



ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM 2017-2018

{Ratified by the ACSA Leadership Assembly, February 15 and Adopted by the Board, February 16, 2018}

INTRODUCTION

The mission of the Association of California School Administrators calls on the organization to be bold and authoritative advocates on behalf of its members. ACSA aims to be at the forefront of student advocacy and education policy issues at the state and federal level. The organization's Legislative Platform plays a significant role in guiding the ACSA Governmental Relations staff in steering the course for improvements and progress in public education and school administration.

ACSA's Legislative Platform, adopted every two years, establishes the advocacy priorities for the organization with the underlying premise of supporting what is best for students. The Legislative Platform, developed by the Legislative Policy Committee, is ratified by the Leadership Assembly and adopted by the ACSA Board of Directors. By establishing advocacy priorities, the Legislative Platform guides the work of ACSA Governmental Relations staff and informs lawmakers of the organization's highest education priorities. While the ACSA Legislative Platform is intended to identify major advocacy priorities for the organization, the absence of any particular policy issue does not preclude the Governmental Relations staff from representing the membership in policy areas that may arise over the course of the legislative session.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

ACCESS: ACSA supports policies that ensure every student has access to a safe and healthy school, and to high quality educational programs designed to prepare each student for success in college and/or the 21st century workforce.

EQUITY: ACSA supports policies to provide and expand access to high quality education programs for historically disadvantaged students.

LOCAL CONTROL: ACSA supports policies that empower school leaders and local officials to make local decisions that best serve students and the local communities. ACSA discourages the inclusion of new state-mandated activities without the proper funding reimbursement or the simplification of existing programmatic requirements.

PRIORITY AREAS

Accountability

ACSA supports the successful implementation of a single, coherent accountability and continuous improvement system grounded on the inclusion of multiple measures that determine student progress and considers conditions of learning. ACSA supports the design and implementation of meaningful professional development opportunities and resources to build the capacity of educators supporting student academic growth and a positive school environment.

Policy recommendations may include, but not be limited to the following:

- 1) Pursue continued improvement of the new state accountability system, including the development and refinement of the state and local performance indicators.
- 2) Development of an accountability system for alternative education that recognizes all growth.
- 3) Strengthen the English Learner reclassification processes.
- 4) Work to seek consolidation and alignment between state and federal reporting requirements.
- 5) Seek consolidation and alignment between state and federal reporting requirements
- 6) Review statutes to streamline outdated requirements in the Education Code.

School Finance

ACSA calls on the state and federal governments to provide the resources necessary to offer innovative and excellent public education opportunities, support quality teaching and leadership, and foster parent, business and community involvement on behalf of California students. ACSA urges the state Legislature and Governor Jerry Brown to identify

and work towards achieving a long-term funding solution to bring California into the top ten rankings in per-pupil funding, as called for in the State Constitution.

Policy recommendations may include, but not be limited to the following:

- 1) Support allocation of Proposition 98 funds to fully fund existing programs, including adjustments for inflation and enrollment growth, as well as the full reimbursement of mandated activities and the equitable distribution for allocating one-time funds.
- 2) Support increased education funding including the development of a long-term investment strategy for public education.
- 3) Mitigate the impact of increased employer retirement contributions while preserving the solvency of the public retirement systems.
- 4) Pursue improvements to the Local Control Funding Formula and consider next steps once the LCFF base funding targets are fully funded.

Educator Effectiveness & Pipeline

Educator Effectiveness spans a number of important policy issues impacting teachers and administrators. Our students deserve the highest quality educators in every classroom. The teacher and administrator shortage, along with recent policy changes to restore bilingual education and increased leave benefits, will challenge districts to find qualified employees in order to provide a quality education for all students.

Policy recommendations may include, but not be limited to the following:

- 1) Protect Title II funding.
- 2) Extend the teacher probationary period from two to three years.
- 3) Expand teacher credential reciprocity with other states.
- 4) Support programs that help recruit and retain teachers.
- 5) Remove barriers to recruit mid-career professionals to teach in specific subjects.
- 6) Seek various pathways to secure qualified teachers in critical shortage areas including but not limited to, bilingual, special education, and STEM classes.

Special Ed

ACSA supports special education reform that ensures accountability, preserves local control, and provides funding that recognizes the growing number and increased severity of students identified with special needs. ACSA will work to expand student access to early intervention and protect the rights of students with disabilities at the national and state level.

Policy recommendations may include, but are not be limited to the following:

- 1) Evaluate out-of-home care funding and other potential adjustments to AB 602.
- 2) Engaging in the reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
- 3) Support increased resources for special education.

Student Needs

ACSA is committed to ensuring the physical and emotional health and safety of all students. While schools are uniquely positioned to address a variety of student needs, some supports may be more appropriately addressed by professionals other than educators. Striving to support student success is imperative and includes providing referrals and information on specialized services to students and families. Students can only reach their full academic potential when they are healthy, safe, and able to focus on their studies. ACSA supports comprehensive approaches to providing a healthy and safe educational environment that is conducive to student learning.

Policy recommendations may include, but not be limited to the following:

- 1) Strive to ensure all students, family members, and employees have access to a safe, equitable, and supportive educational environment.
- 2) Continue to protect the legal rights of all students to attend school regardless of immigration status of the child or their family members.
- 3) Expand access to needed behavioral and mental health support services.
- 4) Advance and support efforts for all student to have access to high quality instructional programs that seek to close achievement gaps.