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HISTORIC INVESTMENTS FOR K-12 EDUCATION!!

[Editor's Note: Be sure to read the General Comments section on the last page of this report.]

2021-22 state budget invests a total of \$123.9 billion overall for K-12 education, the highest level of funding in California's history! The intent of this funding is to support the academic, social, and emotional needs of students and educators with a focus on equity and our highest-need students. The state budget also includes one-time federal dollars (\$24 billion for K-12) and one-time funds, \$58.4 billion in total. Per-pupil funding is at its highest level as well, totaling \$13,976 per pupil in Proposition 98 General Fund and \$21,555 per pupil when accounting for all funding sources. This increased level of investments is welcomed after the very tough 2020 school year experienced by local educational agencies (LEAs) as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Below are significant provisions contained in the 2021-22 state budget:

Proposition 98

The significant increase in revenues projected for 2020-21 and 2021-22 results in a corresponding increase in resources for K-14 schools. Proposition 98 is estimated to be \$79.3 billion in 2019-20, \$93.4 billion in 2020-21, and \$93.7 billion in 2021-22, representing a historically high three-year increase in the minimum guarantee of \$47 billion over the level funded in the 2020 Budget Act.

Public School System Stabilization Account

Also known as the Prop 98 Rainy Day Fund, the state budget provides in 2020-21 and 2021-22 payments of \$1.9 billion and \$2.6 billion respectively, for a total account balance of \$4.5 billion at the end of 2021-22.

Local Control Funding Formula

The state budget provides a compounded 5% cost-of-living (COLA-4.05%) increase to the LCFF base grant. An additional \$1.1 billion increase was given to the LCFF concentration grant from 50% to 65% of the base grant, supporting school districts with a high proportion (55% or more) of unduplicated students who are English Learners, students from low-income families, and foster youth. School districts receiving these concentration grants will need to demonstrate in their LCAP how these funds are used to increase the number of classified and certificated staff in their schools. Staff includes school counselors, nurses, teachers, paraprofessionals, custodial staff, and other student support providers. This additional funding results in a 5.07 % COLA over the 2020-21 levels.



Deferrals

The 2020 Budget Act included deferrals to the LCFF apportionments, in the amounts of \$1.9 billion in 2019-20, growing to more than \$11 billion in 2020-21. The state budget eliminates all K-12 deferrals in 2021-22.

Comprehensive Student Supports

- a. **Community Schools:** The state budget includes a \$3 billion Proposition 98 General Fund, available over several years, to expand and strengthen the implementation and use of the community school model to all schools in communities with high levels of poverty. Over \$140 million of the nearly \$3 billion will support the establishment of regional technical assistance centers across the state to assist local educational agencies in establishing and maintaining community schools using multiple funding sources to meet students' needs.
- b. **Youth Foster Care:** County offices of education will receive an additional \$30 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund to work with local partners to coordinate and provide direct services to these students.
- c. **A-G Completion Improvement Grant Program:** \$547.5 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund allocated to high schools for the purpose of increasing the number of students, particularly students eligible for free and/or reduced-price meals, English Learners, and foster youth who are graduating from high school having completed the A-G series of classes required for admission to the California State University and University of California.



Expanded Learning Time

The budget makes an initial \$1.8 billion as part of a multi-year plan to implement expanded-day, full-year instruction and enrichment for all elementary school students, with a focus on local educational agencies with the highest concentrations of low-income students, English Learners, and youth in foster care, with a guaranteed placement of these students. Funding is expected to increase to \$5 billion by 2025-26.



These programs are to offer developmentally appropriate enrichment to students, including:

- An educational element in which tutoring or homework assistance is provided, and
- A supplemental element including, but not limited to, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM); fine arts; career technical education; recreation; and physical fitness.

Additionally, these programs will be required to maintain adult-to-student ratios of no less than 1:10 for transitional kindergarten and kindergarten students and 1:20 for students in first through sixth grades. Additionally, over the implementation period, LEAs are expected to expand access to all students. In the meantime, local educational agencies are encouraged to expand access beyond the targeted student population by incorporating fee-based services into their programs for students whose families can afford to pay, using a graduated fee schedule that considers family income.

