



Alameda County Health

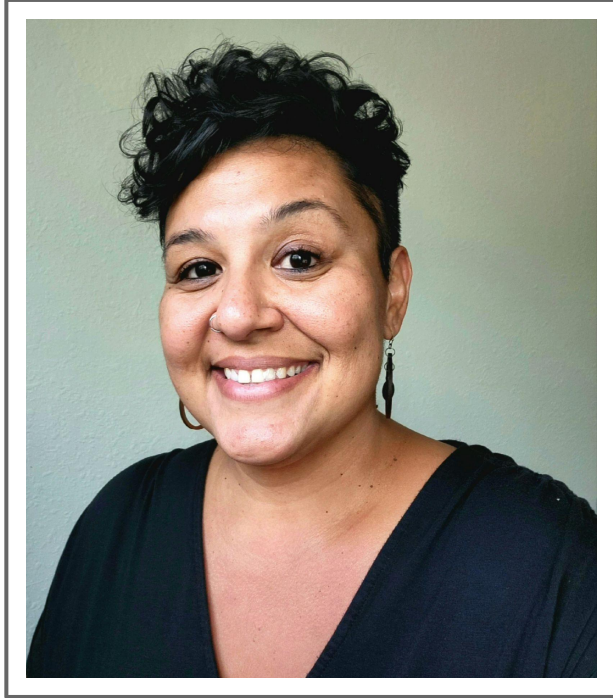
Healthy Schools and Communities

Strengthening your Coordination of Services Team

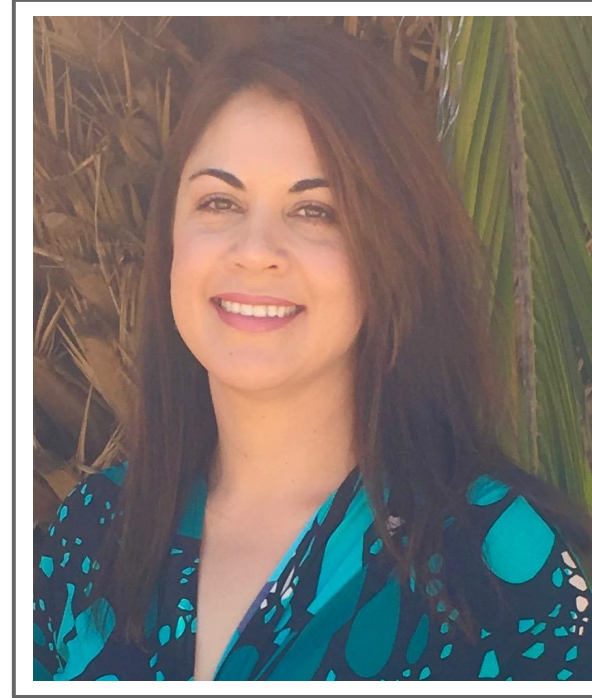
**Contra Costa County
Office of Education**
WISP Collaborative
September 17, 2026



Today's Presenters



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Healthy Schools and Communities



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District Liaison
Healthy Schools and Communities

Today's Agenda

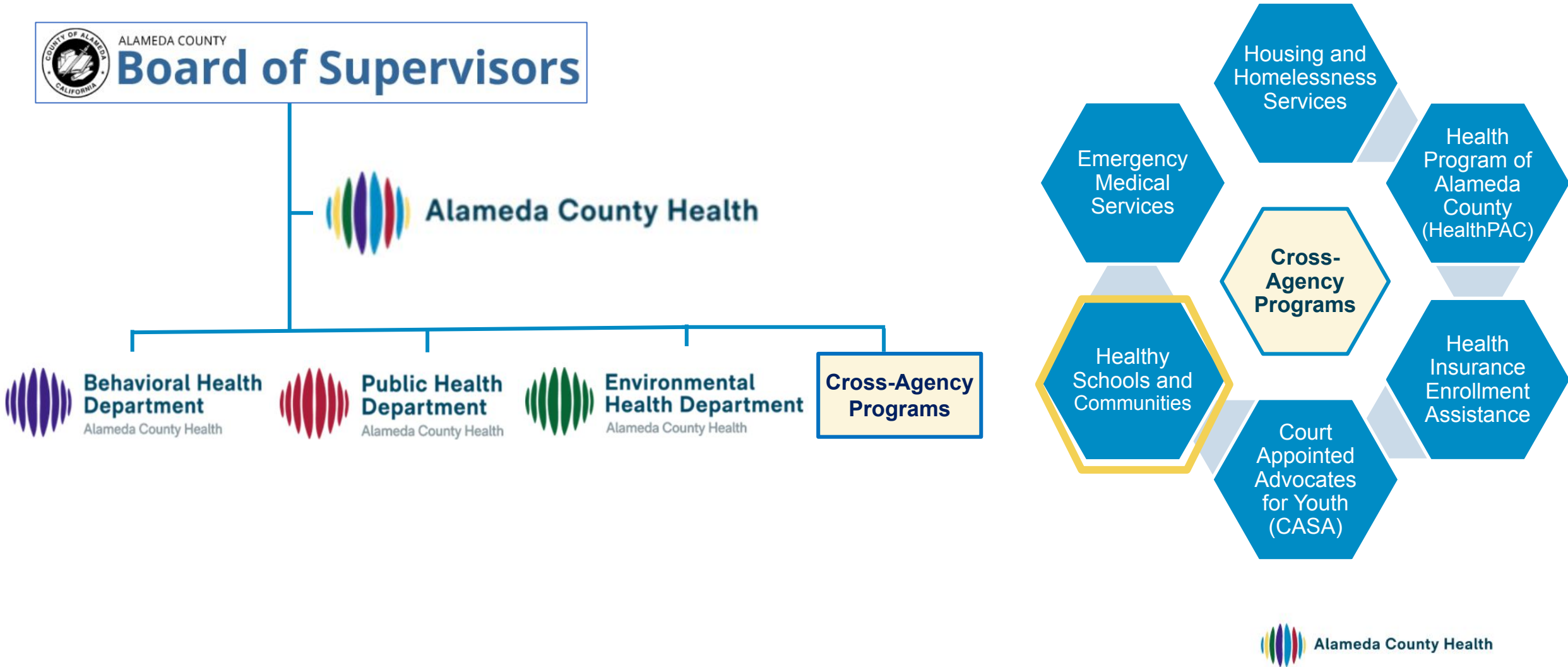
- HSC Overview
- Whole Child Framework Alignment
- COST 101
- Collaboration within COST
- COST Toolkit Overview
 - Rubric
 - Small Group Activity
 - Large Group Share-out
- Q&A

Who is HSC?



