



NEWS ADVISORY

Contra Costa County Supervisor
JOHN GIOIA (joy-a)
Chair, Board of Supervisors

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 19, 2010

- What:** School Supply Initiative for Low-Income Students Kick-Off/Kit Distribution Event
- Where:** Nystrom Elementary School, 230 Harbour Way South, Richmond, CA
- When:** Monday, February 22, 2010, 2:00 p.m.
- Who:** Contra Costa County Supervisors John Gioia, Susan Bonilla, and Federal Glover; Office of Congressman George Miller, III; Bruce Harter, West Contra Costa County Unified School District School Superintendent; Richmond Children's Foundation; K to College
- Why:** In Contra Costa County, thousands of students in elementary, middle, and high schools attend classes without the necessary tools such as paper, pencils, and back-packs to achieve their academic success. But starting next week, a new initiative supported by the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, will be making learning for those students a lot easier. The Countywide initiative called The School Supply Initiative (SSI) Program will be kicking-off on Monday with a school supply distribution and kick-off event at Nystrom Elementary School in Richmond. Using the Free and Reduced Lunch Program as the initial threshold for eligibility into the program, more than 16,000 students in school districts across Contra Costa County will be receiving grade-appropriate school supply kits worth \$60 - \$80 dollars each. With grants from the Federal Stimulus Fund, K to College, a non-profit organization that had already created a similar program in Alameda County, worked with Contra Costa County's Employment and Human Services Department and the Board of Supervisors to expand services for students into this County. K to College organized the assembly of the hundreds of kits needed for the initial kick-off with volunteers from UC Berkeley.
- Organizers selected Nystrom Elementary School as the kick-off site because students in the West Contra Costa Unified School District will be receiving the more kits than students in other school districts in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.
- After the Monday kick-off announcement, more than 400 elementary school students and their families will receive their kits.
- The Program will need and is seeking 500 volunteers to assemble more than 16,000 kits for Contra Costa County students. Anyone interested in volunteering should call Benito Delgado-Olson with K to College at (510) 569-5862.

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