



**CALIFORNIA COUNTY
SUPERINTENDENTS**
PROMOTE | INFLUENCE | ADVOCATE

December 16, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of the more than 17,000 California education leaders and 58 county superintendents of schools, serving six million California students, we respectfully request Congress appropriate \$1 billion into the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) for the 2023 Fiscal Year.

The ECF, established under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, has allowed the Federal Communications Commission to support schools and libraries in their efforts to close the digital divide. To date, nearly 15 million children have benefited from the program with millions of devices and high-speed internet connections provided.

The demand for the program, however, has far exceeded the \$7.17 billion fund with nearly \$9.25 billion in requests. In the final application window alone, over \$2.8 billion was requested — more than double what remained in the program. Additional funding is critical as we work daily to support students and contend with ongoing teacher shortages in our school buildings. Broadband connectivity is an essential component of 21st-century learning; our students will not be able to thrive without it.

Your ongoing leadership will help our nation's children recover academically as we emerge from the pandemic. Our charge is to educate our future leaders, thinkers, and innovators and we need your continued support through the Emergency Connectivity Fund to do this work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Edgar Zazueta'.

Edgar Zazueta, Ed.D.
Executive Director
Association of California School Administrators

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Karen Stapf Walters'.

Karen Stapf Walters
Executive Director
California County Superintendents