We envision a county where all youth embody self-determination, and graduate from high school healthy and equipped with options for college and career.

Alameda County Health Organizational Structure



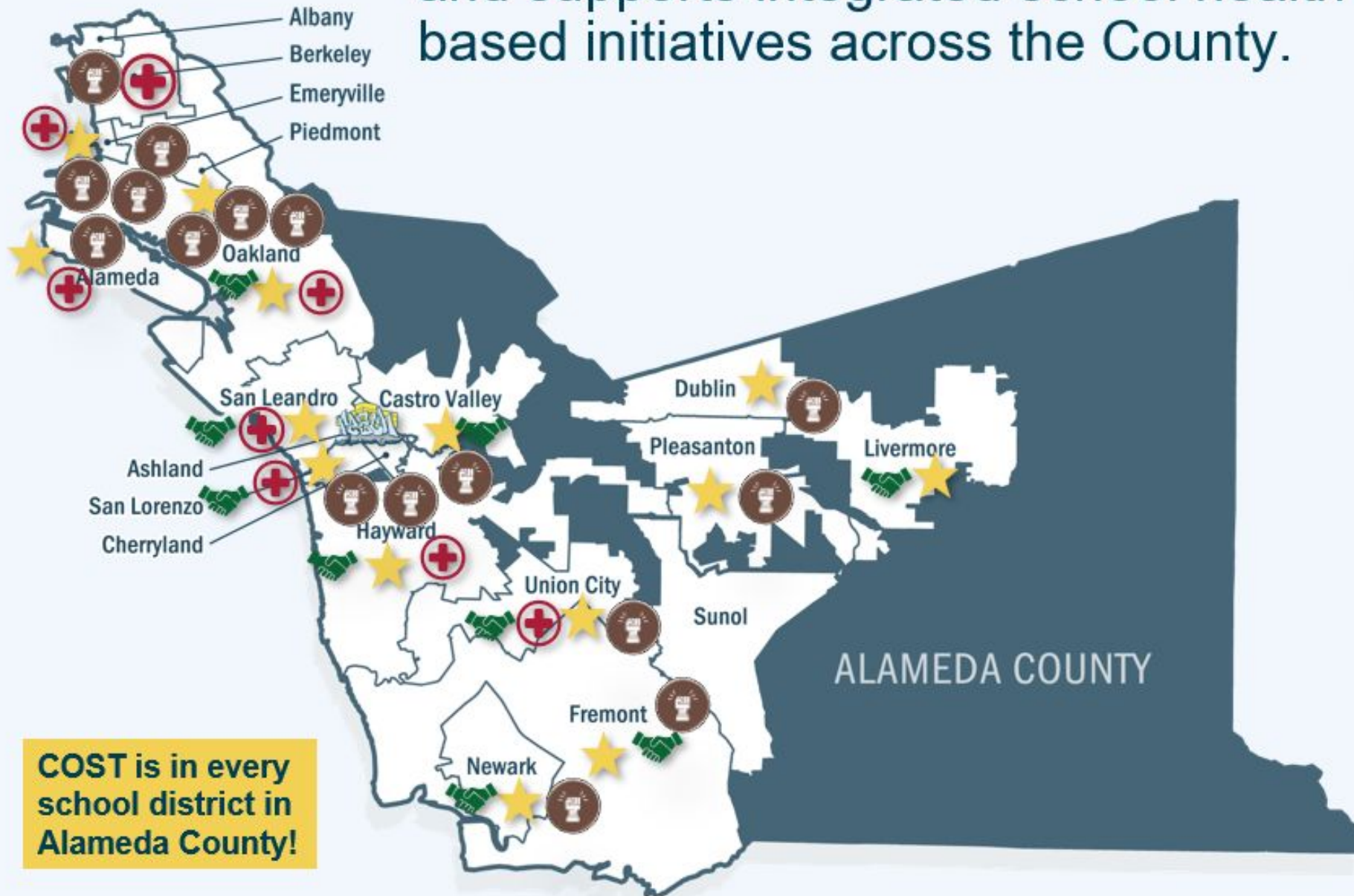
Results Focused



Healthy Schools and Communities Strategies



Utilizing an equity lens, HSC funds, partners, staffs and supports integrated school health and place-based initiatives across the County.



