



**ACSA Legislative Policy Committee Virtual Meeting**  
COVID-19 Meeting Notes & Hot Topics List

April 14, 2020

Based on the state ACSA Legislative Policy Committee virtual meeting member roundtable sharing of COVID-19 pandemic key educational issues here is a list of important areas of concern that ACSA can help administrators to address at state and federal legislative levels. Note, this list of priority areas of concern is not in any specific order.

**Top LPC COVID-19 Issues**

1. Several members stated their top concern is **student access to technology**. A few districts reported that 50% or more of their students do not have technology devices or internet at home for distance learning.
  - a. Administrators hoping the state and federal governments will provide options and funding to provide devices and internet to students.
  - b. Certain internet providers (ex. ATT & Cox) only allow families qualifying for free/reduced meals to access their \$9.99/mo internet option. How do districts provide an affordable internet option to students that do not qualify for free/reduced meals?
2. **Grading, Promotion & Graduation Requirements**
  - a. Emphasize hold harmless grading system
3. **Level of family insecurity for food, job loss, and shelter**
  - a. Causing distance learning to not be a top priority for families experiencing the above life issues
  - b. Incredible rate of job loss due to COVID-19 induced recession
    - i. High school and college students working in grocery stores and drive through/take out restaurants to help support their families economically
  - c. Not all communities have access to food banks
    - i. One district established a partnership with Whole Foods for food bank distributions
4. **Special Education**
  - a. Many families with children receiving special education services are without devices, internet and food
  - b. Key question is the degree to which distance learning is providing FAPE on a student by student case
  - c. Recommendation for LEAs to document special education services during distance learning period
  - d. Conduct an IEP after the distance learning period to determine on a student by student basis if there is a need for compensatory services



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- i. 3 key areas: a) general education services; b) access & services; & c) individual student situation & degree of regression
    - e. # of litigation filings in special education growing statewide
5. Distance learning and support for certain student populations: **ELL, foster youth, & homeless**
6. Concern: **will the school closures extend into the next school year?**
7. Educators not able to reach all of our students
  - a. Concerns regarding lack of phone/internet service, job loss, home loss, & students moving
8. **Unions & request for MOUs** before agreement to work
  - a. Labor-management joint letter: mixed admin responses
9. **Mental health** of children and staff
- 10. Distance Learning**
  - a. Many parents prefer paper study packets vs online distance learning
- 11. Summer school, interventions & credit recovery**
  - a. Educators concerned that all students will sustain a regression in learning during the school closures & distance learning programs
  - b. Need for funding for summer school & intervention for all students
12. Need for **PPE - face masks** for CNS employees
- 13. Funding Needs**
  - a. Technology devices, internet and labor required to create and implement distance learning programs is expensive
    - i. \$17.37/ADA not enough
  - b. Foreshadowing of FY20-21 budget concerns
    - i. COVID-19 induced economic recession
    - ii. Concern regarding impact to LEA budgets
  - c. Calculate FY20-21 revenues on enrollment rather than attendance; or on prior year attendance
14. Shift to **Online Registration and Enrollment** for 2020-21 school year
  - a. Not all districts have an online registration system; districts are working hard to create one
  - b. Submission of 2 documents required to be submitted in person:
    - i. Verification of Residency
    - ii. Immunization Record
    - iii. E.C. may not require these to be submitted in person; possibly this is a local LEA decision
  - c. Many parents need support registering online and uploading documents
15. Administrators dedicating very long work hours to build a distance learning program and address all of the above issues related to COVID-19 physical school closures

## Positive Comments



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1. LPC members extended sincere gratitude to the Governmental Relations Team for their outstanding advocacy at the state and federal levels regarding COVID-19 education related matters
2. People are rising to the occasion and serving as heroes to our students, colleagues and to the community
3. Schools continuing to provide meal service has been a positive for serving the community
4. Distance learning is an opportunity for us to redefine and transform how we education

### Information Shared by ACSA Governmental Relations Team

1. Edgar Zazueta - Director of Governmental Relations
  - “We are always proud and honored to represent you. Thank you for the work you’re doing.”
  - ACSA working to impress the importance of the state letting districts know as soon as possible if they think the school closures will push into the next school year
  - CDE guidance on LCAPs will be released tomorrow
    - No requirement for LCAPs this spring
    - Likely LEAs will be asked to inform the state how they are implementing the 4 priority areas for school districts within the Governor’s Stay@Home Executive Order
      - Continue to provide high quality education through distance learning and independent study
      - Provide Meals
      - Provide Child Care for Essential Workers
      - Continue to pay staff
  - ACSA GR team would like administrators to let them know if districts are planning to provide summer school
    - Likely no funding for summer school from state
    - Okay to use federal funds on summer school
  - LEAs should consider how they will mitigate loss of learning
2. Ivan Carrillo - Legislative Advocate
  - Budget News
    - All new budget proposals in the Jan proposed state budget are off the table
    - Workload budget only
    - Possible COLA & funding for SPED
    - Likely drop in Prop 98
    - CA has approx \$10B in reserves
    - State reexamining if the \$493M for SPED would count towards MOE or not. ACSA advocating for it to count.



- Revenues will be down and there will be a recession
  - ACSA's Budget Priorities
    - COLA
    - \$493M SPED
    - Hold harmless on attendance: Enrollment or Prior Year ADA
  - Education Coalition currently not supporting pushing out STRS and PERS increases 1-2 years
  - ACSA Working on Other Budget Flexibility Provisions for LEAs
    - Similar to Great Recession flexibility
    - Class Size Reduction Waivers
    - Sweep categoricals into the general fund
    - Deferred Maintenance
    - Routine Restricted Maintenance
  - State Legislative Budget Hearings begin this week and next
    - Likely will focus on how LEAs are spending funds
3. Diana Vu - Legislative Advocate
- New grading requirements: hold harmless
    - Good Example: Palo Alto School District
  - Addressing matters of technology equipment and hot spots
4. Derick Lennox - Legislative Advocate
- STRS
    - Halting Audits
  - PERS
    - Flexibility for bringing back retired annuitants. Relief for 960 hours and 180 wait period waived.
  - Employer Pension Cost Increases in FY20-21
    - \$1.25B-\$1.3B increase scheduled for FY20-21
    - PERS created various scenarios including showing rates to plummet from in the 20's to in the 30's
  - Expectation of Prop 98 growth of \$4B no longer anticipated
5. Laura Preston - Legislative Advocate
- Special Education
    - USDE Secretary of Education has until April 30th to make waiver requests
    - ACSA is seeking waivers without trying to abdicate our responsibility to serve students
  - ACSA requested teacher credential waivers
    - Request to retain subs longer
  - Hazard Pay



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- Statewide various across LEAs from 0 to double time
- HR 6201: Congressional Bill on Leaves
  - Up to 10 days paid leave for employee w/ COVID-19
  - Also FMLA provisions
  - State leave provisions vary from HR 6201 - know both
- Privacy Issues
  - FRPA
  - HIPPA
  - Mandated Reporters
- AB1353 - 6 month probationary period for classified
  - Waiver request?

#### **Next ACSA Legislative Policy Committee Meeting**

- May 5, 2020
- 9:30am-11:30am (TBD)
- WebEx virtual meeting