



BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS – December 3, 2021

TO: Members of the Board of Education
FROM: Superintendent, Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D.

SUPERINTENDENT – Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D.

S-1 Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D. Superintendent Calendar Highlights

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES – Santino Danisi, Chief Financial Officer

AS-1 Kim Kelstrom School Services Weekly Update Report
AS-2 Santino Danisi Results of Issuance and Sale of 2021 Refunding
General Obligation Bonds
AS-3 Kim Kelstrom One-time Resources and Additional Funding
Opportunities
AS-4 Andrew De La Torre Aetna Network Services Communication Plan

OPERATIONAL SERVICES – KARIN TEMPLE, CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER

OS-1 Amanda Harvey Nutrition Services – Specialty Crop Grant

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP – Kim Mecum, Chief Academic Officer

SL-1 Edith Navarro High School Physics Adoption
SL-2 Ed Gomes and Update on Middle School Social Emotional &
Ambra O'Connor Safety Supports

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number S-1

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Robert G. Nelson, Superintendent
Cabinet Approval:

Date: December 03, 2021

Phone Number: 457-3884

Regarding: Superintendent Calendar Highlights

The purpose of this communication is to inform the Board of notable calendar items:

- Attended Fresno Downtown Rotary Meeting
- Participated in the Wallace American Recover Plan Professional Learning Community Series Meeting
- Worked with labor partners
- Attended California School Board Association Annual Conference

Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D. _____



Date: 12/03/2021

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number AS-1

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Kim Kelstrom, Executive Officer
Cabinet Approval:

Date: December 03, 2021

Phone Number: 457-3907

Regarding: School Services Weekly Update Report for November 18, 2021

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board a copy of School Services of California's (SSC) Weekly Update. Each week SSC provides an update and commentary on different educational fiscal issues. In addition, they include different articles related to education issues.

The SSC Weekly Update for November 18, 2021 is attached and includes the following articles:

- LOA Issues Bright Forecast, Increased Funding for K-12 – November 18, 2021
- Charter Schools Continue To Enroll Fewer Students With Disabilities, Report Finds – November 17, 2021
- LAUSD to Loosen COVID-19 Protocols Next Semester – November 16, 2021

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact Kim Kelstrom at 457-3907.

Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D.



Date: 12/03/2021



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www.sscal.com

DATE: November 18, 2021

TO: Robert G. Nelson
Superintendent

AT: Fresno Unified School District

FROM: Your SSC Governmental Relations Team

RE: ***SSC's Sacramento Weekly Update***

LAO Releases Annual Fiscal Outlook Report

On Wednesday, the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO), the Legislature's nonpartisan policy and fiscal advisor, released its annual *Fiscal Outlook* and *Fiscal Outlook for Schools and Community Colleges* reports. The LAO's outlook predicts that the state will enjoy a historic surplus in 2022-23 and continued prosperity over its four-year forecast period.

The outlook finds that the Proposition 98 minimum guarantee will be determined under the Test 1 formula, meaning that K-14 education would receive approximately 40% of state General Fund revenues. The report finds that the state's revised K-14 spending obligation for fiscal years 2020-21 and 2021-22 is \$10.2 billion higher than expected. This means that the state will need to make a proportionate one-time settle-up payment, which lawmakers can allocate for any Proposition 98 purpose. The minimum guarantee is expected to increase by \$11.6 billion over 2021 Budget Act estimates in 2022-23, or by \$2.6 billion from the LAO's revised forecast estimates.

In the articles section below we provide you with SSC's *Fiscal Report* article, which includes a robust summary and analysis of the LAO's Fiscal Outlook reports. While the LAO predicts good news for K-14 education and California in general, Governor Gavin Newsom will be relying on the Department of Finance's (DOF) estimates when he releases his 2022-23 State Budget proposal, and not the LAO's. This is an important distinction to make since the DOF will have additional time to see how state revenues are coming in and have historically been more conservative in their estimates than the LAO. With all that being said, it is likely that the Governor's State Budget proposal will be similarly rosy when he releases it in January.

Federal Budget and Debt Limit Deadlines Loom Over Congress

While President Joe Biden and the coalition of bipartisan congressmembers that supported the \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill celebrated its passage on Monday afternoon at a signing ceremony on the White House lawn, there are a number of significant deadlines that Congress must deal with in December that aren't making as many headlines.

With the infrastructure bill now signed, the new national focus seems to be on the \$1.75 trillion Build Back Better Act, which the House will take up as soon as the Congressional Budget Office provides its analysis. However, there are two other issues that, if not dealt with by Congress, could prove catastrophic to the U.S. economy: the fiscal year (FY) 2022 Federal Budget and the raising or suspension of the nation's debt limit.

