



# Advance Newsletter

association of california  
school administrators

region 6

August 2023

## President's Message



### ***Leading with Our Hearts***

Dear Region 6 Leaders,

First and foremost, thank you for supporting our students and staff daily throughout many challenges and celebrations. As we set aside the past's residual impact and prepare for the 2023 – 2024 school year, we find ourselves with much more work ahead. When we thought the political contention from across the country could not reach California, specific educational leaders were slammed for their belief in providing a genuinely open public education. Fortunately, we have options to take action in our daily work or be silent observers. This action will not be accomplished alone as we are reminded of them daily by our students and the responsibilities in our leadership roles. Everyday we should be reminded of the following, "If not you, then who? If not now, then when?"

Our work will take some effort, and it will solve the most challenging issues. We must dive deeper into the culture and love our families instilled in us during our formative years. As colleagues, local charters, and ACSA Region 6, we will continue to build on the foundation of "Leading for Justice, a Work of Heart." ~ Tracie Noriega, President Region 6, 2022 – 2023. Please reflect and plan "Leading with our Hearts" for our students and staff during the 2023

– 2024 school year.

[Raul Zamora, Ed.D.](#)  
Region 6 President



## Region 6 Welcomes New Superintendents

We congratulate and welcome the following new superintendents in Region 6 and wish them the best:

- Alysse Castro, Alameda COE (took office in Jan 2023)
- Jason Reimann, Hayward USD
- Penelope DeLeon, Newark USD
- Jennifer Hawn, Piedmont USD

Thank you for your leadership!



## Region 6 Membership Events



Mark your calendar to gather for a back to school social events hosted by Region 6!

Let's celebrate the opening of a new school year. Meet up with ACSA colleagues and enjoy each other's company. Bring a friend or colleague, ACSA member or not-yet member. Choose from two dates and two locations for your convenience.

**Tuesday, September 19 from 4:30 - 7:30 pm**  
**Smith's Landing Seafood Grill**

1 Marina Plaza  
Antioch, CA 94509

[Download flyer](#)

**Thursday, September 28 from 5:00 - 7:00 pm**  
**Lazy Dog**

3100 Newpark Mall  
Newark, CA 94560

[Download flyer](#)



Raffle prizes, extra ticket if you bring someone. Charter with highest percentage of attendance will receive \$200.



## 2023 ACSA Leadership Summit



## 2023 ACSA Annual Leadership Summit November 2-4, Sacramento

California's students need leaders with courage. Leaders who know that more work needs to be done to ensure that every student has an equal opportunity to succeed. Our students need us to accept this challenge and deliver on the promise of education.

Join school leaders from throughout California as we strengthen our resolve to better serve our students at the 2023 Leadership Summit, which will be held Nov. 2-4 in Sacramento. As ACSA's premier professional development and networking event, this conference offers unparalleled opportunities to experience fellowship with school leaders who are driven by a common goal: "Challenge Accepted: Courageous and Effective Leadership for Equitable Student Outcomes."

Will you commit yourself to learning and sharing on topics including equity, innovation, hiring, data and bold strategies for student support?

Are you ready to open your mind and your heart for our keynote speakers? Dr. G.T. Reyes is an associate professor of educational leadership who helps school leaders develop programs with the power to liberate their students. Principal Kafele is one of the most sought-after experts on closing the "Attitude Gap" in schools. Ruha Benjamin is a professor of African American studies at Princeton who explores the relationship between innovation and inequity.

Will you help celebrate your peers who are creating equitable school systems in which students can thrive? And will you salute those students who have overcome great challenges to achieve in school?

If you accept these challenges, we'll see you at the 2023 ACSA Leadership Summit! Please invite your staff and colleagues to join you and learn more about this conference at the following link, [bit.ly/ACSASummit2023](https://bit.ly/ACSASummit2023).

Register NOW!



**Region 6 Leadership Planning & Progress  
Conference - August 5**



The R6 Board of Directors is made up of charter presidents, state committee and council representatives, and region officers. For current Board members check R6 website.