16 Youth and Family Opportunity Hubs



SBBH Supports
across 14 School Districts



28 School Health Centers across 8 School Districts



Caminos Program
across 9 School Districts



REACH Ashland Youth Center



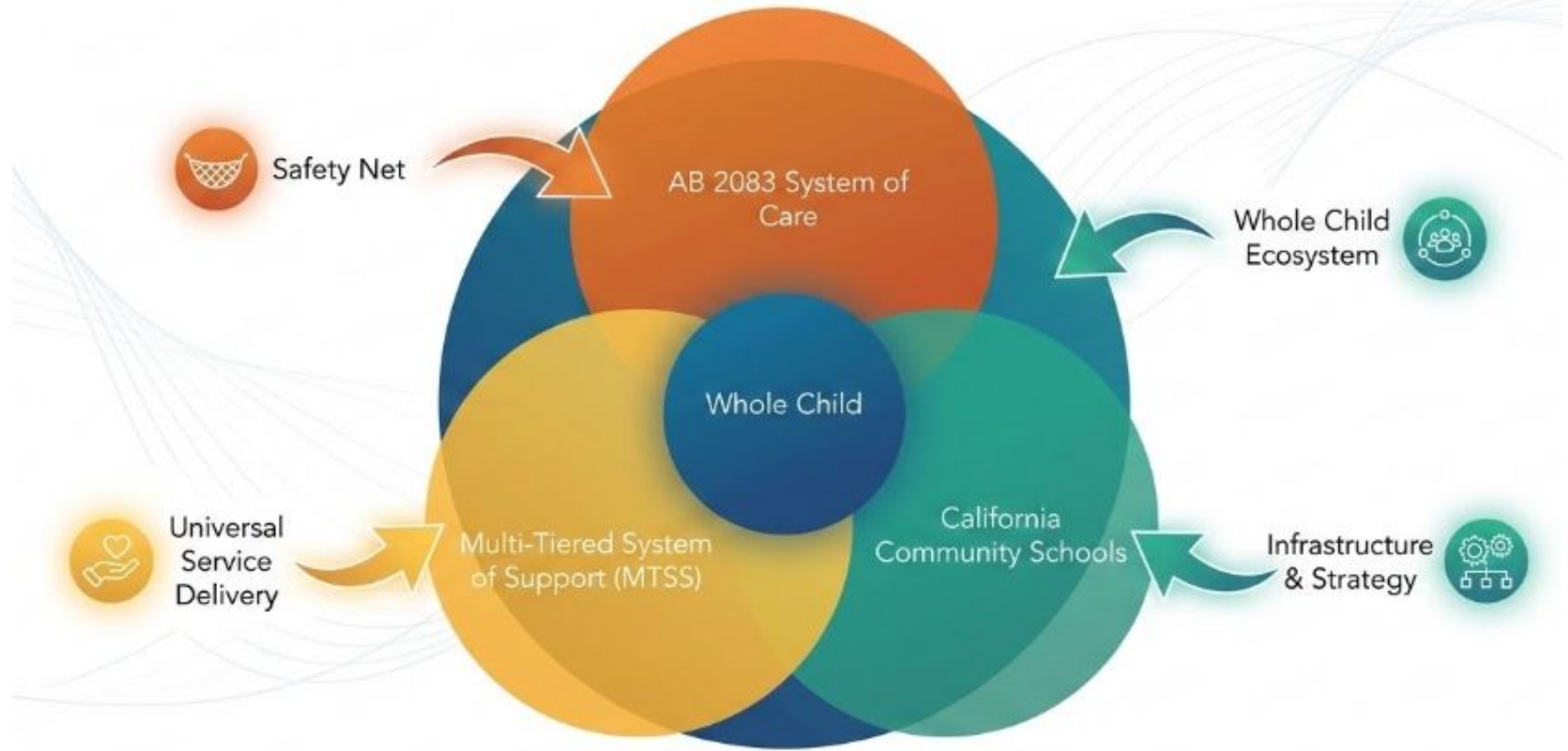
Alameda County Health



Framework Alignment



3 Whole Child Frameworks



Content from 'Aligning For Impact' – a presentation in partnership with Dr. Rachel Cobb, Program Manager, Community Schools



THE POWER OF 3 FRAMEWORK

	Key Integration Point	The What: Core Identity	The How: Primary Function
 AB 2083 System of Care	Accountability: Ensures a coordinated and responsive ecosystem of support for our most vulnerable students, strengthening continuity of care and reducing the likelihood that any student's needs go unmet.	California Law: A statewide mandate for interagency collaboration to effectively support system-impacted youth and those with complex, multifaceted needs.	Interagency Protocol (MOU): County-level, cross-sector agreements to formalize collaboration, reduce systemic barriers, and strengthen continuity of care for students and families.
 CA Community Schools	Infrastructure: Establishes the conditions necessary to promote coherence and alignment across the interconnected systems that advance whole-child outcomes.	Strategy: A comprehensive whole-child school transformation model centered on integrated student supports, collaborative leadership, expanded learning opportunities, and authentic family and community engagement.	Collaborative Network: Co-governance between community partners, families, students, and school staff to provide integrated, whole-child, specialized, school-based services.
 CA Multi-Tiered System of Support	Service Delivery: Clearly defined referral pathways and coordinated care structures to support access to tiered whole-child services.	Structural Foundation: A whole-child framework that provides universal access to high-quality, evidence-based resources and services that support academic, behavioral, and social-emotional development.	Integrated Support: District and site leadership teams analyze multiple data sources to identify academic, behavioral, and social-emotional needs and align tiered supports accordingly.

Content from 'Aligning For Impact' – a presentation in partnership with Dr. Rachel Cobb, Program Manager, Community Schools



**ALAMEDA COUNTY
OFFICE OF EDUCATION**
Alysse Castro, Superintendent



Alameda County Health

OVERARCHING STRATEGY



COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

The California community school framework focuses on the ‘whole-child’ approach. It’s a strategy that aligns with and can help coordinate and extend a wide range of state, school, and district initiatives (including MTSS). CS’s are designed around four pillars: 1) Integrated Student Supports, 2) Family and community engagement, 3) Collaborative leadership and practices for educators and administrators, and 4) Extended learning time and opportunities.

OPERATING FRAMEWORK



MTSS

MTSS is the organizing system that aligns initiatives, supports, and resources within a school and district. It highlights and strengthens the continuum of support, emphasizing universal supports for all students, supplemental supports, and more intensified supports as needed.

SYSTEM OF ACCESS AND COMMUNICATION



COST

COST creates a space where a multi-disciplinary team assesses the needs of students (all/some/few – Tier 1, 2, and 3) and identifies responsive services and interventions (organized via the MTSS efforts). The COST system provides tools and best practices in conducting the referral process and facilitating the collaborative meeting space.

COST: A System of Access and Communication

The COST model is guided by the overarching strategy of the Community Schools approach and supported by the operational structure of Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS).

These guiding principles shape the system and processes through which COST is implemented.

Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI) Fee Schedule

Whole Child Framework alignment and a strong referral system allows for a more efficient engagement with CYBHI.

