



# CCSESA *Leadership Link*

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## Executive Director's Corner

The state made great progress on K-12 education policy this year, and I am proud that CCSESA and county superintendents were important participants in the debate. The upcoming 2013-14 school year will be a "transition" year.

CCSESA is actively involved in various Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) implementation groups. We are also important participants in activities to implement the common core standards and the Smarter Balanced assessments. And by spring of 2014, California school districts and county offices will be developing their first ever "Local Control and Accountability Plans."

Early this fall the Legislature will deal with any clean-up issues to the LCFF, the state's plans for pupil assessment, and the details of the new California Collaborative for Educational Excellence. This year's legislative session is scheduled to finish by September 13, so all those decisions are coming soon.

Never is the need for good communication more important than during a period of transition. We will do our best to stay on the front edge of communications about all these issues through the CCSESA Focus, the work of the Steering Committees, the Legislative Committee and the Board of Directors. Particularly this year, however, we want to urge you to invite Gaye, Sandra or me to participate in regional meetings as you think useful. Please contact me directly with any questions or recommendations at 916-719-1315.

Peter Birdsall  
Executive Director

## Leadership Spotlight: **Mr. Jeremy Meyers, El Dorado County Superintendent of Schools**



### What led you to become County Superintendent?

I became County Superintendent through the gracious time, encouragement, and mentoring efforts of my predecessor, Dr. Vicki Barber, and the entire ED-COE team. This wasn't always my goal; however, I believe county offices are uniquely positioned to provide leadership at a myriad of levels and specialized services to children and families.

### What inspired you to enter the field of education?

I have more family working in, or retired from public education, than not. I grew up with public education

around the dinner table and at all family gatherings: my mother was my high school art teacher, my aunt was my math teacher – her husband was the district superintendent, my father was one of the first directors of California Virtual Campus, in addition to many others. The legacy lives on – my brother-in-law is principal of my alma mater, where my first cousin is assistant principal, and my sister is vice-president of the community college where my father taught for 30 years. We all have a passion for public education and know the difference we can make in the lives of youth.

### Do you have a particular goal that drives you?

My goal is to be the best steward of the faith that the Board, community, and our employees have placed in me.

### What objectives do you hope to achieve?

I hope to continue Vicki's legacy of the El Dorado County Office of Education being a service organization to our community, our children and families, to our districts, and to our own employees. Instructional technology is among my primary passions, and is an area that continues to require work. I would like to be at the forefront of defining best practices.

### Who are the special people in your life?

My wife Mary Ann and our 4 amazing kids: Christopher, 18, who is a student at University of Nevada, Reno, Carter, 15, who is a sophomore at El Dorado High School, Nolan, 10, and our daughter, Parker, 5. They are also my special interest, as we spend most of our time trying to keep up with them!

## Hewlett Provides Additional Funding to CCSESA Arts Initiative

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation notified CCSESA that it will provide an additional supplemental grant of \$24,000 to support strategic planning and module development for professional development aligned to Common Core State Standards. This is in response to the high demand for professional development and support services provided by regional arts leads in county offices of education. Also, in 2013-14, the Hewlett Foundation will provide \$100,000 to support strategic planning for the CREATE CA coalition effort led by the De-

partment of Education, California Arts Council, California Alliance for Arts Education and CCSESA through its Outcomes Fund Grant program. Leaders will be developing a scope of work that will include an evaluation component. The funding will be used for consultants to work with representatives from the four organizations to strategically plan for moving forward on the recommendations of the soon to be released *Blueprint for Creative Schools*. The Outcomes Fund Grant program has never funded a collaborative grant in this way before.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Board of Directors Meeting:**

The CCSESA Board of Directors is scheduled to meet on Monday, August 5. The Board will welcome Dr. Julian Crocker, San Luis Obispo County Superintendent, as the new Service Region 8 Chair. The meeting will feature discussions about the implementation of Common Core Standards, Smarter Balanced Assessments, and the Local Control Funding Formula, as well as a CDE update by Chief Deputy Superintendent Richard Zeiger.

### **LCFF Regional Input Meetings:**

WestEd, along with the Department of Education and State Board, will be convening a series of three regional meetings in early August to collect input on next steps in LCFF implementation. All input sessions are hosted at county offices of education. Please see the *Hot Topics* on the CCSESA website for meeting dates and locations.

**Core Leadership Summit:** On August 15 in Costa Mesa, the Orange County Department of Education and Computer-Using Educators will be co-producing an event entitled “Core Leadership Summit—Blended and Personalized Learning.” Barbara Nemko will be among the presenters. All superintendents are eligible for free registration; Contact Amy Jenkins at [ajenkins@cue.org](mailto:ajenkins@cue.org) by August 6 for details.

### **CCSESA**

Executive Director  
*Peter Birdsall*

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*Kate Osborn*

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*Sandra Morales*

Director, CCSESA Arts Initiative  
*Sarah Anderberg*

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*Christina Marcellus*

Business Services Coordinator  
*Cindy Ridley*

Member Services Coordinator  
*Grace Vote*

## Local Control Funding Formula Implementation

The State Board and Department of Education are moving quickly to address the many important implementation questions that flow from enactment of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). An LCFF Implementation Working Group has been established and CCSESA is represented on that group by Peter Birdsall and Sandra Morales. Leaders from BASC and CISC have been identified to help with some of the detailed conversations that will result in audit guidelines, regulations and plan templates.

By January 31, 2014, the State Board of Education must adopt regulations concerning the use of supplemental

and concentration grant funding. This is important not only to school districts. A significant portion of the new funding for county court and community schools is generated by those grant calculations.

By March 31, 2014, the State Board must adopt templates for the Local Control and Accountability Plans. These also will not only impact school districts. County offices must develop and adopt LCAPs with regard to their services to students served in court and community schools. The county LCAPs must also address how the county will coordinate services for foster youth.

## Federal Update—ESEA and E-Rate

The House version of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act reauthorization bill cleared its first hurdle on July 19 when it passed the House floor on a virtual party line vote (221-207). H.R. 5, known as the Student Success Act, consolidates several issues from prior reauthorization bills into one piece of legislation. It increases state and LEA control in developing their own assessment and accountability standards, and eliminates the Annual Yearly Progress 100% proficiency requirements. The bill also provides for alternative assessments for students with disabilities. Were H.R. 5 to pass, Title I funding would be capped at sequestration levels through 2019-20, even if demand for services increases or sequestration changes. The Obama Administration has already issued a veto threat for H.R. 5, claiming it lacks sufficient college and career readiness

standards and does not do enough to support underserved populations and low-performing schools. This fall, the Senate is expected to bring their reauthorization bill, the Strengthening America's Schools Act, to the Senate Floor.

In other federal news, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) voted to modernize the E-Rate program, which brings free and reduced price internet connection to public schools and libraries. The modernization, E-Rate's first since its inception in 1997, will aim to increase broadband connectivity, cost-effective purchasing and streamlined program administration. In the coming months, the FCC will be soliciting stakeholder comments and recommendations on how to achieve an increase in high-capacity broadband use, cost minimization and administrative efficiency.

## Andy Vidak Newest California State Senator

CCSESA would like to issue heartfelt congratulations to Andy Vidak, California's newest state Senator. Andy Vidak, son of our very own Jim Vidak, officially won the 16<sup>th</sup> Senate District seat on Wednesday, July 24 after his opponent,

Kern County Supervisor Leticia Perez, conceded the race. The seat was left vacant after former Senator Michael Rubio resigned and took a position with Chevron. Congratulations to the entire Vidak family, and best of luck to the new senator!