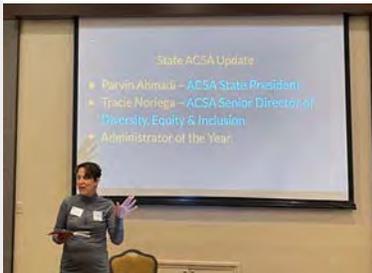
R6 Consultant Steve Collins welcomes Board members



R6 Leaders ready for a day of work that will set the direction for Region 6 this year



President Raul Zamora opening the day and sharing some inspirational thoughts



ACSA President-Elect Parvin Ahmadi updating R6 leaders on state ACSA



ACSA Sr Director Tracie Noriega providing recent legislative updates and advocacy victories



R6 Board members giving input for the development of region strategic goals



Members using Thought Exchange on their device to share and prioritize ideas



Lots of discussion following the input process



The day culminated with a panel of high school students speaking eloquently about their school experiences



The R6 Executive Committee is charged with handling the monthly routine business of the Region. Members are listed at the end of this newsletter.

ACSA Region 6 represents 19 charters in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. These 19 charters represent 36 school districts, 2 county offices, and Cal State East Bay administrative credential students. The largest charter of retired administrators has over 250 members who are still very dedicated to our profession and ACSA. Region 6 is currently one of the largest region and has over 1100 members.

On Saturday, August 5, Board members gathered at the Double Tree Hotel in Pleasanton. President Raul Zamora opened the conference by setting the context of the day's work. He had rebranded the name of this annual event from "Retreat" and explained this is not the time in our business to "retreat"! Reflecting on his own upbringing, he questioned, "Whatever happened to ... just caring and loving the moment with each other." Table groups engaged in a compassion share of members' artifact/story of their leadership from the heart. Raul also shared an article that provided some context of his leadership vision of "Leading with Our Heart." Here's the link to the full article, ["Leadership as an Act of Love: Leading in Dangerous Times."](#)

New ACSA President, Parvin Ahmadi and Senior Director of Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion, Tracie Noriega joined us to share updates about ACSA activities guided by an updated Strategic Plan and continuing to maintain a laser focus on its mission of meeting the diverse needs of all California students. New ACSA Vice President Daryl Camp was also in attendance, always *listening, learning, and leading!*

Using the [ACSA Strategic Plan Framework](#), [Region 6 Survey Results](#), and evaluations of last year's goals, Board members shared their thoughts and prioritized ideas using the Thought Exchange platform. There were much discussion and ideas generated that will help inform the work of our region for this year.

The day ended with a panel of five students from high schools in our region sharing their school experiences. These articulate, authentic, bright, and insightful students provided much inspiration to the roomful of school and district leaders.



## Legislative Updates

At the August 5 Region 6 Leadership Planning and Progressing Conference, ACSA Senior Director, Tracie Noriega, shared the following legislative updates.

### Advocacy Victories

**FULLY FUNDING THE LCFF & STATUTORILY COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT**  
This year's budget not only fully funded the statutory cost of living adjustment of 8.13 % for the Local Control Funding Formula, but also applied the COLA to programs outside of the LCFF, including special education.

**PRESERVING THE ARTS, MUSIC, & INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS BLOCK GRANT**  
The Governor proposed to retroactively cut more than \$4 billion from the Arts, Music, and Instructional Materials and Learning Loss Block Grants. ACSA aggressively lobbied on the issue and preserved more than \$2 billion of the proposed reductions.

## Notable Legislation

The legislature is on recess until August 14. Things will move quickly once the legislature reconvenes. We've highlighted a few notable bills ACSA is actively engaged on that will play out in the weeks ahead.