- Streamlined processes for identification of service gaps/needs
- Increased reimbursement for supports and interventions at Tier 1 and Tier 2 levels
- Opportunity to assess for blending/braiding funding
- Increased partnership with CBOs for additional services

ALL (Tier 1)

- Classroom-based trainings using social-emotional curricula
- Classroom lessons on healthy & unhealthy relationships
- Schoolwide screenings for substance use
- Caregiver trainings on positive parenting

SOME (Tier 2)

- Group therapy for students experiencing trauma
- Small skills groups for students experiencing loss and grief
- Brief interventions and referrals to treatment for substance use

FEW (Tier 3)

- Individualized counseling and therapy
- Case management

The WHAT and WHY of COST

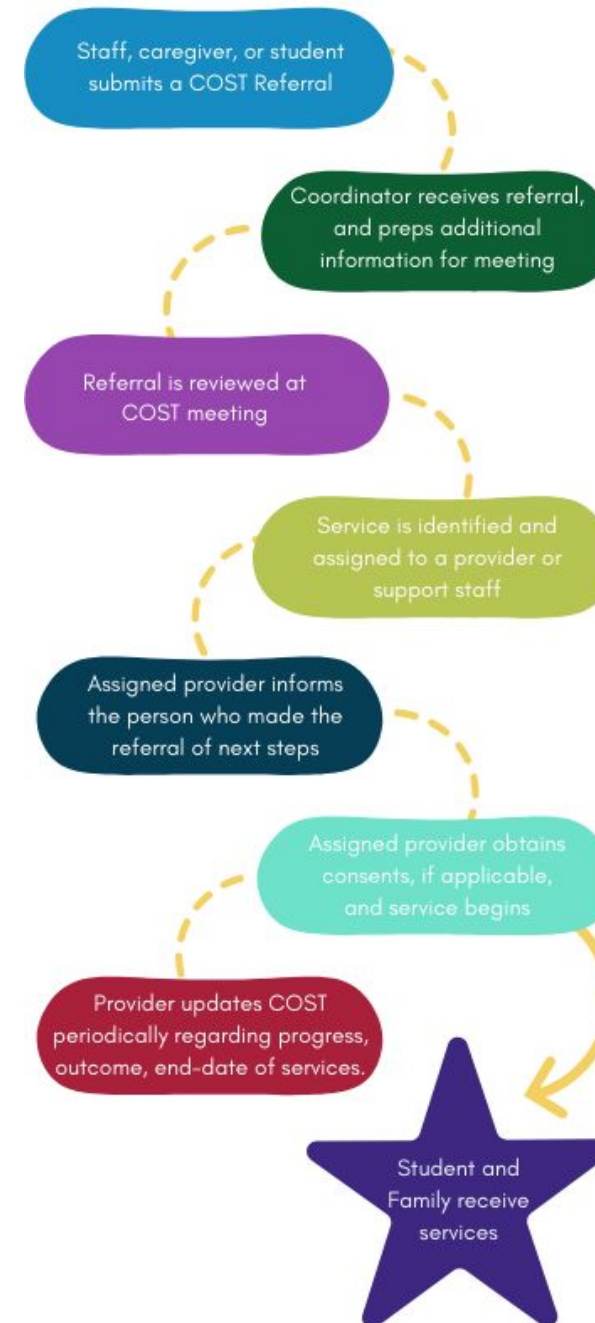


What is COST?

A Coordination of Services Team is a multidisciplinary team of school staff and providers who meet regularly to collaboratively and intentionally identify interventions for student behavioral and academic needs.

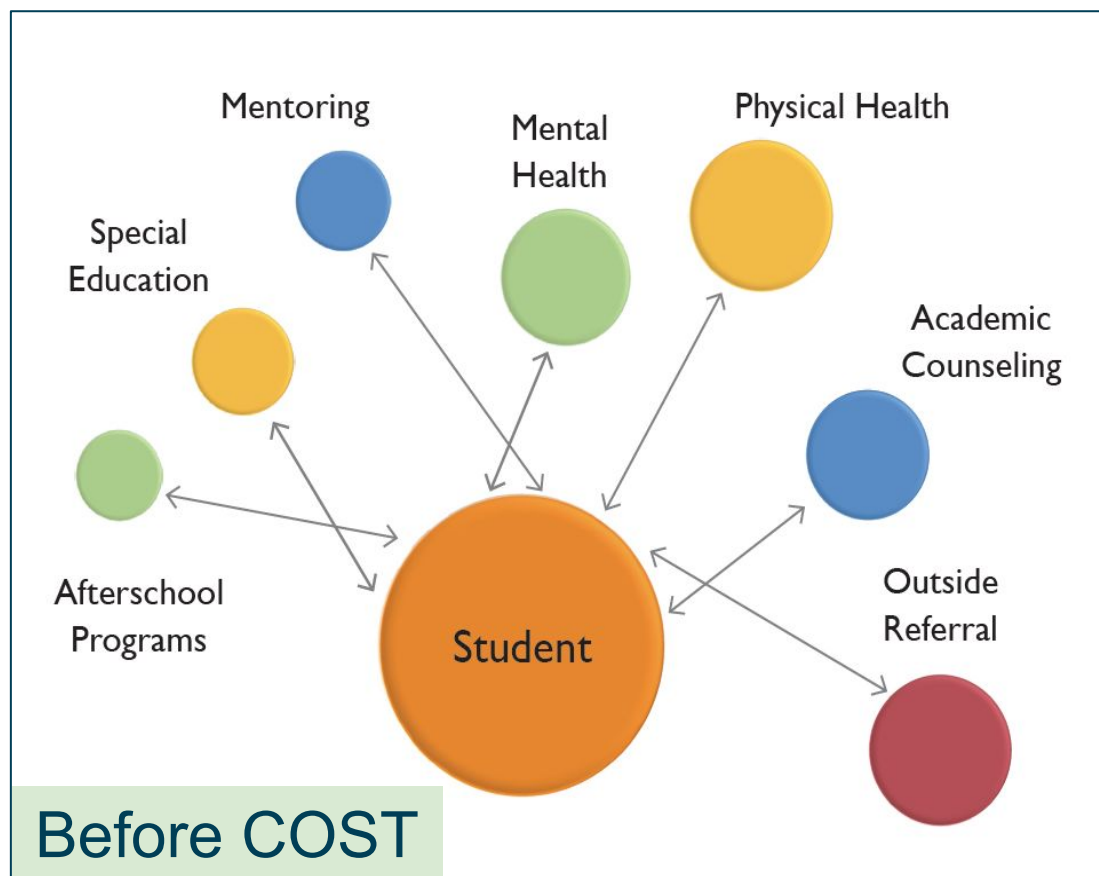
How does COST work?

Using a centralized, easy-to-use referral system, COST allows anyone in the school community to refer or self-refer students in need of support

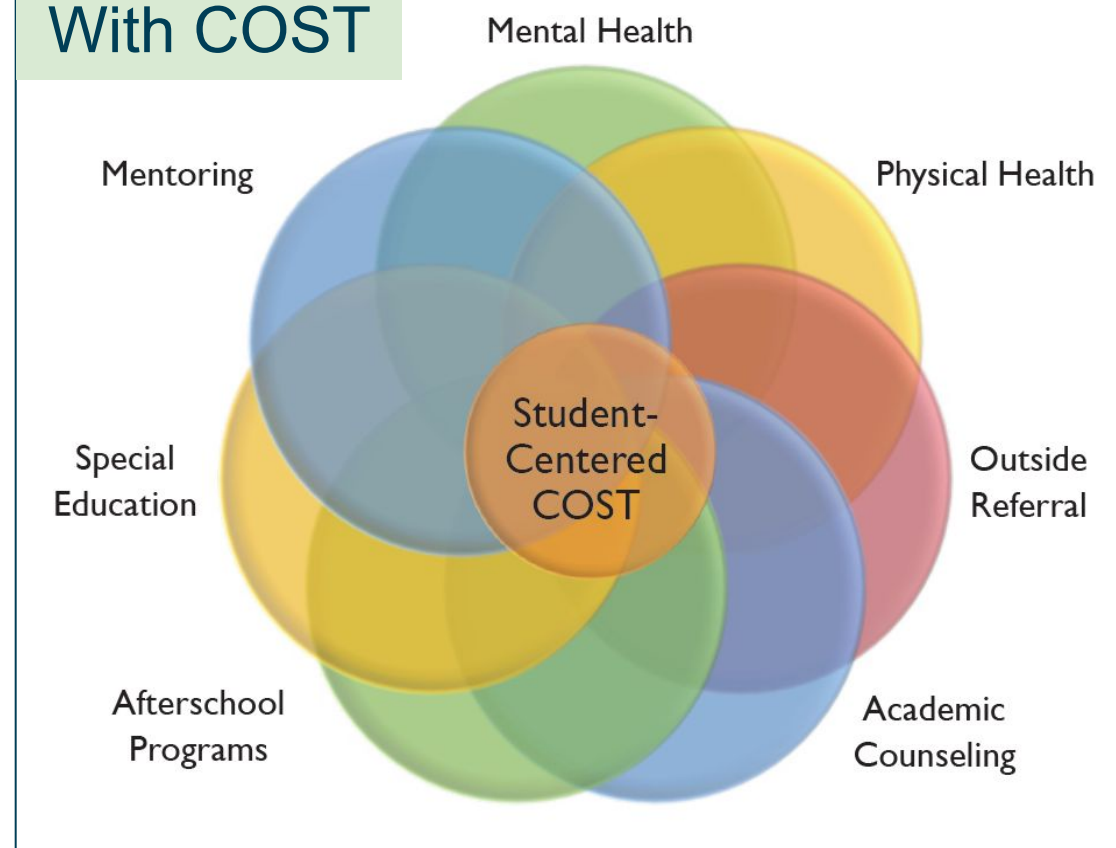


COST creates:

- ✓ Capacity to tailor interventions to student needs
- ✓ Efficiency and use of limited resources
- ✓ Sense of belonging and quality of services among providers
- ✓ Focus on early intervention and prevention supports

