

CCSESA FOCUS

An Update to County Superintendents of Schools

Monday, October 12th, 2015

Educator Effectiveness Grant Funds Announced/ Governor Vetoes Teacher Induction Bill

On October 10, Governor Brown vetoed AB 141, which would have prohibited a local educational agency from charging a teacher to complete a beginning teacher induction program. Combined with the recent release of the funding amounts for the Educator Effectiveness Block Grant that was enacted as part of the 2015-16 state budget, county superintendents now have the information they need to move forward with regard to the use of these new funds.

All of the statutory language for the Educator Effectiveness Block Grant is [attached](#). There is a great deal of discretion at the local level, provided the expenditures are delineated in a plan approved by the local governing board, following an explanation of the plan at a prior meeting of the governing board (See section (b)(2) of the attached language). Allowable uses of the funds are described in (b)(1) of the attached language and are quite broad provided they are “to promote educator quality and effectiveness.”

It is important to note that the Educator Effectiveness Block Grant funds are also allocated to county offices of education, which are scheduled to receive a total of nearly \$10 million under the program. The funds may be expended according to the locally adopted plan over a three-year period: 2015-16, 2016-17, and 2017-18. Further, the funds are not only to support teacher effectiveness, but administrator support and mentoring and professional development.

Finally, there is no urgency to use these funds. School districts, charter schools and county offices of education have time to review the recent California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) results and determine their local priority needs. Also, it is worth noting that the Sacramento and Ventura County Offices of education have organized a series of state-supported workshops on “Using CAASPP Results to Improve Teaching and Learning.”

AB 141 is referenced in this Focus because some local agencies were waiting to see if they needed to use these funds to pay for a portion of teacher induction programs. The Governor clearly leaves that issue to local discretion, but in his veto message he also specifically mentions the Educator Effectiveness Block Grant. The Governor’s message reads as follows:

I am returning Assembly Bill 141 without my signature.

This bill prohibits a local educational agency from charging a teacher to complete a beginning teacher induction program. This prohibition will create a reimbursable mandate estimated to cost over \$100 million annually.

The vast majority of local educational agencies provide induction and support to beginning teachers free of charge. I commend these entities for recognizing the importance of supporting and retaining new teachers.

In addition to funding allocated through the Local Control Funding Formula, the state has provided \$490 million in this year's budget to promote education quality over the next three years. Part of this funding should be used to support new teachers. Creating a new mandate, however, is not the answer.

Contact: Peter Birdsall, Executive Director • P: (916) 446-3095 • C. (916) 719-1315
pbirdsall@ccsesa.org • www.ccsesa.org