### SB 494 (Newman) Superintendent & Assistant Superintendent Firings

- ACSA sponsored bill
- Would provide greater transparency for the school community when a superintendent or assistant superintendent is dismissed without cause
- Would require the School Board to take such action only at regularly scheduled public meetings (72-hour notice minimum) and not within 30 days of a schools board's first convening after a general election
- The measure continues to move with bipartisan support and is now just one step away from the Governor's Desk

### SB 247 (Muratsuchi) Safe & Modern Schools – School Facilities Bond

- ACSA is leading efforts to support AB 247 (Muratsuchi) which would place a \$14 billion - TK-Community College facilities funding initiative before voters in 2024
- ACSA lobbied for the bill to reserve funding specifically for small school districts so they don't have to compete for funding with larger districts
- ACSA and coalition partners are actively working to determine if this will go before voters at the Primary or General 2024 election

### SB 274 (Skinner) Willful Defiance

- Would extend the prohibition on suspending and expelling K-8 students for "willful defiance" through the 12th grade
- Students of color and students with disabilities continue to be disproportionately suspended and expelled for willful defiance
- ACSA has embedded alternative strategies into our professional development offerings and is committed to further supporting our members with alternative tools

### SB 326 (Eggman) "Modernizing" the Mental Health Services Act

- The Governor and legislature are working to modernize the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) passed in 2004 by Prop 63
- ACSA is fighting back on the bill's proposed changes that would result in the reduction or complete elimination of school-based programs and youth-focused services
- The current version of the proposal doesn't have a required spending percentage for children and youth
- ACSA is advocating for a set aside of funds for children and youth ages 0-25 in every spending category of MHSA funding outlined in the proposed changes



## 2024 Administrator of the Year Award



### **ACSA State Awards Program - Let the nominations begin!**

Nominate your colleagues! Recognize deserving administrators and fellow ACSA members for their contributions to the profession and dedication to students by nominating them for one of ACSA's Awards. These include the Administrator of the Year Awards in 21 job-alike categories, the Valuing Diversity Award and the Marcus Foster Memorial Award. Find complete information on the program and nomination process at [www.acsa.org/awards](http://www.acsa.org/awards).

As administrators, we do a great job in recognizing our students and our staffs. Let's make the effort to recognize our fellow administrators! We all have so many outstanding deserving colleagues who carry on quietly each and every day. Let's recognize them for what they are doing on behalf of students, families, staff, community, etc. There's no better time and opportunity to share their stories.

**Except for the two State Awards (Ferd Kiesel & Marcus Foster), you must submit nominations through your Charter. Contact your Charter President.**

Please pass on the word to nominate fellow colleagues. Contact Vice President of Programs [Paulette Smith](#) if you have any questions.

The ACSA Administrator of the Year Awards are all done online. [Click here](#) to the Region 6 website.

**SAVE THE DATE: 2024 Administrator of the Year Awards Dinner on April 18, 2024!**



## **Professional Learning in Region 6**

The second Bay Area Equity Symposium will again be hosted by Regions 5,6, & 8. We welcome a new co-host, the California Subject Matter Project. It will be held on February 9-10, 2024 at the Santa Clara Marriott. Be on the lookout for our "Call For Presenters" in the upcoming weeks. If you would like to be involved in the planning of this exciting event please contact Region 6 President [Raul Zamora](#).

Region 6 continues to be committed to supporting school leaders beginning their administrative journey. We launched an affinity group for co-administrators in 2022-23 with very positive feedback from participants. Look for information on our website or email [Rose Lock](#) if you are interested in this opportunity.

Our Vice President of Staff Development, Christina Filios, is working with Region 6 leadership in developing this year's PD schedule. Check the Region 6 website regularly for updated information about professional learning. Of course, make sure you are also visiting the ACSA website for all the resources available to you.

### **Upcoming Opportunities**

[Download flyer](#)

[Download flyer](#)

## Region 6 Mentor Program - a FREE Membership Benefit

If you are an ACSA member in your first or second year of a new administrative position and would like confidential support from an experienced, caring administrator to help you navigate your new position, clarify your role, manage your time, and still have some balance in your life, the Region 6 Mentor Program is for you. You simply request a mentor by contacting Region 6 Coordinator [Julie Braun Martin](#) or by filling out the request form available on the [ACSA website](#) or [Region 6 website](#).

