The Education Coalition

Working together to support and improve California’s public schools

TO: CA State Policymakers

FM: The Education Coalition

RE: Statement on Legislative Version of the K-12 Budget

The Education Coalition is comprised of the nine statewide K-12 education associations to provide consensus positions protecting the integrity of Proposition 98 and funding in the budget for K-12 public education.

The nine statewide organizations include:

- Association of California School Administrators [ACSA]
- California Association of School Business Officials [CASBO]
- California County Superintendents Educational Services Association [CCSESA]
- California Federation of Teachers [CFT]
- California School Boards Association [CSBA]
- California School Employees Association [CSEA]
- California State Parent Teachers Association [PTA]
- California Teachers Association [CTA]
- Service Employees International Union [SEIU]

Each year, the Education Coalition issues budget position papers and meets with legislative members of the budget and policy committees to share our consensus position on the major budget proposals in education in the state budget.

Attached is the Education Coalition’s Statement on Legislative Version of the Budget for K-12. For further information contact Dale Shimasaki, the Consultant to the Education Coalition at 916-441-3909.
Education Coalition Statement on Legislative Version of the Budget

Last week, the Assembly and Senate reached agreement on a legislative version of the state budget. The Education Coalition would like to thank the legislature for their efforts to address some of our concerns. We urge ongoing deliberations to address the state’s revenue shortfall.

1. The Education Coalition appreciates the Legislature rejecting the proposed 10 percent cut to the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and other proposed cuts. We also support delaying any trigger mechanism until later in the year, when the state will have a better understanding of state and federal revenues.

2. While the legislative budget proposal does not rely on cuts, it does propose significant payment deferrals to districts. As a result, districts will need to look to reserves or short-term borrowing to address cash flow issues. This could result in increased borrowing costs to districts. We urge the legislature to support the Governor’s proposal to provide an exemption to districts that would be unable to meet their financial obligations as a result of the deferrals.

3. Schools need more resources, not less, during this crisis. The Legislature’s proposed budget still falls short in allowing schools to be able to reopen safely. We ask the Legislature to not rely on deferrals as their only budget solution, but also include additional revenues, such as suspending additional tax credits or other tax increases.

The Education Coalition appreciates the efforts that the Legislature and Administration have made to try to mitigate the cuts and negative impacts of COVID-19 on schools. We believe more work needs to be done. The state cannot rely solely on the federal government to provide additional funding. We ask the Legislature and Governor to consider additional revenue options even after the June 15th budget deadline. Additionally, we look forward to continuing to work with you on the budget as additional information on tax revenue becomes available.