



April 29th, 2022

Keely Martin Bosler  
Director, California Department of Finance  
1021 O Street, Suite 3110  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Budget Act of 2022 – Supporting Educational Equity Through Proactive Interventions and Whole Child Student Supports**

Dear Director Bosler,

We the undersigned members of California State Assembly and California State Senate strongly support new investments into California's Statewide System of Support, being sought by local educational agencies (LEAs) to close gaps in student achievement and opportunities. The COVID-19 pandemic has created significant academic and social-emotional challenges for California's students, especially those who struggled prior to the pandemic. The Budget Act of 2022 offers an urgent opportunity to help our educators meet these students' needs in two important ways.

**1. Proactively addressing achievement and opportunity gaps through Differentiated Assistance.**

The Statewide System of Support was designed by the Legislature and Governor to help LEAs reduce achievement gaps and improve outcomes for all students attending public schools. "Differentiated Assistance" is part of the statewide system of support and is targeted towards LEAs that have significant disparities in performance outcomes among student groups. Differentiated Assistance is an intensive and collaborative process, typically conducted by county offices of education, to study the root causes of leading to disparities and implement changes that lead to lasting improvements. Currently, the funding for Differentiated Assistance is allocated based whether a school district is already experiencing prolonged disparities. But true progress in closing the achievement gap requires early intervention and prevention – not just a reaction. ***We support new investments to help LEAs proactively use the Differentiated Assistance process to preemptively reduce disparities in student achievement.***

**2. Serving the whole child by supporting the successful implementation of transformative state programs.**

The Legislature and Governor have recently made significant investments in transformative programs that will help to ensure that schools better serve the needs of the whole child and the whole family. For school districts with limited capacity and staffing shortages, however, successfully implementing these

programs will require additional support. The Statewide System of Support is built to leverage the 58 county offices of education and other agencies to help LEAs bring programs like these to scale.

- Universal access to Transitional Kindergarten so all children are prepared to succeed in school and families have free and safe options for early learning
- Community schools, which partner with families and communities to meet students' health, academic, and social-emotional needs.
- Year-round access to enrichment activities and before/after-school supplemental education programs for children from low-income families.
- Universal access to two free high-quality school meals.
- Well-prepared and well-supported teachers to address persistent shortages and accelerate learning for students.

We want to see these programs succeed. We need to ensure California's 1,000 school districts and 1,200 charter schools have the support they need to implement critical new whole child and family services. ***We support investments into county offices of education to help ensure LEAs will successfully implement transformative educational programs.***

For the reasons stated above, we respectfully urge the Administration to support this request by LEA's and include investments in California's Statewide System of Support in the Governor's May Revision to (1) support proactive steps to reduce barriers to student achievement and opportunities and (2) help LEAs successfully implement new student services strategically and with a holistic and transformative approach.

Sincerely,



CECILIA AGUIAR-CURRY  
Assemblymember, 4<sup>th</sup> District



ELOISE GÓMEZ REYES  
Assembly Majority Leader, 47<sup>th</sup> District



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Assemblymember, 30<sup>th</sup> District



FREDDIE RODRIGUEZ  
Assemblymember, 52<sup>nd</sup> District



DEVON MATHIS  
Assemblymember, 26<sup>th</sup> District



EDUARDO GARCIA  
Assemblymember, 56<sup>th</sup> District



JIM WOOD  
Assemblymember, 2<sup>nd</sup> District



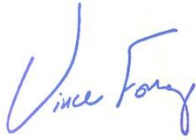
MARK STONE  
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MEGAN DAHLE  
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KEVIN MULLIN  
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Senator, 14<sup>th</sup> District



CONNIE LEYVA  
Senator, 20<sup>th</sup> District



ANNA CABALLERO  
Senator, 12<sup>th</sup> District

cc: Dr. Linda Darling-Hammond, President, California State Board of Education  
Brooks Allen, Executive Director, California State Board of Education  
Hon. Anthony Rendon, Assembly Speaker  
Hon. Toni G. Atkins, Senate President pro Tempore  
Hon. Phil Ting, Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
Hon. Kevin McCarty, Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2  
Hon. Nancy Skinner, Chair, Senate Budget Committee  
Hon. John Laird, Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 1