



LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT:

Mr. Dave Gordon—Sacramento County Superintendent of Schools



What led you to become County Superintendent?

After working as the Superintendent of a large, urban-suburban school district, I wanted the challenge of helping other districts set outstanding programs in motion. Being a County Superintendent offers that type of rewarding challenge.

What inspired you to enter the field of education?

I come from a family of public servants – judges and teachers – and I found working with young people to be my special calling. I started my career as an elementary school teacher in the South Bronx, New York, and I've never looked back.

Do you have a particular goal that drives you?

What's most gratifying for me is to be able to hire the very best people to serve our districts, students and families, and to support them and to see them grow in their roles and assume higher leadership positions.

What objectives do you hope to achieve?

My primary objectives are to help our districts provide first rate service to students and families and to eliminate the achievement and opportunity gaps.

What are your interests?

I enjoy volunteering, but first and foremost I enjoy spending time with my grandchildren, watching sports and playing what I describe as golf – but others might disagree!

Who are the special people in your life?

The special people in my life are my wife of 47 years, my two children and my six grandchildren.

COUNTY OFFICES RECEIVE SPECIALIZED SECONDARY PROGRAM (SSP) GRANTS

Last month, the California Department of Education (CDE) released the names of 67 local education agencies who are to receive \$50,000 Specialized Secondary Programs grants. The list includes three county offices of education. Congratulations to the Riverside, Ventura and Orange County Offices of Education for their recognition by the CDE, and their receipt of the SSP grant monies.

Grant dollars will be used to support the development of advanced learning opportunities for high school students, with a particular emphasis on the attainment and use of technological skills. These programs may be offered in a wide variety of subjects, ranging from English-language arts to mathematics to foreign language. "This grant has a long history of helping support innovative high school programs that help students develop real-world 21st century skill," said Superintendent Tom Torlakson.

LAO SUPPORTIVE OF GOVERNOR'S EDUCATION BUDGET

In its review of the Governor's Education Budget proposal, the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) calls the Governor's overall forecast for revenues and expenditures reasonable, agrees with the Governor in dedicating school funding increases to the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), and notes that the Governor's wall of debt plan is a "reasonable starting point."

In summary, the LAO:

- Agrees with the Governor's mix of ongoing and one-time Proposition 98 spending.
- Agrees with the Governor's plan to eliminate outstanding one-time Proposition 98 obligations by the end of 2017-18. While the LAO recommends that when paying off existing obligations, the legislature consider the distributional and functional benefits of these payments, it doesn't provide a specific recommendation. Some payments would provide cash flow relief whereas others would allow for one-time general purpose spending.

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FROM THE DESK OF:

Peter Birdsall, CCSESA Executive Director

One of the most impressive aspects of CCSESA's recent work has been the deep collaboration across areas of expertise. The partnership of representatives from all five of CCSESA's steering committees has been demonstrated in the materials brought to the Board and General Membership regarding county office budgets, local control and accountability plans, common core implementation and the Smarter Balanced field test.

County superintendents can feel confident that collaboration is also being actively cultivated at the state level.

CCSESA is working particularly closely with ACSA on a range of issues, including LCAP review, design of the new California Collaborative for Educational Excellence, and responding to the State Controller's request for salary data. As we get more deeply involved in defining the LCAP review process, CCSESA is also actively reaching out to other key education and advocacy groups that have expressed a strong and important interest in being part of the process.

Finally, we continue to participate in regular discussions with State Board of Education, California Department of Education, and Department of Finance staff on the wide range of important initiatives now under way. It is very clear that all the major state agencies and organizations are pulling in the same direction.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

March 10 Board of Directors Meeting:

The March 10 Board of Directors meeting will be held by videoconference. Call the CCSESA office for details.

April Quarterly Meeting:

The April 27-29 CCSESA quarterly meeting will take place in Santa Barbara. Details and event registration will soon be available on www.CCSESA.org.

Federal Advocacy Trip

Dates:

The County Superintendents will make their annual advocacy trip to Washington D.C. from March 31– April 3. You will also have the opportunity to visit Discovery Education on March 31. This visit is optional, and will not conflict with any other meetings. Call the CCSESA office with any questions regarding the trip.