Congress is supposed to approve a budget by October 1 (the beginning of federal fiscal year) each year or face a government shutdown; however, to avoid a government shutdown they can also approve a continuing resolution (CR), which is a stopgap measure that keeps the government funded at previous fiscal year levels up to a specified date. Since Congress was not able to approve the necessary appropriations bills that make-up the budget before October 1, they sent President Biden a CR to keep the government funded at FY 2021 levels until December 3. However, with congressional focus on the infrastructure bill and the Build Back Better Act, it is looking more and more likely that Congress will not be able to approve a budget by the December 3 deadline. This means that they will need to approve another CR to keep the government funded, which Democrats should be able to do fairly seamlessly since they control both houses.

The more complicated issue that Congress must deal with is the raising or suspension of the national debt limit, as failure to tackle this issue could result in the U.S. defaulting on its financial obligations. Back in October, President Biden signed a bill increasing the nation's debt ceiling by \$480 billion, which is how much the U.S. Treasury Department told Congress it would need to get through December 3. Secretary Janet Yellen is now predicting that the funding should last until December 15, which buys Congress more time to cut a deal.

While Congress has historically been able to raise the debt ceiling regardless of the party in power, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) told his Democratic colleagues and the Biden Administration that congressional Republicans will not assist in raising the nation's debt limit. He has instead dared Senate Democrats to use the budget reconciliation process, which bypasses a Republican filibuster by requiring only a simple majority to pass out of the Senate. While McConnell backed down from this threat by providing the ten Republican votes needed to block a filibuster and allow Democrats to approve the October increase, he has reverted to his stance that Democrats will need to go it alone if they want to raise the debt ceiling long term.

Senate Parliamentarian Elizabeth MacDonough, the official advisor to the U.S. Senate on the interpretation of rules and parliamentary procedure, has confirmed that Democrats can raise the debt ceiling on their own via budget reconciliation without impacting the FY 2022 budget resolution that they already approved. Senate Democrats can do this by approving a second FY 2022 budget resolution authorizing an increase in the debt limit and then subsequently approve a FY 2022 reconciliation bill that effectively authorizes the increase. The issue with taking the budget reconciliation route is that it is a process that takes up significant time and it is also unknown whether Democrats can suspend the debt limit for a certain amount of time or if they must increase the limit by a fixed number, the latter of which could make politically vulnerable Democrats uneasy.

In the end, this issue will be important to follow as failure to raise the debt limit could have catastrophic effects on the U.S. economy and its citizens.

Thanksgiving Break

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, we will not be providing the Sacramento *Weekly Update* next week unless there is breaking news; we will return to our regular production schedule the week ending December 3. We at School Services of California Inc. wish you a Happy Thanksgiving!

Leilani Aguinaldo

LAO Issues Bright Forecast, Increased Funding for K-12

By Patti F. Herrera, EdD
School Services of California Inc.'s *Fiscal Report*
November 18, 2021

The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) published its annual [*Fiscal Outlook*](#) report on November 17, 2021, predicting that the state would enjoy a historic surplus in 2022-23, and continued, but more modest, prosperity over its four-year forecast period. In keeping with the overall trend of the state's economic outlook, the LAO anticipates that funding for K-12 and community colleges under Proposition 98 will also spike in the immediate term and continue increasing through fiscal year 2025-26. LAO staff discuss their Proposition 98 forecast in a special [*Fiscal Outlook for Schools and Community Colleges*](#).

\$31 Billion Budget Surplus! Oh, Wait, the Gann Limit . . .

