

YPI CHARTER SCHOOLS *EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT*

November 5, 2018

The mission of 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.*
- *Enable students to become life-long learners.*

Students at YPICS 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:

Message from Jed Wallace

October 1, 2018

Friends,

I am writing to you today with the news that I will be ending my service as the president and CEO of the California Charter Schools Association and that the CCSA Board of Directors has accepted my recommendation that Myrna Castrejón become our next president and CEO.

This was a very difficult decision for me. As I am now completing my tenth year at CCSA, it is a natural moment to consider whether now might be the right time for new leadership to be brought to the organization. In the end, my decision came down to assessing whether there was any other leader who could bring both a great sense of newness and excitement to the work while also maintaining the continuity that will be needed to build upon the progress that has been made over time. Myrna is that leader.

There is no one more suited to lead CCSA into the future than Myrna Castrejón. Prior to becoming CEO of [Great Public Schools Now](#), Myrna served in many crucially important roles during her time at the Association, including serving as acting CEO when I was on sabbatical three years ago. When I recommended her for this role to the CCSA Board of Directors, they too saw how Myrna is the person we need to lead us into our next chapter. Not only is Myrna a fearless voice advocating on behalf of the hundreds of thousands of kids and families attending California's charter schools, but she also brings a keen understanding of how the charter school movement can work to improve public education for all young people in California.

Now my attention turns to making sure that we manage a seamless transition allowing Myrna to hit the ground running. I will continue serving as CEO until the start of the New Year. Once the leadership

handoff is completed, I will turn my attention to my new responsibilities, which will be to assist charter organizations in other states to adopt the strengthened advocacy practices that have been critical to the success of public charter schools in California.

Finally, I would like to end by extending to all of you my deepest gratitude for the support you have provided me in this role. Whenever a moment of challenge has arisen, I have had the incredibly good fortune of having many charter folk be ready to offer their time, expertise and passion to help carve out a shared path for advancing California's charter schools. To all of you who have been there for me again and again – and by extension have been there for the hundreds of thousands of families who CCSA serves – I offer my deepest thanks. We would simply not have been able to make the stunning progress that we made over the past decade without the incredible contribution that you all have offered to CCSA and to this movement we all so cherish. As you provide to Myrna that same level of support you provided to me over the years, there is no doubt that California's charter schools will experience yet another era of even more amazing success and impact on behalf of the kids and families we are all honored to serve.

Kind regards,

Jed

National:

National Alliance Receives Charter Schools Program National Activities Grant to Establish the Charter Schools Facilities Center

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On Friday, September 28, the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Innovation and Improvement awarded the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools a \$2.4 million grant over three years to establish the Charter School Facilities Center (CSFC), the first-ever entity solely dedicated to helping public charter schools access better and more affordable facilities and facility financing.

There are an estimated 5 million additional students that would attend a charter school if they had access to one today, but current charter school supply can't keep pace with demand. One key reason is lack of access to facilities. While district schools have access to many options for financing, renovation, and construction of school buildings, charter schools cannot access those financing mechanisms to get the facilities they need to open, grow, and expand.

“At a time when demand for charter schools is increasing, lack of access to affordable, suitable facilities is our biggest challenge,” said Nina Rees, president and CEO of the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools. “Studies show that nearly one-in-five schools were forced to delay their opening by a year or more due to facilities related issues. The Charter School Facilities Center is a critical step to addressing this problem and ensuring all students have access to a high-quality public-school building.”

The CSFC will capture and share existing best practices for improving and funding facilities for charter schools, and will develop new, innovative solutions to address this challenge. Among other activities, the CSFC will create a national advisory board of industry leaders to improve the collection of existing best practice resources and identify new ideas that merit wide dissemination. In addition, the CSFC will support discrete projects to address specific needs, such as acquiring affordable funding for rural facilities.

The National Alliance looks forward to tackling this work with our partners and leaders in the field including the **Tennessee Charter School Center (TCSC)** and **Local Initiatives**

Support Corporation (LISC), (a non-profit Community Development Financial Institution). TCSC will support local capacity building through technical assistance and LISC will build on their online research portal, *SchoolBuild*, which provides critical data on charter school facility transactions and guides schools through the facility development process from start to finish.

