



CCSESA Special Education Advisory Group

Presenters: Derick Lennox, Mary Ann Dewan, Stacey Adler

Item Type: Discussion

Recommendation: Staff will update the Board on the CCSESA Special Education Advisory Group.

Background: The CCSESA Special Education Advisory Group, chaired by Dr. Mary Ann Dewan and Stacey Adler, has met five times since December of 2021. In addition to our regular meetings, CCSESA staff, including consultant Kristin Wright (Sacramento COE), have been meeting with members to develop additional knowledge relating to state budget proposals, the Supporting Inclusive Practices program, Differentiated Assistance, and the inclusion of students with disabilities within the LCAP.

The Advisory Group also informed CCSESA's response to the Governor's 2022-22 Budget proposal. An excerpt of CCSESA's letter follows:

We commend the Governor's commitment to students with disabilities and recommend additional actions to improve access, inclusion, and outcomes.

We support the following proposals:

- \$500 million (ongoing) Proposition 98 general fund to special education.
- 5.33 percent COLA to AB 602 funding formula.
- Calculating base funding amounts at the LEA level to heighten transparency and funding stability.
- Including county offices as resource leads.
- Requiring the membership of Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) District Parent Advisory Committees to include parents or legal guardians of currently enrolled pupils with disabilities.
- Alternative pathways to a high school diploma.
- Significant investment in early learning and care to ensure our youngest learners and their families are provided nurturing and inclusive opportunities beginning in preschool.

We recommend including students with disabilities directly in the LCAP. The LCAP is a critical strategic planning process for LEAs, their communities, and the students they serve. LEAs should develop their LCAP in a single process that gives life to the state's "one system" approach to supporting students with disabilities, as opposed to the otherization of an addendum.

We urge the state to support inclusion within California's System of Support. Consistent with Issue (1) (above), we recommend building capacity through the DA base grant to improve outcomes for students with disabilities. County offices would apply the best evidence-based research and create partnership consortia with institutions of higher education in areas such as IEP best practices, transition, and others.



We urge a more robust and streamlined extraordinary cost pool. Students with a low-incidence disability who attend smaller LEAs face disadvantages to accessing services due to both geography and the costs relative to LEA size. CCSESA believes students should have access to high-quality educational services and accommodations, in the most inclusive setting possible, no matter where in California they call home. One way to level the playing field for these students is to increase funding for and streamline the state's extraordinary cost pools.

The co-chairs have agreed to continue the momentum of this Advisory Group by scheduling additional meetings in 2022.