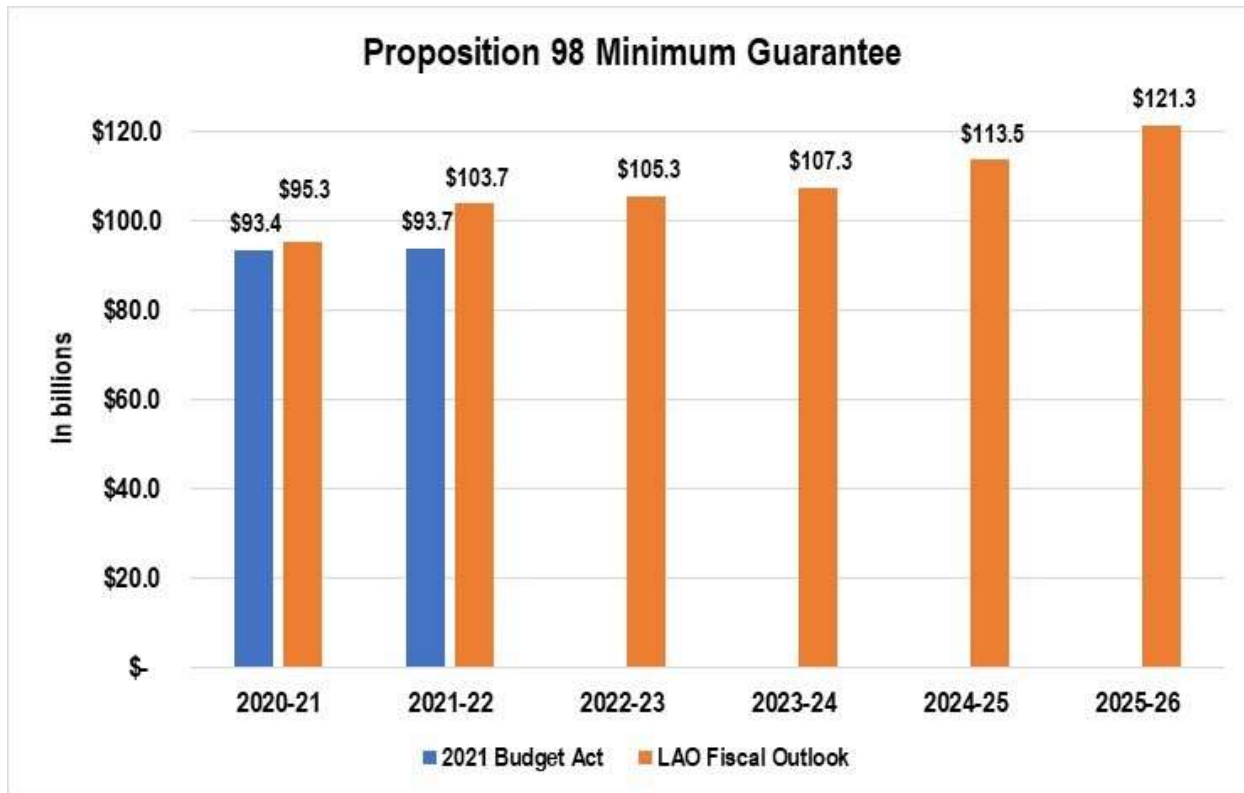
The anticipated budget surplus, which is expected to exceed 2021 Budget Act estimates by \$28 billion, stems largely from unanticipated state revenues resulting from robust retail sales and a bullish stock market. These higher-than-expected revenues are coupled with a projected \$5 billion decrease in state spending obligations, creating a total \$31 billion budget surplus in 2022-23.

While we can collectively celebrate that California is enjoying economic prosperity amidst a global pandemic, the LAO reminds us that the state has a spending limit, which will constrain its choices as it deliberates how to spend the influx of revenue. According to the LAO, since 2015-16, state revenues have increased an average of 7.4% annually. Meanwhile, its spending limit has only grown by 5.0% annually. Consequently, the LAO estimates that the state needs to allocate \$14 billion to meet its constitutional requirement under its spending limit for fiscal years 2020-21 and 2021-22. In the budget year (2022-23), the LAO believes that the state could face an additional \$12 billion spending limit obligation. Depending on how the state chooses to allocate these excess state revenues, K-12 schools and community colleges could receive additional one-time payments totaling \$13 billion across the three fiscal years. However, the state may make different choices, including allocating the funds to spending that is excluded from the limit, such as capital outlay projects.

Proposition 98

Minimum funding for K-12 and community colleges under Proposition 98 will be determined by the Test 1 formula over the LAO's forecast period, which means that K-14 will receive approximately 40% of state General Fund revenues. Since the overall state economy is performing well—indeed better than expected—it stands to reason that Proposition 98 will benefit in kind.

Specifically, the [*Fiscal Outlook for Schools and Community Colleges*](#) estimates that the state's revised K-14 spending obligation for fiscal years 2020-21 and 2021-22 is \$10.2 billion higher than expected. As a result, the state will need to make a commensurate one-time settle-up payment, which lawmakers can allocate for any Proposition 98 purpose. The minimum guarantee is expected to increase by \$11.6 billion over 2021 Budget Act estimates in 2022-23, or by \$2.6 billion from the LAO's revised forecast estimates.



