



August 13, 2026

Dear Governing Board Chair Dr. Cynthia Glover, Superintendent Thurmond, and Members of the CCEE Governing Board,

On behalf of the Lake County Office of Education and the Rural Math Collaborative (RMC), I am writing to express our deepest gratitude for the visionary leadership of Executive Director Matt Navo, Dr. Stephanie Gregson, Stacey Wedine, Belinda Gaspar, and Sandra Brandt. Through their steadfast support and bold administration of the Learning Acceleration System (LAS) grant, CCEE has empowered us to transform mathematics instruction across rural California.

In 2022, the RMC began as a modest network of a dozen active county offices of education (COEs). Today, in 2026, that effort has expanded into a powerful, interconnected network of 29 identified rural COEs. This remarkable growth was made possible because CCEE embraced true continuous improvement - giving our team the flexibility, trust, and permission to listen to local needs, analyze our data, and pivot our strategy in real time.

During this grant cycle, CCEE provided the courage and autonomy needed to boldly address the unique realities of rural students, families, and educators. Because of CCEE's leadership and trust, the Rural Math Collaborative has been able to optimize partnerships and resources by discontinuing non-performing vendor relationships and reallocating funds directly toward high-impact, field-tested initiatives; align with state frameworks by swiftly adjusting our budget to support the statewide rollout of the new California Mathematics Framework; research, launch, and scale innovative mathematics instruction and intervention pilots tailored to rural contexts; build sustainable capacity by establishing a robust regional network of instructional coaching focused on mathematics, lesson study implementation, and professional development; and deepen research-based practice by exploring and embedding the tenets of Dr. Elham Kazemi's ***Learning Together*** work across our partner counties.

What began as a grant initiative has evolved into a self-sustaining web of connection. Today, 29 rural county offices of education rely on one another for mutual support, shared learning, and collective growth. CCEE gave us the freedom to think outside the box, to test new ideas, to learn from our data, and, simply put - to try.



LAKE COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

TO TEACH. TO SERVE. TO LEARN.

We may represent a conglomerate of small rural counties, but together, we are a mighty RMC that has built a system of mathematical support designed to endure long after this grant concludes.

We extend our deepest gratitude to CCEE leadership for your courageous vision, your fierce advocacy for our work, and your unwavering commitment to continuous improvement - a principle you truly live, not just speak. Thank you for bringing us all together and giving our rural communities the space and backing to drive our own transformation. Your trust and support have laid the foundation for work that will impact our communities for years to come. Thank you for believing in us.

Sincerely,

On behalf of the RMC Lead Team:

Brock Falkenberg
Lake County Superintendent of Schools

Rebecca (Becky) Walker
LCOE Deputy Superintendent