



Whole Child & Equity

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Item Type: Informational

Recommendation: That the General Membership receive information on the Whole Child programs, and the roles and responsibilities of County Offices of Education (COEs) to support these programs.

Background: The “Whole Child, Whole Family” approach advances academic, socio-economic, and racial equity by supporting schools to be hubs of the community, and connectors to social, health, and supportive services.

Decades of research demonstrate the relationship between academic success and social, behavioral, economic, and health factors, encouraged policy makers to invest in new school-based initiatives that support the “whole child/whole family.” The [Learning Policy Institute](#) has been a leader in this policy area, providing both research and resources for policy makers and educators.

The 2021 and 2022 Budget Acts established multiple programs aimed at transforming the state’s Pk-12 education system. Recent California state investments in Whole Child policies include Universal PreKindergarten, Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELO-P), Universal Meals, California Community Schools Partnership Program (CCSPP), and the Children & Youth Behavioral Health Initiative.

These programs are designed to work together to support students through a community schools framework. The four pillars of this framework are:

- (1) Integrated student supports
- (2) Collaborative leadership & practices
- (3) Family & community engagement
- (4) Expanded learning time & opportunities

County Offices of Education (COEs) have statutory responsibilities to support the successful implementation of these programs. Each county focuses on the local needs of their unique communities and helps build local capacity designed to sustain the programs beyond the life of the immediate grant funding.