



California School Boards Association

2018 Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Information

Candidate Name: _____

Office/District: _____

Campaign Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Campaign Phone: _____

Campaign Email: _____

Candidate Occupation: _____

Employer: _____

Proposed Ballot Designation: _____

Elected offices currently/ previously held:

Other campaigns for elected office:

Appointed offices currently/ previously held:

Organization(s) you belong to:

Experience / Relationships with schools:

On the following pages, CSBA has composed a list of ten (10) questions regarding K-12 public education in California. These questions are arranged based on CSBA's four (4) Policy Pillars. More information about each Policy Pillar and about CSBA are provided for your reference.

Please attach your biography, a list of current endorsements and any campaign literature you have printed to date. Email completed forms to Dennis Meyers: dmeyers@csba.org

While addressing all of these critical issues, policy discussions about educational improvement must stay focused on meeting the needs of students. The ultimate goal must be to prepare all students to meet the challenges of the 21st century by addressing the changing needs of California's students.

CSBA Policy Pillars

CSBA has identified four overarching policy pillars that we believe will lead to the outcome we all want for California's children: graduates prepared for post-high school success in college and the workforce with the skills to be lifelong learners and effective, contributing members of a global society.

1. *Strengthen local governance.* California schools are public institutions that belong to the communities they serve. Local boards must have authority and flexibility consistent with their responsibilities to ensure student achievement for all students and the long-term fiscal stability of the schools.

2. *Secure fair funding.* Public school funding in the state of California must be sufficient for high-quality teaching and learning for all students in every school. The funding of programs and facilities must be guaranteed, stable and equitable.

3. *Improve conditions of children.* Boards realize that proper nutrition, physical and mental health; support for learning; safe school environments and access to community resources help students reach their maximum educational potential, and boards must establish policies and practices to overcome the barriers that students face.

4. *Ensure achievement for all.* School boards and districts must provide all students high-quality teaching and learning driven by curricula for post-high school success; research-based instruction; timely assessments that accurately measure student performance and strong professional teacher development.

Policy Pillar 1: Strengthen Local Governance

1a. The fundamental principle of our system of government is a democratic republic with representatives elected to govern on behalf of the communities that elect them. School boards are the simplest expression of this system at the local level. Boards provide citizen governance for one of our most valuable public institutions: California's public schools. CSBA vigorously defends and values the contributions that school boards make to public education, and is committed to preserving and strengthening the authority of district and county boards of education.

Q1: What is your view on the role that locally elected school boards play in public education in California ?

1b. Locally elected school boards are accountable for ensuring that public education programs lead to achievement for all students and for the long-term financial health of local educational agencies (LEAs).

Q2: Please describe any interactions/experiences you have had either personally or professionally with local school boards?

1c. School boards must have final authority for the planning and use of all district assets and resources, and the authority to raise local revenue through bond measures, parcel taxes and other local revenues. School boards need timely reporting from independent and objective audits to determine the fiscal stability of school systems.

Q3: Please explain any changes that you believe may be necessary in state law, including the LCFF or the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) processes, to ensure or enhance school board authority, community engagement, and accountability over the use of funds and implementation of effective educational programs?

Policy Pillar 2: Secure Fair Funding

Public education is a fundamental component of American democracy and vital to the economic success of our nation. Our highest value and priority should be investing in the public education and training of the next generation. Federal, state and local government spending should reflect this critical investment.

2a. California's economy is strong, diverse and vibrant, ranking 5th in the world and first among all of the other states in the U.S. Yet, California ranks well below the national average in terms of the amount of revenues provided per pupil.

Q4: What is your view on these kinds of statistics and do you support increases in the state's financial investment in public education throughout California to that of the national average in per-pupil funding or the Top 10 of all states?

2b. School construction and modernization in California has been and continues to be a state and local partnership. State bonds, such as those approved by voters in Proposition 51 from 2016, provide

the state's matching share to revenues raised locally by school boards through local bonds and other sources.

Q5: What actions would you take to ensure faster sale of voter approved bonds at the state level to provide critically needed matching funds for local projects?

