

CCSESA FOCUS

A Weekly Update to County Superintendents of Schools

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

CCSESA and the State Budget

As we enter the final weeks of negotiations over the 2014-15 state budget, the conversation becomes more complicated. There are numerous issues that must be resolved in some combination to yield a balanced budget that can win both legislative approval and signature by the Governor. In those discussions, CCSESA is focused on the following issues:

1. Reject proposals to extend the maintenance of effort (MOE) requirement for regional occupational centers and programs in its current form. Legislators want to find an approach to support career technical education programs. CCSESA is engaged in and supportive of those discussions, but a key point is that extension of the current MOE undermines that transition to school district funding that needs to occur under the Local Control Funding Formula and also puts many county offices of education in an untenable financial position.
2. An urgent current need is to successfully implement the common core standards. CCSESA is actively supporting another round of one-time grants to support common core implementation.
3. An important question is how to fund such one-time grants. The answer becomes simpler if the Legislature and Governor agree to use higher revenue estimates, as is projected by the Legislative Analyst's Office. CCSESA has been one of the strongest advocates for eliminating the inter-year deferrals. However, if the option of higher revenue estimates is not adopted, we would support elimination of the inter-year deferrals over two years, rather than one, in order to free up resources for one-time common core implementation grants.
4. The big issue in the budget regarding K-12 education is the Governor's plan to fund the commitments made under CalSTRS. CCSESA supports the need to take action this year to adopt and begin implementing a comprehensive, long-term plan. That plan must balance the commitments made to public employees and the need to provide quality services to students currently in school. For 2014-15, school districts had not been given notice to plan for the financial impact of the STRS funding changes. The requirements for 2014-15 need to be reduced and/or delayed. Overall, the plan needs to be spread over more time. Such an adjustment will still honor the commitment to retirees, but will better allow local educators to also honor the commitment to students and their parents to provide quality educational services.

Contact: Peter Birdsall, Executive Director • P: (916) 446-3095 • C. (916) 719-1315
pbirdsall@ccsesa.org • www.ccsesa.org