BOARD COMMUNICATIONS – DECEMBER 02, 2022

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

SUPERINTENDENT – Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D.

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BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL SERVICES – Patrick Jensen, Interim Chief Officer

BFS-1	Kim Kelstrom	School Services Weekly Update Reports for November 18, 2022
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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 02, 2022

Phone Number: 457-3884

Regarding: Superintendent Calendar Highlights

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

- Attended Urban District Cohort Conference
- Attended California School Boards Association Annual Education Conference

Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D. Robert G. Nelson Date: 12/02/2022

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number BFS-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 02, 2022

Phone Number: 457-3907

Regarding: School Services Weekly Update Reports for November 18, 2022

The purpose of this board communication is to provide the Board a copy of School Services of California's (SSC) Weekly Updates. 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, 2022 is attached and includes the following articles:

- LAO Issues Forecast for Economy and Education Funding – November 16, 2022
- California Had Years of Massive Budget Surpluses. Now it Could Face a $25 Billion Deficit – November 16, 2022
- CSU Will Abandon Proposal to Create Fourth Year Math Requirement for Admission – November 15, 2022

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Kim Kelstrom at 457-3907.

Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D. ______________________ Date: 12/02/2022

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DATE: November 18, 2022

TO: Robert G. Nelson
Superintendent

AT: Fresno Unified School District

FROM: Your SSC Governmental Relations Team

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

LAO Releases Fiscal Outlook

On Wednesday, the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO), the Legislature's nonpartisan policy and fiscal advisor, released its annual *Fiscal Outlook* report with an updated analysis of the state's economic and budget condition, which has significant funding implications for public K-12 and community colleges agencies.

In the report, the LAO projects that California faces a $25 billion budget deficit heading into the 2023-24 fiscal year, just months after approving the 2022-23 State Budget package that had a record $97.5 billion operating surplus. The deficit news should not be too surprising, given that tax revenues have fallen short of estimates since the Governor released the state's revised revenue projections in May. Additionally, Governor Gavin Newsom vetoed numerous bills at the end 2022 legislative year that would have had a fiscal impact on the state. In those veto messages, the Governor emphasized the need to practice fiscal prudence by not adding new spending commitments that were not included as a part of the 2022-23 State Budget Act.

The LAO's report is the final major publication from a state agency analyzing the state's fiscal situation until Governor Newsom unveils his 2023-24 State Budget proposal on or before January 10, 2023. We provide a deeper analysis of the LAO's *Fiscal Outlook* report in the *Fiscal Report* article below entitled, "LAO Issues Forecast for Economy and Education Funding."

Midterm Election Results in a Split Congress and Interesting Lame-Duck Session

While there are still a handful of House of Representative contests that are too close to call, we finally know who will control the two chambers of Congress beginning in 2023.

Last Saturday, November 12, 2022, after the major media outlets called the Nevada Senate race in favor of Democratic incumbent Catherine Cortez Masto, it ensured the Democrats the minimum 50 seats they needed to retain control of the upper chamber. There is still one outstanding seat in the Senate, however, as the Georgia Senate race will go to a December 6 runoff after neither incumbent Senator Raphael Warnock nor his Republican challenger Herschel Walker reached the 50% +1 threshold needed to win last week's election. The December 6 runoff will decide whether the Democrats will have a 51-49 advantage over the next two years or retain their current 50-50 (plus Vice President Kamala Harris tie-breaking vote) advantage.

House of Representatives control wasn't called by the major outlets until Wednesday of this week. Right now, we know that Republicans have at least the 218 seats needed to take back control of the lower chamber, but it is still unknown how large their advantage will be as there are still about half a dozen contests that have yet to be called.

The 2023 split Congress makes things interesting for the current lame-duck session, which still has business to conduct before the new congressional members can be sworn-in in January. There are two huge fiscal issues that this lame-duck session of Congress will have to grapple with before the end of the calendar year, the 2023 Federal Budget and the national debt ceiling.

Right now, the federal government is operating on a continuing resolution (CR) that is set to expire on December 16, 2022. This current session of Congress has two choices to avoid a government shutdown, and that is either approve the 12 appropriations bills that compromise the Federal Budget or pass another CR to keep the government funded at fiscal year 2022 levels. While President Joe Biden and congressional Democrats will likely push to get the 2023 Federal Budget approved with both chambers still under Democratic control, there will likely be resistance from Republicans who would rather punt the budget discussions to January when they are in control of the House. If Republicans are successful in getting a short-term CR approved into January or February of next year, you'll likely see the GOP-led House push for spending cuts.