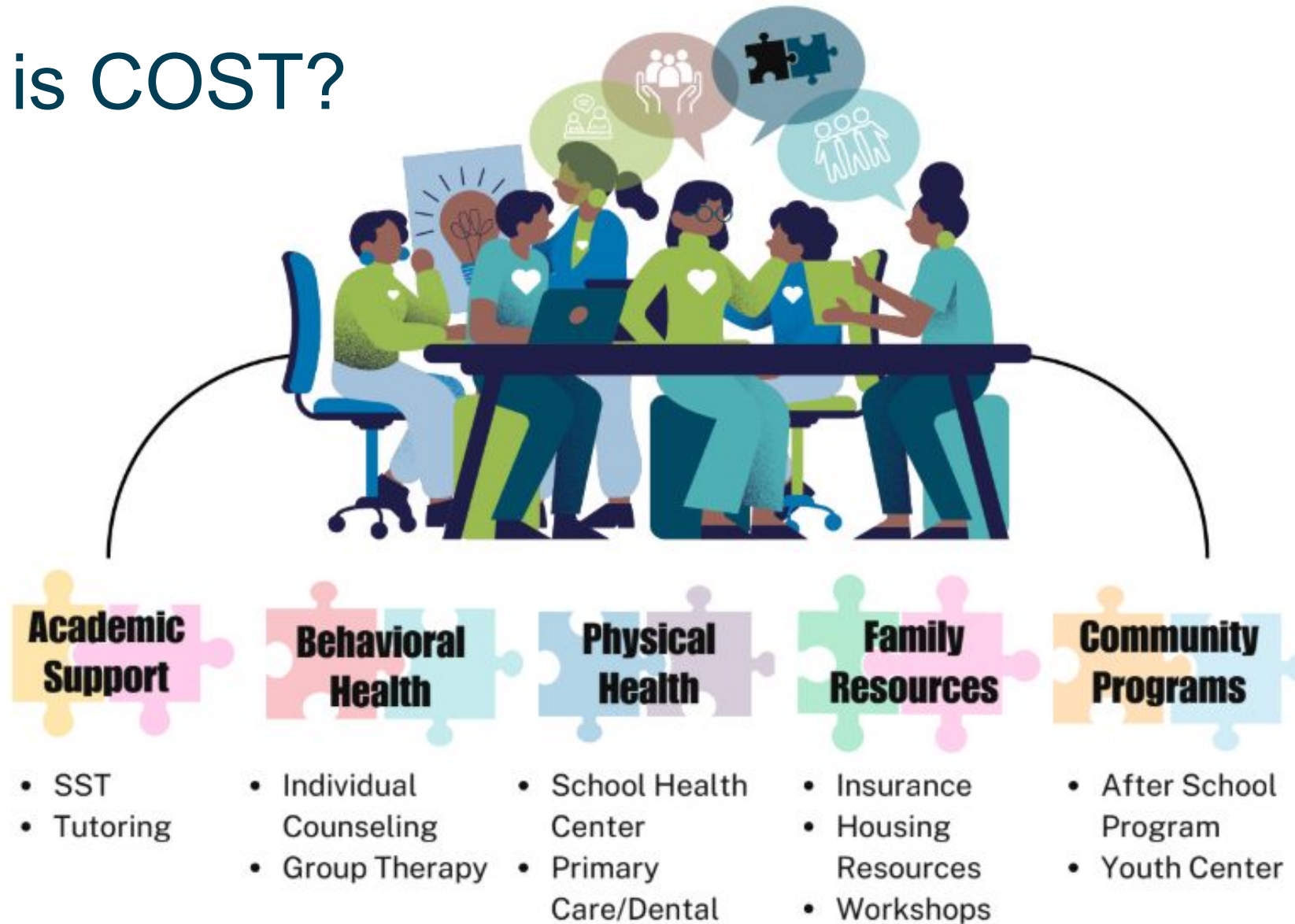


With COST



The stronger the COST becomes, the more evident the shift from isolated efforts to a seamless practice of coordination, communication, and collaboration.

WHO is COST?



4 Key Areas for Collaboration at COST



Partner/Community Engagement

Ensuring that community partners are at COST promotes collaboration and collective responsibility to the health and wellness of students and decreases barriers to services.

- Creates connection and shared responsibility.
- Brings unique insight and varying areas of expertise.
- Increases awareness of services.

District Alignment and Integration

The COST process is sustainable when integrated as part of the operational structure.

District and site administrator commitment to COST is paramount to its success.

- More effective and equitable resource allocation for student service and supports
- Increased district-wide understanding of impact of trauma (ACEs) on educational success, and how to support families

Confidentiality and Privacy

COST members must be mindful when discussing student cases. Understanding confidentiality laws helps COST protect student privacy while ensuring that essential support services remain coordinated and effective.

HIPAA

Health Insurance
Portability and
Accountability Act

Governs the confidentiality of health records. Most school-employed health care providers are not considered HIPAA-covered entities because they do not bill health plans electronically. External partners (not district-hired) who provide services on campus most likely fall under HIPAA.

FERPA

Family Educational
Rights and Privacy
Act

This applies to student educational records. Schools and educational agencies that receive federal funding must comply with FERPA, which generally prohibits the release of personally identifiable information (PII). However, school officials within the same institution may share PII if they have a legitimate educational interest.

As integration across our health and education systems becomes increasingly common (i.e., Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative and Multi-Payer Fee Schedule), it will be important to continue to monitor shifts in the types of protections required for various providers, including school-based providers.

Data Collection and Evaluation

Continuous Improvement of the HOW and WHY

Effective evaluation considers both progress and process by collecting data on service impact as well as the effectiveness of implementation and engagement throughout the process.

PROGRESS

- ✓ *Are services responsive to the needs?*
- ✓ *Where are there gaps in support?*
- ✓ *Have student/family resiliency factors strengthened?*
- ✓ *What are site/district wide trends?*

PROCESS

- ✓ *Is the referral accessible to all?*
- ✓ *How quickly are students connected to services?*
- ✓ *Are staff submitting appropriate referrals?*
- ✓ *Are students and families aware of the services available?*

