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Sacramento, CA—Governor Newsom outlined his proposed 2022-23 state budget this morning during a lengthy press conference, including a large cost-of-living adjustment and continued implementation of massive K-12 program expansions; he also issued a vague call for protecting charter schools from pandemic-driven enrollment and attendance declines.

A large surplus of state tax revenues is fueling major expansions of many state programs causing the state to exceed its constitutional spending limit. Key features of the governor's proposals from a charter school perspective include the following:

Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF): The governor proposes to fund an estimated 5.33 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for LCFF and several other categorical funding programs.

Declining Enrollment/Average Daily Attendance (ADA): Newsom proposes to expand the protections that school districts enjoy under current law when their enrollment and attendance declines and results in corresponding ADA-driven funding losses. Specifically, Newsom proposes to extend the one-year protection that school districts enjoy under current law to fund districts based on the greater of the current, prior, second prior, or average ADA of the prior three years, whichever is greatest. For charter schools, which currently enjoy zero protection from declining enrollment/ADA, Newsom states that his “administration intends to engage in outreach and discussions with interested parties throughout the spring to explore options for providing declining enrollment protections for charter schools.” The budget includes \$1.2 billion in additional funding to pay for estimated costs of providing these funding cushions.

Independent Study: The Governor’s Budget states that “in 2022-23, independent study will continue to be an option for LEAs” and calls for streamlining independent study attendance accounting by allowing recently-mandated synchronous instruction to count toward instructional time when computing independent study ADA, whereas current law bases independent study ADA primarily on the “time-value” of student work products. The budget also calls for unspecified additional flexibility on the timeline for local education agencies (LEAs) to collect signed written independent study agreements.

Expanded Learning Opportunities Program Implementation: Newsom calls for funding an additional \$3.4 billion of ongoing funding, on top of the current year’s \$1.8 billion, to provide low-income students in grades TK-6 with 9 hours of instruction and academic enrichment every day and for 6 weeks each summer, plus an additional \$937 million of one-time funding for unspecified Expanded Learning infrastructure.

Early Education: The governor proposes to fund the planned expansion of transitional kindergarten (TK). Current law funds TK for serving students turning five years of age between September 2 and December 2. The Governor proposes to expand this starting in 2022-23 to serve students who turn five between September 2 and February 2, the first of several years of planned TK eligibility expansions toward the goal of serving all four-year-old students by 2025. The governor also emphasizes giving parents of TK-aged students the choice of attending a State Preschool program; he proposes adding \$308 million to the State Preschool program to provide additional funding to fund new requirements for preschools to serve at least 10 percent students with disabilities and provide additional support for dual language learners, among other proposed changes.

Charter School Facilities Grant and School Facilities Program: The governor proposes appropriating an additional \$30 million of ongoing funding to support the Charter School Facilities Grant Program. These funds could partially backfill the large, growing funding deficit in this popular program. Newsom also proposes spending \$1.3 billion of one-time funding to support the state’s School Facilities Program. During his press conference this morning, the governor indicated that he favors this new “pay-as-you-go approach” using current state revenues rather than California’s historic pattern of borrowing to pay for facilities by issuing periodic, multi-billion-dollar state school facilities bonds.

Career Pathways and Dual Enrollment: The governor calls for spending \$1.5 billion one-time funding to support the development of career pathways focused on technology, health care, education, and climate-related fields plus an additional \$500 million one-time funding, spread over four years, to expand community college dual enrollment options.

Electric School Busses: The budget proposes spending \$1.5 billion to provide LEAs with one-time grants of \$500 thousand or more to buy electric school busses and related charging infrastructure.

Universal Free School Meals: The budget proposal includes \$596 million of ongoing state funding, in addition to the \$54 million in the current-year budget, in order to fund previously-planned universal access to twice-daily subsidized school meals for all students, without regard to family income, plus \$450 million of one-time kitchen infrastructure grants. This proposal would support implementation of the call for a universal meal mandate for students to start during the upcoming, 2022-23 school year.

Early Literacy: The governor proposes spending over \$700 million for various one-time early literacy initiatives, of which \$500 million would be for schools to hire literacy coaches and reading specialists.

Special Education Funding/Reform: The proposal includes \$500 million additional, ongoing state special education funding, paired with various policy changes, including basing funding on LEA-specific data rather than the SELPA-wide ones currently used, allocating mental health (ERMHS) funding directly to LEAs rather than SELPAs, and developing a special education addendum to the LCAP, and other reforms. Notably, the budget includes no mention of the more radical

reforms recommended in a recent report commissioned by the state from WestEd which called for the state to eliminate SELPAs and implement other major changes.

Teacher Workforce: The budget includes over \$54 million for various teacher workforce proposals, several of which would continue current efforts to expand the supply of credentialed teachers.

CSDC's Upcoming Governor's Budget Webinar

While CSDC generally is pleased with the large funding increases proposed in the governor's ambitious budget, we are also concerned with the apparent, unrealistic pace of program expansions and continue to strongly advocate for more specific protections for charter schools to cushion pandemic-related enrollment and attendance losses.

CSDC will offer a more detailed analysis of the Governor's Budget and initial legislative reaction to it during our [upcoming Governor's Budget Webinar](#) next Tuesday, January 18. These will include our charter-specific analyses of the text of the actual Budget Act legislation and other key details that will be made available by Newsom's staff in coming days.

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