The debt ceiling will also need to be raised again in 2023, otherwise the country could default on its financial obligations, which could lead to dire economic consequences globally. Again, while President Biden and congressional Democrats would love to raise the debt limit before the lame-duck session comes to an end in December, they are poised to receive strong pushback from their Republican colleagues.

If Republicans are successful in punting these two issues into 2023 when they have control of the House, you will likely see a scenario similar to 2011, when the GOP insisted on large spending cuts in the federal budget in exchange for their support in raising the national debt limit.

While we don't know what the next several weeks will bring, we do know that this lame duck session will not be boring.

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 2. We at School Services of California Inc. wish you a Happy Thanksgiving!

Leilani Aguinaldo

LAO Issues Forecast for Economy and Education Funding

By Patti F. Herrera, EdD
School Services of California Inc.'s *Fiscal Report*
November 16, 2022

Each November, the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO)—the California Legislature's budget and policy advisor—issues its *Fiscal Outlook* report with an updated analysis of the state's economic and budget condition, which has significant funding implications for public K-12 and community colleges agencies.

Economic Trends Drive Forecast

Unsurprisingly, overarching the LAO's *2023-24 Budget Fiscal Outlook* is the dampening state and national economies driven in large part by broad, high, and persistent inflation despite efforts to tame spending, which has driven costs of goods and services up through the COVID-19 recovery period. The LAO assumes that inflation will continue to be a drag on the state's economy, reducing General Fund revenues significantly, but falls short of forecasting an economic recession.

Given larger economic trends, the LAO projects that California faces a $25 billion budget deficit heading into the 2023-24 fiscal year with annual (but diminishing) deficits through their forecast period ending in 2026-27. They caution that their budget year forecast may underestimate the state's budget problem if inflationary costs for all programs funded by the General Fund are accounted for (the LAO's cost estimate only accounts for inflation for programs that have statutory cost adjustment mechanisms).

If the state's economy should go into a recession, the LAO notes that their forecasted budget deficit could worsen significantly.

Lower state revenues also reduce the contribution amount the state is required to make into the Budget Stabilization Account (BSA), or state reserve. The LAO's revised revenue estimates suggest that the state's BSA obligation is reduced by $5 billion across 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24. This leaves California with a sizeable ($22 billion) rainy day fund. This, the LAO notes, is sufficient to cover the anticipated budget-year deficit but would be insufficient if California enters a recession. Nevertheless, the LAO recommends that, given the level of economic and revenue uncertainty for the remainder of the fiscal year, the Legislature begin budget deliberations without using reserves.

Proposition 98 Forecast and Reserve

The Proposition 98 minimum guarantee is directly related to the overall health of the California economy, and particularly the performance of state revenues. Consequently, the LAO's revised estimates for education funding are sobered by larger economic trends. In fact, revenues that affect the calculation of the minimum guarantee are now estimated to be over $15 billion *below* 2022-23 State Budget estimates for fiscal years 2021-22 and 2022-23. The downward revenue adjustments require corresponding adjustments to the minimum guarantee, although changing actual K-14 expenditures included in the 2022-23 Enacted Budget requires legislative action.

Notably, local property tax estimates are slightly higher than State Budget projections (up $237 million); however, those gains are lost as a result of lower General Fund revenues contributing to the minimum guarantee equal to approximately $5.87 billion across the current and prior fiscal year.

The *Fiscal Outlook* includes the following revisions for 2021-22 and 2022-23:

Proposition 98 Minimum Guarantee
(in millions)

	2021-22		**2022-23**	
	June Budget Act	*Fiscal Outlook*	*June Budget Act*	*Fiscal Outlook*
General Fund	$83,677	$83,306	$82,312	$76,811
Property Tax	26,560	26,727	28,042	28,112
Total	**$110,237**	**$110,033**	**$110,354**	**$104,923**

The reductions in the minimum guarantee cause prior- and current-year education spending to exceed revised estimates by $620 million in 2021-22, and by $1.8 billion in 2022-23. However, in its multiyear outlook, the LAO anticipates diminishing program costs, particularly in the Local Control Funding Formula. After revising the 2022-23 minimum guarantee to $104.9 billion and accounting for $1.8 billion in costs above the revised amount, the 2023-24 minimum guarantee is forecast to be $108.2 billion, a 1.4% increase above revised 2022-23 estimates. Importantly, beginning in 2023-24, estimates of the minimum guarantee include projected education revenues on top of Proposition 98 obligations resulting from the passage of Proposition 28 (2022) to support arts and music instruction in K-12 public schools.

