EQUITABLE SUPPORT FOR CALIFORNIA STUDENTS DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS

Strategies for School Board Members

CSBA
TODAY’S PANELISTS

- Leslie Hamburger, Area Director of English Learners and Migrant Education Services, WestEd
- Jessica Howard, Chief Executive Officer, Californians Dedicated to Education Foundation
- Patricia Love, Executive Director of Strategy and Communications, San Mateo County Office of Education
- Jason Willis, Area Director of Strategic Resource Planning and Implementation, WestEd
- Maria Salciccioli, Senior Research Associate in Research-Practice Partnerships, WestEd
- Mary Briggs, Director, Research and Education Policy Development, CSBA
ENGLISH LEARNERS AND COVID

- COVID-19 has had a disproportionate impact on English learners
- English learners thrive in *coherent* education systems that focus on the design of quality learning opportunities
- Formative assessment practices are useful for supporting quality learning for English learners
- Look for meaningful engagement between English learners and their peers as they develop deep understanding of STEM ideas
JESSICA HOWARD
Chief Executive Officer, Californians Dedicated to Education Foundation
THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

- As of May 2020, 1 in 5 California students lacked the necessary technology and/or internet access to succeed in distance learning.
- Achievement gaps widen during absences from school.
- Educators and education stakeholders are collaborating on promising solutions to address the digital divide, including the Bridging the Digital Divide Fund.
- Board members can ask how the district is engaging with key student groups.
PATRICIA LOVE
Executive Director of Strategy and Communications, San Mateo County Office of Education
COUNTIES LEADING THE WAY

- San Mateo County Office of Education (SMCOE) is one of several counties throughout the state that has approached the 2020-21 school year with innovative strategies that emphasize safety.

- SMCOE has released a Pandemic Recovery Framework to help schools reopen safely.

- Framework is centered on equity, based on science, and addresses health, educational, and legal considerations.
NIMBLE REVIEW PROCESS

- Framework is the basis of over 72 reopening plans in the county
- Plans do not change as county moved to different Tiers, but review process does slightly
- Work closely with districts and schools to strengthen their plans
- Framework provides common language and guidance
- Many of SMCOE’s resources are publicly available on their county website
- Board members may consider whether their reopening strategy holistically addresses student/teacher needs
JASON WILLIS
Area Director of Strategic Resource Planning and Implementation, WestEd
The LCFF can be a critical planning tool for how to actualize equitable delivery systems, especially during the pandemic.

Board members play a critical role in:

- **Ensuring funds support high-need students** through ongoing (LCFF) and one-time funds (CARES Act allocations)
- **Advance the mission of the school system** to support the equitable outcomes of students
- **Ask the questions that bring the use of resources to the surface**, e.g., specs of technology, bandwidth being used by student populations, amount of synchronous instruction for high-need students, etc.
The FY21 (this school year) will look different among any other in the allocation and use of resources.

This is largely attributable to several factors:

- The massive shift to distance learning requires spending in different categories of spending (technology versus substitute teachers/teacher stipends)
- Comparing one year to the next, FY21 will stand alone. Particularly if in-person instruction resumes in part (or whole) in the FY22.
- The deliberation that will be forthcoming about what changes remain permanent even after the pandemic, e.g., distance learning
During the discussion, please consider:

- Which of the considerations discussed today are most relevant in my district?
- What questions do I still have? What do I want to learn more about?
- How can I provide more support locally? What support do I need, as a board member?
- What information from this discussion can I bring back to my district?
QUESTIONS?

Today’s Presenters:

• Leslie Hamburger
• Jessica Howard
• Patricia Love
• Jason Willis
• Maria Salciccioli
• Mary Briggs
UPCOMING RESOURCES

We hope you’ll read the following upcoming briefs from CSBA:

- Challenging and Supporting English Learners in STEM Learning at a Distance
- Supporting English Learners through Formative Assessment Practices
- Making STEM Accessible and Engaging for Students with Disabilities
- Family and Caregiver Barriers to Distance Learning during the COVID-19 Pandemic
- California Education in Times of Crisis: Strategies to Address Barriers in the COVID-19 Pandemic
- The Disparate Impact of Learning Loss on Student Understanding
RESOURCES

youtube.com/csbavideo

csba.org/coronavirus
Thank you!

We appreciate your time, and we are grateful that you chose to join us today!