

Professional Development

Principals Summer Institute

June 25-July 1 | UCLA

Institute for New and Aspiring Principals

June 26-30 | UCLA

Women in School Leadership Forum

September 28-29 | Newport Beach

ACSA Leadership Summit

November 2-4 | San Jose

To learn more about all of ACSA's professional learning opportunities and to register, go to www.acsa.org and click Professional Learning.

Advocacy in Action

ACSA needs school leaders to be proactive – to educate and advocate.

When school management pursues an imperative issue like teacher tenure, we must utilize a coordinated effort between ACSA's lobbying team in Sacramento, and every school leader's relationship with their elected official. Only then will we be successful on the statewide level.

Many legislators are challenging the use of LCFF resources, LCAPs, and the transparency they both provide. School leaders must advocate on behalf of their districts by telling their story, and give their elected officials a clear understanding of how statewide policies impact students every day.

Advocacy in Action is ACSA's first statewide grassroots advocacy campaign and should be considered an extension of Legislative Action Day. Invite your legislator to your school site or district and tell your story. More details to come on www.acsa.org/PAC.

We Work For You

ACSA Hosting Webinar on Draft ESSA State Plan

Wednesday, May 24, 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

RSVP: www.acsa.org/GRwebinars

ACSA Governmental Relations is providing our members a preview of California's draft Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) State Plan as the state attempts to align its work into one local, state and federal accountability and continuous improvement system.

The draft plan is anticipated to be released on May 22, 2017. The State Board of Education anticipates a 30 day public comment period with the goal of submitting California's ESSA State Plan to the federal government by September.

This webinar will be an opportunity to get an overview of the key elements of the federal plan and solicit preliminary input from our members on these important issues.

Seeking your comments

Before Governor Brown leaves office at the end of 2018, what modifications should ACSA consider pursuing related to the Local Control Funding Formula statute, both in terms of the fiscal and accountability provisions? Send your feedback to Martha Alvarez, ACSA Legislative Advocate, at malvarez@acsa.org.



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State Update

From the desk of:
Dr. Wesley Smith, ACSA Executive Director
May, 2017



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

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Undocumented Immigrants

- Undocumented students have a right to attend school in California and the right to be in a public school learning environment free from discrimination, harassment, bullying, violence, and intimidation.
- ACSA is committed to ensuring undocumented students, family members, and employees have access to a safe, equitable, and supportive educational environment.
- ACSA led efforts to block President Trump's executive order threatening to withhold federal funds from sanctuary jurisdictions. President Ralph Porras submitted a declaration of support to the courts and ACSA submitted an amicus brief detailing how the executive order negatively impacts students. The declaration and the amicus brief were both cited by Judge William Orrick as reasons for issuing his preliminary injunction.
- ACSA has developed several resources to help protect undocumented students and families. Fact sheets, guidance cards and videos providing legal clarity are available in both English and Spanish translations at www.acsa.org/undocumented.

State Budget Update

- State revenue collections continue to fluctuate each month. March revenue reports exceeded the forecast by \$1.4 billion, bringing the year-to-date revenues to \$1.2 billion above the governor's January budget forecast. However, personal income tax (PIT) revenues for April have fallen short of the governor's forecast by \$704 million. Now there is little evidence to support a strong May Revision revenue adjustment this year.
- School districts will optimistically rely on the May Revision for the state to either reduce or eliminate in its entirety the governor's proposed \$859 million two week deferral payment in Proposition 98 funding.
- The state budget subcommittees have indicated their budget priorities will include restoration of preschool and childcare slots and increasing the reimbursement rates for providers, augmenting investments to address the persisting teacher shortage, and leveraging any new one-time funding for certain Democratic priorities, but the funding to support these priorities may not materialize.

Assembly Bill 1220 (Weber) Extension of Probationary Period

- Bill will extend the teacher probationary period to 3 years, with an optional year 4 and 5.
- ACSA members support a 3-year probationary period. California currently has the shortest teacher probationary period in the country.