Proposition 98 Minimum Guarantee Forecast
(in millions)

	2022-23	**2023-24**	**2024-25**	**2025-26**	**2026-27**
General Fund	$78,613	$78,098	$81,829	$87,258	$95,354
Property Tax	28,112	30,077	31,627	32,573	33,927
Total	**$106,724**	**$108,175**	**$113,456**	**$119,831**	**$129,281**

Over the forecast period and by 2026-27, the LAO expects the minimum guarantee to be determined by Test 1 and to increase from the revised current levels by 21%.

Reduced state revenues cause the LAO's forecast of the minimum guarantee to grow at a slower rate than increases in student attendance and inflation. Consequently, under the forecast, the LAO estimates that the state will be required to make withdrawals from the Proposition 98 reserve of $2.4 billion, $3.1 billion, and $2.8 billion in 2023-24, 2024-25, and 2025-26, respectively. These withdrawals offset reductions in the minimum guarantee; however, based on updated estimates, the Proposition 98 reserve would be depleted by

2025-26 (at which point the local K-12 district reserve cap would become inoperable) before beginning to be restored in 2026-27.

K-12 and Community College Program Costs

Within the context of diminishing revenues, program costs of K-12 and community college agencies are expected to rise, due largely to inflationary pressures felt by the larger economy. The *Fiscal Outlook* revises the LAO's estimated statutory cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for K-12 and community college programs to 8.73% in 2023-24, up from 2022-23 State Budget predictions of 5.38% and the highest COLA since 1979-80. The estimated COLA is based on six of the eight quarters available that determine the COLA, with the final two being reported next January and April. The LAO further expects the COLA to remain high relative to historical trends through the forecast period due to persistent inflation across the economy.

Forecast K-14 COLA Estimates

2023-24	8.73%
2024-25	5.30%
2025-26	4.50%
2026-27	4.20%

In 2023-24, the LAO estimates that an 8.73% COLA would cost the minimum guarantee $7.9 billion, which is approximately $300 million more than what it estimates will be available in funding. To live with the means of the minimum guarantee, the COLA would need to be reduced to 8.38%—an authority granted to the director of the Department of Finance upon notification to the Legislature.

The estimated withdrawals from the Proposition 98 reserve help to address gaps in Proposition 98 revenues and costs in K-14 programs over the forecast period. In 2023-24, the reserve withdrawal reduces the shortfall and then fully compensates for shortfalls in the outyears across the forecast period.

LAO Recommendations for Education

The LAO makes a suite of recommendations for the Legislature to consider when planning for the upcoming budget. Across all spending, they recommend that the Legislature recoup appropriated but unspent funds, as well as consider reducing expenditures that are demonstrating little impact.

For K-14 education specifically, the LAO recommends reducing the COLA even below the 8.38% level that the minimum guarantee could afford in 2023-24, noting that every 1.00% reduction in the COLA lowers ongoing spending by approximately $910 million. The LAO also recommends that the Legislature reduce and revise funding for K-12's Expanded Learning Opportunities Program and fund some community college programs that are under capacity based on actual enrollment.

The Road Ahead

In many ways, the LAO's *Fiscal Outlook* report is unsurprising as trends in the economy change. We eagerly await the release of Governor Gavin Newsom's 2023-24 State Budget proposal on or before January 10, 2023, to elucidate his priorities for K-14 education. Even more, we look forward to seeing many, if not all, of you at our Governor's Budget Workshops in Sacramento and Long Beach.

Note: The state revenue estimates, if accurate, would represent the weakest economic performance California has experienced since the Great Recession of 2007 to 2009.

California Had Years of Massive Budget Surpluses. Now it Could Face a $25 Billion Deficit

By Maggie Angst and Lindsay Holden
The Sacramento Bee
November16, 2022

After back-to-back historic budget surpluses, California analysts on Wednesday projected that Gov. Gavin Newsom and state legislators could be forced to navigate a $25 billion budget deficit next year.

That shortfall, according to a new report from the state's independent Legislative Analyst's Office, could be followed by continued annual budgetary gaps between $17 billion and $8 billion for the subsequent three years.