State:

From Ed Source –

Gov. Jerry Brown wrapped up his final legislative session this week and in doing so became the most prolific decider of laws in California history. During his 16 years as governor — two terms spanning the late 1970s and early 1980s and two terms this decade — he signed a total of 17,851 bills and vetoed 1,829.

This year’s crop included dozens that touched on a plethora of education-related issues — ranging from school start times to for-profit charter schools, standardized tests, discipline, mental health and early education.

Brown largely stayed true to his beliefs in local control when it comes to education policy and vetoed several high-profile measures that came with statewide mandates. Meanwhile, he signed bills that, among other things, protected poor students and offered low-cost solutions to improving school safety.

Here’s a rundown of the governor’s decisions on some of the most-watched education legislation that crossed his desk:

School start times. SB 328 (Anthony Portantino D-Los Angeles/San Bernardino counties). Vetoed.

This bill would have required all middle and high schools to start no earlier than 8:30 a.m., except in rural areas, by July 1, 2021. This would not have applied to so-called “zero periods,” which are optional extra classes sometimes offered before the regular school day begins. Based on scientific research, supporters argued that teen sleep deprivation causes depression, poor grades and attendance, as well as higher dropout rates. But, in his veto message, Gov. Jerry Brown agreed with opponents, who say this issue should be decided by local school districts.

SAT/ACT test option. AB 1951 (Patrick O’Donnell, D-Long Beach). Vetoed.

More than three dozen school districts and charter school organizations offer the college admissions tests ACT or SAT for free to all juniors. The bill would have allowed districts to replace the Smarter Balanced 11th-grade test with ACT or SAT. Supporters call the state’s standardized test, used for district accountability, personally irrelevant to test-burdened juniors. The University of California recently said it will study the feasibility of using Smarter Balanced for college admissions decisions. In his veto message, Brown said he’d prefer that option, so it’s best to wait and see what UC and CSU, which announced this week it will reassess its use of SAT and ACT, decide.

For-profit charter schools. AB 406 (Kevin McCarty, D-Sacramento). Signed.

Charter schools that are owned by for-profit companies and nonprofit charter schools that are controlled and managed by for-profit corporations will be banned under this new law. Brown vetoed a previous bill for possibly ensnaring nonprofit charter schools that contract services with for-profit

companies, but was persuaded this bill was tailored more narrowly. Corporate-run online charter schools, which make up less than 3 percent of charter schools in California, are the target of the bill.

Ethnic studies. AB 2772 (Jose Medina, D-Riverside). Vetoed.

As initially written, the bill would have required all students to take a course in ethnic studies, teaching the cultures and history of the state’s diverse ethnic and racial groups, in high school. The scaled-back version, which Brown vetoed, would have funded 11 districts’ pilot programs, using a model curriculum under development by the state, on the condition that all students take at least a semester before graduation. “I am reluctant to encourage yet another graduation requirement” for already “overburdened” students, Brown wrote in his veto message.

Ban on suspensions for “disruption and defiance.” SB 607 (Nancy Skinner, D-Berkeley). Vetoed.

Although suspensions in California schools — particularly those having to do with classroom disruption — have dropped dramatically in recent years, they are still disproportionately meted out to African-American students and students with disabilities. This bill would have expanded the current statewide ban on “disruption and defiance” suspensions, which covers grades K-3, to include grades K-8. Brown, who vetoed a similar bill in 2012, said in his veto message that “Teachers and principals are on the front lines of educating our children and are in the best position to make decisions about order and discipline in the classrooms.”

Restraint and seclusion of students. AB 2657 (Shirley Weber, D-San Diego). Signed.

This bill bars California school staff from physically restraining K-12 students or isolating them in “seclusion rooms” unless the student’s behavior creates an imminent physical threat. It also reinstates a requirement that school districts report data on the use of restraints and seclusion to the California Department of Education. And it prohibits certain restraint techniques that are considered dangerous.

