



County School Facilities Consortium 2018-19 Goals and Priorities

Prepared October 2018

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 2018-19:

1. Support development and passage of a 2020 state school bond bill. Actively engage with the coalition of school bond supporters, representing the unique perspective of County Offices of Education (COEs). Advocacy issues will include Financial Hardship and integration of special education facilities.
2. Monitor and participate in the implementation of Proposition 51. Represent the unique facilities needs of COEs on Proposition 51 implementation and policy issues, including adequate bond sales to fund the project backlog.
3. 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.
4. Foster strategic partnerships and enhance relationships with state officials and policymakers. Explore, develop, and strengthen relationships with strategic partners, coalitions, and policymakers in the education community and beyond.

Goals and Priorities: Background and Action Items

General Advocacy Approach

The purpose of CSFC's active engagement in the policymaking process is twofold. We seek to directly represent the unique facilities needs of COEs. Additionally, keeping our COE members informed about policy discussions and decisions empowers them to serve as resources to the school districts in their region, and to represent their regions in the policy process.

1. Support development and passage of a 2020 state school bond bill.

With the exhaustion of New Construction bond authority on September 12, 2018, and the looming depletion of Modernization funds expected for mid-2019, efforts are underway to pass a state school bond bill in 2019, for placement on the ballot in 2020. Over the past year, CSFC participated with an education stakeholder group working to develop consensus items as a starting point for 2020 bond language. We submitted recommended principles for Financial Hardship projects in a 2020 bond.

In 2019, the effort will shift to advocacy in the Legislature and engagement with state agencies to negotiate the parameters for a future program. CSFC will focus on maintaining equitable access to the program for COEs, as well as maintaining the Financial Hardship program and enhancing opportunities for integrating special education facilities. We anticipate there will be conversations regarding the development of a long-term sustainable funding source for facilities, beyond a 2020 bond.

ACTION: CSFC will actively participate in the 2020 bond coalition, and engage in advocacy efforts to develop and pass a school bond bill through the legislative process in 2019.

2. Monitor and participate in the implementation of Proposition 51.

Over the past year, CSFC participated actively in multiple policy discussions and actions pertaining to the implementation of Proposition 51. CSFC's approach is to remind policymakers that COEs are different and that policy decisions should allow COEs to participate equitably in the School Facility Program (SFP).

CSFC engaged on policy discussions regarding the following specific issues:

- The appropriate level of bond sales in the FY 2018-19 budget. CSFC supported the Repair Our Schools Now coalition's request for \$3 billion in bond sales in 2018-19.
- The Office of Public School Construction's proposal to eliminate the Acknowledged List and cease accepting applications once bond authority has been exhausted. CSFC opposed and testified against this proposal.
- Developing the local audit provisions in the K-12 Annual Audit Guide.
- Funding True Unfunded List projects at 2012 pupil grant levels rather than 2017 amounts.
- Requiring SFP applicants to update their eligibility for the year in which OPSC processes the funding application.

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.

We expect to participate in advocacy efforts aimed at including an appropriate level of bond sales in the FY 2019-20 budget. Additional topics could include but are not limited to the process for accepting applications once bond authority is exhausted, the Priority Funding process, per pupil grant amounts, Financial Hardship, and processing projects on the Workload List.

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

3. 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:
 - Obligations established under the *Williams* lawsuit to inspect district facilities.
 - School safety and disaster response.
 - Municipal stormwater (MS4) permit.
 - Legislation on issues such as public works contracting, toxics, cleaning products, intervenor compensation, and more.

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.

4. Foster strategic partnerships and enhance relationships with state officials and policymakers. Over the last year, CSFC worked to continue broadening and strengthening relationships with other education partners, including the Coalition for Adequate School Housing (CASH), the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA), and other education management organizations, county offices of education, and school districts. As always, we focused on fostering relationships with relevant State officials and policymakers, including members and staff of the Legislature, the State Allocation Board, the Division of the State Architect, the California Department of Education, and others.

Over the next year, we expect collaboration efforts will increase as we support efforts to develop and pass a 2020 bond.

ACTION: CSFC will continue to work collaboratively with our existing coalition partners. We will participate in meetings of other organizations, and we will continue to explore and develop relationships with other organizations in the education community. We will raise awareness with policymakers about the need for a 2020 state school bond.