If the forecast holds true through June, when the state's next budget must be passed, Newsom and legislators may have to make some tough calls. Those include how far to dip into the state's reserves, where to make potential spending cuts and what projects and programs to slow down. Luckily, the state has stashed away billions of dollars in reserves in recent years to help cope with it.

The downturn is due to state revenues growing slower than spending — a possible precursor to a recession, the report indicated. The revenue estimates, if accurate, would represent the weakest economic performance California has experienced since the Great Recession of 2007 to 2009.

The gloomy projections follow nearly a decade of growth, including during the COVID-19 pandemic. The state was overflowing with cash, thanks to a historic surge in tax collections on incomes, sales and corporations.

Now, the state faces a slew of economic headwinds, including high interest rates and global stock market woes. The estimate released Wednesday will help the governor and lawmakers begin to craft their budget proposals for the upcoming fiscal year.

ECONOMIC WARNING SIGNS

The projection confirms earlier warning signals. One was raised in September by Gov. Gavin Newsom when he emphasized budgetary discipline in his veto signings. Then last month, the state Department of Finance disclosed that general fund cash receipts were falling significantly short of projections.

The new forecast also coincides with some of California's tech giants laying off double-digit percentages of their workers, citing excessive pandemic-fueled hiring blitzes, a slowdown in online commerce and a worsening economy.

California's finances are especially prone to waves of capital gains and losses, because the state's relies so heavily on tax revenues of its wealthiest residents. The top 1% of income-earning Californian's pay nearly half of the state's income taxes, according to the state's franchise tax board.

H.D. Palmer, a spokesperson for the state's Department of Finance, on Wednesday called the analyst's forecast "a realistic and reasonable assessment of the work that lies ahead."

While the state's in a good position to the manage the economic downturn, Palmer acknowledged "that doesn't mean that the decisions to close the coming budget gap won't be difficult — particularly if the economic conditions that have slowed the economy continue, or get worse," he said in a statement.

BUDGET SPENDING CUTS ON THE HORIZON?

In recent years, Newsom has largely avoided such contentious decisions during the budget season. Bracing for a pandemic-driven recession in 2020, Newsom's administration imposed pay cuts of up to 9.23% across state government. But gloomy projections about the state's financial health never materialized, and the governor was saved from initiating any further cuts.

Fearing a future economic downturn, Newsom and legislative leaders have been cautious about spending its billions of unexpected dollars to pay for ongoing programs. Instead, they have tried to use the surpluses for one-time spending on items such as inflation relief checks and infrastructure projects.

Even so, Newsom and the Legislature have poured some of the state's money into ongoing priorities. These include starting new homeless and housing programs, pursuing ambitious climate goals and expanding early childhood education and Medi-Cal health coverage for undocumented Californians.

Assemblyman Phil Ting, D-San Francisco, chair of the Assembly Budget Committee, said the state is in a good position to maintain those critical investments.

California has a long history weathering financial crises, and, in many ways, is more prepared now than ever before. Since 2015, the state has stashed away billions of dollars in a rainy-day account in the general fund and has been accumulating cash reserves in other areas to prepare for an economic downturn.

"We ensured that we didn't over-commit in terms of ongoing expenditure for exactly this reason," Ting said Wednesday. "... And we are ready to ensure that we don't have to make those cuts that we had to make, unfortunately, over 12 years ago during the last Great Recession."

LAWMAKERS BRACE FOR ECONOMIC SHIFT

In their annual report released Wednesday, state budget analysts recommended that the the governor and legislators reevaluate expenditures and look for programs to pause or delay rather than patch up holes using the state's reserves. The analysts advised state officials to save its reserves for a potential recession down the line.

Ting said legislators will consider all of those options.

Assemblyman Vince Fong, R-Kern County, vice chair of the Assembly's budget committee, called Wednesday's report a "wake up call" for state lawmakers to "refocus on fiscal responsibility."

"It is time to prioritize precious tax dollars and invest in the critical issues that are impacting all Californians — needed water storage, affordable domestic energy production, a reliable supply chain and improving our business climate — to rebuild a healthy economy," Fong said in a statement.

Senate President Pro Tem Toni Atkins, D-San Diego, said similarly dim forecasts may have forced tax increases or program cuts in the past, but that does not need to be the case in this situation.

"Thanks to our responsible approach, we are confident that we can protect our progress and craft a state budget without ongoing cuts to schools and other core programs or taxing middle class families," Atkins said in a statement. "The bottom line is simple: we are prepared to hold onto the gains we've made and continue where we left off once our economy and revenues rebound."