The minimum guarantee is increasing over the forecast period mainly as a result of growth in state General Fund revenues. However, it will grow also because Governor Gavin Newsom and the Legislature agreed to increase Proposition 98 to accommodate the additional transitional kindergarten (TK) students stemming from the recently enacted universal TK policy. The agreement would increase Proposition 98 by \$421 million in the budget year and by \$2.9 billion at full universal TK implementation in 2025-26.

Recall that under the Test 1 formula, Proposition 98 is insensitive to changes in average daily attendance (ADA), which has been impacted significantly by the COVID-19 health crisis. Statewide 2021-22 ADA is expected to decrease by 3.0% (approximately 170,000 students) relative to ADA before the pandemic. According to the LAO, the decline will persist, because of declining birth rates across the forecast period. This pattern is offset by the additional ADA universal TK will draw, which is projected to add 230,000 new students by 2025-26.

Local District Budgets and COLA

While the minimum guarantee is not adjusted for changes in student attendance, K-12 agencies will feel the impact through the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF)—as well as other programs funded by ADA, including special education—mitigated in part by increased cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs).

- COLA

The LAO’s revised 2022-23 COLA is estimated to be 5.35%. In July 2021, the Department of Finance estimated that the COLA for 2022-23 would be 2.48%. This significant increase reflects the “meteoric” spike in inflation caused by continued robust consumer demand and limited supplies due to blockages

throughout the international supply chain. Economists believe that inflation will abate by mid-2022; consequently, COLAs in the out-years should start to reflect historical trends. The LAO predicts the COLA will be 3.5% and 3.0% in 2023-24 and the two subsequent fiscal years, respectively. The cost of the COLA to Proposition 98 is projected to be \$4.4 billion in the budget year and \$3.0 billion in each year thereafter through the forecast period.

- Proposition 98 Reserve and Local Reserve Cap

The 2021 Enacted Budget included a total Proposition 98 reserve balance of \$4.5 billion as required by Proposition 2 (2014). Under its revised estimates, the LAO believes that the deposit requirements for the current and prior fiscal year are down \$211 million and up \$871 million, respectively. Moving forward into the budget year, the state would be required to make a \$3.1 billion reserve deposit followed by another \$1.1 billion in 2023-24. If these estimates materialize, the Proposition 98 reserve balance would be \$9.4 billion, or approximately 9.0% of the projected 2023-24 minimum guarantee.

Given the magnitude of the reserve balance, the LAO anticipates that the policy that caps local reserves from most school districts at 10% of their assigned and unassigned General Fund balances will be in effect through at least the forecast period.

- District Pension Costs

Local districts anticipate rising pension costs beginning in 2022-23, at the same time many of them anticipate a fiscal cliff because of declining enrollment and lower ADA unless the state enacts a mitigating policy. The LAO estimates employer costs for California State Teachers' Retirement System and California Public Employees' Retirement System will increase by approximately \$1 billion and \$600 million in 2022-23, respectively. Both systems have reported unexpectedly high investment returns from their last actuarial. Unfortunately, this will not benefit local districts by reducing their contributions. Instead, the strong returns benefit the state by reducing the state's pension obligation.

Spending Commitments and Options

Although the 2022-23 minimum guarantee is expected to increase by nearly \$12 billion over Enacted Budget estimates, the LAO reminds us that the 2021 Enacted Budget included future commitments under Proposition 98 that will cost the minimum guarantee an estimated \$2.3 billion in the budget year and grow to \$8.2 billion by 2025-26. These commitments included funding for the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program, lower classroom ratios for TK beginning in 2022-23, universal school meals, and special education. Even so, the LAO estimates that the Legislature and Governor will have \$9.5 billion in ongoing Proposition 98 funding to spend in 2022-23.

The LAO offers spending options for lawmakers to consider when budget negotiations are underway, including:

- Accelerate funding for the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program to provide local educational agencies greater certainty
- Equalize LCFF add-ons by a minimum per-student amount to increase general purpose funding
- Fund the implementation of special education reforms

- Accelerate paying down pension liabilities
- Invest in climate resiliency and emergency preparedness efforts
- Make a discretionary deposit into the Proposition 98 reserve

What's Next?

Governor Newsom and his fiscal advisors are monitoring state revenues as his obligation to unveil his 2022-23 State Budget proposal by January 10, 2022, draws closer. By then, the Governor will have the benefit of an additional month of actual revenues to build into his forecast, but we expect the Governor's Budget to be as rosy, if not rosier, than the LAO's *Fiscal Outlook*.