Q6: How do you plan to support the state and local partnership to build and modernize public schools and how do you plan to keep that partnership strong into the future?

Policy Pillar 3: Improve Conditions of Children

The primary responsibility of public schools is to educate students. The ability of children to attend school, to be engaged and learn in the classroom and to achieve academic success is significantly affected by conditions in their daily lives. The physical, mental and emotional health of each child, the social and economic obstacles they and their families may face and the environments in which they live all impact a child's ability to learn. All children need access to appropriate support services. Improving the outcomes for public education in California is a complex challenge. The emerging research and documented success of the collective impact achieved by mobilizing multiple organizations to collaborate to find solutions for communities is compelling, and CSBA believes this must be a key strategy for meeting this challenge. No one agency can solve this problem alone, and CSBA is dedicated to convening the conversations and sustaining collaborations at every level that will bring our vision to fruition—children unbounded by circumstance.

3a. Effective teaching and learning occur when students and staff are healthy and feel safe, supported and connected.

Q7: What do you believe is needed to ensure safe learning environments for students and staff in all schools in the state; all sizes, all types and all locations?

3b. The home and community environments in which children live influence their ability to learn and thrive. Community outreach, support and partnering with families are critical strategies for improving the conditions of children.

Q8: How will you champion the efforts of schools to access community resources and encourage family participation?

Policy Pillar 4: Ensure Achievement for All

California students need a well-aligned education system that prepares them for civic engagement, and college and career success. The state role should focus on standards, frameworks, accountability and data. State and federal governments must provide an effective, efficient and unbiased accountability system that uses multiple measures to determine school success, with balanced depth and scope of testing at each grade level to provide timely results and minimize the impact on instructional time. Local governing boards must have authority and flexibility to adopt local standards and curricula for their school communities that serve their local needs.

Q9: In your view, what are the most critical needs in California to close achievement gaps between various student groups?

Q10: What kinds of supports can the state provide to ensure that governing boards have the resources, tools, staffing, expertise, etc. necessary to prepare all students for successful career pursuit and civic engagement throughout their adult lives?

About CSBA

The California School Boards Association (CSBA) is the nonprofit education association representing 5,000 elected officials who govern public school districts and county offices of education. With a membership of nearly 1,000 educational agencies statewide, CSBA brings together school governing boards, superintendents and other administrators from school districts and county offices of education to advocate for effective policies that advance the education and well-being of the state's more than 6 million school-age children. A membership-driven association, CSBA provides policy resources, original research, training and professional development and workplace productivity technology to members. The organization also represents the statewide interests of public education through legal, political, legislative, community and media advocacy.

CSBA serves as a unified voice for school districts and county offices of education, fostering effective relationships with the Legislature, the Governor's office, constitutional officers, Congress, the White House, administrative agencies, educational organizations and the public at large.

CSBA works to educate the public and media about the role of governing boards and the fundamental nature of public education in California and the nation. We build support for public education by being a leader in advocacy on policy and fiscal issues at the state and federal levels.

Mission

CSBA strengthens and promotes school board governance. We define and drive the public education policy agenda through advocacy, training, and member services. Strong local boards of education are essential to ensure a high-quality education for every student in every community.

Core Beliefs

CSBA's policy positions are based on 10 core beliefs concerning children, schools, local governance and state and federal government.

Children

1. All children can learn and succeed when they have equitable access to a high-quality education program that challenges them to succeed.
2. The needs of the whole child must be addressed.

Schools

3. Schools must effectively serve every child regardless of their individual differences.
4. School staff must be adequately prepared, supported and held accountable.
5. Schools must provide a safe, supportive and positive environment.

Local governance

6. Local school boards must ensure accountability for both the effectiveness and fiscal solvency of their programs.
7. Local school boards must have maximum flexibility to govern their schools.
8. Boards must be responsive to the needs, desires and concerns of local families and communities.
9. Family and community engagement are necessary for student success.

State and federal government

10. Schools must have adequate, predictable and equitable funding.