



## YPI CHARTER SCHOOLS *EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT*

**May 28, 2019**

*The mission of the YPI Charter Schools (YPICS) is to prepare students for academic success in high school, as well as post--secondary education; prepare students to be responsible and active participants in their community; and enable students to become life-long learners. Students at YPI Charter Schools will become active citizens who characterize the ideals of a diverse and democratic society. Students will provide service to their community, take responsibility for their own learning, and develop the habits of mind and body that will empower them to be successful in high school and beyond.*

### CCSA:

Dear Charter Leaders,

Considering the proof that charters are achieving incredible success for all students, it seems like it would be a no-brainer for legislators in Sacramento to champion our great public schools.

Yet, the California State Legislature, with support from the California Teachers Association (CTA), continues to pursue an aggressive agenda that puts politics before kids. Despite our best efforts to date our fight to protect students is just getting started. The package of anti-charter school bills is moving forward and will be advancing from the appropriations committees to their respective chambers' floors.

Here's what we know:

- **AB 1505 (O'Donnell): Moved to the Assembly Floor.** This bill creates uncertainty for students, teachers, and families choosing charter public schools by eliminating the right to appeal politically-driven decisions to the county or state and reducing the charter term to as few as two years.
- **AB1506 (McCarty): Moved to the Assembly Floor.** AB 1506 was amended to lift the outright ban on charter schools but would impose a cap in school districts with 10 percent or more of charter school enrollment. This bill will also limit charter management organizations from serving more students and limit access to students who are seeking more options.
- **SB 756 (Durazo): Moved to the Senate Floor.** This bill imposes a two-year ban on new charter public school choices for students and families.
- **AB 1507 (Smith):** On Monday, the Assembly voted to send this bill to the Senate for further consideration. We are opposed to AB 1507, which jeopardizes student access to innovative public school options by further

restricting where teaching and learning can happen. AB 1507 awaits further action in the Senate Education Committee after June 1.

A floor vote on AB 1505, 1506, and SB 756 is imminent and could coincide with a rally organized by opponents of public school choices at the State Capitol on May 22. We must stop these bills that will rip public school opportunities away from students who need them most! Please consider taking the following actions:

1. Call your senator now and tell them you do not support SB 756
2. Call your Assemblymember now and tell them you do not support AB 1505 and 1506.
3. Share our parent guide also available on [standforallstudents.org](http://standforallstudents.org), so that you may educate your school networks on these bills. Please consider compliance laws for your schools when distributing with parents.
4. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for the latest shareable content you can post on your personal feeds.
5. Stay up to date on our CharterNation Blog and share articles from it like this latest entry.
6. Schedule meetings with your legislators and bring students and teachers to share their personal stories. We are happy to help you coordinate those meetings with you.

We will continue pursuing every opportunity to work with Governor Newsom and California's legislators, clarifying and strengthening existing practices that make California's public schools stronger across the board. We applaud Governor Newsom's commitment in the May Revise to increasing funding for special education, and we share his vision in ensuring that all of California's kids-especially our most vulnerable students-have access to public schools that meet their individual needs.

Thank you for your relentless commitment to all public school students. They are depending on us and we cannot win this fight without you.

Adelante!

Myrna Castrejon  
President and CEO, CCSA

National:

*From the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools-*

### **“2018 Annual Report”**

Twenty-six years ago, the first charter school in the nation, City Academy, opened its doors in St. Paul, Minnesota. Since then, the charter school movement has been

growing, innovating, and thriving. Today, 3.2 million students attend more than 7,000 charter schools across the nation.

The National Alliance accomplished a great deal for the movement in 2018, including securing a record \$440 million in funding for the federal Charter Schools Program, helping Mississippi and Alabama launch new high-quality charter schools, and winning precedent-setting legal battles in Washington state and Louisiana. The National Alliance is dedicated to implementing our proven strategies to help the movement meet the demand for public charter schools. We will continue to unlock funding, improve laws, eliminate barriers, and shape the narrative.