Note: A new report finds that charter schools enroll significantly fewer students with disabilities (SWDs) than traditional public schools, although SWDs at charter schools are more likely to be in general education classrooms.

Charter Schools Continue To Enroll Fewer Students With Disabilities, Report Finds

By Carolyn Jones
EdSource
November 17, 2021

Charter schools enroll significantly fewer students with disabilities than traditional public schools, although students with disabilities at charter schools are more likely to be in general education classrooms, according to a new [report](#) by the Center for Learner Equity.

The report is based on the 2020 figures from the federal Education Department's Civil Rights Data Collection. It shows that the percentage of students with disabilities in charter schools fell from 10.8% to 10.7% over the past four years, even while overall charter enrollment increased. In traditional public schools, students with disabilities made up 13.3% of the enrollment.

The report also looks at discipline, demographics and other details related to students with disabilities.

"The ability to provide clear data reports about how schools are enrolling and educating students with disabilities is invaluable because it equips everyone with the information needed to make sound and equitable decisions for the future," said Lauren Morando Rhim, the Center for Learner Equity's executive director.

Note: Los Angeles Unified School District is planning to relax some of its health-and-safety protocols beginning in January, including policies regarding who must undergo weekly COVID-19 testing and who can remove their masks outdoors.

LAUSD to Loosen COVID-19 Protocols Next Semester

District plans to only require weekly coronavirus testing of unvaccinated students and allowing schools with 85% or higher vaccination rates to shed outdoor masking requirement.

By Linh Tat
Los Angeles Daily News
November 16, 2021

With all staff members and most students 12 and older who will be on campus expected to be fully vaccinated against the coronavirus by early January, Los Angeles Unified officials are planning to relax some of the school district's health-and-safety protocols next semester, including policies regarding who must undergo weekly COVID-19 testing and who can remove their masks outdoors.

Starting next semester, which begins Jan. 11, only unvaccinated students will need to get a baseline COVID-19 test that first week of the new term, plus undergo weekly testing moving forward — a marked departure from the current requirement that all students and staff members, regardless of vaccination status, get tested weekly.

According to a district staff report to the school board on Tuesday, Nov. 16, this change in testing requirement reflects the fact that overall new case rates are continuing to decline while vaccination rates are increasing, and that there is low risk of viral transmission by vaccinated individuals with no symptoms, especially in masked settings.

The change will help reduce classroom disruptions — as fewer students will have to take time out of the school day to get tested, plus the testing would run more quickly — lessen principals' contact-tracing workload, save the district money by shaving the number of tests administered daily from about 100,000 to 50,000, and give students an incentive to get vaccinated, district staff said.

As for outdoor masking, that policy — which LAUSD requires but isn't a state mandate — will only apply to schools where fewer than 85% of students are fully vaccinated. That means all high schools, many middle schools and some elementary campuses with high enough vaccination rates can allow students to shed their masks outdoors.

Everyone will still be required to mask up indoors, however, regardless of whether they've gotten their COVID-19 shots or if their school has a high vaccination rate.

Vaccine mandates and boosters

Although LAUSD is not currently requiring students ages 5-11 to get vaccinated, officials indicated Tuesday that they have not ruled out an eventual mandate for this age group.

“Just as the District waited several months after (emergency use authorization) approval before mandating the vaccine for students 12 and older, it will allow for time before considering a mandate for 5- to 11-year-olds,” the staff report states.

In terms of booster shots, the district won't require them, though it will make booster doses available to employees and students 18 and older who want them.

The district will also adopt a "modified quarantine" policy, in line with county guidelines, to allow an unvaccinated student who's asymptomatic to continue to attend school in person after being identified as a close contact if the exposed student and infected student were both wearing masks at the time of the exposure and the close contact isn't part of an outbreak situation.

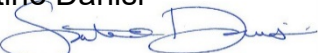
Vaccinated students do not have to quarantine.

District officials offered a note of caution that while they plan to loosen some health-and-safety protocols for now, the reverse could happen, depending on whether local COVID-19 conditions or county guidelines change.

"We hope it continues to be a small group of people that show up with positive tests. We hope we will continue to have more and more students vaccinated, but ... we're going to follow the science and the reality," board member Jackie Goldberg said. "And if the reality changes, unfortunately, we may have to come back and revisit this."

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number AS-2

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Santino Danisi
Cabinet Approval: 

Date: December 03, 2021

Phone Number: 457-6225

Regarding: Results of Issuance and Sale of 2021 Refunding General Obligation Bonds

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board an update on the sale of 2021 Refunding General Obligation Bonds. On November 23, 2021, the district successfully locked in over \$6 million in taxpayer savings through the sale of its \$100.65 million 2021 General Obligation Refunding Bonds. The Bonds were issued to refinance prior bonds from the district's Measure Q and Measure X authorizations.

Prior to the sale, the district received an affirmation of its strong 'Aa3' credit rating from Moody's. In its credit report, Moody's cited the following district strengths:

- "Growing central valley economy"
- "Relatively stable enrollment trend"
- "Healthy finances, with solid reserves and considerable alternate liquidity outside of the general fund"
- "Prudent management, with conservative budgeting practices and an adopted reserve policy"

Moody's also assigned a 'Stable' outlook to accompany the rating, reflecting their expectation that "the District's economy will continue to grow" and "the District's financial profile will remain sound, supported by management's conservative budgeting practices."


In addition to the strong internal characteristics of the district and the Bonds, the district benefitted externally from a favorable interest rate environment resulting from:

- Low overall rate environment despite recent inflationary pressures
- Strong market demand for a limited supply of municipal bonds

On the day of the sale the Bonds attracted significant investor demand. The district had approximately \$100 million in Bonds to sell and received over \$284 million in orders from a broad investor base which included bond funds, insurance companies, banks, separately managed accounts, and money managers. The 2.8x subscription included top tier and globally recognized investment accounts.

The Bonds ultimately achieved a very low all-inclusive interest cost of 2.86%, which replaced the prior bonds' average interest rate of 4.38%. This 1.52% interest rate reduction was achieved without any extension of the original repayment term of the prior bonds. When the Bonds were originally presented to the Board November 03, 2021 taxpayer savings were estimated at approximately \$2.7 million. The final savings achieved of \$6 million represents a very successful outcome to the benefit of taxpayers.



If you have any questions or require additional information, please call Santino Danisi at 457-6225.

Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D. 

Date: 12/03/2021

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number AS-3

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Kim Kelstrom, Executive Officer 
Cabinet Approval: 

Date: December 03, 2021

Phone Number: 457-3907

Regarding: One-time Resources and Additional Funding Opportunities

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board additional information regarding one-time resources received to support pandemic recovery efforts, along with new funding provided in the final 2021/22 State Adopted Budget. Previously in a board communication dated August 20, 2021, a summary was provided outlining various investments supported through use of one-time resources.

The attached matrix summarizes the various funding sources, provides descriptions for the use of funds, timelines, and allocations for Fresno Unified School District where known. As allocation amounts become available or change, staff will continue to recognize award adjustments with upcoming budget revisions. In addition to budget revision recommendations for the 2021/22 fiscal year, future investment consideration will continue to be contemplated via the district's strategic budget development process.

If you have any questions or require further information, please call Kim Kelstrom at 457-3907.

Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D. 

Date: 12/03/2021

Fresno Unified School District

Funding Type	Funding Source	Description	End Date	FUSD Allocation
State	A-G Access/Success and Learning Loss Grants	Additional supports to help increase the number of graduates meeting the A-G subject matter requirements for UC and CSU admissions	06/30/24	\$6.5 million
State	American Rescue Act - Homeless and Foster Youth II	Identify homeless children provide wrap around services to address the effects of the pandemic and ensure homeless and foster youth participate fully in school activities	09/30/24	\$1.0 million
State	CA Prekindergarten Planning & Implementation Grant	Costs associated with creating or expanding preschool or transitional kindergarten programs	06/30/24	\$0.4 million
Federal	Child Development Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act	Address costs associated with COVID-19, in the case of decreased enrollment to ensure programs remain open	06/30/22	\$0.7 million
State	COVID-19 LEA Response Funds (SB117)	Health and safety needs for LEAs, including for student meal access, during COVID-19 closure periods	N/A	\$1.2 million
State	Educator Effectiveness Block Grant	Provide professional learning for teachers, administrators, and classified staff who work/interact with students	09/01/26	\$18.2 million
Federal	Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds I	Address the impact of COVID-19 on elementary and secondary schools	09/30/22	\$43.7 million
Federal	Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds II	Address the impact of COVID-19 on elementary and secondary schools includes facility improvements	09/30/23	\$172.7 million
Federal	Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds III	Address the impact of COVID-19 on elementary and secondary schools includes facility improvements	09/30/24	\$388.1 million
State	Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELO) Grant	Increase instructional learning time, learning recovery, additional academic support, professional development	09/30/24	\$54.3 million
State	Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELO) Program	Afterschool and summer school enrichment programs. Must offer and provide expanded learning with at least 30 days of no less than 9 hours of expanded learning days during school breaks	Ongoing	\$40.5 million
Federal	Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Funds	Support academic achievement and mitigate learning loss related to COVID-19 school closures	09/30/23	\$3.9 million
State	In-Person Instruction	Offering in-person instruction by May 2021 and to expand in-person instruction time, provide academic interventions and accelerate progress to close learning gaps	09/30/24	\$28.7 million
State	Special Ed: Learning Recovery Support	Provide learning recovery support to pupils associated with impacts to learning due to school disruptions stemming from COVID-19	06/30/23	\$4.9 million
State	Special Education Dispute Resolution and Prevention	Special Education dispute prevention and voluntary alternative dispute resolution activities to prevent and resolve special education disputes resulting from school disruptions of COVID-19	06/30/23	\$1.1 million