The COST Toolkit

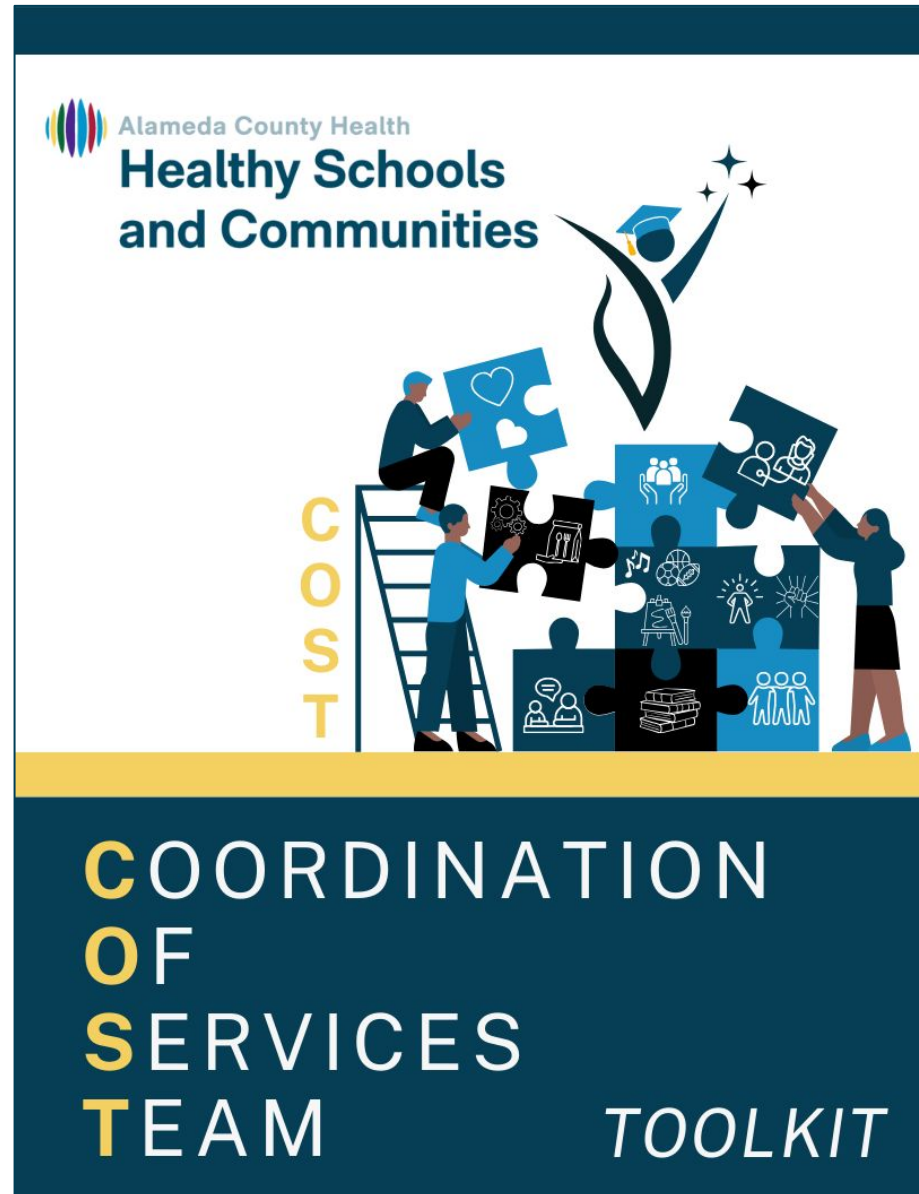


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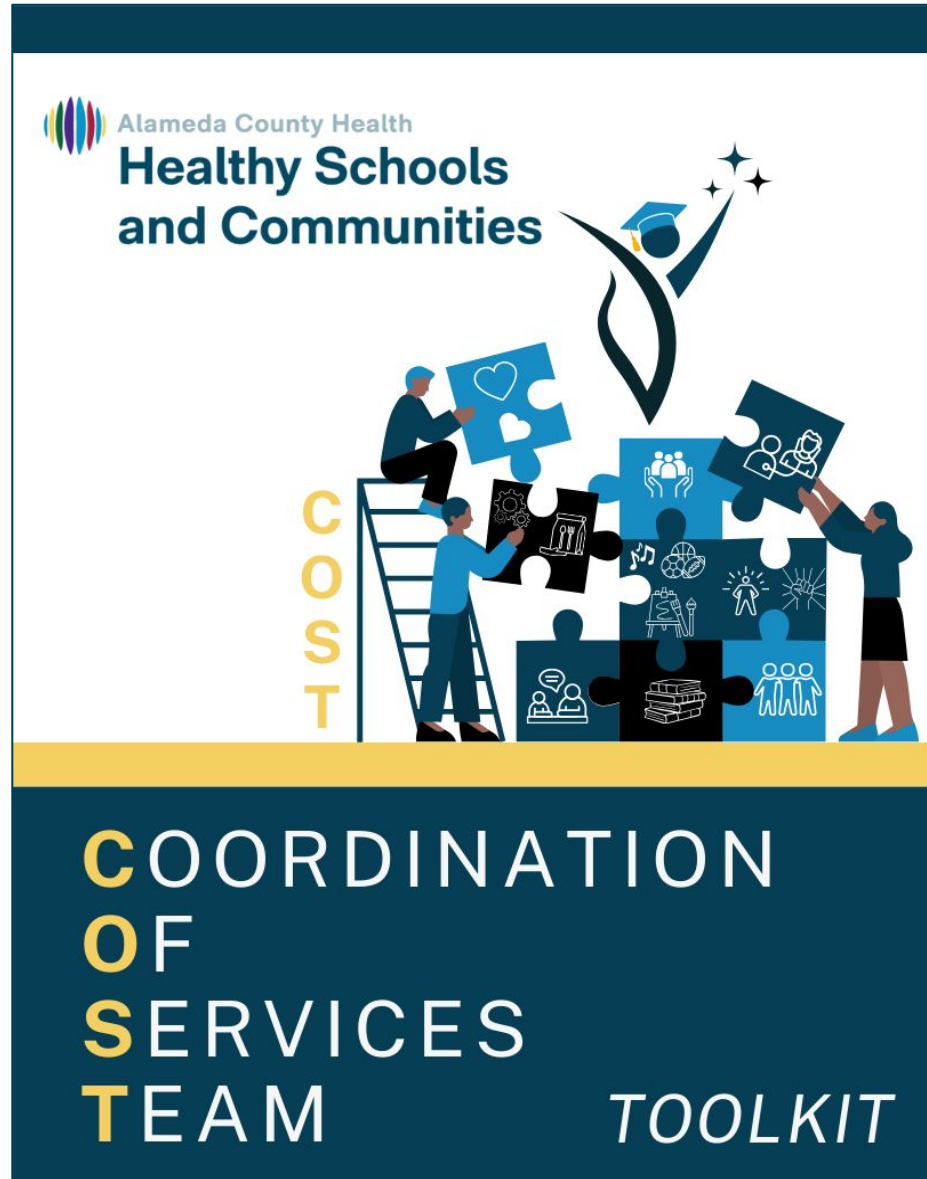
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TOOLKIT