State:

*From School Services of California –*

**“Estimates of Out-Year COLAs”**

With the release of the Governor’s 2019-20 May Revision, the Department of Finance has revised estimates of the statutory cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) after 2019-20. The Table Below illustrates the COLAs along with the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) gap funding in each year:

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Statutory COLA	2.71% (3.7% for LCFF)	3.26%	3.00%	2.80%
LCFF Gap Funding%	100.00%	-	-	-

**“Senate Rejects Governor’s Special Education Funding Proposal”**

On May 15, 2019, the Senate Budget Subcommittee #1 on Education formally rejected Governor Gavin Newsom’s May Revision proposal relating to Special Education funding. Since its introduction in January, this proposal has been heavily criticized by education stakeholders, the Legislative Analyst’s Office, and legislators who are concerned with the proposal’s narrow application to a small subset of local educational agencies (LEAs) and the state’s Special Education student population particularly in light of the fact that all LEAs must serve students identified with exceptional needs beginning at age 3.

Instead, the subcommittee approved a total of \$533 million of Special Education program as follows:

- \$333 million in ongoing funding to equalize AB 602 per student funding rates to the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of current rates; and

- \$200 million in ongoing funding to establish the Special Education Early Intervention Grant Program, which would provide a \$4000 per child grant for each three- and four-year old receiving Individualized Education Program (IEP) services through their district of resident and who is also enrolled in a mainstream early education setting as determined by the IEP. This proposal would expand Transitional Kindergarten (TK) eligibility, and full average daily attendance funding, for any four-year-old with an EEP whose 5<sup>th</sup> birthday occurs after December 2 but within the school year (in other words, such students would be included in the TK cohort).

The Senate subcommittee redirected the remaining \$163 million of Governor Newsom’s \$696.2 million Special Education proposal to other education purposes. The subcommittee also approved the following notable investments:

- Reducing the Governor’s proposed deposit into the Public School System Stabilization Account (education’s rainy day fund) from \$389.3 million to \$241.9 million;
- Reducing the Governor’s proposed \$600 million for Full-Day Kindergarten Facilities to \$150 million;
- Providing \$100 million in ongoing funds to increase the daily per-student rate for the After School Education and Safety program: and
- Providing \$550 million in one-time funding for the Mental Health Student Services Act.

The full Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee is expected to approve the Senate’s full budget on May 22, 2019.

### **“Appropriations Committees Sends Hundreds of Bills to the house Floors”**

On Thursday, May 16, 2019, the Appropriations Committee in both the Senate and the Assembly took up their suspense files and quickly disposed of nearly 1,100 measures.

The suspense file is a sort of legislative purgatory, where measures that are deemed to have a fiscal impact of a certain magnitude are placed until all those measures can be dealt with at once. In many cases, bill that go onto the committee’s suspense file never come off and are effectively killed without legislators having to cast a vote in favor or opposition.

Thursday’s hearings released hundreds of bills from the suspense files. Many of these bills were able to move on because of authors agreeing to amendments that addressed fiscal concerns, added coauthors, or reduced costs. Those bills now head to their house floors for a vote before they can go into the second house an move forward in the legislative process. Since we are in the first year of the two-year legislative session, the bills that did not make it out of the Appropriations Committee will,

barring any rule waivers, be considered inactive for the rest of the 2019 but can potentially be revived next year.

Below we highlight some of the significant education bills that will be moving forward in 2019:

- **Assembly Bill (AB) 39 (Muratsuchi, D-Torrance)—Education Finance: Local Control Funding Formula: Aspirational Funding Level: Reports.** This bill would set new, aspirational Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) base grant targets beginning in fiscal year 2020-2021.
- **AB 48 (O'Donnell, D-Long Beach)—Kindergarten-Community Colleges Public Education Facilities Bond Acts of 2020 and 2022.** This bill would put K-14 school facilities bonds on the 2020 and 2022 ballots. The bill was amended by the Assembly Appropriations Committee to include certain preschool facilities, add a matching requirement for the led program, and set the 2020 bond amount at \$13 million.
- **AB 123 (McCarty, D-Sacramento) Early Child hold Education: State Preschool Program: Access: standards.** This bill would establish the Pre-K for All Act to expand eligibility for California State Preschool Programs (CSPP), increase the reimbursement rate for the CSPP, and require CSPP lead teachers to hold a bachelor's degree by 2028.
- **AB 428 (Medina, D-Riverside)—Special Education Funding.** The bill would establish a Education funding rates to the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile, and provide a supplemental grant to support Special Education students with greater needs.
- **AB 500 (Gonzalez, D-San Diego)—School and Community College Employees: Paid Maternity Leave.** This bill would require school districts, charter schools, and community college to provide at least six weeks of full pay for pregnancy-related leaves of absence taken by certificated, academic, and classified employees.
- **AB 751 (O'Donnell)—Pupil Assessments: Pathways to College Act.** This bill would require charter school to submit its Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) to their charter authorizer for review and approval. It would also require charter schools to comply with various other LCAP requirements that currently apply to school districts and county offices of education.
- **AB 1303 (O'Donnell)—California Career Technical Education Incentive Grant Program: Strong Workforce Program.** This bill would eliminate the K-12 Strong Workforce Program and shift the ongoing funding to the Career Technical Education Incentive Grant (CTEIG), augment funding to CTEIG t o reach \$450 million ongoing, change the local match requirement for CTEIG to 1:1, and provide funding for regional CTE coordinators for technical assistance and support.
- **AB 1505 (O'Donnell)—Charter Schools: Petitions.** This bill would make significant changes to the petition, renewal, and revocation process for charter schools.

