



association of california
school administrators



May 20, 2022

The Honorable John Laird, Chair
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 1 on Education
1020 N Street, Room 502
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Kevin McCarty, Chair
Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2 on Education Finance
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Special Education Funding

Dear Subcommittee Chairs Laird and McCarty:

On behalf of the local educational agencies (LEAs) and statewide education associations represented in this letter, we are writing to request that additional funding for students with disabilities be allocated in the 2022-23 State Budget.

Apply 6.56% COLA to Increase Base Funding to \$850 per ADA

Unfortunately, the May Revision provides no additional resources for students with disabilities above the January State Budget proposal, even though the statutory cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) has increased from 5.33% to 6.56%. The Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) is proposed to receive both that increased COLA *and* an additional \$2.1 billion to acknowledge increasing cost pressures. Those same pressures apply to the supplemental services in a student's individualized educational program. So, while a student with disabilities' general education funding is being increased, their special education resources are not, meaning a LEA's General Fund contribution will continue to grow.

Furthermore, the percentage of students with disabilities is rising, both in the short and long term. This is due not to an over-identification of students, but rather to the fact that students *without* disabilities are leaving California schools at a faster rate than those *with* disabilities, who are staying in California for the robust programs we offer.

We continue to be concerned that some LEAs will receive net fewer dollars in 2022-23 compared to 2021-22 due to the removal of the one-time, COVID-related funds, which could lead to maintenance of effort (MOE) problems for more than 250 LEAs. Therefore, we respectfully request that the per average daily attendance (ADA) amount in 2022-23 be increased from the proposed \$820 to \$850 through the application of the 6.56% COLA. We estimate this will cost an additional \$180 million to ensure districts like Sacramento City, Oakland, and San Diego Unified School Districts do not fall out of MOE compliance.

Support Early Learners with Disabilities' Funds

We know it is a wise investment to support our youngest learners with disabilities, which is why we support the Governor's January Budget proposal to increase the inclusivity of preschool programs through a \$500 million one-time investment in the Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program and his proposal to set aside and fully fund 10% of the California State Preschool Program slots for preschoolers with disabilities and to increase their funding rate.

Please continue to support California's students with disabilities!

Sincerely,



Megan Baier,
Legislative Advocate
Association of California School Administrators



Elizabeth Esquivel, Senior Director of
Policy and Governance
California Association of School Business Officials



Laura Wasco,
Legislative Advocate
California Associations of School Psychologists



Derick Lennox, Senior Director, Governmental
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Michelle McKay Underwood,
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California School Funding Coalition



Steve Ward, Legislative Analyst &
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Clovis Unified School District



Anthony Rebelo, Chair
Coalition for Adequate Funding for
Special Education



Santino Danisi,
Chief Financial Officer
Fresno Unified School District



Carlos Rojas, Assistant Superintendent,
State and Local Initiatives
Kern County Superintendent of Schools



Curtiss Sarikey,
Chief of Staff
Oakland Unified School District



Jorge Aguilar,
Superintendent
Sacramento City Unified School District



Benay Loftus,
Chair
SELPA Administrators of California



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



Enrique Ruacho, EdD,
Chief of Staff
San Diego Unified School District



Michelle Underwood,
Legislative Advocate
Torrance Unified School District

cc: Members, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 1
Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2 on Education Finance
Erin Gabel, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2 on Education Finance
Yong Salas, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 1 on Education
The Honorable Toni Atkins, Senate President pro Tempore
The Honorable Nancy Skinner, Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
The Honorable Anthony Rendon, Speaker of the Assembly
The Honorable Philip Ting, Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
Michelle McKay Underwood, Legislative Advocate