



STATE & FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

May 18, 2021

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Zoom Link: [Click here](#)

Meeting ID: 966 0409 7401, Passcode: 2021

AGENDA

2:00 p.m. - 2:05 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Introduction and Announcements

Mr. Mike West, Chair

Colusa County Superintendent of Schools

2:05 p.m. - 2:25 p.m.

II. FEDERAL ISSUES

- b. Update on Issues & Priorities ([Pages 4-7](#))

Noelle Ellerson Ng

AASA Assoc. Exec. Dir., Advocacy & Governance

III. STATE ISSUES

2:25 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.

- a. May Revision update and discussion
- 1) Overview of K-12 Spending Package May Revision
 - 2) Issues from Governor's Budget (January) ([Page 8](#))
 - Golden State Teacher Grant Program ([support if amended letter](#))
 - Supplemental Concentration Grant Carry-Over
 - Mental Health/Student Wellness
 - Adults/Charter Schools ([opposition Letter](#))

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

- b. Legislation

Informational Items:

- 1) Student Wellness Legislation Update ([Legislation report link](#))
Amanda Dickey, Santa Clara County Office of Education, will provide an update on legislation.
- 2) AB 599 (Jones-Sawyer): Williams Legislation ([Link to view legislation](#))
An update on AB 599 will be provided. CCSESA is a co-sponsor for AB 599.
- 3) AB 104 (Gonzalez): Pupil instruction: retention, grade changes, and exemptions. ([Link to view legislation](#))
An update on AB 104 will be provided. Current CCSESA position: seek amendments.
- 4) AB 1316 (O'Donnell): School accountability: financial and performance audits: charter schools: contracts. ([Link to view legislation](#))
An update on AB 1316 will be provided. CCSESA currently does not have a position on this bill.
- 5) SB 594 (Glazer): Elections: local redistricting ([Link to view legislation](#))
An update on SB 594 will be provided. CCSESA current position: support if amended.

Action Items:

- 6) SB 457 (Portantino): Public employee retirement systems: investment portfolios: divestment from Turkey. ([Link to view legislation](#))
The CCSESA Executive Committee took an interim oppose position on 5/3/21. Per the CCSESA Bylaws, the Legislative Committee must vote at the next Committee meeting to confirm an interim position.
 - 7) AB 967 (Frazier): Special education: COVID-19 Special Education Fund. ([Link to view legislation](#))
CCSESA staff recommendation: support.
- c. Legislative Report ([Legislation report link](#))
This report contains an update on current legislation with a position.
- e. State Board of Education: May Meeting Update ([Full May Agenda Link](#))
- 1) Item 02: Distance Learning Curriculum and Instructional Guidance Project: Presentation of Draft Guidance for Adoption. ([CCSESA Letter Link](#))
 - 2) Item 04: Update on the Implementation of the Integrated Local, State, and Federal Accountability and Continuous Improvement System: Recommended Action on the Adoption of the Student Growth Model Methodology, and Update on the Continuing Development Work and Revisions under Consideration for Future California School Dashboards.

To view the letters submitted by CCSESA on Item 04, please click each link below:

- [CISC Letter](#)
- [PASSCo Letter](#)
- [Small County Caucus Letter](#)
- [SPSSC Letter](#)

3) SBE Appointment Support Letters:

- [Dr. Cynthia Glover Woods](#)
- [Haydee Rodriguez](#)
- [James McQuillen](#)

IV. OTHER

FEDERAL UPDATE

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- FCC To Launch Connectivity Fund Program: The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) unanimously adopted final rules to implement the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program. This \$7.17 billion program, funded by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, will enable schools and libraries to purchase laptop and tablet computers, Wi-Fi hotspots, and broadband connectivity for students, school staff, and library patrons in need during the COVID-19 pandemic. Details [on the blog](#). Read [AASA statement](#) on the launch.
- Details on Emergency Connectivity Fund: Key points of the final rule for the Emergency Connectivity Fund are as follows:
 - In the next 30 to 60 days, the FCC will open an initial 45-day application window to allow schools and libraries to request funding to cover student, educator and library patron home Internet access services and appropriate computing devices. This first window will allow schools and libraries to seek funding for purchases that they plan to make prospectively between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022. The Commission's aim in supporting going forward purchases first is to reach as many currently unconnected students and educators as possible rather than reimbursing schools and libraries for students and teachers that have already been connected.
 - If any funding remains after satisfying requests made in the first window, the FCC could open a second application window for additional prospective purchases or to allow schools and libraries to seek retroactive reimbursement for home Internet access services and appropriate devices that they purchased between March 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021.
 - The Order defines eligible devices as laptop computers and tablet computers but excludes desktop computers (because of cost) and cell phones (because of their unsuitability for educational purposes).
 - The Commission has set a few guardrails around the maximum costs of individual devices that the program will pay for -- \$400 for computers and \$250 for hotspots. However, the FCC rules allow schools to buy more expensive devices so long as they use other funds to pay the balance.
 - The Commission has also established some limits on the number Internet access connections and devices that the program will pay for -- one fixed broadband connection (or modem) per location and one computer per student, staff member or library patron.
- AASA Sends Medicaid Direct Certification Letter To USDA: AASA and 10 other allied organizations sent a letter to U.S. Sec. of Agriculture Vilsack requesting that the Department of Agriculture (USDA) expand the Demonstration Projects to evaluate direct certification with Medicaid, as proposed in the American Families Plan. Specifically, this demonstration uses rigorously assessed data to auto-enroll children for free or reduced-price school meals. Details [on the blog](#).
- School Infrastructure Letter: 17 Organizations Urge Congress To Pass The Reopen And Rebuild America's Schools Act: On May 12, 2021, AASA and 16 other allied organizations sent a letter to Congress urging for the inclusion of at least \$100 billion in direct grants and \$30 billion in bonds for K-12 public school facilities, which is consistent with the Reopen and Rebuild America's Schools Act, passed by the U.S. House of Representatives in July 2020. Details [on the blog](#).
- FDA Approves Vaccine for 12-15 Year Olds: On May 10, the [FDA expanded](#) the emergency use authorization for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine to include adolescents 12 through 15 years of age.

