



# CCSESA *Leadership Link*

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## Executive Director's Corner

We have received several phone calls and emails about whether CCSESA is involved in the various LCFF implementation discussions. The answer is a resounding "Yes," and it is only possible because of the extraordinary commitment of time and energy by county office staff from across the state.

CCSESA state staff is participating in the LCFF Implementation Working Group. Leaders from BASC and CISC are participating in smaller state-organized working groups on the details of LCFF and LCAP implementation. BASC is working closely with CDE and the Department of Finance to refine and clarify the "BASC Calculator," so that districts can make the best possible estimates of their funding under LCFF.

We are also participating in the "Criteria and Standards Committee" discussions that will apply to review of the annual budget and LCAP.

Ultimately, decisions on most implementation issues will fall to the State Board of Education. Karen Stapf Walters, Executive Director to the State Board, will be providing an update to the CCSESA Board of Directors on September 9.

Peter Birdsall  
Executive Director

## Leadership Spotlight: **Mr. Patrick Traynor, Alpine County Superintendent of Schools**



### What led you to become County Superintendent?

While I was a Director of English Learners in Colton Joint Unified School District, the San Bernardino County Superintendent created a strong, helpful network of my colleagues. As Director of Assessments and then Assistant Superintendent in Hesperia Unified School District, I received the same level of county support. Then, as California's Director of Assessment Development and Administration, I was impressed by the strong commitment of all county offices. Serving as Superintendent was an exciting prospect for me, and Alpine offered a perfect location; I frequently backpacked in the Sierra Nevada, and my family has been vacationing in South Lake Tahoe for over 30 years.

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

I began to understand the value of education in college in UC Davis. I developed a strong passion for science education and became a high school science teacher. Later, I became involved in educational administration. My doctoral education at UC Riverside gave me a new appreciation of statistics and research, which I applied to the data and assessment fields within education.

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

As an instructional leader in California, it has been inspiring to see educators striving to increase student achievement. Navigating the changing environment, working with others to provide clarity and examining our own results to see how we've done and how we can improve all motivate me.

### What objectives do you hope to achieve?

As we transition to CCSS, the objectives for this year include getting all teachers in the county to complete the state's online CCSS Professional Development Modules.

Next year, I'd like to increase the capacity of all teachers in the county to use online formative assessment tools as part of their direct instruction.

### What are your interests?

I am an avid skier, and have been involved in my children's Scout Troop for several years. I enjoy hiking, camping and being outdoors. I also have an interest in music and play trumpet every now and then.

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

Two special people in my life are my sons, Patrick and Christopher. Patrick, a sophomore at UCSD majoring in computer science, wants to apply his skills within the computer gaming industry. Christopher is a senior within Irvine Unified School District. He is the drum major for the Woodbridge High School marching band and wants to pursue a music education after high school. My grandfather, California Chief Justice Roger J. Traynor, was also very special to me. His genuine concern for others influenced my decision to enter public service.

## Kate Osborn Says Farewell to CCSESA After 11 Years

It is a bittersweet announcement that Kate Osborn, CCSESA's Director of Business Services, accepted a position as Director of Finance at the California Association of School Business Officials (CASBO). Her last day with CCSESA was August 23, and after a week of traveling with her family, her first day with CASBO was September 3.

We know you will all join us in sending Kate a fond farewell, and best wishes for the next step in her career.

Since her employment with CCSESA began in 2002, she has been an invaluable member of staff. Kate will be truly missed around the office and at all CCSESA events.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **General Membership Meeting:**

The next CCSESA quarterly meeting will take place at the Hilton Sonoma on October 20-22. The meeting will feature an update by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson, extensive discussion of the Local Control Funding Formula, and a live performance by Dr. Joe Ovick's (Contra Costa) band. Details and registration are available under Events>Meetings on the members' side of the CCSESA website.

**BASC Conference:** BASC will hold its annual conferences "AB 1200 in Today's Changing Climate" on two separate dates: October 21 at the San Bernardino County Office of Education and November 1 at the Yolo County Office of Education. Registration is available under Events>Trainings at [www.CCSESA.org](http://www.CCSESA.org). For more information, please contact Donna Fitting (Nevada) at [dfitting@nevco.k12.ca.us](mailto:dfitting@nevco.k12.ca.us).

**JCCASAC Mini Conference:** JCCASAC will host its annual Mini Conference on October 10-11 at Wine & Roses Hotel in Lodi, California. The deadline to register is October 4. More information is available under Events>Conferences on the members' side of the CCSESA website. Please contact the event coordinator Wendy Frink (San Joaquin) at [wfrink@sjcoe.net](mailto:wfrink@sjcoe.net) with any questions.

### **CCSESA**

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*Christina Marcellus*

Business Services Coordinator  
*Cindy Ridley*

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*Grace Vote*

## State Board Tackles LCFF Implementation

At its meeting on September 4, the State Board of Education discussed important interpretations they are required to make regarding the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). Although final decisions are not expected until January 2014, several Board members commented that school districts, county offices of education and charter schools can start planning now for their Local Control and Accountability Plans, based on the eight state priorities identified in Section 52060 of the Education Code.

In November the Board is expected to discuss specific options concerning the key issue of regulations governing the use of new funding. Mike Kirst, President of the State Board, expressed frustration that the legislation appears to require a sequence of decisions, when a coherent approach is needed. Although it is too early to predict the specific actions of the State Board, the discussion at the September meeting appeared to signal a strong desire to reinforce the principle of LCFF that decisions on the use of state funding are best made at the local level.

## Public Comment Period for E-Rate Reform Now Open

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is soliciting public comment to revitalize E-Rate, the government program that connects the nation's public schools and libraries to broadband. The revitalization is centered around three proposed goals:

- Increasing connectivity to high-capacity broadband;
- Streamlining purchasing through bulk-buying, consortia and competitive bidding improvements; and
- Cutting red tape to quicken, streamline and increase transparency in the review of applications.

Modernizing E-Rate is critical to ensure that schools and libraries have affordable access to the high-speed broadband that will be required to implement digital learning and assessments.

Given the potential impact on both funding and allowable uses, the K-12 High Speed Network is preparing a template letter to maximize school districts' participation. The deadline to submit comments to the FCC is September 16. A copy of CCSESA's comments will be posted on our website by next week.

## Raising the Completion Rate of the Technology Readiness Tool

The California Department of Education (CDE) will be joining Secretary of Education Arne Duncan to highlight and promote technology related efforts during the month of October, designated as Connected Educator Month. One area of promotion will be a push for school districts to complete or update the Technology Readiness Tool (TRT), introduced to gauge districts' readiness to deliver technology-based Smarter Balanced assessments. At the July State Board of Education meeting, CCSESA committed to work with CDE to raise the district completion rate of the tool. CCSESA met with CDE and obtained more detailed county-by-county completion data.

The Technology and Telecommunications Steering Committee will be working with county technology leads to: (1) update district contact lists for CDE; and (2) make direct contact with districts, using the non-completion data, to assist or encourage them in completing or updating the Technology Readiness Tool.

We ask that you support this important endeavor within your county office. AB 484 (Bonilla) proposes Spring 2014 field testing of SBAC, in lieu of CA standards tests, to be taken in a technology format only. More complete readiness data will help inform that effort.