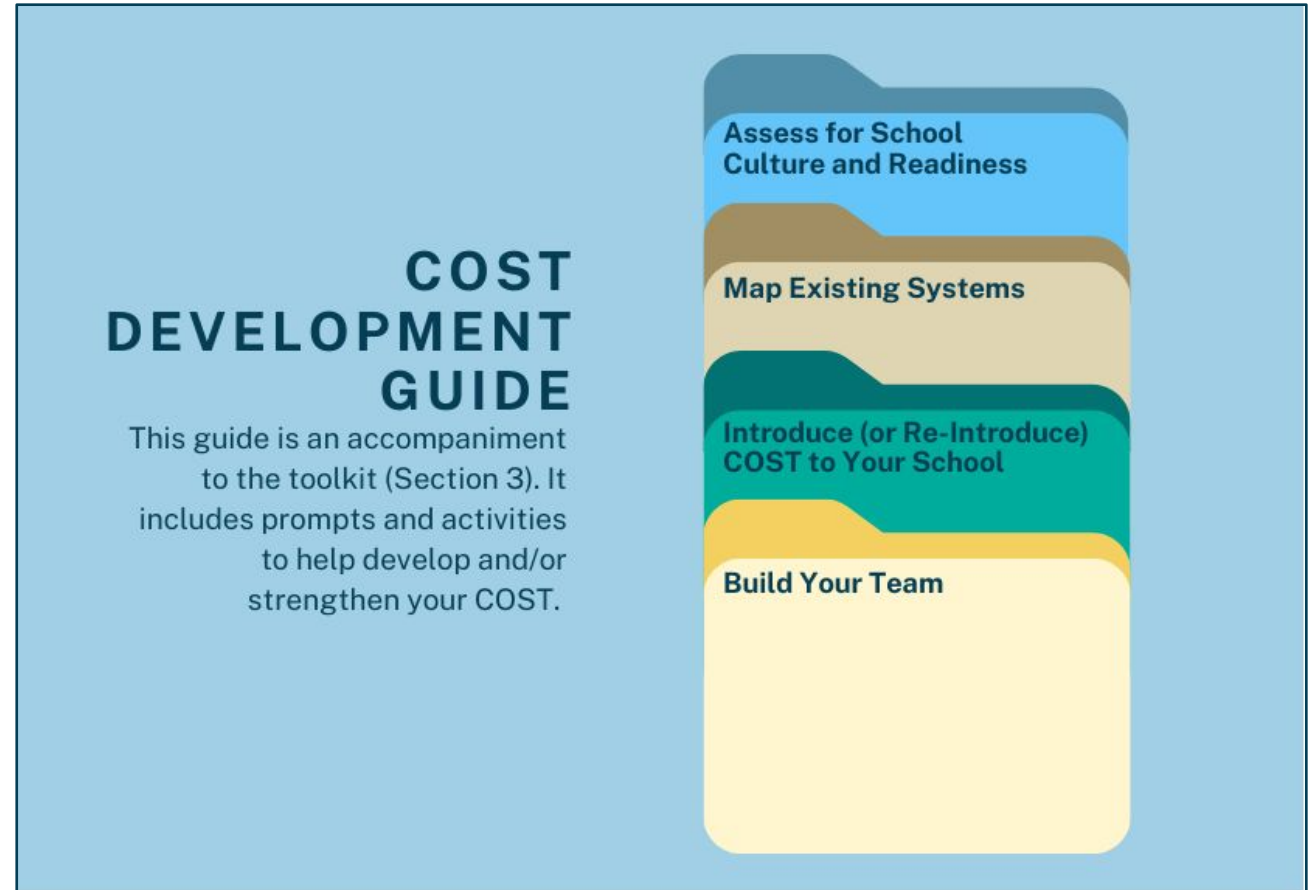
Click here to access:
[COST TOOLKIT](#)

The Tools

- Tip Sheets
- Form templates
- Assessment and development tools

Section 3: ***Development Guide***

- COST Rubric
- COST Process



The COST Process

A well-functioning COST system depends not only on having the right structures and partnerships but also on the processes that ensure students receive timely, coordinated support.

To fully evaluate the COST system, it's important to gather input from the broader school community, in addition to the self-assessment by COST members.

Where in this process is your site/district strong?

Where are some challenges?



Common Outcomes of COST

Based on your role, what are you hoping to gain from COST?

What concerns do you have?

School Systems	School Staff	Students	Families
More effective and equitable resource allocation for student service and supports	Increased capacity for teachers to support students with challenges	Increased readiness to learn	Increased knowledge and skills about how to support their child's overall wellness
Increased school investments in behavioral supports & services at schools	Decreased reliance on disciplinary action	Improved academic performance	Increased collaboration and connection with their child's school
Improved knowledge of student body population & the challenges facing them	Staff are supportive of and supported by COST	Early connection and linkage to prevention and treatment	Increased connection to system partners who can help them advocate for their family's needs
Improved school culture and destigmatization of mental health and trauma	Increased empathy for mental health and trauma	Improved mental health	Increased connection to community services
	Increased orientation towards teamwork and shared responsibility for supported students		

Click here to view the [Readiness to Learn-COST Progress Report](#)

COST Rubric

1 Beginning	2 Developing	3 Accomplished	4 Exemplary
The <u>COST Rubric</u> is available to assess areas of strength and areas that may need further development. There are 9 areas to consider. Each area is assessed on a scale of 1 (Beginning) to 4 (Exemplary). Below each area (1-9) there are points to consider in deciding upon the level.			1 COST Members
			2 COST Meetings
			3 COST Awareness and Utilization
			4 Effective Referral System
			5 Data-driven Interventions
			6 Tracking and Documentation
			7 Integrated Community Partners
			8 Data-driven Resource Allocation
			9 Knowledge of Services and Resources

**We value
your
feedback!**

HSC Workshop
Feedback Survey

SCAN



**Presenters:
Victoria Garcia
Irene Barraza**

<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/8601959/HSC-SBBH-Staff-Training-Survey>

Thank you for your
commitment to equity,
collaboration, and
student well-being.
We're excited to see
how you bring this
work to life!

If you have questions about the toolkit or would like to inquire about receiving consultation and support from HSC in the development of your COST, you can submit a COST information form via this link or QR code:

**HSC COST
Information
Form**