Note: This decision demonstrates a significant course reversal for the California State University.

CSU Will Abandon Proposal to Create Fourth Year Math Requirement for Admission

Vote coming in January on the issue

By Ashley A Smith
EdSource
November 15, 2022

After years of debate, the California State University Board of Trustees Tuesday signaled its plan to abandon a proposal to require a fourth year of math for admission to the 23-campus system.

"We see this as a major win and applaud the CSU for deciding not to create yet another barrier to college access and success," said Denise Castro, a policy analyst at The Education Trust-West, a nonprofit organization that advocates for educational justice.

Castro said the proposal would have especially denied access to students of color who wouldn't easily get access to the fourth-year math course, compounding the inequities in the K-12 system.

In 2019, the CSU Chancellor's Office proposed requiring a fourth year of high school math, or a quantitative reasoning class, for freshman admissions to better prepare future students. Had the board approved the proposal, it would have gone into effect in the fall 2027.

Currently, the state requires two years of math for a high school diploma and CSU requires three years for admission.

During the trustees' Tuesday meeting, CSU officials said the coronavirus pandemic also affected the decision not to proceed with the proposal. The pandemic led to lags in learning for K-12 students which has put a focus on tutoring and efforts to get students caught up. Cal State administrators pointed to the recent release of California state exams that showed two out of three students did not meet state math standards, including 84% of Black, and 79% of Latino and low-income students.

An independent analysis of the fourth year math proposal conducted by MDRC, an independent research firm, found high school and K-12 district staff were concerned about the capacity of schools to provide the courses needed to fulfill the requirement. Only 60% of all high school graduates in the state are now meeting A-G course requirements, the set of classes students must take to be eligible to admission to a Cal State or University of California campus. Adding another math course would only exclude more students from attending the state's public universities.

The additional requirement could put students who do not currently meet A-G requirements due to a missing math or science course further from the proposed requirement, according to the study.

The study also found that students who already meet the A-G course requirements for CSU admission often take and pass an additional quantitative reasoning course. For example, 94% of students who met the A-G requirement also took an additional quantitative reasoning course.

"The good news coming out of this research is that the vast majority of California high school graduates that may aspire to attend a CSU are already taking and passing an additional quantitative reasoning course even though it is not currently required," said Susan Sepanik, a senior associate with MDRC.

On the other hand, although there is little evidence that the policy change would have made inequities between socioeconomic groups worse, it also "would not help minimize disparities," she said.

Opponents of the proposal have argued for years that K-12 schools, especially those that disproportionately enroll Black, Latino and low-income students, have a shortage of available STEM teachers to offer an additional math requirement. Meanwhile, research has shown that students who do take an additional year of math in high school are better prepared for college math. The MDRC study highlighted that those students were more likely to attain a degree in six years and more likely to attain a STEM degree.

Instead of changing admissions, CSU said it would promote academic preparation at the K-12 level and respond to the need for more diverse math and science teachers.

"I know when we raise the bar of expectations students meet that higher bar and yet we want to be so mindful of equity and access as we do that," said Trustee Diego Arambula, who is also a former high school teacher and principal. "Rather this is us using our bully pulpit to continue to hammer home the point that more students should graduate high school A-G ready."

Arambula said with the "giant K-12 teacher shortage looming" it is critical that the CSU campuses produce more teachers.

The trustees will vote on the proposal in January.

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number BFS-2

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

Date: December 02, 2022

Phone Number: 457-6227

Regarding: US OMNI & TSACG Compliance Services, Inc ("OMNI/TSA")

The purpose of this board communication is to inform the Board of Education of the transition to OMNI & TSACG Compliance Services for administration of the third-party tax-sheltered annuity program for the District at zero cost.

The District currently offers a tax-sheltered annuity 403(b) plan where members can invest with an approved provider through voluntary payroll deductions. Currently, AIG (formally Valic) is the district's third-party administrator. Services provided by AIG do not focus on plan administration or IRS compliance and instead emphasize investing strategies. As IRS laws have become increasingly complex and more governmental programs have been signed by Congress (ex: Final Hardship Rules, SECURE ACT, and CARES Act), it has highlighted a need for better regulatory oversight.

With this in mind, outreach was conducted with school districts across the state and country to assess how others maintain focus on ensuring compliance. Feedback indicated that there are three primary methods districts utilize to administer programs; some utilize local credit unions, investment providers such as AIG, or an independent company such as OMNI & TSACG. With a focus on administration and compliance with IRS regulations the district selected two companies to assess as candidates, Trusted Captial Group (TCG) and OMNI & TSACG Compliance Services.

