

Dear California State Legislator,

January 2014

As the largest children's advocacy association in the state, with nearly 900,000 members, we'd like to share our advocacy priorities for 2013-2015. These are issues our parents and teachers and students agree we need to address right now. We hope you take a minute to read this one page. And then.... think about how we can work together to improve the lives of children.

Still number one: Adequate funding for every child's education

As elected officials, you know education funding in California continues to lag the nation. Unfortunately, too many California voters think we just solved this problem. We must start now to discuss next steps to make sure we have the resources to provide all our children with the quality education they deserve.

Support the needs of vulnerable children

Let's make sure there are enough resources and programs in our communities to help our most needy children.

Early childhood education: A big deal for little children.

If we get this right, we really can address the opportunity and achievement gap. No discussion of education reform should go forward without helping our youngest children.

Access to a full curriculum

All children must have access to a full curriculum that includes physical education, arts and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). This is what every parent wants. How do we deliver?

Highly effective educators in every classroom

Our teachers need support through quality induction programs, professional development, time for collaboration as well as excellent teacher preparation programs.

Standards, assessments and accountability that best serve every child's needs

Now is the time to move beyond the bubble test and implement Common Core and new assessments that measure the skills our children need for the 21st century.


Safe and positive school climate

Here is the first thing parents want to know when they visit a school: "Is this a safe place for my child?"

Healthy lifestyles and access to support services for physical, emotional, social and mental health

This is a fundamental for all our children.

We would love to discuss any of these issues further—either in terms of helping draft legislation or working with you on a bill that addresses these issues. Please feel free to contact Kathy Moffat, Director of Legislation to discuss how we can work together as one voice for every child!


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