

## LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2021-22

The CCSESA Legislative priorities are intended to provide direction to the CCSESA Legislative Committee as it takes actions on proposed legislation and to CCSESA staff as they represent the interests of the association in state and federal policy discussions.

### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In reviewing and taking action on budget and legislative issues, CCSESA recognizes that it must be vigilant and active on issues that uniquely impact the responsibilities of the county superintendents of schools. Under the leadership of county superintendents, county offices of education are established to support and oversee the school districts within their counties. CCSESA will take legislative positions on issues that impact county offices, school districts and local schools where it is determined that those positions are important to support or improve the ability of districts and/or county offices to offer high quality educational programs so that each student in California is college and career ready. CCSESA may also take position on legislation impacting children's health or safety where it is determined that such actions will improve the conditions of children and families served by California schools.

### STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

#### **CCSESA will proactively work to:**

1. Support efforts to provide equitable levels of school funding and fiscal policies that ensure stable, ongoing resources to effectively serve all students and promote equity in student access and outcomes.
2. Communicate regularly with state policy makers and staff to promote understanding of the key role performed by county offices of education across virtually all K-12 and Early Learning (preschool) issue areas.
3. Advocate for policies and regulations that promote teacher, school principal, and early learning (preschool) staff recruitment, support, retention, the removal of barriers, and statewide quality.
4. Promote systems alignment, quality streamlining, and greater expansion of opportunities in least restrictive environments (LRE) for students with special needs in early childhood education.
5. Define an updated and valid methodology to identify schools for Williams reviews.
6. Support the creation of tools and assistance for charter school authorizers to fulfill their statutory obligations.

#### **Key Issues of Concern to CCSESA include:**

1. School Finance - CCSESA advocates for equitable funding and local flexibility to ensure safe, high-quality learning environments with prepared and well supported educators.
2. Special Education –CCSESA advocates for an integrated, coherent, efficient and equitably resourced system that improves outcomes for students with disabilities as they move into adulthood. These efforts include aligning funding with inclusive practices and the flexibility to blend state and federal resources.
3. Equity - CCSESA supports efforts to provide an equitable educational system in California and ensure all students, staff, families, and communities feel safe, protected, and valued.

4. System of Support - CCSESA advocates for aligned supports at all levels of the education system that help build local capacity to meet the needs of each student, sustain improvement, and effectively address disparities in opportunities and outcomes.
5. Mental Health – CCSESA advocates for robust, holistic mental health supports for students and staff as the COVID-19 pandemic upends in-person instruction and daily face-to-face interactions.
6. Technology Equity and Security – CCSESA supports efforts that grant every California student equal and sustainable access to technology as it is a vital component of distance and off campus learning. These efforts include eliminating the digital divide by equally providing digital access including currently unreachable students in our rural and low income areas by supporting robust connectivity access to a reliable high-speed network to support high-quality instruction and learning. CCSESA also supports efforts to protect and safeguard student/staff data privacy and cyberinfrastructure. While pursuing methods of data recording and streamlining data collection efforts for accountability of connectivity and device acquisition.
7. Additional Support for At-Promise Students - CCSESA will continue to advocate for the needs of at-promise students, including foster youth, migrant students, and those who are homeless, have been expelled or adjudicated.
8. Charter Schools - CCSESA supports efforts to achieve accountable, transparent, and academically successful charter schools.
9. Whole Child - CCSESA supports the provision of wrap-around services on school campuses and opposes regulatory barriers and administrative actions that impede students' access to health services including both behavioral and mental health services.
10. Other key policy areas - CCSESA is actively engaged in issues that impact the work of county superintendents of schools and the school districts they serve. These issues include, but are not limited to policy discussions regarding COVID-19 Lawsuit protection, school facilities, assessment and accountability systems, clarification of statutory authority and responsibility of county superintendents, mandated costs, California Technical Education, professional development, teacher effectiveness and evaluation, adequate funding, quality preschool, disaster preparedness and recovery, and expanded learning after school programs.

## FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### **CCSESA will proactively work to:**

1. Support increased federal funding, including additional federal relief to schools coping with the ramifications of unforeseen emergencies such as Covid-19 and wildfires, to meet federal commitments for core federal education programs such as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for special education, childhood nutrition, and ESSA Title I, II, III and IV.
2. Support efforts that grant every student equal and sustainable access to technology as it is a vital component of distance and off campus learning. These efforts include eliminating the digital divide by equally providing digital access including currently unreachable students in our rural and low income areas by supporting robust connectivity access to a reliable high-speed network to support high-quality instruction and learning. CCSESA also supports efforts to protect and safeguard student/staff data privacy and cyberinfrastructure, while pursuing methods of data recording and streamlining data collection efforts for accountability of connectivity and device acquisition.
3. Support efforts to increase federal funding for Head Start and other early education programs and to expand access to such programs.
4. Support efforts to reauthorize and fund the education and county services provided through the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act.
5. Oppose proposals to utilize public tax dollars to fund vouchers or tax credits that undermine funding and support for public schools.

6. Support efforts to implement the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Work with all necessary stakeholders and agency partners to ensure that the federal and state regulations that follow uphold flexibility at the state and local level.
7. Promote efforts to reduce the administrative burden of school-based Medicaid claiming requirements.

*Approved by the CCSESA State and Federal Legislative Committee on 11/17/2020.*