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Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS – April 28, 2023

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 Superintendent Calendar Highlights

BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL SERVICES – Patrick Jensen, Interim Chief Officer

BFS-1 Kim Kelstrom School Services Weekly Update Reports for April 20, 2023

HUMAN RESOURCES – David Chavez, Chief Officer

HR-1 David Chavez Staffing Update for 2023-2024 School Year

INSTRUCTIONAL DIVISION – Dr. Natasha Baker, Chief Officer

ID-1 Jennifer Stacy-Alcantara National Speech and Debate Association's Championships Out of State Trip
ID-2 Jeremy Ward Sunnyside High School Receives Future Farmers of America Charter
ID-3 Ed Gomes Literacy Board Workshop Update
ID-4 Tangee Pinheiro Individualized Education Program Completion Plan

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: April 28, 2023

Phone Number: 457-3884

Regarding: Superintendent Calendar Highlights

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

- Attended Principal's Meeting
- Attended Fresno State Send-Off
- Met with Fresno Teachers Association Leadership
- Attended Fresno Compact Annual Shareholder's Luncheon
- Held Interview with Alexan Balekian from Sunday Morning Matters
- Attended Fresno County Superintendent of Schools Superintendent's Advisory Meeting
- Participated in Wallace ECPI District Partnership Team Meeting

Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D.



Date: 04/28/2023

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number BFS-1

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

Date: April 28, 2023

Prepared by: Kim Kelstrom, Chief Executive 
Cabinet Approval: 

Phone Number: 457-3907

Regarding: School Services Weekly Update Reports for April 20, 2023

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 April 20, 2023 is attached and includes the following articles:

- Debt Ceiling Fight to Heat Up in Coming Weeks – April 14, 2023
- Senate Education Committee Supports Bill Setting Deadline for Release of Statewide Test Results – April 19, 2023
- How Will Newsom, Legislators Deal With Growing Revenue Shortfalls? – April 16, 2023

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: 04/28/2023



1121 L Street

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Suite 1060

•
Sacramento

•
California 95814

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TEL: 916 . 446 . 7517

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FAX: 916 . 446 . 2011

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www.sscal.com

DATE: April 20, 2023

TO: Robert G. Nelson
Superintendent

AT: Fresno Unified School District

FROM: Your SSC Governmental Relations Team

RE: *SSC's Sacramento Weekly Update*

Senate Education Committee

While the Assembly Education Committee took the week off, the Senate Education Committee, chaired by Senator Josh Newman (D-Fullerton), met Wednesday to consider 11 measures.

SB 274—Willful Defiance

One of the bills considered was Senate Bill (SB) 274 by Senator Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley), which extends the prohibition against the suspension and expulsion of students for disrupting school activities or willfully defying the valid authority of school personnel to all grades, indefinitely. The bill, however, does retain a teacher's existing authorization to suspend any student from class for willful defiance but prohibits the suspension or expulsion of a student based solely on the fact that they are truant, tardy, or otherwise absent from school activities. The measure builds on Senator Skinner's 2019 bill, SB 419, which permanently banned willful defiance suspensions in grades transitional kindergarten (TK)-5 and prohibited them in grades 6-8 until July 1, 2025.

The bill was approved unanimously by the committee on a 7-0 vote, and, since it is not a fiscal bill, it will go directly to the Senate floor, where it will await a vote by the full chamber.

SB 292 and SCA 5—School Choice

The committee also heard a school choice proposal by Senator Shannon Grove (R-Bakersfield), which has been an education priority of Republicans across the country. SB 292 and Senate Constitutional Amendment (SCA) 5 are companion measures that would establish the California Education Savings Account Act of 2024. The legislation would effectively allow parents to choose what accredited school best suits their child's needs and have the student's share of Proposition 98 funding follow them.

Under this bill, the state would "rebase" the amount of funding currently apportioned to local educational agencies (LEAs) as required by Proposition 98 to include private school students and award vouchers to parents who could

then use the funding to cover tuition and other services at an eligible public or private school. The committee analysis argues that the policy changes and state and local mechanisms required to implement this bill and its companion constitutional amendment are very complex and would profoundly change how public (and private) education is currently funded. The analysis estimates that the bill would create costs between \$4 billion and \$6 billion, which would be paid for by cuts to public education or other areas of the State Budget.

