

November 3, 2017

Dr. Michael Kirst, President
California State Board of Education
1430 N Street, Suite 5111
Sacramento, CA 95814

Via email only (sbe@cde.ca.gov) Re:

Item 4: Update on the Development of California's System of Support for Local Educational Agencies and Schools

Dear President Kirst:

Children Now appreciates the detail outlined in Item #4 regarding the statewide system of support and the mechanisms that will be put in place to support all LEAs.

The emphasis on the LEA being the change agent is key and furthers the thinking that this new system will be done collaboratively *with* the LEA and not *to* the LEA.

Children Now would also like to highlight and elevate the notion that the "Statewide System of Support" is not only being designed for Level Two and Level Three support and assistance but also the Level One supports that are delivered to all LEAs to better serve districts, schools, classrooms and communities to ensure improved student outcomes and the closing of achievement gaps.

Along those lines, the emphasis on the county offices of education as a key component within the Statewide System of Support must be accompanied by a concerted effort to continue to build the capacity of COEs to accomplish this work. Building the capacity of COEs will need to encompass a number of dimensions:

- Funding for COEs to provide this deeper, more robust support
- Professional Learning for COE staff that focuses on establishing a common message and vision for the support that is then applied in their local context with their LEAs, educators, and communities
- Leveraging the expertise of lead COEs that have already invested in building their own capacity in the areas of Improvement Science, MTSS, Professional Learning offerings, etc.

We also believe that the evaluation of the Statewide System of Support in 2017-18 will be important as we build out the system for 2018-19 and the future. This will likely need to be more robust than has been outlined in the item.

Additionally we have a few outstanding questions that need to begin to be discussed as we build out the Statewide System of Support.

- What is the role of FCMAT in the Statewide System of Support, particularly for districts that face negative financial designation?
- How will the SWDs/Professional Learning Network Collective be evaluated?
- Is there evaluation data that can be shared regarding the early impact of the CCEE PLNs?
- How will the Statewide System of Support be funded?

Lastly, it will also be important to ensure that every decision made to develop the Statewide System of Support be grounded in delivering the high quality and effective support to all LEAs to best serve their students, improve student outcomes, and close achievement gaps. We look forward to partnering with the Board and stakeholders as we collectively work to achieve this vision.

Sincerely,



Efrain Mercado
Director, Education

cc: Members, California State Board of Education
Karen Stapf Walters, Executive Director, California State Board of Education
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