



California County Superintendents Educational Services Association

Promoting, influencing, and advocating for high-quality education.

May 18, 2022

Honorable Phil Ting
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
1021 O Street, suite 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Nancy Skinner
Chair, Senate Budget Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8630
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: May Revision 2022 – Budget Priority for 58 County Superintendents of Schools

Dear Assembly Member Phil Ting and Senator Nancy Skinner,

As President of the California County Superintendents Education Services Association (CCSESA), I write on behalf of the 58 county superintendents of schools to request including two important investments within your proposed legislative budget. With [32 legislators supporting our requests](#) below, we hope you will include the requests within the legislative version of the budget and in the final budget.

1. PRIORITY REQUEST: Augment Differentiated Assistance to help close achievement and opportunity gaps.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated long-standing achievement and opportunity gaps for California's students. To eliminate these disparities, we recommend making new investments to Differentiated Assistance, offered since 2017 through the Statewide System of Support, to leverage the regional expertise of the 58 county offices of education to aid school districts and the students they serve. Differentiated Assistance is a process where county offices of education provide individually designed assistance to districts and charter schools to address identified performance issues, with an emphasis on significant disparities in performance among student groups. The need for Differentiated Assistance has grown dramatically during the pandemic. Our request would address achievement gaps through greater early intervention and prevention. We continue to request new investments to help local educational agencies utilize the Differentiated Assistance process to proactively address student achievement disparities.

2. SUPPORT MAY REVISION PROPOSAL: Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) investment for county offices of education.

The May Revision proposes a substantial increase to the LCFF for all school districts, charter schools, and county offices of education. On behalf of all 58 county offices, which offer alternative education programs and other specialized services, we strongly support the proposed LCFF funding for county offices of education. Like all local educational agencies, county offices of education are relying on this investment to address the impacts of rising pension obligations, increased costs for goods and services, staffing shortages, and other operational needs. We urge your support for additional county office LCFF.

3. SUPPORT MAY REVISION PROPOSAL: Differentiated Assistance funding to support charter schools and single-district counties.



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The May Revision proposes Differentiated Assistance funding to address ongoing disparities in student outcomes at charter schools, which is a requirement for county offices under the Legislature's landmark charter school reform bill, AB 1505 (2019). We support this proposal. The May Revision also proposes to provide baseline Differentiated Assistance funding to the seven single-district counties (they are currently omitted from the formula) so they may fully engage in improvement planning and implementation for their students. We support this proposal.

Thank you for considering our request to include these proposals in the legislature's budget proposal and final budget. For any questions, please feel free to contact Derick Lennox, CCSESA Senior Director of Governmental Relations and Legal Affairs, at dlennox@ccsesa.org.

Sincerely,

Debra Duardo, MSW, Ed.D.
Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools
President, California County Superintendents Educational Services Association

Attachments:

[Letter from 32 Legislators Supporting CCSESA Budget Request](#)
[CCSESA Budget Request - Fact Sheet and Attachments \(May Revision Version\)](#)

CC: Hon. Anthony Rendon, Assembly Speaker
Hon. Toni Atkins, Senate President pro Tempore
Hon. John Laird, State Senator, Chair of Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 1
Hon. Kevin McCarty, Assembly Member, Chair of Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2
Christopher Ferguson, Program Budget Manager, California Department of Finance
Brooks Allen, Executive Director, State Board of Education