

June 6, 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: Support for Governor's COVID Attendance Relief Proposal

We strongly support the Governor's May Revision proposal to provide local educational agencies (LEA) COVID Attendance Relief and urge the Legislature to adopt the proposal.

Due to the ongoing and evolving impacts of the pandemic, LEAs are experiencing significantly lower attendance rates in the current year. LEAs serving low income communities and students of color, have been even more severely impacted, as they have experienced higher rates of COVID infections as compared to the state as a whole.

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. All families have struggled to manage the strain, but particularly working families have been impacted while trying 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 support the Governor's proposal to provide one-time COVID attendance relief to mitigate the fiscal instability that has been created by the highly infectious variants. The proposal uses the greater of the attendance percentage a district generated in



association of california
school administrators



A Union of Educators &
Classified Professionals



CCSESA

California County Superintendents
Educational Services Association



Los Angeles County
Office of Education
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RIVERSIDE COUNTY
OFFICE OF EDUCATION
EDWIN GOMEZ, Ed.D.
County Superintendent of Schools



Santa Clara County
Office of Education



Sonoma County
Office of Education



the 2019-2020 school year or current year to calculate apportionment. Unlike the previous hold harmless policy, the proposal uses 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, 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.

This proposal will ensure schools have the fiscal stability they need to focus on student needs. We respectfully request the Legislature adopt the COVID Attendance Relief proposal.

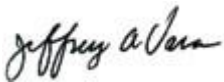
Sincerely,



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Association of California School
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Katie Hardeman
Legislative Advocate
California Teachers Association



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Office of the Riverside County
Superintendent of Schools



Amanda Dickey
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Santa Clara County Office of
Education



Cheryl Ide
Legislative Advocate
California School Boards Association



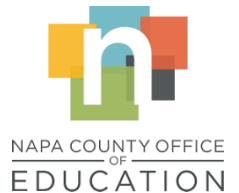
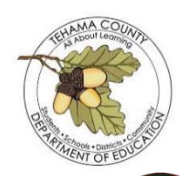
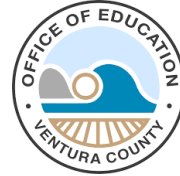
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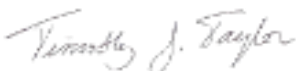
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Paramount USD, Baldwin Park USD,
William S. Hart HSD, Pasadena
USD, Twin Rivers USD, Pajaro Valley
USD, Atascadero USD, Palos
Verdes USD, Visalia USD, Fullerton
Joint Union HSD, Whittier Union
HSD, Newhall School District, Mt.
Diablo USD, Palo Alto USD, Poway
USD, Redondo Beach USD,
Fremont USD, San Ramon Valley
USD, Napa Valley USD, Temecula
Valley USD, Montebello USD,
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Vice President
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Barret Snider

Legislative Advocate
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Monterey COE, Sonoma COE,
Napa COE, Tehama CDE,
Madera COE, Inyo COE,
Mono COE, El Dorado COE,
Tuolumne COE, Humboldt COE,
San Bernardino COE



Audra Pittman, Ph.D.

Superintendent
Bayshore Elementary School District



Parvin Ahmadi

Superintendent
Castro Valley Unified School District

cc: Sen. Nancy Skinner, Chair, Senate Budget Committee
Sen. Jim Nielsen, Vice Chair, Senate Budget Committee
Senators, Senate Budget Committee
Sen. John Laird, Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee 1
Senators, Senate Budget Subcommittee 1
Asm. Philip Y. Ting, Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
Asm. Vince Fong, Vice Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
Assemblymembers, Assembly Budget Committee
Asm. Kevin McCarty, Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee 2
Assemblymembers, Assembly Budget Subcommittee 2
Andrew Medina, Office of the Senate pro Tempore
Yong Salas, Senate Budget Subcommittee 1
Misty Feusahrens, Office of the Speaker of the Assembly
Erin Gabel, Assembly Budget Subcommittee 2
Chris Ferguson, Department of Finance



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Unified School District



PALO ALTO
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



Sebastopol Union
SCHOOL DISTRICT



Palos Verdes Peninsula
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Union High School District



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