



April 4, 2013

The Honorable Darrell Steinberg  
Senate President pro Tem  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 205  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Senator Steinberg:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.

Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFE with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

## **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations



April 4, 2013

The Honorable John Perez  
Assembly Speaker  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 219  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Speaker Perez:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.



Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFE with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

## **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations





April 4, 2013

The Honorable Joel Anderson  
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 5052  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Senator Anderson:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.

Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFE with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

## **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations



April 4, 2013

The Honorable Jim Beall  
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 2068  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Senator Beall:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.



Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFE with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

### **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations



April 4, 2013

The Honorable Mark Leno  
Chair, Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 5100  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Senator Leno:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.

Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFF with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

### **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations





April 4, 2013

The Honorable Marty Block  
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 4090  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Senator Block:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.

Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFE with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

### **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations



April 4, 2013

The Honorable Lou Correa  
Senate Education Committee  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 5061  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Senator Correa:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.



Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFE with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

### **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations



April 4, 2013

The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier  
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 5035  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Senator DeSaulnier:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.

Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFF with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

### **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations





April 4, 2013

The Honorable Bill Emmerson  
Vice Chair, Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 5082  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Senator Emmerson:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.

Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFE with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

### **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrea Ball". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations



April 4, 2013

The Honorable Loni Hancock  
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 2082  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Senator Hancock:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.



Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFF with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

### **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations



April 4, 2013

The Honorable Jerry Hill  
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 5064  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Senator Hill:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.

Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFF with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

### **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations





April 4, 2013

The Honorable Ben Hueso  
Senate Education Committee  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 2054  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Senator Hueso:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.

Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFE with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

### **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations



April 4, 2013

The Honorable Bob Huff  
Senate Education Committee  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 305  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Senator Huff:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.



Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFE with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

### **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations



April 4, 2013

The Honorable Bob Huff  
Senate Minority Leader  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 305  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Senator Huff:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.

Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFE with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

### **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations





April 4, 2013

The Honorable Hannah-Beth Jackson  
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 5080  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Senator Jackson:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.

Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFE with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

### **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations



April 4, 2013

The Honorable Ricardo Lara  
Senate Education Committee  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 5050  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Senator Lara:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.



Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFE with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

### **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations



April 4, 2013

The Honorable Mark Leno  
Chair, Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 5100  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Senator Leno:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.

Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFF with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

**May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations





April 4, 2013

The Honorable Carol Liu  
Chair, Education Committee  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 5097  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Senator Liu:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.

Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFE with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

## **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations



April 4, 2013

The Honorable Bill Monning  
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 4066  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Senator Monning:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.



Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFF with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

**May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations



April 4, 2013

The Honorable Jim Nielsen  
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 4062  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Senator Nielsen:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.

Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFF with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

### **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations





April 4, 2013

The Honorable Curren Price, Jr.  
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 2059  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Senator Price:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.

Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFF with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

### **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations



April 4, 2013

The Honorable Tom Berryhill  
Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 3076  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Senator Berryhill:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.



Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFF with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

### **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations



April 4, 2013

The Honorable Roderick Wright  
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 2032  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Senator Wright:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.

Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFF with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

### **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations





April 4, 2013

The Honorable Mark Wyland  
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 4048  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Senator Wyland:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.

Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFE with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

### **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations



April 4, 2013

The Honorable Richard Bloom  
Assembly Budget Committee  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 3132  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Assembly Member Bloom:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.



Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFF with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

### **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrea Ball". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations



April 4, 2013

The Honorable Bob Blumenfield  
Chair, Budget Committee  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 6026  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Assembly Member Blumenfield:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.

Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFE with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

### **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations





April 4, 2013

The Honorable Susan Bonilla  
Assembly Budget Committee  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 4140  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Assembly Member Bonilla:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.

Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFE with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

### **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relation



April 4, 2013

The Honorable Joan Buchanan  
Chair, Assembly Education Committee  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 2148  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Assembly Member Buchanan:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.



Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFE with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

### **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations



April 4, 2013

The Honorable Nora Campos  
Assembly Budget Committee  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 3013  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Assembly Member Campos:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.

Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFE with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

## **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations





April 4, 2013

The Honorable Nora Campos  
Assembly Education Committee  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 3013  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Assembly Member Campos:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.

Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFE with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

## **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations



April 4, 2013

The Honorable Rocky Chavez  
Assembly Budget Committee  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 2170  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Assembly Member Chavez:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.



Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFE with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

### **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations



April 4, 2013

The Honorable Rocky Chavez  
Assembly Education Committee  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 2170  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Assembly Member Chavez:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.

Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFE with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

### **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations





April 4, 2013

The Honorable Wesley Chesbro  
Assembly Budget Committee  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 2141  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Assembly Member Chesbro:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.

Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFE with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

## **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations



April 4, 2013

The Honorable Connie Conway  
Assembly Minority Leader  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 3014  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Assembly Member Conway:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.



Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFE with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

### **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations



April 4, 2013

The Honorable Tom Daly  
Assembly Budget Committee  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 2160  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Assembly Member Daly:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.

Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFE with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

### **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations





April 4, 2013

The Honorable Roger Dickenson  
Assembly Budget Committee  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 2013  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Assembly Member Dickenson:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.

Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFE with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

### **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations



April 4, 2013

The Honorable Richard Gordon  
Assembly Budget Committee  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 4126  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Assembly Member Gordon:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.



Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFE with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

### **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations



April 4, 2013

The Honorable Jeff Gorell  
Vice Chair, Budget Committee  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 6031  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Assembly Member Gorell:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.

Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFE with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

### **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations





April 4, 2013

The Honorable Shannon Grove  
Assembly Budget Committee  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 4208  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Assembly Member Grove:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.

Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFE with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

## **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations



April 4, 2013

The Honorable Diane Harkey  
Assembly Budget Committee  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 6027  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Assembly Member Harkey:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.



Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFE with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

### **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations



April 4, 2013

The Honorable Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Sr.  
Assembly Budget Committee  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 5144  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Assembly Member Jones-Sawyer, Sr.:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.

Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFE with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

### **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations





April 4, 2013

The Honorable Dan Logue  
Assembly Budget Committee  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 4158  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Assembly Member Logue:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.

Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFE with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

### **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations



April 4, 2013

The Honorable Allan Mansoor  
Assembly Budget Committee  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 4177  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Assembly Member Mansoor:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.



Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFE with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

### **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations



April 4, 2013

The Honorable Melissa Melendez  
Assembly Budget Committee  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 4009  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Assembly Member Melendez:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.

Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFE with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

### **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations





April 4, 2013

The Honorable Holly Mitchell  
Assembly Budget Committee  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 2163  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Assembly Member Mitchell:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.

Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFE with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

### **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations



April 4, 2013

The Honorable Mike Morrell  
Assembly Budget Committee  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 4144  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Assembly Member Morrell:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.



Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFE with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

### **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations



April 4, 2013

The Honorable Kevin Mullin  
Assembly Budget Committee  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 3126  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Assembly Member Mullin:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.

Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFE with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

## **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations





April 4, 2013

The Honorable Al Muratsuchi  
Assembly Budget Committee  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 4117  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Assembly Member Muratsuchi:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.

Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFE with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

### **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations



April 4, 2013

The Honorable Adrin Nazarian  
Assembly Budget Committee  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 4015  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Assembly Member Nazarian:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.



Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFE with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

### **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations



April 4, 2013

The Honorable Adrin Nazarian  
Assembly Education Committee  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 1045  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Assembly Member Nazarian:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.

Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFE with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

### **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations





April 4, 2013

The Honorable Brian Nestande  
Assembly Budget Committee  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 4139  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Assembly Member Nestande:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.

Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFE with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

### **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations



April 4, 2013

The Honorable Kristin Olsen  
Vice Chair, Assembly Education Committee  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 2111  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Assembly Member Olsen:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.



Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFE with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

### **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations



April 4, 2013

The Honorable Jim Patterson  
Assembly Budget Committee  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 4102  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Assembly Member Patterson:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.

Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFE with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

### **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations





April 4, 2013

The Honorable Anthony Rendon  
Assembly Budget Committee  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 2136  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Assembly Member Rendon:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.

Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFE with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

## **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations



April 4, 2013

The Honorable Mark Stone  
Assembly Budget Committee  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 4164  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Assembly Member Stone:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.



Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFE with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

## **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations



April 4, 2013

The Honorable Philip Ting  
Assembly Budget Committee  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 3173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Assembly Member Ting:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.

Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFE with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

## **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations





April 4, 2013

The Honorable Donald Wagner  
Assembly Budget Committee  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 2158  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Assembly Member Wagner:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.

Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFE with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

### **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations



April 4, 2013

The Honorable Shirley Weber  
Assembly Education Committee  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 5158  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Assembly Member Weber:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.



Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFE with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

### **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations



April 4, 2013

The Honorable Das Williams  
Assembly Education Committee  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 4005  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **CSBA Budget Recommendations**

Dear Assembly Member Williams:

This letter outlines priorities and recommendations of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on our priority Proposition 98 budget issues. We have already testified on a number of these issues in hearings before the Budget Committee and Subcommittee and look forward to working with the Legislature as the budget process continues.

As an association of close to 1,000 school districts and county offices of education, CSBA strongly supports a budget that will pay down the state's Wall of Debt. Schools in communities across the state have undergone critical funding reductions over the course of the recession. Although passage of Proposition 30 allowed districts and county offices of education to avoid the drastic cuts that would have occurred had it failed, California's per pupil funding level is still significantly below pre-recession levels and was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally in the January 2013 Quality Counts survey published by *Education Week*. Districts and counties continue to face challenges in funding the high quality education programs we need for California's six million public school students, especially as we embark on implementation of the Common Core State Standards and affirm the focus on closing achievement gaps.

The Governor's proposed allocation of \$1.8 billion in the budget year to pay down K-12 deferrals and a commitment to paying off all K-12 deferrals in three years will make a significant positive impact to cash flow at the local level. Once deferrals are all paid, Prop 98 funds will be freed up at the state level to be used for programmatic purposes, including further investment in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

### **Local Control Funding Formula and Greater Investment in Base Grant**

CSBA supports the goal of LCFF to improve state support to schools by simplifying the funding system and focusing on equity, local decision-making, accountability and transparency.

However, with that goal in mind, we recommend a greater investment in the base grant than is included in the current proposal. The base grant is used by districts to fund programs and services for all students and is needed so that all districts can, for example, offer a full 180-day school year, eliminate staff furlough days, and reinvest in instructional materials and professional development. This calls for investment in the target base grant that is commensurate with the need.

Schools and county offices need to know that the state is committed to restoring all of the funding that was lost during the recession. This includes revenue limit deficits and the 20 percent cut to categoricals and means each local education agency, not simply the system, would be restored.

CSBA urges a formulation of the LCFF that is clear in its commitment to restoring district and county office funding levels and to a target for the base grant level of the national average. We recognize that establishing this priority may delay full implementation of the LCFF but the need for programmatic restoration is so great in every community that it really does need to be addressed.

#### *Timing*

Districts have been working with categorical flexibility for the last four years and are well positioned to handle the local control and accountability measures called for in the LCFF.

We support beginning implementation of the LCFF in 2013-14 and acknowledge that the timeline for full implementation including a higher target for the base grant will take more than the seven years currently projected by the Administration.

As you are aware, the flexibility for Class Size Reduction is scheduled to sunset at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year and the flexibility for the remainder of the categorical programs in Tier 3 is scheduled to sunset in 2014-15. It would create havoc for school communities to have to return to full categorical program requirements or have to plan to do so as they develop their budgets in subsequent years. We recommend the Legislature have trailer bill language prepared to extend all flexibility for an additional three years should LCFF implementation be placed on a slower track.