Download [Mentor Program Brochure](#)



Crystal Berry  
 Matt Campbell  
 Whitney Cottrell  
 Athena Duran  
 Teresa Fairbanks  
 Charity Hastings  
 Tammy Henley  
 Efa Huckaby  
 Heidi Joyner  
 Zachary Kahn  
 Carli Kim  
 Celeste Kitts  
 John Mattos  
 Sheila McCumber  
 Shaheen Mohammed

Zetha Nobles  
 Malcolm Norrington  
 Lori O'Connor  
 Christine Offerman  
 Liz Pagano  
 Zahra Pelayo  
 Alison Pettit  
 Rianne Pfaltzgraff  
 Jessica Pozos  
 Claudia Rodriguez  
 Robin Sehrt  
 Zandra Texeira  
 Blaine Torpey  
 Kimberly Vaiana

Congratulations to the above Region 6 members who completed an ACSA academy in 2023.

ACSA Academies are the “fast-track” to leadership growth and career advancement for California school administrators. ACSA's job-specific academies in 10 leadership specializations provide a solid foundation of training in the application of leadership and management fundamentals. Participants experience 35 to 100 hours of high-quality instruction by expert Academy Directors and presenters during weekends throughout the school year.

ACSA Academies will convene in virtual/online and hybrid formats for the 2023-24 year. There are online options for all 10 leadership specializations, and hybrid academy cohorts are available for Personnel Administrators, Pupil Services, Special Education and Superintendents. Browse cohorts and register now at [acsa.org/academies](https://acsa.org/academies).

[Click here](#) for a copy of Academy-at-a-Glance to see all offerings. Check out all academy information on the [ACSA website](#).

Region 6 supports our members with professional development scholarships (\$500) for ACSA academies. Check eligibility and application on our [website](#). This is a reimbursement scholarship awarded upon completion. DEADLINE FOR 2023-24 APPLICATION IS NOVEMBER 1.



## ACSA Membership is a Must for School Leaders

### A CHALLENGE FOR ALL ACSA MEMBERS Grow Our Membership

#### REGION 6 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE 2023 - NEED EVERYONE'S HELP!

Our goal is to increase our Region 6 membership by 3% by the end of December 2023! That equates to 27 new members! We can do it!

The ACSA Board of Directors recently approved an incentive of 2% of the annual rebate for regions that increase their membership numbers by 3%.

We do not have access to those administrators who are not ACSA members currently. We rely on our members to help recruit colleagues and friends which is the most effective way anyway! *ACSA IS NOT A SECRET!*

## Why ACSA?

If you are dedicated to our profession as a public school administrator, can you afford not to be an ACSA member?

It has been a part of many leaders' path to success.



ACSA is THE professional organization for public education leaders in California. Are you maximizing the benefits of being an ACSA member? How often do you hear, "what do we get for being in ACSA?"

Check out [ACSA.org](http://ACSA.org). There are numerous resources to support administrators in their professional growth. Have you seen the ACSA Resource Hub which is an online library of professional resources, articles, and videos? While you are on the website, look for all the learning opportunities to support your present and future career.

If you pay your ACSA dues annually, don't forget to renew your membership. If you have not received notification, contact [memberservices@ACSA.org](mailto:memberservices@ACSA.org).

ACSA membership application is available on the ACSA website. Share this link with friends and colleagues who are not ACSA members yet: [click here](#)

Check out [Region 6's website](#) as well. We make great efforts to keep our website current on our Region's resources such as grants, scholarships, awards, etc.

YOU CAN HELP BY forwarding this newsletter to friends and colleagues who are not yet ACSA members. Help support their professional career by helping them see the value of our organization. *Show them it is a part of their path to success!*



## ACSA Membership Profile Campaign

ACSA is asking our members to make sure all of their contact information is accurate. We are encouraging everyone to log into their online profile and make necessary updates there. The outreach is conducted via email and hard mail. Please respond when you receive the communication.

