unofficial relationship with Taiwan, guided by the Taiwan Relations Act, the three U.S.-China Joint Communiques, and the Six Assurances².



This alignment ensures peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait, with the U.S. providing necessary defense articles and services to enable Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense capability². This multifaceted partnership not only strengthens both nations but also contributes to regional and global stability.

1: U.S.-Taiwan Trade and Economic Relations - CRS Reports 2: U.S. Relations With Taiwan - United States Department of State



Examples of Physical Exchanges

Here are some images and information related to Colby Smart and Humboldt County teachers visiting Taiwan:

1. **Humboldt County educators strengthen international ties through Taiwan classroom exchange program:** Since 2019, the Humboldt County Office of Education (HCOE) has been forming partnerships with Taiwan to build a community around global education. In July and August, a group of 25 local educators representing 14 different Humboldt County schools visited Taiwan on a trip led by Dr. Colby Smart, Deputy Superintendent of HCOE. The visit allowed for face-to-face meetings between local and sister classroom educators for the first time¹.
2. **Local Educator Visits Taiwan for Educational Exchange:** A Taiwan-United States educational exchange has been created between the Humboldt County Office of Education (HCOE) and the Chiayi City government. Dr. Colby Smart, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services, was the keynote speaker at an event at the Institute of Education at Chung Cheng University in Taiwan. The bilateral cooperation aims to jointly promote bilingual education with the two countries².
3. **Educators strengthen partnerships on trip to Taiwan:** In July and August, a group of 25 local educators representing 14 different Humboldt County schools visited Taiwan on a trip led by Colby Smart, Deputy Superintendent of HCOE. Educators were selected from the pool of 70 educators with existing partnerships in Taiwan³.

The news article from Life News discusses a recent international educational exchange program between teachers from Taiwan and the United States. The event took place in Chiayi City, where nearly 60 teachers from both countries participated in a two-and-a-half-day workshop. The workshop included various activities such as professional development sessions, cultural exchanges, and collaborative teaching experiences. The program was initiated by a memorandum of understanding signed between Chiayi City Mayor Huang Min-Hui and Colby Smart, Deputy Superintendent of the Humboldt County Office of Education. The exchange aimed to enhance global education, promote bilingual education, and foster international friendships. The workshop concluded with a closing ceremony featuring traditional Taiwanese puppet shows and performances by students. The event was deemed a success by all participants, who appreciated the opportunity to learn from each other and build lasting connections.

4. **Taiwanese educators pay a visit to Humboldt as part of global exchange:** Deputy Superintendent Colby Smart at the Humboldt County Office of Education helped forge the connection back in 2019. Students and teachers connect with Taiwanese classrooms to exchange lessons, collaborate, and get a better sense of education across the sea⁴.

These visits and exchanges have significantly strengthened the educational ties between Humboldt County and Taiwan, fostering a sense of global community and collaboration.

1: Humboldt County educators strengthen international ties through Taiwan classroom exchange program 2: Local Educator Visits Taiwan for Educational Exchange 3: Educators strengthen partnerships on trip to Taiwan 4: Taiwanese educators pay a visit to Humboldt as part of global exchange



BENEFITS FOR STUDENTS

Here are the top 5 benefits of global education for students, condensed and free of redundancies:

1. **Enhanced Global Competence:** Students gain a deeper understanding of different cultures, languages, and global issues, preparing them to thrive in an interconnected world.
2. **Improved Communication Skills:** Engaging with peers from different countries helps students improve their language proficiency and cross-cultural communication.
3. **Broadened Perspectives and Empathy:** Exposure to diverse viewpoints fosters open-mindedness, critical thinking, friendship, and empathy, promoting inclusivity and respect.
4. **Better Career Opportunities:** Global education enhances students' employability by equipping them with skills and experiences valued in a globalized job market.
5. **Increased Awareness of Global Issues:** Students become more aware of pressing global issues, such as climate change and social justice, and develop a sense of global citizenship.

BENEFITS FOR TEACHERS

Here are the top 5 benefits of global education for teachers, rewritten in an original way:

1. **Professional Growth:** Global education provides teachers with numerous opportunities for professional development. By participating in international collaborations and exchanges, teachers can enhance their teaching skills, learn new methodologies, and stay abreast of global educational trends.
2. **Cultural Awareness:** Teaching in a global context helps educators develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of diverse cultures. This cultural awareness can be integrated into their teaching, creating a more inclusive and enriching classroom environment.
3. **Enriched Curriculum:** Global education allows teachers to incorporate a wider range of perspectives and content into their curriculum. This not only enriches the learning experience for students but also makes teaching more dynamic and engaging.
4. **Networking Opportunities:** Teachers involved in global education programs have the chance to build networks with educators from around the world. These connections can lead to collaborative projects, shared resources, and a supportive professional community.
5. **Personal Development:** Engaging in global education can be a transformative experience for teachers. It broadens their horizons, fosters a sense of global citizenship, and enhances their ability to adapt to diverse educational settings.



Sustainability Plan

VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is to foster a globally connected and culturally enriched educational environment that empowers students to become empathetic, competent, and responsible global citizens. Through the Global Classroom Connect program, we aim to enhance international learning experiences, promote project-based collaborations, and integrate sustainable development goals into our curriculum. By building strong partnerships with educational institutions in Taiwan and other countries, we strive to provide our students with the skills, knowledge, and perspectives needed to thrive in an interconnected world. We are committed to promoting academic excellence, cultural understanding, and environmental stewardship, ensuring that every student is prepared to contribute positively to the global community¹.



OVERVIEW

The Humboldt County Office of Education (HCOE) is expanding its global partnership program, which aims to enhance the region's profile in providing youth with a global education. Since 2019, HCOE has partnered with Taiwan to build a community around international learning, enabling Humboldt County students to participate in project-based learning and develop international friendships. More than 170 local classrooms have established sister classroom relationships with teachers in Taiwan².

GOALS

1. **Enhance Global Competence:** Develop students' global competence by engaging them in international learning experiences, understanding different cultures, languages, and global issues³.
2. **Promote Project-Based Learning:** Encourage project-based learning, allowing students to work on real-world problems and collaborate with peers from different countries⁴.
3. **Build Empathy and Global Citizenship:** Foster empathy and a sense of global belonging by connecting students with their peers in Taiwan⁵.
4. **Integrate with Academic Standards:** Align global learning experiences with various academic standards, including the Next Generation Science Standards, English language arts, mathematics, and career technical education⁶.
5. **Support Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** Provide professional development and classroom-based learning experiences around the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals⁷.



PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

To ensure the sustainability of the Global Classroom Connect program, we will build strong public-private partnerships. These partnerships will involve collaboration between educational institutions, government agencies, non-profit organizations, and private sector companies. Key strategies include:

1. **Collaborative Funding:** Secure funding from both public and private sources to support program initiatives, including teacher exchanges, student projects, and professional development workshops.
2. **Resource Sharing:** Leverage resources from partner organizations, such as technology, educational materials, and expertise, to enhance the program's impact.
3. **Community Engagement:** Engage local communities in program activities, fostering a sense of ownership and support for global education initiatives.
4. **Corporate Sponsorships:** Partner with private sector companies to sponsor specific program components, such as student scholarships, technology grants, and cultural exchange events.
5. **Government Support:** Collaborate with government agencies to align program goals with national and regional educational priorities, ensuring long-term support and sustainability.
6. **Conclusion:** By building strong public-private partnerships, the Global Classroom Connect program will create a sustainable and enriching educational experience for students, fostering global competence, empathy, and academic excellence. This collaborative approach will ensure that the program continues to thrive and make a positive impact on students, teachers, and communities in Humboldt County, Taiwan, and beyond.

1: Vision Statement 2: Overview 3: Enhance Global Competence 4: Promote Project-Based Learning 5: Build Empathy and Global Citizenship 6: Integrate with Academic Standards 7: Support Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



About the Humboldt County Office of Education



The Humboldt County Office of Education (HCOE) is dedicated to advocating for the needs of local districts and students. It provides expanded learning opportunities, promotes improved student achievement, and supports fiscal responsibility in local school districts. HCOE manages a large school library collection, offers online subscriptions to media and resources to support student learning, and assists

patrons with selections. Additionally, HCOE is involved in various initiatives, including the Global Classroom Connect Program, which fosters international learning and project-based collaborations between Humboldt County students and their peers in Taiwan. This program aligns with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, promoting sustainability and global citizenship.



Colby Smart, Ed.D
Deputy Superintendent

HCOE's Core Values

TRUST

We align our words with our actions to accomplish shared goals. We model integrity, share transparently, demonstrate professional credibility, and follow through with care.

RESPECT

We create a safe place to learn, work, and serve others. We value input, listen to understand different perspectives, demonstrate empathy, and work to be helpful as a member of our team.

COLLABORATION

We value working together to achieve the best outcomes for those we serve. Our shared commitment is to increase communication, remove silos, reduce barriers, and problem solve effectively.



Stacy Young
Community Outreach & Engagement Director



About Humboldt County's Schools and Demographics



Humboldt County, located in Northern California, is known for its scenic **110-mile coastline** and vast forestlands, including protected redwoods and recreation areas. The county spans over **4,000 square miles** and has a population of approximately **136,463** as of the 2020 Census. The largest cities are Arcata, Eureka, and Fortuna, with the remaining population residing in rural communities.