- **AB 1506 (McCarty)—Charter Schools: Statewide Total: Authorization Restrictions.** Originally this bill would have capped the number of charter schools statewide at the number of operating as of January 1, 2020. However, the bill was amended by the Assembly Appropriations Committee to remove the statewide charter school cap and instead allow local educational agencies (LEAs) with less than 10% charter school enrollment to open charter schools, provide a rolling cap to LEAs with more agencies (LEAs) with less than 10% charter school enrollment to open charter schools, provide a rolling cap to LEAs with more than 10% charter school enrollment, and provide priority to noncharter school management organizations.
- **Senate Bill (SB) 217 (Portantino, D-LaCañada Flintridge)—Special Education: Individuals with Exceptional Needs.** This bill would, outside of the AB 602 formula, allocate \$4000 to school district for every three- or four-year old child with exceptional needs who is receiving a majority of Special Education and related services in the regular education program.
- **SB 729 (Portantino)—Local Control Funding Formula: School Districts and Charter Schools.** This bill would require the LCFF base grants for school districts to be increased by a cost-of-living adjustment of 5.16% for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.
- **SB 756 (Durazo, D-Los Angeles)—Charter Schools: Moratorium.** Originally this bill would have prohibited the approval of new charter schools until June 2024, but was amended by the Senate Appropriations Committee to prohibit the approval of new charter schools for only two years.
- **Senate Constitutional Amendment 5 (Hill, D-San Mateo)—Taxation: School Districts: Parcel Tax.** This bill would put a proposition on the ballot that, if approved by voters, would lower the vote threshold from two-thirds to 55% for school and community college districts to impose, end, or increase a parcel tax.

While many significant education bills will be moving forward, there are a number that were held by the committee. We highlight a few of the bills that will not be moving forward below:

- **AB 124 (McCarty)—childcare: Local Planning Councils.** This bill would have required local childcare and development planning councils to provide information to cities and counties regarding facility needs for early childhood education.
- **AB 1508 (Bonta, D-Oakland)—Pupil Nutrition: Breakfast After the Bell Program.** This bill would have provided grants, subject to a one-time appropriation, for schools to serve breakfast after school already has begun, known as “Breakfast After the Bell.”
- **SB 433 (Rubio, D-Baldwin Park)—Transitional Kindergarten: Average Daily Attendance.** This bill would have universalized transitional kindergarten by repealing the prohibition to earn full average daily attendance

for any four-year-old who's fifth birthday occurs after December 2 and would have included those four-year-olds in the LEAS's unduplicated pupil count.

The bills passed by the Appropriations Committees, along with the scores of bills already awaiting consideration by the full Senate and Assembly, will be debated and will need to be approved by the house of origin by Friday, May 31, 2019. Bills that meet this deadline will then to the second house where the committee process starts a new.

District:

*Excerpts from the Los Angeles Times-*

Jackie Goldberg, a veteran politician and educator who served on the Los Angeles school board three decades ago, will once again have a voice in the nation's second-largest school district after a resounding win Tuesday for a seat in a special election. Goldberg's victory over candidate Heather Repenning was also a win for the teachers union and will mark a shift in the board's power dynamic that had recently tilted toward pro-charter-school alliances.

"I do believe in the deepest part of my heart that it was the strike of the teachers ... who woke up the public to what has happened to public education since 1978," Goldberg said.

Goldberg is entering a fraught time in the district, where leaders are struggling with declining enrollment, a fight over the expansion of charter schools and questions about how to meet the district's financial commitments.

Though most charter reform requires state action, Los Angeles Unified is by far California's largest district and adding as vocal an opponent as Goldberg could have far-reaching significance.

