



April 1, 2026

The Honorable John Laird
Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8720
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Jesse Gabriel
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Sasha Renée Pérez
Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Subcommittee 1 on Education
1021 O Street, Suite 6720
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable David Alvarez
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee 3
on Education Finance
1021 O Street, Suite 5320
Sacramento, CA 95814

Via email

Re: 2026-27 TK-12 State Budget: SUPPORT THE ONGOING \$1 BILLION INVESTMENT FOR LIFE-CHANGING COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Dear Chairs and Members of the Assembly and Senate Budget Committees and Education Subcommittees:

The [California Partnership for the Future of Learning](#) (CA PFL)¹ and a broad cross-section of 112 education, community, labor, and policy advocacy organizations and networks with decades of experience advancing racial, economic, disability, and educational justice across the state, as well as community schools and local educational agencies, write in support of the proposed 2026-27 State Budget providing an annual \$1 billion to sustain and expand the transformative community schools approach through the California Community Schools Partnership Act Apportionments Program (CCSPAAP).

California's investment in a transformative [community schools approach](#) is helping nearly 2,500 of our highest need school communities partner with youth, families, educators, and community partners to advance high-quality, joyful, and just learning in schools that are culturally and linguistically affirming and provide access to basic needs such as health, housing, and food in times of crisis and beyond. [Research has shown significant benefits](#) for our students in community schools, especially in closing equity gaps for those who have been historically underserved by our public education system, including Black, English learner, socioeconomically disadvantaged, and [rural students](#). Additionally, [community schools provide the safety, connectedness, and support that students and families are seeking](#) through their schools, especially in these challenging times. Without an ongoing investment, the State risks undermining the significant progress made through this key strategy.

¹ CA PFL is a statewide alliance of over 30 community organizing and advocacy groups advancing a shared vision of a transformational, racially just education system built for us all.

As your committees consider state budget priorities for our TK-12 education system, we respectfully request that you support the proposed ongoing \$1 billion allocation to sustain and expand the state’s transformative community schools strategy with the following recommendations.

1. Support Dedicated, Ongoing, and Sufficient Funding to Continue California’s Role as a National Leader on State-Funded Community Schools

By moving from one-time funding to ongoing, reliable funding to support existing and new community schools, the current proposal appropriately acknowledges that adopting the community schools approach is a long-term strategy to transform public education in our state—one that will require time and resources to do properly. School, district, and county partners report that their community school programs were successful in improving student outcomes because they had a stable and sufficient amount of funds from the California Community Schools Partnership Program (CCSPP) specifically designated to support the community schools approach. At the same time, community schools funding has been flexible enough to allow unique school communities to collaboratively decide how they will spend their funding aligned to locally determined needs, assets, and goals.

We also support ongoing resources for the statewide system of support. As more schools and local educational agencies (LEAs) adopt the community schools model, the system of support will need the resources to adequately monitor and assist them as they continue to grow their programs and work towards integration and sustainability. Effective capacity building will involve strong communities of practice led by the State Transformational Assistance Center (S-TAC) in partnership with the Regional Transformational Assistance Centers (R-TACs), county offices of education, and student, family, community leaders, and educators at every level of the system of support. Continuing to share power and leverage this collective expertise will help grow effective communities of practice across the state to support schools to reflect on challenges, share successes, and develop responsive and creative strategies, so that all students can learn and thrive in schools of joy, belonging, and opportunity.

2. Ensure Meaningful Community Consultation in Development of the Apportionments Program

The trailer bill states that several processes and criteria related to receiving funds will be developed by the California Department of Education, the S-TAC, or the R-TACs. Throughout the scaling up of this community schools effort, the development of any notification, eligibility, reporting, certification, and accreditation requirements, processes, or criteria must include meaningful consultation with education interest holders involved in community schools implementation, such as community school grantees, community schools advisory bodies at the local, regional, and state levels, community-based organizations, education advocates, and labor partners.

3. Strengthen and Streamline Annual Planning and Reporting Requirements

By funding the community schools approach, the State is “bringing coherence to an incoherent system,” as State Board of Education President Linda Darling-Hammond recently testified at a joint Assembly informational hearing.² Indeed, the [California Community Schools Framework](#) contains an

² Coherence in Education Fiscal & Programmatic Planning: Joint Informational Hearing Before the Budget Subcommittee No. 3 on Education Finance and the Education Committee, California Assembly (Feb. 25, 2025)

explicit call to “align, integrate and cross stitch” community schools with other relevant initiatives. To provide more coherence and minimize duplication, we recommend aligning any data and reporting associated with the appropriations program with existing program requirements, such as the current CCSPP Annual Progress Report, as well as the School Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) and the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP).

4. Ensure Commitment to Implementing the Community Schools Framework

The state’s [Community Schools Framework](#), inclusive of the pillars, key conditions of learning, cornerstone commitments, and proven practices, has been foundational to the successful results of the state’s investment in the CCSPP. Current grantees have been implementing elements of the Framework such as the *Commitment to Shared Decision Making and Participatory Practices* by convening shared decision-making teams, assessing local assets and needs, and collaboratively developing and presenting implementation plans at each site. Because fidelity to the Community Schools Framework is of the utmost importance, the state must ensure that new recipient LEAs and schools are also committed to implementing the Framework in advance of receiving funds.

We have seen that community schools improve academic outcomes and help to close long-standing opportunity gaps for historically underserved student groups in our state, including Black students, English learners, rural students, and socioeconomically disadvantaged students. Community schools also create hubs of belonging and support for the students, families, and communities who fear oppressive immigration raids, struggle with the loss of healthcare and SNAP benefits, and worry about the dismantling of federal education protections.

We applaud Governor Newsom, Members of the Assembly and Senate, and other state leaders for the historic investment in the community schools approach, and we ask that you support the ongoing \$1 billion investment in this [model for the nation](#) to expand opportunity and protect our children and families.

Thank you for considering our recommendations.

In unity,

CA Partnership for the Future of Learning, Katy Núñez-Adler, Statewide Coordinator
Alameda County Office of Education, Lucy Salcido Carter, Director of Policy and Governance
Alianza Coachella Valley, Silvia Paz, Executive Director
Alisal Union School District,
Monica Anzo, Superintendent
Dr. Clara Fernández, Deputy Superintendent
Lupita Murillo, Program Manager, Frank Paul Family Resource Center
All For Kids, Ron E. Brown, Ph.D., President & CEO
Alliance for a Better Community, Vanessa Aramayo, CEO & President
Alliance for Boys and Men of Color (ABMoC), Sally Ching, Policy Director

(Statement of Linda Darling-Hammond),
<https://www.assembly.ca.gov/media/assembly-budget-subcommittee-no-3-education-finance-20260225>.

Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE), Amy Schur, Campaign Director
Anaheim Elementary School District, Jesus Chavarria, Superintendent
Anaheim Union High School District,
 Dr. Jaron Fried, Superintendent
 Araceli Chavez, Manager for Family and Community Engagement
Bay Area Community Resources, Jonas Mok, CEO
BAY-Peace, Leilani Salvador, Director
Black Parallel School Board, Carl Pinkston, Director of Operation
Bright Futures Educational Partnership, Tony Amezcua, Director
Brotherhood Crusade, Charisse Bremond Weaver, President & CEO
Building Healthy Communities Kern, Reyna Olaguez, President/CEO
Building Healthy Communities Monterey County,
 Alma Cervantes, Director of Education Equity and Justice
 Patterson Emesibe, Board Member
California Alliance for Youth and Community Justice (CAYCJ),
 Israel Salazar Villa, Deputy Director
California Black Power Network, Jahna Morehouse, Policy and Campaigns Associate
California Family Engagement Network (CA-FEN), Araceli Simeon, Executive Director
California Indigenous Youth Collective, Danielle Frank, Co-founder
Californians for Safety and Justice, Anthony DiMartino, MSW, Government Affairs Director
California School-Based Health Alliance (CSHA), Sergio J. Morales, Executive Director
Californians Together, Martha Hernandez, Executive Director
Catalyst California, Vickie Ramos Harris, Vice President of Policy and Programs
Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Inc., Nancy Lewis, Director, CalFresh Healthy Living
Children Now, Sara Bachez, Senior Director, Education Policy and Advocacy
Children's Cause Orange County, Michael Arnot, Executive Director
Children's Defense Fund CA, Yasmine-Imani McMorrin, Director of Education Equity
City Hearts: Kids Say YES to the Arts, Charles Maceo Thornhill, Executive Director
Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth, Brandie Bowen-Bremond, Policy Director
Collective for Liberatory Lawyering, Ruth Cusick, Co-Founder & Director of Collaborative Practice
Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice (CURYJ), George Galvis, Executive Director
Community Coalition, Hector Sanchez, Vice President of Programs
Community Schools Learning Exchange (CSLX), Hayin Kimner, Founder and Managing Director
Connected to Lead, Jen Harris, Executive Director
C.O.P.E. (Congregations Organized for Prophetic Engagement),
 Pastor Samuel J. Casey, Executive Director
Courage California, Irene Kao, Executive Director
CUMBRE Humboldt, Lucy Salazar, President
Delibrainy LLC, SaFETi (School and Family Engagement Training Institute),
 Dr. Shulamit Ritblatt, Founder, CEO
Disability Rights California, Conrad Crump, Senior Policy Advocate
East Bay Asian Youth Center, David Kakishiba, Executive Director
EdTrust-West, Melissa Bardo, Director of Government Affairs
Equal Justice Society, Mona Tawatao, Legal Director
Eureka City Schools, Gary Storts, Ed.D, Superintendent
Faith in Action East Bay, Pastor Todd Benson, Executive Director
Family Engagement Lab, Vidya Sundaram, Co-founder and CEO

Fresh Lifelines for Youth (FLY), Colin Ford, Director of Policy
Gente Organizada, Ivan Hernandez, Director of Movement Building
GO Public Schools, Darcel Sanders, Chief Executive Officer
Harmony at Home, Roberto Martinez, Community Liaison
HopSkipDrive, Jordan Sosa, Community Engagement Manager
Ile Omode School, Bonisile Ikemba, Associate Director
Initiate Justice, Liz Kim, Policy Director
Inland Congregations United for Change (ICUC) / PICO CA Ed4Lib,
Tom Dolan, Executive Director
Inland Empire Prism Collective, Erika Ruiz, Community Organizing Director
InnerCity Struggle, Henry Perez, Executive Director
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children, Danny Munoz, Senior Policy Analyst
LGBTQ Center OC, Stephanie Camacho-Van Dyke, Senior Director of Advocacy and Education
Long Beach Forward, James Suazo, Executive Director
Los Amigos de OC, Dr. Jose Moreno, President
LOUD For Tomorrow, Jose Salvador Orellana, Executive Director & Co-Founder
Loyola Law School, Center for Juvenile Law and Policy, Youth Justice Education Clinic,
Vivian Wong, Director and Visiting Associate Clinical Professor
Majdal: Arab Community Center of San Diego, Ramah Awad, Executive Director
MILPA Collective, Carlos A. Hernandez, Policy and Program Coordinator
Monterey County Office of Education, Dr. Deneen Guss, Superintendent of Schools
National Association for Family, School and Community Engagement (NAFSCE),
Vito J. Borrello, Executive Director
National Equity Project, LaShawn Routé Chatmon, Chief Executive Officer
North Salinas High School,
Marisol Contreras, School Social Worker
Bret Giron, Community Liaison
Oakland Kids First, Lukas Brekke-Miesner, Executive Director
Oakland Unified School District,
Rebecca Lacocque, College and Career Pathways Director
Salomeh Ghorban, Community Schools Leadership Coordinator
Our Time To Act, Nicole Lillie, Executive Director
Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance (OCAPICA),
Mary Anne Foo, Executive Director
Orange County Communities Organized for Responsible Development (OCCORD),
Ivon Pena, Executive Director
Orange County Congregation Community Organization (OCCCO) / PICO CA Ed4Lib,
Miguel Hernandez, Executive Director
Parent Organization Network,
Nancy Villarreal, Executive Director
Daisy J. Amezcua, Director of Programs and Community Organizing
Partners For Peace, Vicki Law, Executive Director
Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans (PANA), Lucky Aden, Youth Organizer
Partnership for Los Angeles Schools, Deycy Hernandez, CXO
PICO CA Education for Liberation, Amy Campbell-Blair, Director of Organizing
PLUS ME Project, Richard Reyes, Executive Director
PowerCA Action, Saa'un Bell, Executive Vice President

