

Zaragoza-Diaz & Associates
Martha Zaragoza-Diaz

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 14, 2019

To: CABE Board of Directors

From: Martha Zaragoza Diaz, Lobbyist

Subject: Legislative Report

It is a New Day !!

One can feel the excitement and renewed energy at the State Capitol now that Gavin Newsom is Governor, a democratic supermajority exists in both houses of the California Legislature and Assembly Member Tony Thurmond is the newly elected State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Governor Newsom has made it very clear that his top priorities for his administration are tackling our state's affordability crisis, creating inclusive economic growth and opportunity for every child, and standing up for California values — from civil rights, to immigration, environmental protection, access to quality schools at all levels, and justice. The Governor is not afraid to take on “controversial” issues such as the death penalty. He recently put a halt to the Death Penalty in California via an Executive Order which declares a moratorium on executions of California’s 737 inmates on death row, despite the fact that two initiatives proposing to eliminate the death penalty were defeated by the voters! He also signed a bill (SB 126-Leyva, Ch. 3, Statutes of 2019) that requires a charter school and an entity managing a charter school to comply with the same conflict of interest requirements as school districts. Additionally, Governor Newsom requested of the State Superintendent Thurmond to convene a task force on Charter Schools to look at their fiscal impact on school districts.

Governor Newsom has hired the following persons to serve in his administration:

- Jennifer Johnson remains as Legislative Deputy Secretary,
- Catherine E. Lhamon appointed Legal Affairs Secretary,
- Giannina Pérez 47 appointed Senior Policy Advisor for Early Childhood;
- Gina Da Silva, 32, appointed Senior Policy Advisor for Immigration;
- Lande Ajose, appointed Senior Policy Advisor for Higher Education and
- Anastasia R. Carney, appointed Deputy Director of Civic Engagement and Strategic Partnerships

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There is a flurry of activity in the California Department of Education under the new leadership of SPI Tony Thurmond. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond facilitated the first meeting of the Charter Task Force as requested by Governor Gavin Newsom. As Governor Newsom stated in his first budget proposal, rising charter school enrollments in some urban districts are having real impacts on those districts' ability to provide essential support and services for their students. The Governor requested Superintendent Thurmond convene a group of experts to closely examine the impact of charter school growth on district budgets and to provide a report and recommendations to him by July 1, 2019.

Members of the Charter Task Force were selected by the California Department of Education, in consultation with the Governor's Office. On March 7, 2019 the task force met for the first time in Sacramento, and will continue to meet regularly in order to meet the Governor's July 1st deadline. SPI Thurmond will continue to lead and facilitate these meetings throughout the process.

The Superintendent's most recent staff appointments include the following:

Office of the State Superintendent:

- Government Affairs Branch: Khieem Jackson, Director
- Superintendent's Initiative Office: Mary Nicely, Senior Advisor to SPI Thurmond

Branches and Divisions

- Performance, Planning and Technology Branch: Catalina Cifuentes, Deputy Superintendent

Stay tuned for more information!

Proposed Legislation

CABE is co-sponsoring three bills this year. They are listed below.

AB 1012 (Reyes)Bilingual education: English learners.

Introduced: 2/21/2019

Summary: The bill creates the *Bilingualism for All Act* and proposes to build on past investments made by the legislature by providing multi-year support for the purposes of building the capacity of bilingual teachers and schools to help students become biliterate, bilingual or multi-lingual, beginning in early childhood through K-12. This bill is co-sponsored with Californians Together, Early Edge, and Advancement Project.

Position: Support

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SB 594 (Rubio) Pupil instruction: English Learner Roadmap Initiative.

Introduced: 2/22/2019

Summary: The bill proposes to establish the *English Learner Roadmap Initiative* under the administration of the State Department of Education in collaboration with the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence (CCEE). The bill would require the Department to administer the initiative. The bill would, commencing with the 2020–21 school year, require the department to award grants to county offices of education, school districts, consortia of charter schools, and nonprofit organizations with demonstrated expertise in English learner instruction for the purpose of implementing the EL Roadmap. The bill is co-sponsored with Californians Together and Children Now.

Position: Support

AB 1319 (Arambula) Migrant education: school or school district of origin.

Introduced: 2/22/2019

Summary: Current law requires the State Board of Education to adopt a state master plan for services to migrant children. This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would allow a pupil who is a migrant child to continue attending their school of origin or a school within their school district of origin, regardless of any change of residence of the migrant child or their family. The bill is co-sponsored with Californians Together.

Position: Support

My next legislative report will provide proposed bills impacting English learners and public education in general.

Stay tuned.