Beyond state lobbying, the board "could call for more, tougher oversight of the charter schools," and more aggressively seek payment for use of district property, within the boundaries of existing law, UCLA education professor Pedro Noguera said.

“I’ve tried not to play into the normal, endless war between the teachers union and the charter association,” Repenning said Tuesday night. “I ran because I wanted to bring the best ideas to our school board and ... make sure our students have more academic support from pre-K all the way to college.”

The California Charter Schools Assn., which has offered heavy financial backing in past elections, did not endorse a candidate in this race. But two pro-charter philanthropists, Eli Broad and Bill Bloomfield, donated to support Repenning.

The election was a war of unions that have often historically been allies. Political action committees sponsored by the two largest labor groups in the district, United Teachers Los Angeles and Service Employees International Union, Local 99, had each spent upward of \$1 million on the race. The teachers union supported Goldberg, while SEIU backed Repenning.

During the January teachers’ strike over pay raises and other working conditions, Goldberg, 74, supported the teachers union’s claim that the district could use its reserves to meet teachers’ demands. L.A. County officials have warned, however, that the district may not be able to fully pay the costs for raises, modest class size reductions and other resources won in the contract agreement for several years.

L.A. Unified is trying to raise more revenue through a parcel tax, which Angelenos will vote on next month.

The demographic makeup of Los Angeles Unified has also shifted in recent decades — 9 of 10 students are nonwhite — and a key question was which of the two white candidates would persuade voters they would best represent a district in which nearly 90% of students are Latino. No matter who prevailed Tuesday, four of the seven board members will now be white.

That has caused some consternation among advocates and has highlighted that, while Latinos now make up nearly half the population of Los Angeles, they still lag behind in voting rolls and political clout in parts of the city. District 5 is an oddly-shaped



swath including gentrifying neighborhoods north of downtown such as Silver Lake, Highland Park and Eagle Rock and the lower-income, majority-Latino cities of Bell, Huntington Park, South Gate and Cudahy in the southeast. It was redrawn about 15 years ago in part to ensure the Latino vote would not be diluted.

Around 10:50 p.m., as a monitor revealed that 90% of precincts had reported and her lead was holding steady, Goldberg pumped her fists in the air and declared victory to supporters.

She reminded them that they had more work to do in the morning, to turn out votes for Measure EE, the parcel tax election just weeks away: “Of course you know that what this means is that none of you will ever have a peaceful night again.... I expect that all of you will be organizing.”

#### YPICS:

Bert Corona Charter High School has met CCSA’s Member Council academic threshold for CCSA renewal support! The school was notified on May 7, 2019, that the CCSA Member Council voted and agreed that the high school had met the threshold for renewal support. CCSA’s School Performance, Accountability Team, celebrated The BCHS Team for the hard work that was done to ensure growth and positive outcomes for students!

The YPICS Academic Math Team has been busy working collectively across all three schools to look at Math curriculum adoption for the 2019-2020 year. The sixteen member team, with academic leadership from each school along with math teachers from each school, has spent the last three months vetting new curriculum and reviewing the current curriculum with the mindset of either adopting new curriculum or reaffirming current curriculum for the next 3-5 year period. The team has met after school and on Saturdays and plans to make final decisions the second week of June with the final presentation from a publisher. We celebrate the work of the following committed team members, under the direction of Rene Quon, who have gone above and beyond to push this work forward:

- Alejandra Arce, BCCS, 6th Grade Math Teacher
- Angie Anguiano, BCCS 7th Grade Teacher
- José D. Castillo, BCCS Director of Operations
- Maria Contreras, BCCS 6th Grade Math Teacher
- Daniel Rios, BCCS Director of Instruction
- Paul Duran, MORCS 6th Grade Math Teacher
- Joanna Teresa Jimenez, MORCS 8th Grade Math Teacher

- Megan McKinzie, MORCS 6th Grade Math Teacher
- Rene Quon, MORCS Executive Administrator
- Freddy Zepeda, MORCS Coordinator of Instruction
- Larry Simonsen, MORCS Instructional Coach
- Ignacio Andrade, BCHS, Mathematics Teacher
- Jorge Gamboa, BCHS, Statistics & Trigonometry Teacher
- Vashon Nutt, YPICS Director of Special Education
- Nestor Garcia, BCHS Algebra Teacher
- Yolanda Fuentes, BCHS Executive Administrator