



PRESS RELEASE

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South County School Districts Collaborate on Key Legislative Educational Issues



National City, CA - On Saturday, March 5, 2022, six south county school district superintendents, select board members and union presidents met at Lincoln Acres Elementary to discuss how their respective districts could work together to best serve students and families. The meeting was hosted by the California Schools Boards Association, National School District and San Ysidro School District. The facilitators were Superintendents Dr. Leighangela Brady and Dr. Gina Potter respectively. School Districts included National School District, San Ysidro School District, Chula Vista Elementary School District, Sweetwater Union High School District, South Bay Union School District and Coronado Unified School District. The top educational priorities identified focused on rejuvenating and refocusing on education, school finance and shifting COVID matters to the health sector.

The most important topic discussed was how to refocus on education as we pivot from the COVID pandemic to an endemic. Education has spent the last two years implementing COVID related health requirements. The hope is now education can shift our primary focus back to students and their academic needs. Learning gaps caused by last year's virtual learning and hybrid programs will require ongoing funding to support future years of instructional support. South county school districts highly value student voices and support providing students with opportunities to share their thoughts and concerns with legislative leaders.

South county districts advocate for California to increase per pupil funding in education so as to reach the state's constitutional goal of being one of the top ten funded education systems in the nation. Currently, California continues to be in the bottom ten funded



education systems in the country. To provide high quality education programs the Local Control Funding Formula will require a notable increase to the base grant allocation. Until this occurs new instructional programs should be limited or not pursued as these will reduce a school district's ability to utilize local control to determine the best academic program for their students. The districts collectively request ongoing education funding be prioritized by the legislature over one-time funding allocations. Also, state programs such as the expansion of universal transitional kindergarten will require sufficient funding and flexibility to address facilities, staffing, and credentialing requirements.

The final item on the agenda included a discussion led by Raquel Madden, California School Board Association (CSBA) External Affairs Director and Michael Inzunza, CSBA Public Affairs and Community Engagement Representative regarding the key proposed educational legislative bills. The bills focused on Early Childhood Education, the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), School Safety and Student Discipline, Student Health, COVID Related Mandates and Public Meetings.

The south county school districts stand united in advocating for our state legislature to rejuvenate education, shift COVID matters to the health sector, and provide sufficient resources for a high-quality education for almost 6 million students in California.

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This press release is being submitted on behalf of San Ysidro School District, National School District, Chula Vista Elementary School District, Sweetwater Union High School District, South Bay Union School District and Coronado Unified School District.

Press release created by Francisco Mata, San Ysidro School District Coordinator, Public Relations & Community Services. If you have any questions, please contact Francisco Mata at (619) 750-6720.