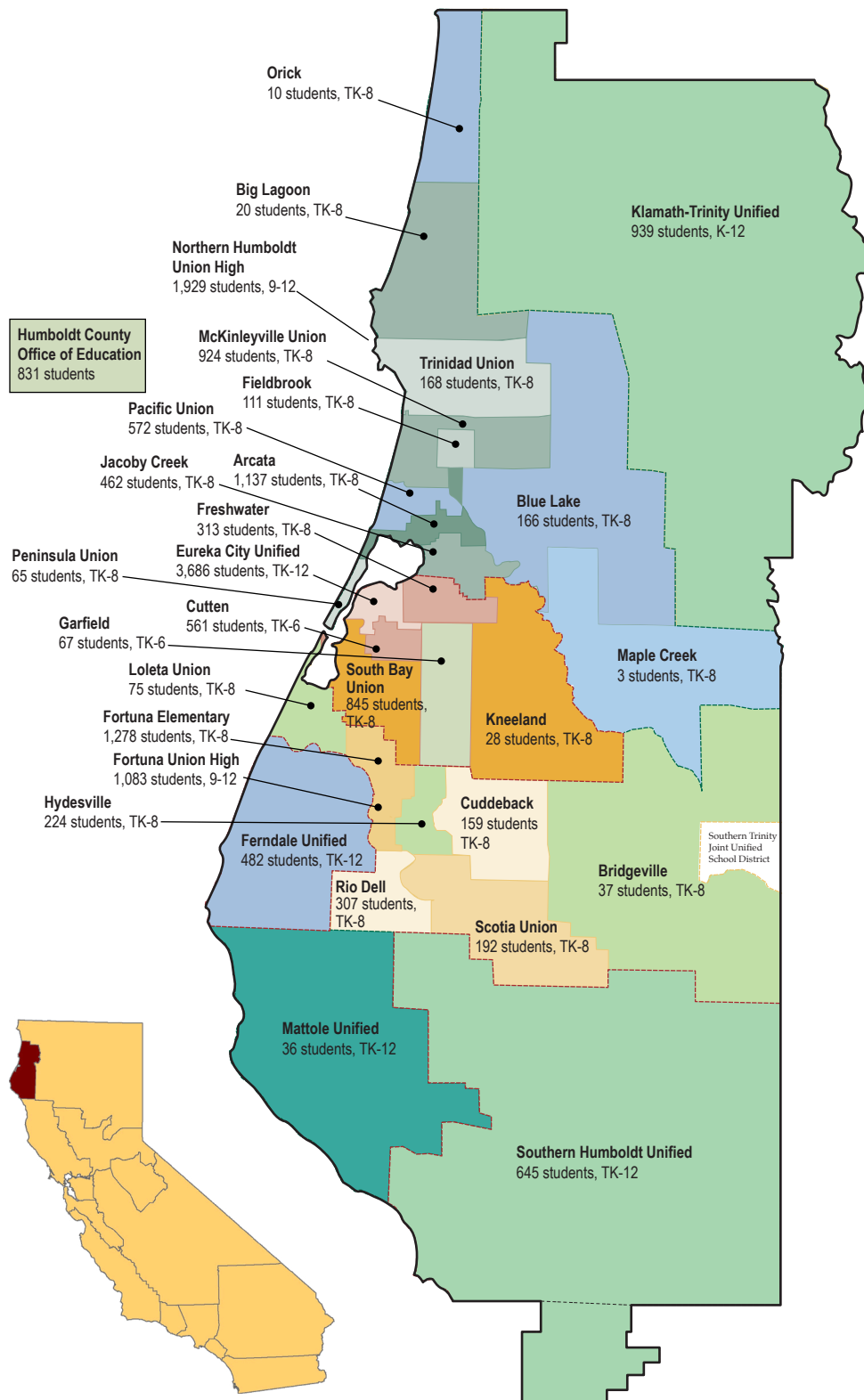
The Humboldt County Office of Education (HCOE) oversees **30** school districts, including 23 elementary school districts, 2 high school districts, and 5 unified school districts. There are a total of 88 public schools, comprising 43 elementary schools, 8 middle schools, 9 comprehensive high schools, 12 alternative schools, 15 charter schools, and 1 special education school.

The student population in Humboldt County is diverse, with a notable percentage of Native American students. The county also has a higher percentage of students receiving special education services compared to the state average. Additionally, a significant portion of students come from low-income working families, and the county has a higher rate of homeless public school students compared to the state average.

Humboldt County's educational framework supports various academic standards, including the Next Generation Science Standards, English language arts, mathematics, and career technical education. The county's commitment to community and environmental stewardship is reflected in its educational programs, which aim to build empathy, global citizenship, and academic excellence.