Additional Funding Opportunities

Funding Type	New State Grants	Description	Distribution*
State	Community Schools Partnership Program	Grants prioritized for schools with at least 80% UPP. Requires 3:1 match. Implementation grants: 70% of funds for grants of up to \$500,000 annually for new community schools or for expansion or continuation of existing community schools.	Competitive
State	Computer Science Supplementary Authorization Incentive Grant	Paying for teacher costs of coursework, books, fees, and tuition	Competitive
State	Kitchen Infrastructure Upgrades	Cooking equipment; service equipment; refrigeration and storage; transportation of ingredients, meals, and equipment between sites; Base grant \$25,000 with remaining funds allocated based on free and reduced enrollment	Not Yet Allocated
State	Multitiered system of support	Support implementation of high quality integrated academic, behavioral, and social-emotional learning practices in an integrated multitiered system of support at the schoolwide level.	Competitive
State	Prekindergarten Training Grants	Attainment of credentials, permits, or professional development	Competitive
State	Preschool, TK, K and Full Day K Facilities Grant	Costs necessary to adequately house preschool, TK, and kindergarten students in an approved project. Districts may not use funds to purchase or install portable classrooms	Competitive
State	Teacher Residency Grant	Teacher preparation costs, stipends for mentor teachers, residency program staff costs, mentoring and beginning teacher induction costs	Competitive

* Competitive - Grant application and approval required before funding amount is known

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number AS-4

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education

Date: December 03, 2021

Prepared by: Andrew De La Torre, Executive Director 

Phone Number: 457-3596

Cabinet Approval: 

Regarding: Aetna Network Services Communication Plan

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board information regarding the upcoming medical PPO network transition to Aetna Life Insurance Company (Aetna).

On December 15, 2021 the Board of Education will consider a consent agenda item to approve the transition from the district's current medical Plan A and Plan B network service provider, Anthem/Blue Cross, to Aetna.

In anticipation of this change, the Joint Health Management Board (JHMB) initiated a communication campaign to assist members with relevant information. Following are the initial touch points utilized for sharing information, along with highlights of the communications:

- General information regarding the transition was shared as part of the district's annual benefits open enrollment communication
- A "Welcome Packet" was sent to member homes via U.S. mail
- A separate communication related to new member I.D. cards is in process and expected to be mailed between December 17 and 24

The member welcome packet, referenced above, included the following:

- An "Important Notice" letter describing the transition from Anthem to Aetna
- A "Welcome" brochure from Aetna highlighting key resources available to members
- An "FAQ" response letter providing helpful information to common questions regarding plan features, locating health care providers, treatment and procedures, transition of care support, member portal sign-up, nurse-line services, member I.D. cards and a telephone support line and email address to assist with other questions/concerns
- A Teladoc flyer advising of the transition from Plushcare to Teladoc, effective January 01, 2022
- Teladoc will provide telehealth services via phone or video 24/7

In addition to the above, a dedicated Aetna "microsite", www.AetnaResource.com/p/FresnoUSD, is available for use by PPO plan participants to assist with searching for available network medical providers. Further, the above communication documents are available on the JHMB website at www.jhmbhealthconnect.com. Additional communication to plan participants will be considered dependent on the nature of incoming questions, concerns or other feedback received from participants.


If you have any questions or require additional information, please call Andrew De La Torre at 457-3596.

Approved by Superintendent 
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D.

Date: 12/03/2021

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number OS-1

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Amanda Harvey, Nutrition Services Director
Cabinet Approval: 

Date: December 03, 2021

Phone Number: 457-6278

Regarding: Nutrition Services – Specialty Crop Grant

The purpose of this communication is to inform the Board the district was awarded a \$132,400 Specialty Crop Block Grant through the California Department of Food and Agriculture. This purpose of the program is to enhance the competitiveness of California specialty crops including fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and horticulture and nursery crops. The district will use the funding to develop and promote rotating farmers markets at high schools, facilitated by students, to provide access to fresh local specialty crops to neighborhoods considered food deserts. The farmers market events will be planned and implemented in partnership with the Asian Business Institute and Resource Center, Fresno County Farm Bureau, and local specialty crop farmers.

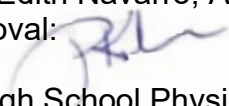
This grant aligns with the Nutrition Services Department's objectives to expand the use of locally grown produce in school menus and to expose students to new/unfamiliar fruits and vegetables. If you have questions or need further information, please contact Amanda Harvey at 457-6278 or Karin Temple at 457-3134.

Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D. 

Date: 12/03/2021

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number SL-1

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Edith Navarro, Administrator
Cabinet Approval: 

Date: December 03, 2021

Phone Number: 457-3874

Regarding: High School Physics Adoption

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board an update on the high school Physics adoption process and timeline. The process began in the 2019/20 school year. That year, the adoption team reviewed eight curriculum samples using a state protocol called California Next Generation Science Standards Toolkit for Instructional Material Evaluation (NGSS TIME), narrowing to three material choices identified as best for our Fresno Unified students.

In the 2020/21 school year the adoption team of Physics teachers reviewed each of the final three choices in greater detail, with the option to teach from sample material. Teacher and student feedback were collected following each review. The adoption was further postponed to this 2021/22 school year due to continued publisher delays caused by the pandemic. Physics teachers agreed that waiting to include a final curriculum option was essential in ensuring the best selection of material for students.

This year, Physics teachers are vetting and reviewing the ninth and final curriculum option to provide teacher and student feedback. Feedback is also being collected from community and department members to ensure diversity and equity of voice in our selection process. A more detailed overview of this adoption cycle, including community partner data, will be presented to the Board in January with opportunity to preview curriculum in advance of the meeting.


The Board will continue to receive updates throughout this process. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Carlos Castillo, Instructional Superintendent at 457-3554.

Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D. 

Date: 12/03/2021

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number SL-2

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Ed Gomes, Instructional Superintendent &
Ambra O'Connor, Prevention & Intervention Executive
Cabinet Approval: 

Date: December 03, 2021

Phone Number: 457-3781

Regarding: Update on Middle School Social Emotional & Safety Supports

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board an update on supports which were put in place during Fall 2021 to improve middle school safety and student well-being.

Intervention Specialists

Tier II Intervention Specialist positions were created for each comprehensive middle school. The site-based Intervention Specialist coordinates and provides targeted interventions for students requiring social emotional, behavioral, and/or attendance support. Meeting with students weekly, they focus on small group skill building, case management and progress monitoring. The Intervention Specialist also delivers direct individual supports to students, including daily check ins, conflict mediation, goal setting and de-escalation. Diagnostic tools are used to match student needs with the appropriate interventions.

The Intervention Specialist is an active member of the site Tier II Targeted Support Team, which utilizes attendance and behavior data to identify students in need of intervention. Most of these new positions have been hired and trained. There are three current vacancies which are posted and will begin after the winter break.

Professional Learning & Coaching

All middle school principals, vice principals, and guidance learning advisors not previously trained will receive 18 hours of professional learning related to evidence-based discipline guideline practices and interventions during the spring semester. Leaders will have the option of attending during the week or on Saturdays. The learning will be followed with job embedded coaching from the Department of Prevention & Intervention team.

Campus Safety Assistants

All middle schools have a campus safety assistant. These campus safety assistants are assigned by the ratio of students to campus safety assistant. Some sites utilize site funds to receive additional campus safety assistants when that specific site wants to have a higher ratio.

CIS Mobile Security

All middle schools have a roving CIS Mobile Security that travels between school sites and provides daily security to each middle school site.

Student Discipline Data

As of October 31, 2021 there has been a significant decrease in middle school student behaviors leading to suspension and expulsion as compared to October 31, 2019:

- Level III Student Misbehaviors: 50% reduction
- Suspension Incidents: 27% reduction
- Suspension Incidents- African American students: 32% reduction
- Suspension Rate: 0.8% reduction
- Suspension Rate- African American students: 3% reduction
- Expulsions: 59% reduction

Data Source: ATLAS/Power BI

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Ed Gomes 559-457-3781 or Ambra O'Connor 559-457-3340.

Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D.



Date: 12/03/2021