

**March 17, 2022**

Governor Gavin Newsom  
Governor's Office  
State Capitol, First Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Toni Atkins  
President pro Tempore  
California State Senate  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assembly Member Anthony Rendon  
Speaker of the Assembly  
California State Assembly  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: COVID Attendance Relief for 2021-22**

Due to the ongoing and evolving impacts of the pandemic, local educational agencies (LEA) are experiencing significantly lower attendance rates in the current year. In the fall the Delta variant hit California schools resulting in a statewide average daily attendance (ADA) decline of approximately 9 percent according to the California Department of Education (CDE). As we await final data from January, we have every reason to expect even more severe declines in ADA due to the Omicron variant.

Last summer when independent study was established as the default program for short-term instruction due to COVID quarantines and absences, the public outlook was hopeful, and it appeared the availability of vaccines would allow us to return to normal. No one anticipated the sheer volume of students, teachers, and staff that would be quarantined or sick with more infectious variants of COVID over the last year. Families have struggled to juggle work and childcare while sick with COVID or during quarantines and have often not been able to ensure their children participate in independent study.

In recognition that the 2021-2022 school year has been extraordinary, we respectfully request one-time COVID attendance relief to mitigate the fiscal instability that has been created by the highly infectious variants. Specifically, we request the greater of the attendance percentage a district generated in the 2019-2020 school year, or current year be used in calculating apportionment. Unlike the previous hold harmless policy, we suggest using current enrollment numbers to reflect declines or increases LEAs have experienced.

This proposal is administratively streamlined for both LEAs and the state by using known audited data from 2019-20 to ensure accuracy. Further, we believe it is imperative to the success of the Governor's three-year rolling average proposal to mitigate declining enrollment. One bad year of COVID variant induced ADA



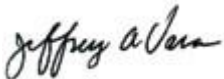
declines will skew the entire three-year average producing unintended consequences.

Combined the two proposals will ensure schools have the fiscal stability they need to focus on student needs.

Sincerely,



**Megan Baier**  
Legislative Advocate  
Association of California School  
Administrators



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



**Amanda Dickey**  
Director of Government Relations  
Santa Clara County Office of  
Education



**Enrique Ruacho, Ed.D.**  
Director of Government Relations  
San Diego Unified School District



**Derick Lennox**  
Senior Director, Governmental  
Relations and Legal Affairs



**Bob Blattner**  
Legislative Advocate  
Elk Grove USD



**Cheryl Ide**  
Legislative Advocate  
California School Boards Association



**Patti Herrera**  
Legislative Advocate  
Corona Norco Unified School District



**Sara Bachez**  
Chief Governmental Relations Officer  
California Association of School  
Business Officials



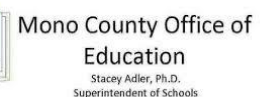
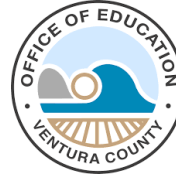
**Carlos Rojas**  
Assistant Superintendent, State &  
Local Initiatives  
Kern County Superintendent of  
schools



**Kyla Johnson Trammell**  
Superintendent  
Oakland Unified School District



**Chris Evans**  
Superintendent  
Natomas Unified School District

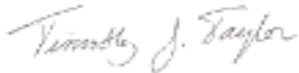




**Martha Alvarez**  
Director, Legislative Affairs &  
Government Relations  
Los Angeles Unified School District



**Jorge Aguilar**  
Superintendent  
Sacramento Unified School District



**Tim Taylor**  
Executive Director  
Small School Districts' Association



**Dr. Dan Stepenosky**  
Superintendent  
Las Virgenes Unified School District



**Abe Hajela**  
Legislative Adocate  
San Francisco USD,  
San Bernardino City Unified,  
Palmdale Elementary School  
District, Antelope Valley Union HSD  
San Ysidro SD, Simi Valley Unified  
Klamath-Trinity Joint USD,  
Paramount USD, Baldwin Park USD,  
William S. Hart HSD, Pasadena  
USD, Twin Rivers USD, Pajaro Valley  
USD, Atascadero USD, Palos  
Verdes USD, Visalia USD, Fullerton  
Joint Union HSD, Whittier Union  
HSD, Newhall School District, Mt.  
Diablo USD, Palo Alto USD, Poway  
USD, Redondo Beach USD,  
Fremont USD, San Ramon Valley  
USD, Napa Valley USD, Temecula  
Valley USD, Montebello USD,  
Sebastopol Union School District,  
Lake Elementary School District,  
Pierce Joint USD, Riverside USD



**Pamela Gibbs**  
Executive Director of Governmental  
Relations  
Los Angeles County Office of  
Education



**Santino Danisi**  
Chief Financial Officer  
Fresno Unified School District



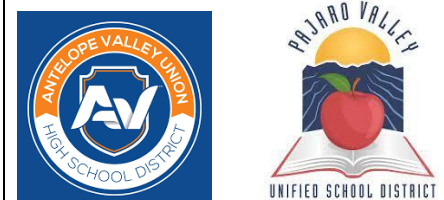
**Andrea Ball**  
Legislative Advocate  
California Association of Suburban  
School Districts



**Caitlin Jung**  
Legislative Advocate  
School Employers Association of  
California



**Barret Snider**  
Legislative Advocate  
San Diego COE, Ventura COE  
Stanislaus COE, Santa Cruz COE  
Santa Barbara COE, San Luis Obispo  
COE, Placer COE, Fresno COE,  
Monterey COE, Sonoma COE,  
Napa COE, Tehama CDE,  
Madera COE, Inyo COE,  
Mono COE, El Dorado COE,  
Tuolumne COE, Humboldt COE,  
San Bernardino COE





cc: Sen. Nancy Skinner, Chair, Senate Budget Committee  
Sen. Jim Nielsen, Vice Chair, Senate Budget Committee  
Sen. John Laird, Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee 1,  
Education Members, Senate Budget Subcommittee 1,  
Education  
Sen. Connie Leyva, Chair, Senate Education Committee  
Sen. Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh, Vice Chair, Senate Education  
Committee  
Asm. Philip Y. Ting, Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
Asm. Vince Fong, Vice Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
Asm. Kevin McCarty, Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee 2,  
Education Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee 2,  
Education  
Asm. Patrick O'Donnell, Chair, Assembly Education Committee  
Asm. Megan Dahle, Vice Chair, Assembly Education  
Committee  
Andrew Medina, Policy Consultant, Office of the Senate pro  
Tempore  
Yong Salas, Consultant, Senate Budget Subcommittee 1,  
Education  
Misty Feusahrens, Policy Consultant, Office of the Speaker of  
the Assembly  
Erin Gabel, Consultant, Assembly Budget Subcommittee 2,  
Education  
Chris Ferguson, Education Program Budget Manager,  
Department of Finance