EDUCATOR PREPARATION, RETENTION, AND TRAINING

The state budget provides approximately \$2.9 billion to support educator initiatives. These proposals include:

a. Workforce Preparation:

- \$500 million one-time General Fund over five years for the Golden State Teacher Grant program, which would support a combined total of at least 25,000 grants for teacher credential candidates who commit to teach at a priority school, in a high-need subject matter area (*including bilingual education*), for four years.
- \$350 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund over five years to support teacher preparation residencies and other grow-your-own teacher credentialing programs.
- \$125 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund over five years for the Classified School Employee Teacher Credentialing Program, to support more than 5,000 classified school staff in becoming credentialed teachers.
- \$20 million one-time General Fund to provide a credential fee waiver in 2021-22 for individuals entering the K-12 educator workforce.
- \$15 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund over three years to support 6,000 teachers in completing the coursework necessary to receive state certification to teach computer science.
- \$1.7 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund to support the educator recruitment work of the Center on Teaching Careers.
- Statute authorizing new pathways for prospective teachers to establish basic skills and subject matter competency, through coursework and upgrades to existing examinations.



b. Retention and Training:

- \$1.5 billion one-time Proposition 98 General Fund over five years for the **Educator Effectiveness Block Grant**, to provide local educational agencies with training resources for classified, certificated, and administrative school staff in specified high-need topics, including accelerated learning, social-emotional learning, re-engaging students, restorative practices, and implicit bias training.
- \$250 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund over five years to incentivize 2,500 highly qualified **National Board-Certified teachers** to teach and mentor other instructional staff in high poverty schools.



- \$60 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund for the **Classified School Employee Summer Assistance Program**, which provides matching funds for intersessional pay for classified employees that work less than 12 months per year.
- \$50 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund for the **California Collaborative for Educational Excellence** to administer evidence-based professional development for educators that can support learning acceleration for California’s diverse student population, particularly in mathematics, literacy and language development.
- \$25 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund over five years for the **21st Century California School Leadership Academy**, to provide high-quality professional learning for administrators and other school leaders.

Additional one-time funds are also provided to increase educator training and resources in early math, reading, science instruction, computer science, dyslexia, anti-bias strategies, environmental literacy, open educational resources, ethnic studies, and LGBTQ+ cultural competency. The Budget also proposes aligning teacher preparation programs with new teacher expectations for the instruction of students with exceptional needs, including dyslexia.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

The state budget includes, but is not limited to, the following for special education programs:

- \$450 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund for LEAs to provide learning recovery supports for students with disabilities.
- \$396.9 million ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund to increase the statewide base rate for special education funding.
- \$277.7 million one-time federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) funds to local educational agencies to increase general statewide special education resources.
- \$260 million ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund to support early intervention services for preschool-aged children.
- \$186.1 million ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund to provide a 4.05-percent cost-of-living adjustment for state special education funding.
- \$15 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund for grants to LEAs to improve the delivery of inclusive practices.
- \$10 million one-time federal IDEA funds to provide technical assistance and support to local educational agencies in developing and administering comprehensive individualized education programs and to develop tools and resources to assess and address academic impacts of the pandemic on students with disabilities.
- \$7 million ongoing federal IDEA funds to support and expand Family Empowerment Centers.
- \$2.3 million federal IDEA funds (of which \$965,000 is available on a one-time basis) and 6 positions for the Department of Education to address special education complaints, perform court-ordered special education monitoring of LEAs, and to purchase special education monitoring software.



Universal Transitional Kindergarten

The state budget includes investments to transition to universal TK over five years. For 2021-22, \$300 million will be provided for planning, implementation, and increasing the number of highly qualified early childhood educators. With the goal of increasing access to ALL four-year-old children by 2025-26, eligibility will be

expanded yearly by two months. To support these additional slots, \$600 million will be provided in 2022-23, growing to \$2.7 billion in 2025-26. Additionally, the state budget includes \$130 million for additional access to and increased reimbursement rates for the California State Preschool Program (CSPP).



To maximize parent choice, the state budget clarifies that otherwise-eligible children may remain eligible for transitional kindergarten, State Preschool, Head Start, or any other state or federal childcare program that a student’s parent or guardian decides is best for them. Also, in the state budget, schools are encouraged to consider using State Preschool operators to provide wraparound care for their income-eligible students, and to ensure a full-day of developmentally appropriate care and education for these children.

Universal School Nutrition

To ensure that child nutrition programs are available to all children, the state budget provides an additional \$54 million Proposition 98 General Fund to reimburse all meals served to students, including for those who would not normally qualify for reimbursement under the state meal program. Federal waivers allow schools to operate the federal **Seamless Summer Option** throughout the 2021-22 school year and will allow participating schools to offer free meals to all students, regardless of income eligibility, while providing federal reimbursement at the free rate for all meals served. Beginning in 2022-23 school year, all public schools will be required to provide two free meals per day to any student who requests a meal, regardless of income eligibility.

The state budget also provides the Budget provides \$150 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund for school districts to upgrade kitchen infrastructure and equipment, as well as provide training to food service employees. Of this amount, \$120 million will provide a minimum of \$25,000 per district for kitchen upgrades and equipment, and \$30 million to provide a minimum of \$2,000 per district for training to promote nutritious foods, food preparation, and healthy food marketing.



Independent Study

The state budget requires all districts to return to full-time, in-person instruction for the 2021-22 school year. However, some parents may still be hesitant to send their children back to school for in-person instruction for various reasons, such as a child’s inability to return to in-person instruction for medical reasons. The state budget requires school districts and county offices of education to provide independent study as an option for non-classroom-based instruction, and to provide LEAs with an option to generate state funding by serving students outside the classroom in response to parent requests.