After thorough review the district has selected OMNI & TSACG Compliance Services. The group is currently the administrator for the Fresno County Office of Education 403(b) plan. It's customer base includes eight of the ten largest K-12 School Districts in the United States, over 5,500 employers in the education field, and over 3.2 million plan participants. Additionally, their sole focus is compliance and administration, as they do not sell 403(b)/457 investment products or have selling agreements with investment providers.

The provider will manage all district plan documents, transaction requests (loans, hardships, rollovers, transfers, and distributions), and will submit and monitor all contributions. They also offer more approved vendors for participant selection, are able to manage the 457 plan (currently managed by the Fresno County Office of Education) and are able to offer a ROTH plan for employees.

We are excited to be able to bring this to the Board for approval December 07, 2022

If you have questions pertainint to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Steven Shubin at 457-6277.

Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D. ______________________ Date: 12/02/2022

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number C-1

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Zuleica Murillo, Executive Director
Cabinet Approval:

Date: December 02, 2022

Phone Number: 457-3988

Regarding: Translation and Interpretation Services Department

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board information regarding the new Translation and Interpretation Services Department and its expansion of services.

Since adopting the district's family goal, prioritizing language needs for families and staff has been at the forefront for our community. The Translation and Interpretation Services department was established through the board's continued investment to facilitate two-way communication.

The Translation and Interpretation Services department's mission is to, "*Provide consistent access to language support to students, families, and staff districtwide*". In that effort, we partnered with two nationwide interpretation services, Propio and Alboum, to facilitate on-demand phone calls and video conferences. The launch of these services included a pilot of ten schools with a language assistance video kiosk to support walk-in language support in the main office. Pilot school sites included Hidalgo, Kirk, Addams, Gaston, McLane, Burroughs, Calwa, Winchell, Vang Pao, and Olmos. The pilot supported phone calls in Arabic, Hindi, Hmong, Farsi, Khmer, Spanish, Punjabi, Lao, Dari, Thai, and Vietnamese. As an extension of the pilot, video conferencing was expanded to serve initial Individual Educations Plans (IEPs) and parent meetings. The successful result of this pilot has allowed us to continue expanding access and partnering with school counselors, school psychologists, nurses, and the Constituent Services Office for video conferencing and audio interpretation for families.

In addition, the Translation and Interpretation Services department will launch our first family multi-language line on January 6, 2023. The language line known as "Family Connect" will serve our district with over 140 languages to support the communication of staff, students, and families on a day-to-day basis. Families will be able to dial our department main line at (559) 457-9988, their school directly, or any other site-based facility and be connected with a live interpreter in their home language. Staff in turn can dial our main line directly and be connected with a live interpreter in the family's home language. Staff will additionally have access to family video conferencing for families who visit the school site directly for support.

Communication efforts informing staff of the districtwide expansion of translation and interpretation services will include Superintendent's Friday Message, districtwide communications through Parent Square, and the launch of our Translation and Interpretation Services web page. Those communications will include information for all to understand how and when to use our Translation and Interpretation Services department, the English Learner department, and/or a Home School Liaison. In addition, professional learning opportunities are scheduled to include Home School Liaisons, office managers, office assistants, and attendance records assistants through Classified Development in January and February, promoting the new district efforts and services.

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Zuleica Murillo at zuleica.murillo@fresnounified.org, dial (559)457- 3988.

Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D. ______________________ Date: 12/02/2022

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 02, 2022

Phone Number: 457-6278

Regarding: California Department of Food and Agriculture Farm to School Incubator Grant

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board information regarding the Farm to School Incubator Grant through the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). The district has been awarded $733,810 to implement a Farm to School Coordinator and support increased climate smart agriculture procurement in the child nutrition program. This is the second year of this grant and Nutrition Services was awarded $500,000 during the first year.

This additional funding will allow the Nutrition Services Department to expand their local Farm to School efforts. The Farm to School Coordinator will increase farm to school activities which include education opportunities for students in cafeterias, classrooms, and outdoor learning spaces. This person will work with Nutrition Services Buyers and Nutritionists to increase outreach to local vendors that practice smart climate agriculture.

The Farm to School Incubator 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 a variety of fruits and vegetables.

If you have questions or need further information, please contact Amanda Harvey at 457-6278.

Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D. ______________________ Date: 12/02/2022