



California County Superintendents Educational Services Association

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

May 25, 2022

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

Dear Director Bosler,

I am writing on behalf of the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA) to support the May Revision proposal for Math and Science Professional Development Funding. CCSESA is thrilled to see proposed investments to build on the existing infrastructure and capacity for professional learning of state-sponsored and nonprofit educator training initiatives in math and science. In particular, we are supportive of the investment to scale up and spread the innovative and effective work of the Early Math Initiative led by the Fresno County Office of Education.

Even prior to the pandemic, the need to support the implementation of state adopted standards in science and math was long overdue. In 2016, California adopted a new science framework but did not invest in its implementation. There are no planned investments to support the upcoming adoption of the 2022 Mathematics Framework. As a result of a lack of funding, educators report the implementation of math and science standards are and will remain uneven and inadequate across the state.

An example of this inequitable distribution of instruction and student achievement was highlighted in a recent [article](#) published by *EdSource*. The report revealed that in math, California's eighth grade students, on average, are performing with fifth grade proficiency and Black, Latino, and low-income eighth graders are performing with fourth grade math proficiency. As we emerge from the pandemic we must support our educators who are supporting their students, in particular those who were performing below standard pre-pandemic and for whom the pandemic has widened the academic and opportunity gaps.

For these reasons, CCSESA supports the proposal for Math and Science Professional Development funding. If we can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me at dlennox@ccsesa.org.

Sincerely,

Derick Lennox, Senior Director, Governmental Relations & Legal Affairs

CC: Christopher Ferguson, Program Budget Manager, California Department of Finance
Brooks Allen, Executive Director, State Board of Education
Hon. Kevin McCarty, Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2
Hon. John Laird, Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 1
Nichole Munoz-Murillo, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom