



County School Facilities Consortium 2017-18 Goals and Priorities

Prepared September 2017

MISSION STATEMENT

THE COUNTY SCHOOL FACILITIES CONSORTIUM (CSFC) ADVOCATES FOR QUALITY SCHOOL FACILITIES FOR ALL STUDENTS BY FOCUSING ON FLEXIBILITY IN CALIFORNIA'S SCHOOL FACILITY FUNDING PROGRAM, PROMOTING EQUAL ACCESS TO FUNDING FOR COUNTY OFFICES OF EDUCATION, AND ENGAGING ON LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES.

Goals and Objectives

The following issues are identified as priorities by CSFC for advocacy in 2017-18:

1. Implementation of Proposition 51.
Represent the unique facilities needs of County Offices of Education (COEs) on Proposition 51 implementation and policy issues.
2. Represent COEs on legislative and regulatory school facilities issues.
Monitor the development and implementation of laws, regulations, and policies with implications for facilities, and empower COE representatives to educate their districts about these issues. Engage as needed to provide the COE perspective.
3. Pursue opportunities to optimize special education integration.
Advocate for and educate policymakers on improvements to optimize integration of special education facilities to serve students in their least restrictive environment. Promote the use of universal design features.
4. Education and outreach with State officials and legislators.
Develop relationships and educate Legislators and members of the Administration on issues unique to COEs and the students we serve.
5. Foster strategic partnerships.
Explore, develop, and strengthen relationships with strategic partners and coalitions in the education community and beyond.

Goals and Priorities: Background and Action Items

1. Implementation of Proposition 51.

Much of CSFC's efforts over the past year focused on supporting Proposition 51 and, once passed by voters last November, engaging on implementation efforts. CSFC represented the unique needs of COEs in policy discussions, while keeping our members informed so that they could provide leadership to the school districts in their regions. CSFC's approach during this time was to remind policymakers that COEs are different and that policy decisions should empower COEs to participate equitably, rather than at a disadvantage, in the School Facility Program (SFP).

CSFC engaged on policy discussions regarding the following specific issues:

- Front-end grant agreement for SFP projects
- Adding SFP project scope to the local K-12 annual audit, and shifting audit responsibilities from the state level to the local level
- Concurrent review of Financial Hardship status and funding applications
- Small school district three-year eligibility lock and application review

Over the next year, we anticipate ongoing policy discussion regarding the implementation of Proposition 51, and CSFC will continue to actively monitor and engage as needed. Topics could include Financial Hardship, the Priority Funding process, per pupil grant amounts, Routine Restricted Maintenance contributions, and processing projects on the Workload List. We will continue to engage on the development of local audit provisions.

ACTION: CSFC will continue to engage in advocacy efforts regarding the implementation of Proposition 51, representing the unique needs of county offices of education and keeping CSFC members informed about policy discussions and decisions.

2. Represent COEs on legislative and regulatory school facilities issues.

CSFC will continue to engage on a variety of policy issues affecting school facilities. Issues addressed over the last year include:

- Adjustments to and the extension of the Proposition 39 energy efficiency program
- Development of Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) guidance and resources
- Obligations established under the *Williams* lawsuit to inspect district facilities
- Modifications to the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) prevailing wage monitoring program
- Legislation pertaining to school water quality and lead contamination
- The role of SELPAs in the state's education system.

It is important that such programs and initiatives are resources, not burdens, for COEs and schools.

ACTION: CSFC will monitor development and implementation of relevant programs and policies, engaging as necessary to provide a unique COE perspective, and represent schools in general, on school facilities issues. CSFC leadership will continue to educate its members about such issues, empowering COE representatives to inform the districts in their regions. CSFC will work with the Division of the State Architect (DSA), the California Department of Education (CDE), the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC), and other state agencies and elected officials on relevant policy issues as they unfold.

3. Pursue opportunities to optimize special education integration.

Over the past few years, CSFC has dedicated significant energy to a very important policy issue: identifying ways to optimize integration of special education facilities in order to serve students in their least restrictive environment. At the 2017 CASH Annual Conference, CSFC leadership hosted a successful workshop exploring this issue, building upon our workshops from 2015 and 2016. CDE initiated a broader Title 5 modernization effort, beginning with stakeholder input sessions, and CSFC provided substantive feedback both in person and in writing during this process. CSFC's proposal would require a discussion between an applicant school district and COE regarding the facilities needs of special education students. The goal of this approach is to foster greater coordination that will ultimately lead to better integration of students in their least restrictive environment.

ACTION: Participate in ongoing CDE Title 5 review and stakeholder efforts. CSFC will continue to advocate that the regulations should require an applicant to certify as part of their project plan approval that a conversation has taken place between the school district and COE regarding special education facilities needs. Pursue opportunities to encourage the use of universal design features. Continue policymaker and stakeholder education efforts.

4. Education and outreach with State officials and legislators.

CSFC has continued to develop and maintain relationships with key State officials and legislators, including: State Allocation Board (SAB) members and their staff, the OPSC leadership, the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO), the Department of Finance (DOF) analysts, and CDE officials. In particular, new term limits enacted in 2012 will allow legislators to serve up to twelve years in either house, making these relationships that much more important.

ACTION: CSFC will continue efforts to inform and educate members and staff of the Legislature and Executive Branch about the unique roles, responsibilities, and facilities needs of COEs. CSFC will develop resources to prepare its members for engaging on policy issues with their local representatives.

5. Foster strategic partnerships.

CSFC recognizes that joining efforts with other organizations can amplify our voice on important policy matters. Over the past year, CSFC has continued its outreach to other organizations in the education community, including the Facilities Subcommittee of County Offices (FSCO) and the Business and Administration Steering Committee (BASC) of the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA). We worked with other education stakeholders and representatives of education management organizations and school districts, such as the California School Boards Association (CSBA). We collaborated with the Coalition for Adequate School Housing (CASH) on a number of facilities issues. As we continue to work in-depth on Proposition 51 implementation and other issues, we anticipate that coalition-building will help us achieve our common goals.

ACTION: CSFC will continue to work collaboratively with our existing coalition partners. We will participate in meetings and gatherings of other organizations, and we will continue to explore and develop relationships with other organizations in the education community.