**Many R6 members have outdated profiles such as position, district, email.**



## Women's Leadership Network

Our region is committed to continuing conversations that will support women leaders. If you are interested in being involved in planning this year's activities, email [Paulette Smith](#), VP Programs.



## Retiree Charter

### **SAVE THE DATE:**

First Charter luncheon meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 7, 10:30-1:30. Yes, it's Election Day! Our guest speaker will be Dorothy Johnson, ACSA Legislative Advocate, whose expertise includes issues in local government, employer/employee relations, governance, privacy, CALSTRS/PERS, etc.

We want to extend a special invitation to our new retirees to stay involved in the education community. Being a retired ACSA member allows you to stay connected with like-minded leaders. Contact Charter President Sandy Prairie at [this link](#).

Working ACSA members, please share this with retirees you know!

NOTE TO EMERITUS RETIREE MEMBERS: Do you know you can attend the annual



## From Your Region Executive Director

Welcome to the 2023-24 school year! Thank you for all you are doing as you continue to provide leadership and support to those around you. Everyday you carry on with positivity and encouragement for your community.

I would like to acknowledge our Region 6 leaders during this time. Our officers, Charter Presidents and Committee/Council Reps are all volunteers. They are serving our professional organization in a leadership capacity in addition to the demands of their "day job" and family responsibilities. They do it because they are dedicated to a profession of educational leaders who are committed to public education in California.

Thank you to these 2023-24 Charter Presidents for their ACSA leadership at the local level:

Robert Ithurburn (Alameda)  
Juwen Lam (Alameda COE)  
Ginger Selvaggio (Amador Valley)  
Lisa Maclean (Castro Valley)  
Anthony Molina (Delta)  
Evan Powell (Diablo Valley)  
Christina Filios (Diablo Managers Association)  
Monique Walton (Hayward)  
David Thornley (Fremont)  
David Martinez (Livermore)  
Heather Thorner (New Haven)  
Deb Brill (North Alameda)  
Vicenta Ditto (Newark)  
VACANT (Oakland)  
James Parrish (San Leandro)  
Rochelle Hooks (San Lorenzo)  
Peg Winkleman (CSU East Bay)  
Ryan Shaw (West Contra Costa)  
Sandra Prairie (Retiree)

We also welcome the following members who assume leadership roles in Region 6 beginning 2023-24. They represent our region at state ACSA councils and committees:

- Sharita Williams, Adult Education Council
- Evan Powell, Secondary Ed Council
- Sheila Jemo, Educational Options Council
- James Parrish, Student Services /Special Ed Council
- Christy Glaser, Equity Committee
- Lauren Falkner, Co-Administration Committee
- Frank Wells, Leadership Development Committee
- Nanette Gray, CAPEA/ACSA COMMITTEE

Here are other Region 6 reps continuing in their Council or Committee:

- Annette Heldman, Business Services Council
- Julie Duncan, Career Technical Ed Council
- Nicole Joyner, Classified Leaders Council
- John Moon, Early Education Council
- Jennifer Sachs, Curriculum, Instruction Accountability Council
- David Thornley, Elementary Ed Council
- Norma Gonzales, Human Resource Council
- Raul Zamora, Legislative Policy Committee
- Danielle Winford, Middle Grades Council
- Gail Yothers, Retirement Committee
- CJ Cammack, Superintendent Council

These are your Region 6 representative to the state ACSA Councils and Committees. If you have any questions or concerns in your job-alike area, do not hesitate to reach out to them. They are listed on the [Region 6 website](#) with their email.

ACSA has also opened up some of the [Council and Committee meetings](#) to interested ACSA members.

We continue to strive to make our organization relevant and indispensable. We want to be the place you turn to first for camaraderie, moral support, continuing learning, and resources.

Check our [Region 6](#) website. Contact information for all your Region 6 leaders can be found there. We want to hear from you if you have other ideas on how ACSA can support you as you continue to lead teaching and learning.

Thank you for all you do each and every day for students.

