

The Education Coalition

January 27, 2015

Working together to support and
improve California's public schools

Association of California School Administrators (ACSA)

*representing more than 16,000 school
administrators*

California Association Of School Business Officials (CASBO)

*representing more than 4,000 school business
officials*

California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA)

*representing all 58 county superintendents
throughout California*

California Federation of Teachers (CFT-AFL-CIO)

*representing nearly 90,000 education
employees*

California School Boards Association (CSBA)

*representing nearly 1,000 K-12 school districts
and county offices of education throughout
California*

California School Employees Association (CSEA)

*representing more than 230,000 classified
school employees*

California State PTA

*representing more than one million parents,
teachers, and students in California*

California Teachers Association (CTA)

representing over 325,000 educators

Service Employees International Union (SEIU)

*representing more than 50,000 school
employees in California*

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The Education Coalition supports the Governor's budget proposal to provide \$7.8 billion in additional funding as required in the Proposition 98 guarantee. While this funding is greatly appreciated and a step in the right direction, the state still has a constitutional requirement, under Proposition 98, to provide adequate finances that raises California to the average of the top ten states in per pupil funding. While these additional funds were intended to restore enormous cuts that schools have endured, this still does not solve the problem of our state's historically underfunded public education system.

The 2015 Education Week survey showed California ranked 46th in adjusted per pupil expenditures for K-12 education. According to the survey, California's per-student spending of \$8,308 is 29 percent below the national average of \$11,735 per pupil. Our responsibility to California's students requires additional resources to adequately fund our K-12 public education system.

Maintain Integrity of Proposition 98

The Coalition supports maintaining the integrity of Proposition 98, and opposes any encroachment from non-Proposition 98 programs into the Proposition 98 side of the budget.

The Coalition opposes any action which would reduce the guarantee below its authorized constitutional and statutory funding level.

Proposals Supported by the Education Coalition

The Education Coalition fully supports the following Governor's budget proposals:

- \$4.048 billion in on-going funds for the Local Control Funding Formula [LCFF]. This is consistent with the Governor's commitment to fully fund LCFF by the 2020-21 year.
- \$273.4 million in one-time funds for the Emergency Repair Program (ERP).
- \$250.0 million in one-time funds for Career Technical Education grants.
- \$100.0 million in one-time funds for Technology Infrastructure.
- \$20.0 million in one-time funds for County Offices of Education for LCAP implementation and oversight.
- 1.58 percent COLA on remaining K-12 categorical education programs.

Policy Changes Proposed in the Budget

There are a number of proposals in the budget which represent major policy changes to how education programs operate. Within these topics, there are significant issues worthy of further discussion and deliberation. The Education

Coalition urges the Legislature to hold policy committee hearings on these proposals to provide an opportunity for all interested parties to express their views and suggest changes where appropriate.

Mandates and Common Core Implementation

The budget proposal to use \$1.1 billion for common core/discretionary spending essentially uses one allocation of funds to achieve two objectives. First, funds are scored to offset the outstanding mandate reimbursements incurred by K-12 districts. Second, districts are 'encouraged' to use these funds to implement the Common Core State Standards, Next Generation Science Standards and English Language Development Standards. We believe that funding for the further implementation of the Common Core State Standards, Next Generation Science Standards and English Language Development Standards should be a separate appropriation from the reimbursement of state mandated costs, which districts have already provided.

- Mandates. The Constitution requires reimbursement of mandates imposed on local education agencies. The backlog of K-12 mandates is estimated to be \$4-5 billion. Reimbursements should not be combined with other expenditure purposes.
- Common Core/Discretionary Spending. Common Core is a policy priority adopted by the state to improve student achievement. It is not appropriate for local education agencies to absorb these costs within their existing LCFF allocations. If it is a priority it must be adequately funded to ensure its success.

Adult Education

The Education Coalition is supportive of the \$500 million investment in the Adult Education Program. However, recommendation is withheld on the organization and architecture of the new funding system pending the receipt of more detailed information.

School Facilities

The Coalition believes that the primary source of school facilities financing should be from general obligation bonds. Funding must be a state/local partnership. The Coalition opposes using Proposition 98 funds for school facilities.

Teacher Preparation

We recommend policy hearings on changes to the Teacher Preparation Programs proposed in the budget.