- Treasury Releases \$350 Billion in ARP State and Local Aid: On May 10, the US Treasury released \$350 billion in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds established by the American Rescue Plan (ARP) to support state and local governments in mitigating the pandemic-induced economic crisis and tax revenue shortfalls. With this announcement, Treasury released a brief guidance document to expand on the guardrails set for these funds in ARP itself. Of note for SEAs and LEAs, the guidance identifies educational services such as early learning supports, tutoring, additional resources for high-poverty schools, etc. as potential uses of funds. The money can also be used broadly to fill state budget shortfalls, including education. (The guidance is [here](#).)
- OCR to Seek Public Comments on Title IX Enforcement in June: USED's Office of Civil Rights (OCR) announced that it will hold a series of virtual listening sessions June 7-11 related to the Department's efforts to improve enforcement of Title IX in schools. (If you are interested in attending, monitor [this site](#) for a sign-up form to be released soon.)
- Sec. Cardona Op-Ed: U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona [penned an op-ed on school reopening](#).
- Education Funding and Policy Details in American Family Plan: At the end of April, President Biden detailed the major investments he hopes Congress will make in education in what he is calling the American Families Plan. Biden believes that "investing in education is a down payment on the future of America" and wants to "make transformational investments from early childhood to postsecondary education so that all children and young people are able to grow, learn, and gain the skills they need to succeed." AASA Executive Director, Dan Domenech, issued the following response to the American Families Plan. AASA applauds this comprehensive investment on behalf of all of our nation's young learners. Our public K-12 schools rely on and work in coordination with early education and post-secondary institutions, including preschools and community colleges. By strengthening the connections to and from our elementary and secondary schools, as well as building the pipeline for our teachers while making it easier and less expensive for schools to feed all kids, we will strengthen our schools, communities and our country's workforce." The specific details of the plan pertinent for AASA members to know are as follows:
 - \$200 billion to create a national partnership with states to offer free, high-quality, accessible, and inclusive preschool to all three-and four-year-old children. The partnership will prioritize high-need areas and enable communities and families to choose the settings that work best for them. The President's plan will also ensure that all publicly funded preschools are high-quality, with low student-to-teacher ratios, high-quality and developmentally appropriate curriculum, and supportive classroom environments that are inclusive for all students. All employees in participating pre-K programs and Head Start will earn at least \$15 per hour, and those with comparable qualifications will receive compensation commensurate with that of kindergarten teachers.
 - \$1.6 billion to provide educators with opportunities to obtain additional certifications in high-demand areas like special education, bilingual education, and certifications that improve teacher performance. This funding will support more than 100,000 educators, with priority for public school teachers with at least two years' experience at schools with a significant portion of low-income students or significant teacher shortages.
 - \$2 billion for teacher-leadership programs.
 - Double TEACH Act grants from \$4,000 to \$8,000 per year while earning their degree, strengthening the program, and expanding it to early childhood educators.
 - \$2.8 billion fund in Grow Your Own programs and year-long, paid teacher residency programs.
 - \$400 million for teacher preparation programs at HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs.
 - \$900 million to expand the pipeline of special education teachers.
 - \$25 billion to expand summer EBT to all eligible children nationwide.

