



## ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM 2017-2018

{Ratified by the ACSA Leadership Assembly, January 26 and Adopted by the Board, January 27, 2017}

### 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 approved by the Leadership Assembly and ratified 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 eliminate barriers that prevent student access to high quality education programs.

**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:

- ⇒ Continued improvement of the new state accountability system, including the development and refinement of the state performance indicators.
- ⇒ Development of an accountability system for alternative education that recognizes all growth.
- ⇒ Review of the English Learner reclassification processes.
- ⇒ Ensure alignment between state and federal reporting requirements.
- ⇒ Review of the LCFF statute to streamline outdated requirements in the Education Code.
- ⇒ Review emerging practices on LCAP stakeholder engagement process to inform the state and practitioners.

## **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:

- ⇒ 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.
- ⇒ Restoration of education funding and pursuing long-term investment to public education.
- ⇒ Mitigation of impact of increased retirement contributions.
- ⇒ Reevaluation of the eligibility process and program requirements of the State Preschool Program.
- ⇒ Improvements to the Local Control Funding Formula and consideration of 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, 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:

- ⇒ Extending the teacher probationary term from two to three years.
- ⇒ Expanding teacher credential reciprocity from other states.
- ⇒ Securing loan forgiveness for teachers and administrators serving for a specified amount of time in hard to staff schools.
- ⇒ Supporting state funding to offset induction costs for teachers and administrators.
- ⇒ Removing barriers to recruit mid-career professionals to teach in specific subjects.
- ⇒ Seeking various pathways to secure qualified bilingual teachers to support the expansion of bilingual education.

## **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:

- ⇒ Evaluating out-of-home care funding and other potential adjustments to AB 602.
- ⇒ Engaging in the reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
- ⇒ Supporting increased funding for special education preschool programs and staffing shortages.

## **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:

- ⇒ Ensuring all students, family members, and employees have access to a safe, equitable, and supportive educational environment.
- ⇒ Protecting the legal rights of all students to attend school regardless of immigration status of the child or their family members.
- ⇒ Expanding access to needed behavioral and mental health support services.