



Leadership Matters for California's public education system and the more than 6 million students it serves. School leadership is second only to classroom instruction among all school-related factors that contribute to what students learn at school.

Most school leaders are principals and vice principals at neighborhood schools. Others manage the essential programs and services that support students and classroom teaching.

School district administrators account for only 0.5 percent of personnel employed in California's schools, compared with teachers at 52.9 percent; student and other support staff (including library aides, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, etc.) at 29.4 percent; instructional aides at 12.4 percent; librarians, counselors, and instructional coordinators at 2.5 percent and principals and assistant principals at 2.3 percent.

# IgnitED

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## The Association of California School Administrators IgnitED Federal Legislative Action Day will focus on the following issue areas:

### Special Education

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As the Department of Education continues to propose funding cuts, the Association of California School Administrators stands strong in our commitment to Special Education. Rather than cutting funding, ACSA strongly supports gradually increasing education funding to meet the federal government's commitment to fund the 40 percent promise.

As school leaders, we know first-hand the devastation a lack of funding can inflict on the children and families who rely on these services.

It is vital that the Department of Education commit to improving the quality of and access to preschool programs for children with disabilities. Federal funding for IDEA programs ensures the rights of children with disabilities and their parents are protected. These funds assist in providing for the education of all children with disabilities, expanding infant and preschool programs, provide additional much-needed intervention services in order to address the growing special education student population, and assesses the effectiveness of efforts to educate children with disabilities.

Congress must also offer additional federal investments in the IDEA formula grant programs, which will help support services to 6.8 million children with disabilities nationwide.

### Equality Act

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Many Americans, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer Americans, lack basic legal protections across the country. The current patchwork of laws nationwide leaves millions of people subject to uncertainty and potential discrimination that impacts their safety, their families, and their day-to-day lives.

While civil rights laws protect people on the basis of race, color, national origin, and in most cases, sex, disability, and religion there are gaps. These laws fail to provide consistent, non-discrimination protections based on sexual orientation or gender identity. It is time to extend basic protections for all people and families to live without fear of harassment or discrimination.

ACSA supports the passage of the Equality Act and is partnering with the Human Rights Campaign to advocate for its passage at the 2019 IgnitED Federal Advocacy Conference. The Equality Act would amend existing civil rights law—including the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Fair Housing Act, the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, the Jury Selection and Services Act, and several laws regarding employment with the federal government to explicitly include sexual orientation and gender identity as protected characteristics.

## **21st Century STEM for Girls and Underrepresented Minorities**

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The United States is facing a projected shortage of nearly 1 million STEM professionals by the year 2025. Senator Kamala Harris introduced legislation in spring 2019 designed to provide a \$40 million competitive, equity-focused, STEM grant program for school districts. This funding supports STEM education for students of color, girls, LGBTQ students, and students with disabilities nationwide.

The Association of California School Administrators and the National Association of School Superintendents support this legislation and will advocate for it at the 2019 IgnitED Federal Advocacy Conference.

## **Budget**

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Federal funding makes an important contribution to support America's students, however funding has seen a steady decline as Congress has worked to eliminate approximately 50 programs in the past decade. Even though federal funding consists of only 2 percent of the federal budget, it constitutes an important part of school resources. In some school districts, federal funding accounts for a far greater share of the total education budget, especially in schools with a large percentage of poor students, students living on military bases, or Native Americans. If the federal contribution increases, more of the state and local budgets could be used instead to meet other education needs.

Programs funded through Every Student Succeeds Act such as the Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants program (Title II-A) and Impact Aid have provided important resources to meet the needs of school leaders and students.

Congress must strengthen the federal investment in ESEA's primary formula programs – Titles I, II, and III. These essential funds serve California's lowest income students and communities and supplement local efforts to close achievement gaps. The president's proposed elimination of Title II, Part A funding, a \$250 million loss for California alone, would be catastrophic for schools and students.

Title IV's Student Support and Academic Enrichment block grant aims to help school districts by allowing for a flexible source of funding for improving student's academic achievement, providing all students with access to a well-rounded education (including STEM programs, civics education, and the arts), improving school conditions for learning, and promoting effective technology use to improve academic achievement. Student services are particularly important after the 2018 school shooting in Florida, as district leaders are redoubling efforts to identify potential threats before they arise, improve school climate, improve mental wellness, and increase school security.