



# NEWS RELEASE

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 22, 2010

## STUDENTS IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY TO RECEIVE ESSENTIAL SCHOOL SUPPLY KITS

<b>What:</b>	Contra Costa County School supply kick-off and distribution event
<b>Where:</b>	Nystrom Elementary School, 230 Harbour Way South, Richmond, CA
<b>Who:</b>	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; Erwin Reeves, The Mechanics Bank
<b>When:</b>	<b>Monday, February 22, 2010, 2 p.m.</b>

**Richmond, Calif.**, Hundreds of elementary school students from Nystrom Elementary School will be receiving school supply kits this afternoon to kick-off the School Supply Initiative (SSI) Program – a Countywide initiative benefiting low income students.

To be eligible for the kits, students must initially qualify for the Free and Reduced Lunch Program.

Supervisor John Gioia, this year's Chair of the Board of Supervisors, along with other Board Members, supported efforts to bring the program to Contra Costa County.

"We know many students want to attend classes and do well in school, but their families can't afford school supplies to help them succeed," said Supervisor Gioia. "Our program gives them the necessary tools so they can focus on their studies."

In partnership with K to College, a non-profit organization that created a similar program in Alameda County, Contra Costa County's Employment & Human Services Department, and the Board of Supervisors successfully secured grants from the Federal Stimulus Act to expand the program to more than 16,000 students in Contra Costa County.

The kits, which are grade-appropriate, are estimated to cost about \$60 - \$80 each.

"This initiative is about more than just getting necessary school supplies into kids' hands," said Congressman George Miller. "It empowers disadvantaged youth and levels the material playing field. With these supplies, teachers have the chance to take classroom lessons to the next level and, most importantly, our youth have the opportunity to educate themselves."

More than 400 kits will be distributed to students at Nystrom Elementary School, which was selected as the kick-off site because students in the West Contra Costa Unified School District will be receiving more kits than students in school districts in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.

"The School Supply Initiative is a unique and efficient program that provides the essential materials crucial to a student's ability to reach the height of their academic potential," said Benito Delgado-Olson, co-founder and President of K to College.

K to College recently rallied students at UC Berkeley to assemble the kits for the initial kick-off at Nystrom Elementary School and is seeking additional volunteers to assemble the thousands of kits needed for the full Contra Costa County distribution.

Anyone interested in volunteering should call K to College at (510) 569-5862.

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