



April 15, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
Via Email

RE: Federal CARES Act Funding

Dear Governor Newsom,

Thank you for your continued leadership for public education and ongoing commitment to the nearly six million K-12 students we serve. We are writing with regard to the much anticipated COVID-19 financial relief for public school agencies across California that has been appropriated by Congress and approved by the President. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, (the CARES Act), is estimated to include approximately \$1.6 billion in assistance to be distributed to California local education agencies based upon the existing Title I formula, and an additional \$355 million to be allocated at the discretion of the Governor for public education and child care. The funding is provided through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund and the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund.

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund

In California, the \$1.6 billion in federal funding will be distributed based on our state's share of ESEA Title I-A funds. The state is required to distribute at least 90% of funds to school districts and public charter schools based on their share of Title I-A funds, but may choose to use a portion or all of the remaining K-12 funds to respond to emergency needs as determined by the California Department of Education. We are urging that the Governor and State Superintendent of Public Instruction work to maximize the impact of the allowed state hold-back of 10% by distributing as much of those funds for local, flexible purposes as possible.

Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund

California's share of the \$3 billion Governor's Education Relief Fund is estimated to be \$355 million, which the Governor can direct at his discretion to provide emergency support grants to K-12 schools, colleges and universities and child-care/early education providers.

Our local schools across the state are working hard to keep instruction moving forward. Every dollar of discretionary funding that can be passed through to local school agencies from the federal financial assistance should be done as quickly as possible. We urge you to avoid creating state administered programs that will delay the ability of local schools to access resources that are needed immediately and to instead allocate the funds on a formula basis for LEAs to use as they determine is necessary to meet the needs of their students and communities. We also request that the state provide a minimum funding level for small school districts to recognize their scope and size.

As always, thank you for your consideration of our views about the use and distribution of these vital Federal funds.

Sincerely,



Edgar Zazueta
Senior Director of Policy and Government Relations
Association of California School Administrators (ACSA)



Sara Bachez
Chief Governmental Relations Officer
California Association of School Business Officials (CASBO)



Sandra Morales
Assistant Executive Director
California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA)



Dennis Meyers
Assistant Executive Director, Governmental Relations
California School Boards Association (CSBA)



Tim Taylor
Executive Director
Small School District Association (SSDA)

Cc:

Ben Chida, Chief Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor
Keely Martin Bosler, Director of the California Department of Finance
Karen Stapf Walters, Executive Director, State Board of Education