

The Education Coalition

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 120,000 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 \$2.1 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 resources that raise California to the average of the top ten states in per pupil funding. While these additional funds are 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. In fact, spending on schools and community colleges remains below the inflation adjusted recession level.

The 2016 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 \$8,694 is \$3,462 (28 percent) percent below the national average of \$12,156 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

We oppose the deferral of funds across years that reduce the Proposition 98 guarantee for the 2017-18 year. We are particularly concerned about the retroactive reduction of the 2015-16 revenue projections and believe there is no precedent for adjusting revenues this far back. The effect is that lower revenue estimates result in a lower Proposition 98 guarantee, which further exacerbates the underfunding of our public education system. Furthermore, Proposition 98 was never intended to be a cap on school funding and not to reduce funding to the lowest minimum possible.

Proposals Supported by the Education Coalition

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

Ongoing:

- \$744 million for the Local Control Funding Formula [LCFF]. This is consistent with the Governor's commitment to fully fund LCFF by the 2020-21 year
- \$58.1 million for a 1.48% categorical education COLA
- \$8.5 million for Mandate Block Grant
- \$2.4 million for County Office of Education LCFF Growth

One-Time:

- \$422.9 million in Energy Efficiency Projects (Proposition 39)
- \$287.0 million in one-time funds for discretionary funding
- \$200.0 million in one-time funds for Career Technical Education grants
- \$29.9 million for Tobacco and Nicotine Prevention (Proposition 56)
- \$10.1 million for Truancy and Dropout Prevention (Proposition 47)

School Accountability

The budget proposal fails to include funding for county offices of education [COEs] to fulfill their role in the LCAP/school accountability system. Prior budgets included \$20 million in one-time funding in both the 2015-16 and 2016-17 fiscal years for this purpose. We recommend that this one-time funding be converted into ongoing funding in 2017-18.

Proposals Opposed by the Education Coalition

- **Deferrals.** The budget shifts \$859.1 million in ongoing LCFF expenditures from June 2017 to July 2017 which is designed to lower guaranteed education funding now and in the future. The Education Coalition is opposed to a deferral as it will permanently reduce education funding. Furthermore, past year appropriations should not be reduced after the funds have been allocated to districts.
- **Delay in Proposition 51 Funds.** While we support the effort to ensure facility bond expenditures be included in the audit guide, the Education Coalition opposes the delay in the distribution of Proposition 51 bond funds supported by the voters in November 2016 election. Districts are in dire need of reconstruction funds to adequately and safely house students.

Areas of Concerns for the Education Coalition

- **Charter School Enrollment Growth.** In absence of additional accountability provisions for charter schools, the Education Coalition is concerned about the \$93 million to fund projected growth in charter school ADA.
- **Pause in Preschool Funding.** Should additional on-going money become available in the May Revision, the Education Coalition supports using the funds to restore the scheduled increases in 2,959 State Preschool Slots, the Standard Reimbursement Rate, the Regional Market Reimbursement Rate, and COLA to providers.
- **Curriculum.** Delaying these curriculum initiatives will prevent students from receiving up to date skills and information identified as high priorities by the legislature.
 - Content standards for visual and performing arts
 - Content standards for world language
 - Content standards for computer science
 - Model curriculum in Ethnic Studies
 - State Superintendent's convening of a computer science strategic implementation plan

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. Such proposals include:

- ***Special Education.*** Based on the release of the Public Policy Institute of California report and recommendations on Special Education Funding, the budget proposes to “engage stakeholders throughout the budget process for feedback on the current special education finance system and recommendations included in these recent evaluations. One of the major recommendations which has emerged is the elimination of SELPAs and sending funding directly to school districts. This recommendation does not address the unique needs of small districts in isolated areas or the advantage of economies of scale in the delivery of special education services.