#### *Clarity and Objectivity in Local Accountability Plan Process*

Governing boards appreciate that local communities and state policymakers will hold districts to high expectations for sound and transparent decision-making to meet the needs of students. We urge the Legislature to retain the focus on subsidiarity and accountability for outcomes.

The trailer bill calls for the State Board of Education to adopt a template by January 1, 2014, for the Local Control and Accountability Plan. We recommend the Legislature to adopt language that calls for a stakeholder advisory group to assist with the development and adoption of the template. It is critical to have clear, objective elements in the plan template that can be articulated and easily comprehended by local communities. Clarity in the plan elements and requirements will also help ensure that districts and counties understand that the county superintendent's role in review of the local plan is to ensure its alignment to the district budget and cost projections so that the county's role does not devolve into a subjective review of the district's curriculum, instruction and other programmatic decisions.

#### *Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Centers and Programs*

CSBA supports outcome measures for Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROC/Ps). Looking for outcomes will encourage all districts and counties to address the vital need to ensure students are career ready upon completion of their education.

Our concern is that proposed trailer bill language would repeal statutes related to ROC/Ps and will result in the loss by county offices of education of the ability to use excess property taxes for these programs, which they are authorized to fund under current statutes. CSBA looks forward to working with the Legislature to craft a solution to this issue as part of the Local Control Funding Formula.

#### *Joint Powers Authorities*

The January trailer bill language eliminates provisions of the Education Code that allow the direct funding of entities that operate under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This would affect ROC/Ps and transportation JPAs which receive funding directly on behalf of their participating school districts. There needs to be an allowance for this practice to continue for JPAs that provide these types of services. Even with elimination of statutes pertaining to ROC/Ps and transportation, the direct funding statute needs to be retained even without referencing the specific programs.

#### **Adult Education**

CSBA does not support the Governor's proposal to shift adult education programs to the community colleges and augment the community colleges budget with a \$300 million shift in funds from K-12. The K-12 system provides valuable and accessible programs in adult education tailored to meet local needs. English language instruction, remedial math and English courses as well as credit recovery are well suited to be provided by K-12 school districts at locations that are geographically accessible and familiar to adults and high school students. While a call for greater collaboration and alignment with community colleges may be sound policy, the current proposal deserves greater discussion and debate and should not be considered as part of the budget process. Similar to our view on Career/Technical Education, Adult Education is a program that fits well into the LCFE with inclusion of an adult learning measurement in the state's accountability system. This will ensure the school districts reestablish their commitment to Adult Education programs.

#### **Proposition 39**

CSBA supports the Governor's calculation of the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee based on the total amount of revenue generated by Proposition 39. CSBA also supports the Governor's proposed methodology of allocation for energy project funds in a simple transparent manner, based on a per student or Average Daily Attendance (ADA) basis. We do recommend that to make the allocation system work for small school districts, the proposal include a minimum grant level.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the proposal combines the increase in the Proposition 98 guarantee and the newly created "Clean Energy Job Creation Fund." While we do appreciate that the proposed focus of the project money is schools, this method effectively crowds out the ability to use the Proposition 39 increase to the guarantee for desperately needed program restoration.

### **May Revision**

As the state's revenues continue to improve, it looks increasingly as if there will be some level of additional funds available for Proposition 98 at the May Revision. Assuming that this will occur, we urge the Legislature to consider allocating new funds on an ADA basis for the costs associated with implementing the Common Core State Standards. WestEd has estimated that one-time Common Core start-up costs could top \$1 billion and include professional development, instructional materials, technology, assessments, etc. The Legislature does not need to create a categorical program for this, but only to provide funding for it. This is a critical need that cries for attention and can be treated as a one-time allocation which keeps those funds available in the following fiscal year for continued efforts to payoff deferrals, restore funding and implement LCFF.

Thank you for your efforts in support of California's education system. Please don't hesitate to call upon CSBA if we can provide additional information on these or other budget issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Ball".

Andrea Ball  
Legislative Advocate  
Office of Governmental Relations