

ACSA's Advocacy in Action

Historic Funding Increase

This year, ACSA successfully pushed for unprecedented funding levels for public education.

a. Record Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) Increase

Districts have grappled with increased fiscal pressure as health, retirement and other costs continue to rise and inflation soars.

OUR ADVOCACY | We advocated to increase investment in the LCFF, resulting in the largest single year increase in ongoing, flexible LCFF funding for schools.

b. Key Fiscal Relief for COVID Related Absences

Due to extraordinary rates of absenteeism caused by the pandemic, LEAs were facing a \$3 billion loss in funding.

OUR ADVOCACY | We spearheaded a successful state budget proposal to allow districts to use their 2019-20 attendance rates in lieu of the current year rates.

c. Largest Transportation Investment in State History

For decades, Home to School Transportation (HTST) received minimal state support while school transportation costs increased exponentially.

OUR ADVOCACY | We secured the biggest funding increase in the HTST program history — \$637 million in ongoing funding, plus an annual COLA.

d. Significant Investment in Special Education

Special education costs have risen exponentially and the field is experiencing staff shortages that impact students with disabilities.

OUR ADVOCACY | We secured \$500 million in ongoing special education funding.

Returning Educators' Focus to Educating

COVID-19 public health requirements pulled administrators' attention from student services. By shifting public health directives back to public health departments and preventing other non-education requirements being put on schools, ACSA's advocacy ensured educators' primary focus would be on the academic development of students.

a. Senate Bill 1479 (Pan): COVID Testing Plans

Originally sought to require schools to designate staff to report COVID-19 testing information to the state, which would have saddled educators with additional public health requirements and cost schools hundreds of millions of dollars.

OUR ADVOCACY | We were successful in removing the staff reporting requirement.



b. Employee Vaccinate-or-Test Public Health Order Rescinded

OUR ADVOCACY | We advocated for alignment with updated Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance, which no longer recommends routine screening and testing in K-12 schools.

c. Senate Bill 906 (Portantino): Firearm Registry

Would have required every school to collect firearm information from parents and create a school-based gun registry.

OUR ADVOCACY | We were leaders in working with the author and legislative staff to remove the registry and information collection requirements.

d. Senate Bill 3 (Caballero): Local Control and Accountability Plan

Directly contradicted local control — a fundamental feature of the LCAP — by including state oversight of the LCAP process.

OUR ADVOCACY | We organized a coalition of education partners to stall the proposal early in the legislative process.

e. Senate Bill 1144 (Wiener): Water Testing and Efficiency

Would have required districts to implement onerous testing and mitigation measures for lead and legionella contamination without identifying a funding source or defining key requirements.

OUR ADVOCACY | ACSA worked with technical experts and education management partners to defeat the costly and problematic proposal.

Fighting for Students and Educators

ACSA was at the forefront of advocacy efforts to support students, as well as active and retired educators.

a. Career Technical Education Graduation Requirement

For political reasons, a bill that would have extended the long-standing ability of students to take a Career Technical Education course in lieu of a world language or art class died unexpectedly.

OUR ADVOCACY | ACSA quickly led a diverse coalition of education management, labor, and industry partners to extend the policy and ensure thousands of students' high graduation eligibility was not jeopardized.

b. Assembly Bill 1667 (Cooper): CalSTRS Accountability

CalSTRS audits have often resulted in financial penalties on schools and fixed-income retirees, even when the benefit miscalculations were caused by CalSTRS.

OUR ADVOCACY | We successfully advocated for legislation to ensure CalSTRS is financially liable for their miscalculations and changes in pension rule interpretations.

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