

Professional Development:

The goal of ACSA's Superintendents' Symposium is to bring school leaders from around the state together for an invaluable two and a half days of professional learning, networking and advocacy. It is time for Superintendents to lead a movement to restore California schools to their once held rank of the best in the nation. As part of this Symposium's networking and professional learning, we will focus on integrating technology into curriculum and professional development in a digital world.

In addition to valuable workshops and professional learning activities, this year's symposium includes keynote speeches by Pedro Noguera, Hadi Partovi and Carol Dweck.

**2017 ACSA Superintendents' Symposium
Leading Innovation
February 8-10, 2017**

Hyatt Regency Indian Wells
Indian Wells, CA

**To register for this event, visit
www.acsa.org/suptysymposium**

We Work for You

ACSA's Governmental Relations team is looking for your feedback on the following topics and questions:

- The governor is seeking feedback on reforms to the state special education funding system. What suggestions, in addition to providing additional resources, would you make to the Brown administration? Please contact Cathy McBride at cmcbride@acsa.org.
- Please provide examples on how the increasing cost of pension obligations is having a specific impact on student programs. Please contact Ivan Carrillo at icarrillo@acsa.org.
- What support, clarifications, or concerns do you have regarding the implementation of the new state accountability system? Please contact Martha Alvarez at malvarez@acsa.org.

Political Action Committee:

- Political activism takes several levels for success: Lobby, grassroots and political dollars.
- We are facing larger challenges than just public employee unions who use political money to influence the Legislature. Foundations, education reformers, charter school advocates all spend large amounts of money to elect like-minded legislative candidates.
- In 2018, California will be electing a new governor and state superintendent. We need to be influential in who is elected to those positions.
- Under the current federal climate, we need to be vigilant in standing up for the rights of students.
- Donate to the ACSA PAC at www.acsa.org/donate.



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State Update

From the desk of:
Dr. Wesley Smith, ACSA Executive Director



"Supporting education leaders as they serve California's students."

IN THIS UPDATE:

- 2017-18 State Budget Overview
- Accountability
- Facilities
- Pensions
- Federal Issues
- Professional Development
- Political Action Committee

State Budget Overview

- Governor Jerry Brown releases 2017-2018 General Fund budget proposal January 10. Based on updated figures, Brown will release May budget revision. Lawmakers must provide the governor with a balanced budget by June 15 for his signature.
- General fund budget proposal of \$122.5 billion.
- \$73.5 billion Proposition 98 guarantee. The proposal is \$2.1 billion increase from 2016-2017 Fiscal Year budget.
- \$744 million for LCFF implementation. Funding maintaining implementation at 96 percent. Also included is \$287 million in one-time discretionary block grants.
- This is the smallest investment in LCFF since the launch of the localized initiative. In 2016-2017, the budget allocated \$2.9 billion for LCFF implementation and \$1.4 billion one-time discretionary block grants.
- A per-pupil funding increase of \$331.

Accountability

- California's new accountability system will be based on multiple measures and moves away from the decades-old single summative index.
- Considers schools' current performance (status) and improvement over time (change).
- The current school year serves as a transitional year to when the new system is fully operational in 2017-2018.
- Technical assistance, support, and interventions under LCFF and ESSA will not be implemented until the 2018-2019 school year.
- ACSA formed Accountability and Continuous Improvement Task Force to provide input, guidance, and recommendations to the State Board of Education.

LCFF Evaluation Rubrics/California School Dashboard

- The new accountability tool, known as evaluation rubrics, is now called the California School Dashboard. The dashboard is required by the LCFF to assist LEAs with identifying strengths, weaknesses, and areas in need of improvement across all eight LCFF priorities.
- The dashboard will include pre-populated student performance data on the state indicators.
- Educators will receive access to the dashboard and communications resources by February.
- The launch for the public is tentatively scheduled for March.

For additional information on California's new accountability system, visit our website at www.acsa.org/accountability.

Facilities

- Proposition 51 raised \$9 billion for K-Community College school facilities. \$7 billion allocated to K-12 facilities.
- Approximately \$2 billion in unfunded projects at the Office of Public School Construction will likely be the first priority for funding once bonds are sold.
- The legislature is prohibited from making changes to the program, but reforms can be made through policy and regulation changes.
- Legislation will be introduced to require facility bond expenditures be included in the annual K-12 Audit Guide. The Brown administration plans on revising some policies and regulations for districts requesting funding through the State School Facilities Program.
- The administration will work to revise policies and regulations to "implement front-end grant agreements that define basic terms, conditions, and accountability measures for participants that request funding through the School Facilities Program."
- Indications are bonds likely won't be sold till after June.

Pensions:

- In December, the CalPERS board unanimously voted to lower its assumed rate of return from 7.5 percent to 7.0 percent.
- Given political realities of an increase, ACSA Governmental Relations team advocated mitigating the impact: no changes to the rate below 7 percent; any changes should not go into effect during the 2017-2018 budget year; consider a phase-in of new rates over three years.
- Preliminary numbers would have raised CalPERS employer contribution rates by 20 percent for 17-18 year.
- ACSA is well aware of budget pressures on districts and the Governmental Relations team is exploring all options to mitigate the impacts.

Federal issues:

- School choice will be a priority for the new secretary and new chair of the House Education and Workforce Committee. President Trump's proposed \$20 billion funding for choice will likely be difficult to get through the fiscally conservative Congress.
- Expected roll-back of ESSA proposed regulations returning more authority back to states and districts.
- Congressional priorities will be reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, reauthorization of Carl Perkins Act and reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Act.
- Reauthorization of IDEA is currently not on the list of Congressional priorities.
- Still unknown is whether the Trump administration will revoke the executive order for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). Uncertainty remains what immigration reforms across the board will be.