



Division of Governmental Relations

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Riverside County K-12 School Districts

Alvord USD
Banning USD
Beaumont USD
Coachella Valley USD
Corona-Norco USD
Desert Center USD
Desert Sands USD
Hemet USD
Jurupa USD
Lake Elsinore USD
Menifee Union SD
Moreno Valley USD
Murrieta Valley USD
Nuview Union SD
Palm Springs USD
Palo Verde USD
Perris Elem. SD
Perris Union High SD
Riverside USD
Romoland SD
San Jacinto USD
Temecula Valley USD
Val Verde USD

March 17, 2021

The Honorable Jose Medina
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2141
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 388 (Medina) Certificated school employees: probationary employees (*As Amended March 16, 2021*)
Assembly Education Committee Hearing, March 24
Position: OPPOSE

Dear Assembly Member Medina:

On behalf of the Riverside County Superintendent of Schools, we must regretfully oppose Assembly Bill 388. Among other provisions, your legislation would require a certificated employee of a county office of education (COE) who completes two consecutive years of service to be classified as a permanent employee.

As we discussed during our coalition's meeting with you on March 16, our opposition to AB 388 is based primarily on the impact the bill would have on certificated staff at COEs who are employed to provide instruction in Career Technical Education (CTE) courses. RCOE's CTE Unit, in coordination with the 23 Riverside County school districts, provides CTE classes in 15 industry sectors and 58 career pathways. The Unit also partners with local businesses to offer work-based learning to students in more than 1,200 places of employment. All of our CTE programs integrate core academic instruction with technical and occupational instruction in order to increase student achievement, graduation rates and readiness to postsecondary education and employment.

Currently, RCOE employs 115 instructors who are teaching CTE courses at Riverside County high schools. Because of the fee-for-service model that has been in effect since the enactment of the Local Control Funding Formula, the scope and magnitude of the CTE programs we offer in the above-referenced sectors and pathways – and the certificated staff we employ as a result – depend almost entirely on the demand generated by the students who are attending our school

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districts. For that reason, the enrollment in these courses is very fluid and there are times that we are unable to continue courses during the year. AB 388 would essentially expand permanent status to certificated COE staff that are employed to meet the fluctuating needs and demands of their constituent school districts.

We are grateful for the support you have shown to RCOE and the school districts of Riverside County during your time in the State Assembly. However, for the reasons outlined above, we must oppose AB 388. We remain committed to working with you and your staff on strategies to increase funding for CTE programs and potential means to provide additional stability to staffing structures for those programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey A. Vaca". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeffrey" being more prominent.

Jeffrey A. Vaca
Chief Governmental Relations Officer
Office of the Riverside County Superintendent of Schools

JAV:cl

cc: Robert Boykin, Office of Assembly Member Jose Medina