

June 9, 2014

The Honorable Assembly Member Nancy Skinner, Chair  
State Budget Conference Committee  
State Capitol, Room 6026  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Mark Leno, Co-Chair  
State Budget Conference Committee  
State Capitol, Room 5100  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SUPPORT GOVERNOR/ASSEMBLY ACTION  
Department of Education, Issue 128, Page 17**

Dear Assembly Member Skinner and Senator Leno:

The signatories to this letter and the agencies are writing to express SUPPORT for the Assembly Action as it relates to instructional materials for visually-impaired students. This is consistent with the Governor's May Revision proposal to provide \$4.5 million in federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) funding (\$3 million ongoing and \$1.5 million one-time) to support the California Department of Education (CDE) continued provision of accessible instructional materials to local education agencies (LEAs) through a clearinghouse.

The clearinghouse has been invaluable to LEAs, but most importantly to students with special needs and particularly those with visual impairments who need special textbooks in order to access course content and standards necessary to stay on pace with their peers.

The clearinghouse is also beneficial to the state of California in that it provides economies of scale by bundling prices to negotiate lower costs that would not be available to LEAs in the absence of the clearinghouse. It also leverages the shortest turnaround time to get these materials into the hands of the visually-impaired students.

We remain very concerned about the Senate's proposed trailer bill language that would require the CDE to submit a plan to change this successful model to one that adds new costs to schools. Therefore, we respectfully ask the Conference Committee to adopt the Assembly version of Item 6110-128.

Sincerely,



Kimberly Rodriguez, Legislative Advocate  
Association of California School Administrators



Michael Hulsizer, Chief Deputy,  
Governmental Affairs  
Kern County Superintendent of Schools



Jeffrey A. Vaca, Deputy Executive Director  
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California County Superintendents  
Educational Services Association



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Relations Officer  
Office of the Riverside County  
Superintendent of Schools



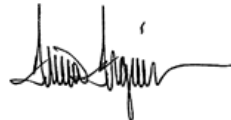
Erika K. Hoffman, Legislative Advocate  
California School Boards Association



Martha Alvarez, Director of  
Government Relations  
San Diego Unified School District



Nancy LaCasse, Legislative Advocate  
California School Finance Reform Coalition



Trina Frazier, Chair  
SELPA Administrators of California



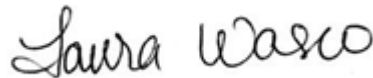
Steve Ward, Legislative Analyst &  
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Debra M. Pearson, Executive Director  
Small School Districts' Association



Theresa W. Hawk, Chair  
Coalition for Adequate Funding  
for Special Education



Laura Wasco, Legislative Advocate  
Special Opportunities for Access &  
Reform Coalition (SOAR)

cc: Cheryl Black, Senate Republican Caucus  
Assembly Member Richard Bloom, Budget Conference Committee  
Governor Jerry Brown  
Erin Gabel, Office of Senate President pro Tem Darrell Steinberg  
Assembly Member Jeff Gorell, Budget Conference Committee  
Senator Loni Hancock, Budget Conference Committee  
Katie Hardeman, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #2  
Senator Ricardo Lara, Budget Conference Committee  
Cathy McBride, Office of Governor Brown  
Senator Jim Nielsen, Budget Conference Committee  
Amy Rutchow, Assembly Republican Caucus  
Nick Schweizer, Department of Finance  
Rick Simpson, Consultant for Speaker of the Assembly  
Karen Stapf-Walters, State Board of Education  
Assembly Member Shirley Weber, Budget Conference Committee