Common Core Leadership Sessions:

CCSESA and the Policy Analysis Center for Education (PACE) are co-sponsoring Common Core Implementation Leadership Sessions across the state throughout February and March. Click [here](#) for further detail and to register.

Arts Education Month Luncheon

On March 19, CCSESA and the California State PTA will host an arts education luncheon at the California Museum in Sacramento. Policymakers, state, regional and local arts and education leaders will discuss advocacy efforts and hot topics in arts education. Click [here](#) for details.

CCSESA STAFF

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LAO SUPPORTIVE OF GOVERNOR'S EDUCATION BUDGET (CONT. FROM PAGE 1)

- Agrees with the Governor's proposal to increase funding for the Local Control Funding Formula. However, the LAO recommends the Legislature reject the Governor's proposal to provide a "continuous" appropriation of LCFF funding, citing that it would

further complicate school funding and remove the Legislature's discretion to determine the appropriate amount of funding to allocate for the LCFF.

The LAO's analysis, may be found at: <http://www.lao.ca.gov/Publications/Detail/2915>

COMMITTEES PARTNER TO SHARE IDEAS AND EXPERTISE

CCSESA's five steering committees are responding to the challenge of the new Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) requirements with a clear sense of partnership, cooperation and collaboration. It is a model for what we hope will happen not only in CCSESA, but in county offices and school districts throughout the state.

In response to the need to help county offices implement the state's dramatically new funding and accountability model, the CCSESA Board established the LCAP Support Task Force, which is comprised of six county superintendents and two representatives from each of the five steering committees. Under the umbrella of this project, the Business and Administration Steering Committee (BASC) and Curriculum and Instruction Steering Committee (CISC) teamed up to create valuable LCAP training resources.

Committee chairs Terena Mares (Marin) and Gary Waddell (San Mateo) introduced this material to our general membership in January. A specific training session on these materials was provided at the last CISC meeting, and the materials have already formed the basis for local trainings around the state on the new LCAP requirements.

On other key priorities:

- BASC and CISC are working together closely to develop training materials for the county review of LCAPs;

- SPSSC is working with the other committees to develop materials to help county offices prepare their own Local Control and Accountability Plans;

- TTSC is taking a leadership role with CISC in responding to the challenges of the upcoming Smarter Balanced field test.

"We must continue to pursue the collaboration and cross-pollination of our steering committees. Within each domain of expertise there exist ideas and best practices that will more completely inform the work of others. It is through this shared commitment that we are leading the change and addressing the challenges of 21st century education," said CCSESA President, Stan Mantooth (Ventura).

In addition to the work that is being done across committees, superintendent liaisons were appointed to each committee at the end of 2013. Superintendents contribute another perspective to committee meetings about work that must cross issue areas in order to be most effective. "Superintendent Jay Speck's (Solano) presence at our 2014 PASSCo meetings provides our Steering Committee members with incredible continuity, insight and focus on relevant and timely issues from a Superintendent's perspective." said PASSCo Chair, Laurie Gabriel (Fresno).

WEBSITE LAUNCHES WITH NEW LOOK AND CAPABILITIES

After several months of surveying, planning, drafting and developing, [CCSESA's new website](#) went live on January 6. Retaining only the best features of the old ccsesa.org, the Association's new website represents a modern, friendly and functional upgrade to its predecessor. The new site includes an improved event registration application, personalized committee and subcommittee pages and a Document Library to house and organize all material uploaded to the website. We would like to send a special thank you to The Honey Agency (www.honeyagency.com) for their great ideas and unrelenting support throughout the redevelopment project.

The new website boasts several features that we

hope will encourage natural traffic to the site, and hold visitor's interest once they arrive. The "Hot Topics" of the old website are still accessible by visiting the CCSESA homepage and clicking through the "Publications and Activities" link. We encourage all visitors to sign up for updates from CCSESA by entering their email addresses in the text box located on the homepage beneath the Regional Map.

We plan to continuously improve the website. If you have any questions or comments about the new website, or if you are a member who is having difficulty logging into the private side, please contact Christina Marcellus, CCSESA Project Coordinator, at cmarcellus@ccsesa.org.

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