The state budget specifically states that LEAs will provide non-classroom-based instruction using the existing traditional and course-based independent study models, but will have additional requirements to: (1) provide opportunities for synchronous instruction and live interaction; (2) ensure access to technology, internet connectivity, and a dedicated and rigorous curriculum; (3) develop and implement a framework of tiered

re-engagement strategies for students not meaningfully participating in instruction; and (4) track student learning to ensure that students are making satisfactory educational progress.

Key Provisions Specific to English Learners and Immigrants

Provisions specific to English Learners and immigrants are included in the Education, Social Services and Health state budget. These provisions include but are not limited to:

- **Flexibility to Grant the State Seal of Biliteracy.** The State Superintendent of Public Instruction will have flexibility to grant the **State Seal of Biliteracy** to students who are on track to graduate in the 2021-22 school year but are unable to take the required assessments due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Funding for the Dual Language Immersion Grant Program.** \$10 million is appropriated for the Dual Language Immersion Grant Program. The California Department of Education will award at least 25 Language Immersion Grants for LEAs to initiate or expand established dual language immersion programs. The grant awards will be up to \$380,000 over three years.
- **Ethnic Studies Support.** \$5 million is provided in the state budget for the purpose of funding professional learning and instructional materials for LEAs on a regional basis, assisting school districts in providing all students, including English Learners, with appropriate and relevant historical information.
- **Immigrant Students in Community Colleges.** \$11.6 million is included in the state budget to fund the **Dreamer Resource Liaisons** and student support services for immigrant students, including undocumented students, attending community colleges.
- **California Newcomer Education and Well-Being (CalNew).** \$5 million is appropriated for the **CalNew** program. A highly successful and impactful program run by the Department of Social Services Immigrant Integration Branch that targets additional dollars to school districts serving large numbers of refugee and asylee students. In recent years, the DSS team has also expanded their work to support districts and service providers for the increasing number of unaccompanied minors coming to California. We hope to see continued investments in this important and often overlooked group of students.
- **Unaccompanied Undocumented Minors (UUM):** The state budget includes \$20 million General Fund in 2021-22 to the Department of Social Services for the purpose of providing additional support for UUMs through the Opportunities for Youth pilot project (\$4.7 million General Fund), the UUM legal services (\$14 million General Fund), and state operations (\$1.3 million General Fund).
- **DACA and Naturalization Filing Fees:** \$25 million one-time General Fund in 2021-22 is included in the state budget to the Department of Social Services to fund filing fees for **DACA** and naturalization.
- **Case Management for Asylees and Vulnerable Noncitizens:** \$8 million one-time General Fund to the Department of Social Services for case management for asylees and other vulnerable non-citizens.
- **One California:** \$30 million one-time General Fund to the Department of Social Services to augment the **One California** legal services programs for immigrants.
- **Medi-Cal Coverage to Undocumented Older Adults:** The state budget includes \$67.3 million (\$48 million General Fund) in 2021-22 and \$1.5 billion (\$1.3 billion General Fund) ongoing upon full enrollment to expand **Medi-Cal** to undocumented adults aged 50 and older effective no sooner than May 1, 2022. These costs are inclusive of In-Home Supportive Services costs included in the Department of Social Services budget.



GENERAL COMMENTS

The 2021-22 state budget puts into place an ambitious set of education programs by taking advantage of the deluge of state and federal funding. Last year, the legislature was anticipating a COVID-related recession. This did not occur. In fact, a historic surge in revenues occurred with approximately \$54 billion in General Fund tax revenues and 2020-21 fiscal year and \$179 billion in 2021-22. This increase in tax revenues results in robust funding of Proposition 98.

The 2021-22 state budget does provide some funding for services and programs addressing the educational needs of English Learners and immigrant students. It is imperative that funding be expended (especially the federal funding to address COVID-19 damages) in a timely manner and for its intended purposes.

Increased funding provides an opportunity to implement strategies that will address learning recovery and accelerate learning for English Learners, especially EL students who did not engage in distance learning or who were not given English Language Development during the pandemic.

Supporters of Bilingual Education (parents and educators) can now advocate for the expansion of existing bilingual programs or create new bilingual programs. Additionally, school districts now have the funding to prioritize bilingual programs as well and include these programs in their LCAPs.

Bilingual Teacher Preparation programs in Schools of Education: Higher Education Institutions need to take advantage of securing funding to increase the capacity of bilingual teachers. While a separate appropriation for the Bilingual Teacher Professional Development program was not attainable this year, it will be pursued next year.

It is imperative, that we all advocate on behalf of our English Learners and immigrant students by becoming actively involved in the development of the district's LCAP and budget!