- Over the years, similar legislation has been defeated many times in the Legislature. Thus far, the bill has passed its first hurdle, moving out of the Assembly Education Committee.
- ACSA members are being urged to contact their representatives in the State Assembly in support of AB 1220 (Weber) extending the teacher probationary period.
- AB 1220 is not fully developed and needs continued work, but the bill must move forward in order for the probationary period discussion to continue.
- The courts and the State Board of Education have stated the probationary period is a topic for the Legislature.

Assembly Bill 52 (Cooper) Employee Orientation

- Legislation has been introduced in the past to require public employers to provide new employees an orientation during the workday at the site, and must provide an opportunity for the union to present to their members. ACSA has helped defeat prior proposals.
- AB 52 (Cooper), which would have required public employers to hold an employee orientation, was pulled from committee so no hearing on the bill will take place. This is likely to be a budget play.
- Unions are emboldened to push the union orientation due to the recent US Supreme Court Justice appointment and cases moving toward court to challenge agency fee.

Charter School Task Force

- ACSA convened its first Charter School Task Force meeting April 4.
- The Task Force is discussing what should be included in ACSA's set of principles on charter schools, how ACSA can support members in the work they do, as well as what legislative action may be necessary in the short and long term.
- Discussions on Charter Schools centered on increasing transparency, accountability, training and support for charter school authorizers, as well as how ACSA can best support the work of all administrators to ensure that high-quality schools provide a fair and equitable opportunity for each student.

Legislation

- The Senate Education Committee has decided not to take a vote on any charter school authorization bills in the first half of the 2017-18 legislative session.
- They will hear the bills for purposes of discussion only and plan to hold informational hearing(s) later this year, pausing any proposed legislation until at least January.
- Both SB 808 (Mendoza) that would allow school districts to claim financial hardship as a reason for denying a charter petition, and AB 1224 (Weber) which established the Charter School Authorizer Pilot Program, failed the policy deadline for this year.

U.S. Department of Education budget

The House Rules Committee has released a fiscal year 2017 omnibus spending bill that has been the center of Capitol Hill negotiations the past few weeks. Overall, the bill funds the Department of Education at \$68 billion. Although this overall amount represents a decrease, this outcome represents a significant "win" for the education community given the present budget climate in Washington. Key education spending levels in the fiscal year 2017 bill include:

- Every Student Succeeds Act, Title I: \$15.4 billion (\$550M increase)
- Every Student Succeeds Act, Title II: \$2.05 billion (\$294M decrease)
- Every Student Succeeds Act, Title III: \$737 million (level funded)
- IDEA State Grants \$12 billion (\$90M increase)
- ESSA, Title IV, Student Support and Academic Enrichment: \$400M (\$400M increase)
- Perkins CTE State Grants \$1.11 billion (level funded)
- Preschool Development Grants \$250 million (level funded)

Because ACSA supports funding for Title I, II, and III, we are advocating for no cuts to these programs.

Gorsuch/Supreme Court and voucher/ separation of church and state issue:

- The Missouri case of Trinity Lutheran Church v. Comer discusses whether officials in Missouri are entitled to reject an application from a Lutheran church for a grant to use recycled tires to resurface a preschool playground. This case is the latest raising questions about whether public money can be spent on religious schools.
- The Missouri constitution bars spending public money "directly or indirectly, in aid of any church," and the state Supreme Court has called for "a very high wall between church and state."
- Advocates of strict church-state separation, meanwhile, warn that toppling Blaine Amendments could take the nation down a slippery slope.
- The ACLU is among several groups urging the court to protect the amendments, including the National Education Association, the Anti-Defamation League, and Americans United for Separation of Church and State.
- Teachers unions and advocates for the separation of church and state have stated that this is a "slippery slope" and linked the use of public funding to religious schools and school voucher policies.
- The outcome of this case could have many implications across the country – ultimately it is to be seen how this could change reimbursements, vouchers and other funding that is directed to private religious schools.