

EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS COUNCIL Report

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

I. Welcome & Introductions

- Council members representing regions across the state were welcomed. Introductions were completed and attendance confirmed.

II. Council Business

Don English, Council President

- The use of AI for note-taking and meeting summaries was discussed.
- Minutes from the prior meeting were reviewed and approved.

III. Council President Report

Equity Institute (March 25–27, Anaheim)

- Dr. Charles encouraged participation and highlighted keynote speakers, including Parveen Ahmadi, Dr. Travis Bristol, and Dr. Yolanda Seeley Ruiz. The institute will focus on equity, rehabilitation, and inclusive educational practices for students.

III. Council President Report - Don English, Council President

- AB 1230 (Student Rehabilitation Following Expulsion)
Don reviewed the new legislative requirements related to student rehabilitation plans after expulsion, emphasizing:
 - Individualized rehabilitation plans
 - Timely reviews and transitions
 - Removal of financial and transportation barriers
 - Countywide plans outlining placement options and readmission processes

The group discussed extension limits on expulsion terms and the need for checklists and shared implementation tools.

Attendance Recovery

Strategies included weekend school, short-term independent study, and attendance recovery programs.

Key points:

- Students may bank up to 10 recovery days per year per LEA
- Recovery must be reported through CALPADS
- One-day independent study is now permitted

- Woodlake Middle School shared success reducing chronic absenteeism using short-term independent study contracts

Rise Truancy Courts & Community Schools

Discussion focused on integrating attendance recovery with community-based supports and alternative interventions for students experiencing chronic absenteeism.

IV. Governmental Relations Update- Serette Kaminski, Legislative Advocate

Serette provided an update on state and federal legislative issues, including:

Budget & Funding Priorities

- Opposition to proposed Prop 98 deferrals
- Support for flexible discretionary block grants
- Stabilization of ELOP Tier 2
- Increased special education base rate
- Transition of community schools to permanent \$1B ongoing funding

Key Legislation

- AB 1659 (transition liaisons for juvenile court students)
- Workforce stability legislation
- Streamlined accountability bills
- Charter school accountability trailer bill

Federal Context

- Partial government shutdown
- National advocacy efforts underway

Resources were shared for ongoing legislative engagement, and council feedback on trailer bill language was requested.

V. Lunch

VI. Board Update - Diego Ochoa, Board Liaison

Diego provided updates on:

- *Upcoming equity-related events*
- *State Superintendent candidate interviews*

VII. Region Reports

Region 2 reported a focus on upcoming ACSA charter member and regional awards, with the Region 2 awards scheduled for March. Representatives will attend Legislative Action Days in Sacramento, and members are preparing for the Region 1–4 Conference in Reno and the Region 2 Leadership Conference in Tahoe. The region also raised concerns about reduced access to medical care due to rural hospital closures and limited EMS services. Additionally, there were reports of increased anxiety among undocumented families because of recent ICE activity in the region, including areas as far north as Shasta County.

Region XI shared updates on its upcoming Planning Retreat in Pismo Beach and highlighted current resources, including its Winter Newsletter, handbook, New Member Kit, website, and social media platforms.

VIII. Resource Guide Update (1:30 PM)

Don English, Council President

- a. Discuss any possible updates to [Resource Guide](#)
- b. Agenda items for next meeting
 - i. Review and revise Resource Guide for next meeting

IX. Actions & Takeaways

Don English, Council President

Key Takeaway (Ben):

Begin planning content for the November Summit, consider presentations for the 2027 Equity Institute, and think toward macro-level advocacy for statewide impact.

Action Items

- Agendize Resource Guide revision
- Agendize summit session planning
- Agendize Equity Institute presentation planning
- Share AB 1230 implementation examples
 - Share attendance recovery resources
- Share PACE report and legislative update links
- Share equity multiplier estimates
- Share regional newsletters, events, and awards
- Follow up on community schools trailer bill language
- Connect members regarding absenteeism and equity feedback
- Add chronic absenteeism, credit recovery, and healthcare documentation issues to future agendas

X. Adjourn