Both of these measures were strongly opposed by the California Teachers Association, the California School Employees Association, and the California School Boards Association. The Democratic committee members echoed the concerns expressed in the analysis and those that opposed the bill and constitutional amendment, which both failed 2-5 along partisan lines. While the committee granted Senator Grover reconsideration to bring the measures back to the committee, there is little to no chance that these proposals are going to be approved.

Other Bills Approved

The committee also approved the following significant measures that would have an impact on LEAs:

- SB 293 (Grove) would require the California Department of Education (CDE) to make statewide summative California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) results publicly available by October 15 each year and would require the State Board of Education to align its calendar for delivering results to the CDE to be consistent with that deadline
- SB 433 (Cortese, D-San Jose) would require an impartial third-party hearing officer to determine, on appeal, if a classified school or community college employee should be subject to disciplinary action
- SB 494 (Newman) would prohibit the governing board of a school district from taking action to terminate a superintendent or assistant superintendent without cause at a special or emergency meeting of the governing board and prohibit the governing board of a school district from terminating a superintendent or assistant superintendent of the school district, without cause, within 30 days after the first convening of the governing board after a General Election
- SB 509 (Portantino, D-Burbank) would require, 1) 75% of an LEA's classified and certificated employees to receive youth behavioral health training by January 1, 2027; 2) require each LEA to teach evidence-based, age-appropriate mental health education from instructors trained in the appropriate courses; and 3) include, as a part of an LEA's comprehensive school safety plan, the total percentage of school employees that annually have received the youth behavioral training
 - The author accepted several amendments from the committee staff that will change this bill
- SB 765 (Portantino) would (1) exempt a retiree teacher returning to work to fulfill a critical need in a teaching position from postretirement compensation limits, (2) increase the maximum award amount for the Teacher Residency Grant Program to \$40,000 per teacher candidate, and (3) annually exempt 1,000 Cal Grant awardees from demonstrating financial need if they agree to enroll in a teacher preparation program after earning their baccalaureate degree

Next Friday, April 28, 2023, is the deadline for bills with any fiscal effect to clear first house policy committees. Both the Assembly and Senate Education Committees are meeting next week in order to consider bills prior to this deadline.

Leilani Aguinaldo

Debt Ceiling Fight to Heat Up in Coming Weeks

By Kyle Hyland
School Services of California Inc.'s *Fiscal Report*
April 14, 2023

The stand-off on the debt ceiling between the Biden Administration and Congressional Republicans is coming to a head as the U.S. is quickly reaching its borrowing limit. Concerns about the stalemate are mounting as the U.S. approaches its annual tax deadline of April 18 since the tax receipts will largely determine how much time the U.S. has before it defaults on its financial obligations.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen has said that the federal government is unlikely to run out of cash before early June while the Congressional Budget Office estimates that the Treasury Department would run out of cash sometime between July and September of this year. Federal Reserve Chair Jay Powell has said that “there’s only one way forward here, and that is for Congress to raise the debt ceiling so that the United States government can pay all of its obligations when due. Any deviations from that path would be highly risky.”

This means that the White House and Congressional Republicans will need to reach a deal in the next few weeks to prevent the U.S. from defaulting on its obligations, which is something that has never happened before, but most experts agree would be economically catastrophic for both the domestic and global markets.

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) has indicated that GOP leadership is drawing up a “term sheet” of conditions that Democrats must agree to before Republicans would allow the debt ceiling to be raised. However, the Biden Administration continues to insist that Congress pass a clean bill with no preconditions.

This is not the first time that Congress has had high-pressure confrontations over the debt ceiling, and, while they have always found a way to raise the limit, there is a lot of pressure on House Speaker McCarthy to gain concessions from the Biden Administration and Congressional Democrats after needing 15 ballots to win the speakership this past January.

We will continue to monitor these negotiations and keep you posted with subsequent *Fiscal Report* articles. Stay tuned.

Note: SB 293 would set an October 15 deadline for the CDE to make CAASPP results publicly available, while Governor Gavin Newsom’s proposal would move publication forward over three years, starting this year with a December 1 deadline that would permanently become October 15 beginning in 2026.