Finishing college in four years. AB 2248 (Kevin McCarty, D-Sacramento). Signed.

As part of California’s increased focus on having students earn a bachelor’s degree on time, this law makes it clear to students how many classes they need to take a semester to be on track to graduate in four years. Among other things, it orders the state agency administering the Cal Grant to inform students receiving the financial aid that in order to graduate in four years, they need at least 15 units a semester, or the quarter-system equivalent.

Bachelor’s degrees in community colleges. SB 1406 (Jerry Hill, D- San Mateo). Signed.

A novel pilot program that has allowed 15 community colleges to award bachelor’s degrees will be extended under this law. The extension gives more students a chance to take advantage of a relatively low-cost degree and the state more time to study the impact of the program. The pilot was first created through legislation passed in 2015 and limited degrees to only those not offered by the state’s public four-year universities.

More mental health counselors for college students SB 968 (Richard Pan, D-Sacramento). Vetoed.

What many describe as a mental health crisis on college campuses was addressed by this bill. It would have required each University of California and California State University campus to have one mental health counselor for every 1,500 students. In his veto message, Brown called the effort an “understandable goal” but said specific higher-education investments should go through the

budget process. He also argued that local boards or campuses, not the state, should dictate student-employee ratios.

Free and reduced priced meals in charter schools. AB 1871 (Rob Bonta, D-Oakland). Signed
State law requires that school districts provide at least one free or reduced-price meal per day to low-income students. Many charter schools already offer federally subsidized lunches and breakfasts. As of next fall, all charter schools must serve nutritious meals as well under the new law. More than half of the state's 680,000 charter school students would qualify for the program. The California Charter Schools Association supported AB 1971.

Uncollected meal debts. AB 1974 (Lorena Gonzales-Fletcher, D-Oceanside). Signed.
Last year, the Legislature banned "meal shaming," the practice in some districts of withholding school lunches or serving snacks, like cheese sticks, instead of a fully nutritious meal to children whose parents were behind in their meals payments. This year, lawmakers added protections. This new law forbids districts from withholding transcripts or diplomas from students for unpaid debts and bill collectors from reporting unpaid parents' payments to credit agencies.

Media literacy and digital citizenship. SB 830 and SB 947 (Bill Dodd, D-Napa; Hannah-Beth Jackson, D-Santa Barbara). Signed/Vetoed.

Two Senate bills addressed America's fake news epidemic. The first, SB 830, called for the California Department of Education to make available to school districts on its website a list of resources and instructional materials on media literacy, including professional development programs for teachers. The other, SB 947, would have established a state-based advisory committee tasked with developing best practices, resources and models for instruction of digital citizenship and media literacy. Brown signed SB 830 and vetoed SB 947. In his veto message, Brown cited local control as his primary reason for rejecting the bill.

Classroom door locks. AB 3205 (Patrick O'Donnell, D-Long Beach). Signed.

The February massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, led to a nationwide push to bolster school safety. This bill requires that any school modernization project done with money from the state's school facility bond program include locks that allow doors to classrooms and any room with an occupancy of five or more people to be locked from the inside. The estimated annual cost could be as high as \$750,000, depending on the number of classrooms retrofitted each year.

School safety plans. AB 1747 (Freddie Rodriguez, D-Pomona). Signed.

Another post-Parkland bill, this one expands the required elements of school safety plans, including procedures to respond to active shooter situations. Among other things, it requires schools to conduct annual active shooter drills and requires the California Department of Education to provide additional guidance and oversight of safety plans. The estimated annual statewide cost of the bill is \$5 million.

Gun violence restraining orders. AB 2888 (Phil Ting, D-San Francisco). Vetoed.

California is among a handful of states nationwide that have "red flag" laws, which make it possible for certain individuals to seek a restraining order to temporarily take away someone's guns because of the imminent danger they pose to themselves or others. Currently, only law enforcement and immediate family members can file for such a restraining order. This measure would have expanded the list to include school personnel, among others. In his veto message, Brown said the expansion is

unnecessary because school personnel can work through law enforcement to obtain the restraining orders. (See [previous EdSource article](#).)