School Districts in Humboldt County



School District Size

Under 500	18
500-999	7
1,000 to 1,999	4
2,000 to 2,999	0
3,000 to 4,999	1

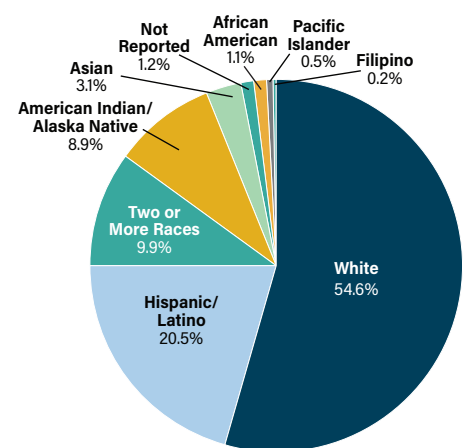
Number of Districts

Elementary	23
High School	2
Unified	5
Total	30

Number of Public Schools

Elementary schools	41
Middle schools	8
Comprehensive high schools	8
Alternative schools	16
Charter schools	14
Total	87

Student Diversity



English Learners	1,279
Foster Youth	284
Homeless Youth	935
Migrant Education	4
Students with Disabilities	2,969
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	10,821



Building Global Competence Through Friendship

Since 2019 the Humboldt County Office of Education has been building an important global education framework. The Global Classroom Connect is a program developed by HCOE and is designed to support the intellectual and social-emotional development of Humboldt County's students and the professional development of its educators.

This framework is grounded in the four domains of global competence (Investigate the World, Recognize Perspectives, Communicate Ideas, and Take Action) and the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals. Working in partnership with the Taiwan Ministry of Education, Fulbright Taiwan, and Chung Cheng National University, this project seeks to expand opportunities for students and educators to develop international friendships and global cooperation.

To date, Humboldt County has well over 100 sister classrooms with partnering schools in Taiwan. In the summer of 2023, many of these teachers traveled to Taiwan to meet their partners in person and engage in joint project-based professional development. Partnering teachers and administrators from Taiwan visited Humboldt County in the Summer of 2024.

Moreover, other projects designed to broaden global perspectives are being built including



clubs, Model United Nations, Mandarin language instruction, and more. The vision is simple: we want to build an infrastructure that enables every student and teacher in Humboldt County to have the opportunity to develop authentic friendships with peers around the world.

The Global Classroom Connect program has attracted American teachers outside of Humboldt County and is seeing participation from around California and several other states. For more information please contact Dr. Colby Smart, Deputy Superintendent at the Humboldt County Office of Education.



Educators Strengthen Partnerships on Trip to Taiwan



Since 2019, the Humboldt County Office of Education has been forming partnerships with Taiwan with the goal of building a community around global education and to enable Humboldt County students to participate in project-based learning while developing international friendships. To date, over 70 local classrooms have sister classroom relationships with teachers in Taiwan.

In July and August, a group of 25 local educators representing 14 different Humboldt County schools visited Taiwan on a trip led by Colby Smart, deputy superintendent of HCOE. Educators were selected from the pool of 70 educators with existing partnerships in Taiwan.

The visit was designed to allow face-to-face meetings between local and sister classroom educators for the first time.

"I am grateful for this opportunity to grow with

This article originally appeared on the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) website in October 2023. Scan the QR code to read it online.



my colleagues, learn of new places and foods, and create new friendships that will propel our work forward at Alice Birney," said Kristin Sobilo, principal of Alice Birney Elementary School.

The visit also allowed for joint professional development around Compassion Systems Awareness and the United Nations Sustainable Development goals.

"Opportunities for collaboration and rich project-based learning through global partnerships help to widen perspectives, increase a sense of global

Continued on next page ►



belonging, and bind cultures together to strengthen our collective commitment to one another as citizens and the global community at large,” Smart said.

While in Taiwan, Smart continued to build new partnerships and explore future opportunities for collaboration such as teacher exchange, English and Mandarin language instruction, indigenous youth exchanges, and expanding sister school relationships in Humboldt County and throughout California.

“This kind of global learning could not happen without the passions and commitment of teachers

“Opportunities for collaboration and rich project-based learning through global partnerships help to widen perspectives, increase a sense of global belonging, and bind cultures together to strengthen our collective commitment to one another as citizens and the global community at large.”

Colby Smart, Deputy Superintendent
Humboldt County Office of Education



and administrators on both sides of the Pacific Ocean,” Smart said. “Likewise, the support from our institutional and community partners has enabled us to develop a comprehensive and coherent approach to global education. We look forward to nurturing increased access to global education in Humboldt County and building the vision of international friendships for all students.”