- Lower CEP threshold for elementary schools to 25% of students participating in SNAP.
 - \$25 billion to expand summer EBT and make permanent.
 - \$17 billion to expand free meals for children in the highest poverty districts (those with at least 40 percent of students participating in SNAP) by reimbursing a higher percentage of meals at the free reimbursement rate through CEP. Additionally, the plan will expand free meals for children in elementary schools by reimbursing an even higher percentage of meals at the free reimbursement through CEP and lowering the threshold for CEP eligibility for elementary schools to 25 percent of students participating in SNAP.
 - \$109 billion to offer two years of free community college to all Americans, including DREAMers.
 - A \$62 billion grant program to invest in completion and retention activities at colleges and universities that serve high numbers of low-income students, particularly community colleges.
 - Provide two years of subsidized tuition and expand programs in high-demand fields at HBCUs, TCUs, and MSI.
 - \$225 billion for a national paid leave program will provide workers up to \$4,000 a month, with a minimum of two-thirds of average weekly wages replaced, rising to 80 percent for the lowest wage workers.
- ED Releases Interim Final Rule On American Rescue Plan Funding: As a requirement for receiving the remaining American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds, the U.S. Department of Education will be requiring LEAs to develop and submit to SEAS [a plan for the use of the ARP dollars](#) as well as how they will ensure a safe return to school learning environment for students and staff. The use of funds plan must include how funds will be used to implement prevention and mitigation strategies that are to the extent possible consistent with CDC guidance on reopening schools. The LEA must also describe how they are using the 20% of ARP earmarked for learning recovery efforts and how they will spend the remaining ESSER funds of the ARP Act. It will also require the LEA to describe how they will respond to the social, emotional and mental health needs of all students with a specific emphasis on vulnerable subgroups. The LEA must also describe how they are meaningfully consulting with stakeholders and allowing for public input on their plan. Of particular note are the requirements that ED is requiring for meaningful stakeholder engagement on the ARP spending plan. In addition to consulting with usual groups (students; families; school and district administrators, including special education administrators; and teachers, principals, school leaders, other educators, school staff, and their unions) ED mandates that the LEA demonstrate that they have consulted with tribes, civil rights organizations (including disability rights organizations) and stakeholders representing the interests of children with disabilities, English learners, children experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, migratory students, children who are incarcerated, and other underserved students. As a separate requirement, the LEA must have a “safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services plan” which is reviewed/revised at a minimum of every 6 months through September 2024. The LEA must seek public input into its “return to school” plan and take such input into account in determining whether to revise its plan and take into consideration the timing of significant changes to CDC guidance on reopening schools that could impact the plan. This plan must describe how it will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policies, on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC:
 - Universal and correct wearing of masks.
 - Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding).
 - Handwashing and respiratory etiquette.
 - Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation.
 - Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments.
 - Diagnostic and screening testing.

- Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities.
- Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies.
- This plan will also have to describe how the LEA will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services. In addition, if at the time the LEA revises its plan the CDC has updated its guidance on reopening schools, the revised plan must address the extent to which the LEA has adopted policies, and describe any such policies, for each of the updated safety recommendations.
- Finally, each LEA's ARP ESSER plan must be in an understandable and uniform format and to the extent practicable, written in a language that parents can understand or, if not practicable, orally translated; and, upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability, provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent.

TRAILER BILL LANGUAGE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING RECAP APRIL 8, 2021

Omnibus Trailer Bill, version 3/9/21 ([link](#))

1. Personnel; professional development

- i. Golden State Teacher Grant Program (separate [link](#)) **[SUPPORT IF AMENDED]**
- ii. Teacher Residency Grant Program (\$50 Million), Secs. 22-23, p. 46-50 **[SUPPORT]**
- iii. Classified School Employees Teacher Credentialing Program (\$25 Million), Sec. 34, p. 67 **[SUPPORT]**

2. Early education; special education

- i. Special Education Early Intervention Preschool Grant, Sec. 31., p. 65-67 **[SUPPORT]**

3. Accountability

- i. Supplemental and concentration grant carryover requirement **[SEEK AMENDMENT]**

<u>TBL Section</u>	<u>Amending</u>	<u>Pages</u>
SEC. 14	§ 42238.07	pp. 35-36
SEC. 28	§ 52064	pp. 57-62
SEC. 29	§ 52070	pp. 62-64
SEC. 30	§ 52070.5	pp. 64-65

4. Charter school age cap

- i. Adult students in charter schools program, Sec. 26, p. 54-55 **[OPPOSE]**

5. Student wellness

- i. LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program: professional learning networks (\$5 Million), Sec. 42, p. 73-74 **[SUPPORT]**
- ii. LEA guidance on Medi-Cal billing option programs (\$250,000 ongoing), Sec. 43, p. 74-75 **[SUPPORT]**
- iii. Community Schools (\$100 million), Sec. 44, p. 75-77 **[SUPPORT]**
- iv. School/county mental health partnerships: Proposition 98 Matching Funds for Children's Mental Health Services (\$25 Million), Sec. 45, p. 77-78 **[SUPPORT]**