Developmental screening for toddlers. AB 11 (Kevin McCarty, D-Sacramento; Rob Bonta, D-Oakland). Vetoed.

AB 11 would have required developmental screenings for all children, birth to age 3, under Medi-Cal health coverage. Developmental screenings are evaluations that can identify if a child's development is on track. AB 11 would also require annual reporting of these screenings for five consecutive years to ensure accurate and on-time compliance. In his [veto message](#), Brown said Medi-Cal already requires these screenings and this bill would require unneeded reporting.

Sex ed in charter schools. AB 2601 (Shirley Weber, D-San Diego). Signed.

Until now, charter schools have been exempt from the California Healthy Youth Act, which requires that public schools teach "medically accurate" and "age appropriate" comprehensive sex education. Among other things, the law delves into specific issues regarding the sexual health and development of LGBTQ students and addresses issues relating to HIV prevention, relationship abuse and sex trafficking. Beginning in the 2019-20 school year, charter schools must teach comprehensive sex education beginning in the 7th grade.

EdSource staff writers Ashley Hopkinson, Mikhail Zinshteyn and Theresa Harrington contributed to this report.

Oakland risks state takeover if it fails to make budget cuts, state and county officials warn

If Oakland Unified doesn't make millions of dollars in budget cuts over the next four years, it could risk another state takeover, state and county officials said. A bailout approved by the state Legislature in the AB1840 education finance bill could relax the timeline for those cuts, but also requires the school district board to follow through on its plans to close schools and eliminate staff positions. The state funding is expected to help the district close its budget deficit over the next four years, with the first allocation coming in 2019-20 if the district meets certain "benchmarks." *By Theresa Harrington, EdSource*

District:

LA School Report- October 31, 2018

Los Angeles Unified school administrators made a new contract offer to the district's teachers union Tuesday, proposing to give United Teachers Los Angeles members almost all of the salary increase they'd been demanding throughout [a protracted fight over a new contract](#).

The development comes after months of LAUSD officials [insisting UTLA's contract demands are too costly](#) — a stalemate that has brought the two sides [to the brink of a possible teachers strike](#) that would affect more than 480,000 students.

But UTLA officials say the new offer includes a "Trojan horse" — a provision that union leaders say would lock in larger class sizes than the union wants and grant LAUSD officials even greater latitude to increase class sizes in the future.

"Beutner is trying to buy us off with a raise," UTLA leaders [wrote](#) in a message to the union's 30,000 members last night, "while simultaneously increasing class sizes [and] reducing retiree healthcare for new employees."

LAUSD has stated that they remain committed to good faith negotiations.

YPICS:

On September 25, 2018, Bert Corona was renewed for an additional five years with Benchmarks.

The YPICS Board has established an Academic Committee to monitor the school's progress on a quarterly basis to ensure that Bert Corona and all YPICS are intently focused on closing the academic achievement gaps for all students, however, specifically for students with IEPs and ELs. The first Academic Committee Meeting took place on October 1, 2018. The committee established its role and responsibilities and reviewed the initial NWEA benchmark Assessments and the academic achievement plan for Bert Corona Charter School. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on November 26, 2018. Data from the initial SBAC Assessments and the Spring 2018 results will be reviewed and analyzed. Reports from the Academic Committee will be reported to the full board during regularly scheduled YPICS Board of Director's meetings.

Prop 39 Applications have been successfully submitted for both Monsenor Oscar Romero Charter School and Bert Corona High School.

YPICS has also been busy providing instructional support and guidance to teachers. Workshop topics included Standards Based Grading, Project Based Learning, EL and SPED strategies. Additionally, teachers have participated in PBIS training through options 3. November 5, 2018, will showcase another YPICS-wide PD. All YPICS students took the SBAC Interim Assessment. Teachers will have an opportunity to participate in collective data-dives to inform the next few units of study. This PD will take place at Bert Corona Charter High School. Anyone interested in seeing the types of sessions and training that are offered to support instruction can click on the following link: tpd.ypics.org.