Public Advocates, Angelica Jongco, Deputy Managing Attorney
Public School Strong, Flor Khan
Resilience OC, Claudia Perez, Executive Director
Rubicon Programs, Dr. Carole Dorham-Kelly, President and CEO
RYSE, Stephanie Thibodeaux Medley, Director of Education and Justice
Sacramento ACT / PICO CA Ed4Lib, Tere Flores Onofre, Executive Director
Sacramento City Unified School District,
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Saralyn Bienvenue, District Community Schools Specialist
Liz Aguirre, Community Schools Specialist
Toneiya Donkor, Community Schools Specialist
Megan Molina, Community School Specialist
Martin M. Ramirez, Community Schools Specialist
Kim Rodriguez, Community School Specialist
Salinas Union High School Board of Trustees, Nathalia Carrillo, President
Salinas Union High School District,
Dr. Carissa A. Purnell, Director, Student Health, Wellness, and Community
Yvette Ramos, Community Schools Manager, Student Health, Wellness, and Community
Randall Stuhler, Intervention Specialist
Abraham Espinoza, Counselor
Sarah Jane Bryan, School Social Worker
Sandra Arriola, MSW, PPSC, School Social Worker
Sister Warriors Freedom Coalition, April Grayson, Political Director
SOMOS Mayfair, Victor Vasquez, Co-Executive Director
South Bay Youth Changemakers, Ralph Leano Atanacio, Co-Director
Starting Over, Inc., Tineace Ferguson, Outreach Staff
Starting Over Strong, Nathan P. Kempe, Operations Director
Street Level Health Project, Gabriela Galicia, Executive Director
Teach Plus California, Sarah Lillis, Executive Director
The Children's Partnership (TCP), Jazmin Estevez-Rosas, Policy Associate
The Los Angeles Trust for Children's Health, Sarah Rodman, Executive Director
The Youth Mentoring Action Network, T. Weiston, Chief Visionary Officer
True North Organizing Network / PICO CA Ed4Lib, Terry Supahan, Executive Director
Two Feathers-NAFS, Keoki Burbank, Director of Partnerships
United Administrators of Oakland Schools, Moyra Contreras, Executive Director
United Teachers of Richmond, CTA/NEA, Francisco Ortiz, President
United Way of Greater Los Angeles,
Norma Rodriguez, Director of Community Prosperity and Ownership
Veritas Educational, Randy Olson, Researcher/Consultant
Youth Alliance, Diane Ortiz, CEO
Youth Business Alliance,
Betsy Blanchard, Executive Director
Ethel Fimbres, Program Director
Youth Forward, Jim Keddy, Executive Director
Youth Leadership Institute, Patricia Barahona, Chief Executive Officer
Youth Organize! California, Linda Sanchez, Co-Executive Director
Youth Together, Tony Douangviseth, Executive Director





CC: The Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor of California
 Honorable Members of the Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 3 on Education Finance
 Honorable Members of the Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 1 on Education
 Honorable Members of the Assembly Education Committee
 Honorable Members of the Senate Education Committee
 Nichole Muñoz-Murillo, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom
 Joe Stephenshaw, Director, Department of Finance
 Jessica Holmes, Program Budget Manager, Education Systems, Department of Finance

Andrew Medina, Principal Consultant, Office of the Senate President pro Tempore
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Tony Thurmond, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, California Department of
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Ingrid Roberson, Chief Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction, California Department of
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Lisa Clark-Devine, California Department of Education