

Professional Development Dates:

- **Women in School Leadership Forum**
September 28-29, Newport Beach.
- **Personnel Institute**
October 4-6, Long Beach.
- **ACSA Leadership Summit**
November 2-4, San Jose.
- **Clear Administrative Credential Program winter enrollment** | November 1, 2017-January 31, 2018.

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

Do you know about ACSA's mentoring program?

- For those with less than two years of experience in their positions or administration.
- Confidential and practical support provided by skilled mentors.
- Free to ACSA members only.

Mentoring is a critical step in every administrator's journey. Protect and develop your new talent and get them connected.

To access the ACSA mentoring program, please go to our website at www.acsa.org/mentorprogram or email memberservices@acsa.org.

Advocacy in Action:

Advocacy in Action is ACSA's statewide grassroots advocacy campaign held throughout the month of October 2017. The goal of Advocacy in Action is to urge all ACSA members to reach out to their legislators and invite them to their schools in an effort to begin building or maintain an existing relationship. ACSA leaders engaging their legislators at home is an imperative part of the association's legislative and political advocacy.

Political Landscape:

Both major candidates running for the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) seat have been invited to ACSA's October Leadership Assembly in an effort to familiarize ACSA delegates with each candidate. Formal interviews will be held in November 2017, and an announcement regarding ACSA's official endorsement will occur in January 2018.

We work for you.

ACSA is asking for your feedback on issues impacting education leaders and student advocates. Please send answers to the following questions to Martha Alvarez at malvarez@acsa.org.

- How does the structure of the system of support ensure that local educational agencies (LEAs) can connect with resources aligned to their identified needs at the right time?
- How does the structure of the system reflect the needs of LEAs and a shift from support being done to an LEA to support working alongside an LEA?



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State Update

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



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

IN THIS UPDATE:

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Accountability

- The State Board of Education, California Department of Education and California Collaborative for Educational Excellence staff have initiated discussions with stakeholders on the state's system of support, focused on the skills, knowledge and expertise administrators need to acquire to help students become prepared for college and careers.
- The system of support will be built over time. The updated California School Dashboard will be used in 2017-18 to determine whether county offices of education must offer assistance to districts under LCFF.
- The updated Dashboard fall release is tentatively scheduled for the week of November 27, 2017.
- The State Board of Education will adopt the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) State Plan at its September 13, 2017 meeting, prior to submitting it to the U.S. Department of Education.
- Administrators are encouraged to contact Martha Alvarez at malvarez@acsa.org to provide input on the type of supports school districts and school sites will need, as well as any suggestions to improve the Dashboard and the new state accountability system.

Revenue Projections

- The Department of Finance (DOF) affirmed the State Controller's report that revenues for fiscal year 2017-18 are positive, with July revenues exceeding budget projections by \$190 million.
- The "Big Three" revenue sources outperformed the 2017-18 State Budget estimates. Specifically, the Personal Income Tax and Sales and Use taxes were, respectively, \$34 million and \$136 million above projections. While cash receipts from Corporate taxes were shy of projections by \$1 million, this slight shortfall was offset by \$52 million in prepayments.
- Also consistent with the Controller's report, the August Finance Bulletin reports that California's median home price increased by nearly 1% over June and is 7% higher than a year ago, reaching a statewide median of \$555,150.

DACA

- On September 5, 2017, President Trump ordered an end to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.
- The DACA program provides undocumented persons who came to this country as children and met other conditions, deportation deferrals and temporary work permits.
- California is home to 223,000 DACA recipients.
- ACSA is providing dozens of resources related to DACA and other immigration-related topics at www.acsa.org/undocumented.

SB 751 (Hill & Glazer): Reserve Cap

- SB 751, amended this month, modifies the school district reserve cap law established in the state budget in 2014.
- Current law mandates that if certain economic conditions are met, a reserve limit or "cap," would become active and would impact all California school districts.
- This bill would exempt basic aid districts and small districts with ADA of 2,500 or less from this law.
- This bill would modify the conditions under which the reserve cap would be triggered to require an accumulation of an amount equal to at least 3% of the Proposition 98 guarantee (\$1.9 billion in the 17- 18 year) before the reserve cap is imposed.
- This bill would change the statutory reserve limit to 10%.

AB 1217 (Bocanegra/Portantino): State STEM School Content

- This bill was recently amended to establish a new specialized state school for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) in Los Angeles County.
- This school would be governed by a nonprofit, public benefit corporation that would submit a plan to and be approved by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. This bill tasks the SPI with minimal oversight, yet provides no authority to the SPI to close the school for any reason.
- This bill sets a troubling precedent by having the legislature authorize a state school. It runs counter to LCFF by circumventing local processes, community input, and oversight. All of which benefit and protect students.
- ACSA has taken an oppose position on this bill and signed onto a joint letter opposing the bill with CTA, CASBO, CSBA, CFT, CSEA, PTA, SEIU and others.

Extension of Probationary Period

- ACSA members have been actively lobbying in both the state Assembly and Senate to urge the passage of AB 1220 (Weber) extending the teacher probationary period.
- AB 1220 overwhelmingly passed out of the Assembly, but met significant resistance in the Senate Education Committee.
- AB 1164 (Thurmond) was introduced with CTA language to provide due process, peer assistance and review for teachers provided an optional 3-year probation.
- Both bills have technically been stopped for the year and will resume in 2018. Conversations continue to take place with legislators and staff.

SB 328 (Portantino): School Start Time

- This bill would prohibit, by July 20, 2020, public middle and high schools from starting the school day before 8:30 a.m.
- Rural school districts may request a waiver to delay implementation if the district demonstrates an economic hardship.
- A zero period or an extra period offered before the regular school day are not considered part of the school day.
- ACSA has a disapprove position on this bill.

SB 607 (Skinner): Willful Defiance

- SB 607 would permanently eliminate suspensions and expulsions for "willful defiance" for grades K-5 and would prohibit willful defiance suspensions and expulsions for grades 6-12 through 2023.
- The bill has become a two-year bill and won't be acted on until 2018.
- ACSA supports expanding the current prohibition on willful defiance suspensions through the elementary school grades.
- ACSA will work with the governor's office and stakeholders in the fall to identify a compromise.

Pension Targets

- CalSTRS and CalPERS both had strong investment returns in 2016-17. CalSTRS closed the year with a return of 13.4%, while CalPERS earned a return of 11.2%.
- Unfortunately, the strong returns will have little to no impact on school employer pension contribution rates. CalSTRS' rates are set in statute through 2020-21; its board cannot make any reduction until that time.
- CalPERS may reduce its contribution rates in 2018-19, but it would only be by a fraction of a percent.

Federal Title II Funding

- The House Appropriations Subcommittee passed the FY18 education funding bill, which includes no funding for Title II-A.
- The proposed elimination of Title II-A funding is \$2.4 billion nationally; a \$250 million loss for California. Title II-A is a primary source of funding for educator professional development.
- If you live or work in a Republican legislative district, please contact your Congressperson immediately to explain the importance of this funding to California. You can find out who your elected lawmakers are on the Advocacy in Action page at www.acsa.org/advocacyinaction.