[Rose Lock](#), Region 6 Executive Director



## Welcome to New ACSA Members



Region 6 welcomes the following new members in May, June and July:

**Albany USD**

Ana Delgado

**Byron ESD**

Debra Neighbors

**Castro Valley USD**

Elizabeth Duran Contreras

**Fremont USD**

Johanna White

**Hayward USD**

Laura Galicia, Adam White

**Lafayette ESD**

Stephanie Marple

**Mt. Diablo USD**

Tucker Farrar

**Oakland USD**

Alex Webster

**Oakley UESD**

Amalia Gratteri

**Pittsburg USD**

JC Farr

**Pleasanton USD**

Suana Wheeler

**San Ramon Valley USD**

Joe Romagna

**West Contra Costa USD**

Angelica Lara, Myrna Hadjirul

**Retiree Charter**

Cherisse Baatin

**Thank you to ACSA member for continuing to recruit new members!**

David Thornley, Crystal Castaneda (2), Brent Daniels, Sherri Beetz, Tammi Lauderdale, Parvin Ahmadi, Sonja Neely-Johnson, LaShanta Smith, Anthony Molina, Linda Hutcherson



## Region 6 Partners Corner

Our partners' donations allow us to offer high quality professional development and programs that serve our members. We are grateful for their support of public education leaders. Learn more about these partners on our website [Partners page](#).

Welcome to our new partners for the 2023-24 school year:



Website: [Lego Education](#)



Website: [Boardworks](#)



Website: [Corebridge Financial](#)



Website: [TRiGroup](#)



Website: [Thought Exchange](#)

# FEATURED PARTNER



Elevo is a proud sponsor of ACSA Region 6 and a very proud partner of many Districts in the region including Oakland USD & Berkeley USD! Elevo provides staffing support and programming for TK-8th grade students all designed to enhance their well being so they look forward to coming to school. Below is a brief summary of our two engaging solutions:



***In School Time!*** - From tailored PLC grade-level release options to recess, to classroom support, we partner with Districts to supplement their staffing needs. We also leverage our **ElevoEQ**(SEL-infused physical activities) and our **Elevo Sports** (rotational sports) programs to provide structured activities that engage and support students!



For more information, please contact your local Elevo Region 6 representatives:

Greg Eibell  
Director, District Partnerships  
Contra Costa County  
[greg@elevolearning.com](mailto:greg@elevolearning.com)  
(510) 387-4394



***Out of School Time!*** - Our turnkey ELO-P solution brings educational, academic and physical enrichment components together in one program. We can provide full-service programming, management, and administration (sole partner on site) or supplement existing programs. For ELO programs we always include our **Elevo Enrichment, Elevo Sports, & ElevoEQ** which are aligned with CDE requirements and the Quality Standards for Expanded Learning in California.

Christina St. Clair  
Director, District Partnerships  
Alameda County  
[christina@elevolearning.com](mailto:christina@elevolearning.com)  
(650) 520-5641



## Contact Us

We welcome your feedback and suggestions.

[ACSA Website](#)  
[Region 6 Website](#)

## **Region 6 Staff**

[Rose Lock](#), Executive Director  
[Steve Collins](#), Consultant

## **Region 6 Leadership**

President: Raul Zamora  
President-Elect: Matt Chamberlain  
Past President: Jacob Berg  
VP, Staff Development: Christina Filios  
VP, Programs: Paulette Smith  
VP, Legislative Action: Kathy LaCome  
VP, Membership: Harvey Yurkovich  
Secretary: Janet Gates  
Treasurer: Annette Heldman  
Equity Chair: Christy Glaser  
Communication Chair: Pam VandeKamp  
ACSA Board Director: Sonja Neely-Johnson  
At-Large Representatives: Rochelle Hooks, Jenny Vargas, Efa Huckaby, Lynn Mackey

The mission of the Association of California School Administrators is to advocate in the best interests of students and to develop, empower and inspire equity-minded educational leaders.

ACSA Region 6 | 77 Santa Barbara Road, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

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