Senate Education Committee Supports Bill Setting Deadline for Release of Statewide Test Results

Sen. Shannon Grove, R-Bakersfield, and Gov. Gavin Newsom have competing plans on how to achieve an Oct. 15 publication deadline

By John Fensterwald and Thomas Peele
EdSource
April 19, 2023

A Republican state senator and Gov. Gavin Newsom are both proposing to push up the annual deadline for releasing California’s standardized test scores, which last year the California Department of Education had withheld, then reversed course after a legal challenge by EdSource and public pressure.

Sen. Shannon Grove, R-Bakersfield, and the Newsom administration disagree on the details of how soon the Smarter Balanced and other standardized test results would be released.

Senate Bill 293, which Grove is authoring, would set an Oct. 15 deadline for CDE to make the test results publicly available. Newsom’s proposal would move publication forward over three years, starting this year with a Dec. 1, deadline that would permanently become Oct. 15 starting in 2026.

Grove’s bill sailed through the Senate Education Committee on Wednesday morning with bipartisan support and no opposition from special interests.

“We need to know how our public school systems are performing,” Grove said at the hearing. By setting a deadline for publication of the test scores, the state will consistently receive “the data we need to make good decisions on education.”

“Delaying the release of this information makes it more difficult for teachers, for academics, for researchers and policymakers to make decisions on investments to improve our student performance,” Grove said.

Committee members embraced the idea.

“This is a very good and sensible measure,” the committee chairperson, Sen. Josh Newman, D-Fullerton said.

The move comes after EdSource raised objections last year to the California Department of Education’s claims that statewide test results would not be released until December or January — even though most school districts and charter schools had received their final and accurate results in late summer and early fall. Students took the tests the previous spring. The data, which includes test results by demographic groups, is used to determine which low-performing districts require assistance from the state and county offices of education.

In a Sept. 21, 2022 letter to CDE, EdSource took exception to the department's position that the statewide school and district test results were still in draft form and therefore not subject to release through a Public Records Act request.

"Please know that EdSource considers delay tantamount to denial as it effectively robs the public of its vital role in overseeing the CDE and individual districts and in holding both accountable to its students and the public," EdSource's attorney, Duffy Carolan, of the San Francisco law firm, Duffy Vick Carolan wrote in an email to CDE Director of Communications Maria Clayton. "This is especially important during what continues to be one of the most challenging and impactful times to our educational system due to the Covid pandemic."

The department did not respond to EdSource's letter. However, it did announce in late September that it would accelerate the disclosure of the test results and subsequently did release them on Oct. 23.

Doug McRae, a retired testing company executive, said school districts and teachers have always needed the results prior to the start of school in the late summer or early fall but that states have sometimes lagged in getting it out.

"Idaho, Delaware and Connecticut have stayed the course" of getting data out as early as possible, he said. "Vermont is a laggard every year." So, too, is California, he added.

"It's always political," McRae said. "The best statewide assessment programs come out of the Legislature with a combination of Republicans that tend to be in favor of mandated (release date)" and school accountability-focused Democrats he said. "The union-oriented Democrats are against it. That's the division that I see in many different states."

Newsom proposed a gradual schedule for the data release in his budget trailer bill which he posted in early February. Test scores would be included with all school and district data that are elements of the California School Dashboard.

The dashboard incorporates students' performance not only on standardized assessments in math, English language arts, and science, but also data on chronic absences, suspension rates, graduation rates, college and career readiness, and progress of English learners in mastering English.

Brooks Allen, executive director of the State Board of Education, said that this approach is consistent with the state board's position emphasizing a multidimensional look at student and school performance – and a shift away from the federal No Child Left Behind's focus on test scores alone.

"It is best when you look at all in totality; then you see the linkage between chronic absences and test scores," he said.

Moving up all of the dashboard data is more complicated than shifting only for test scores, which are compiled by a single vendor, ETS, that works with school districts to see that they are accurate, Allen said. The other metrics, like chronic absenteeism, require a broader range of data points across more grades, along with additional staff training at the district level, he said.

CDE and the state board had intended test results and the other dashboard indicators to be released sooner, Allen said, but Covid disruptions hampered data collection and led to the suspension of the dashboard for

two years. But he also acknowledged that EdSource’s records request prompted the state board to accelerate the timetable.

Allen said the state board recognized the value of releasing test results and the other dashboard data in the fall when districts are beginning to identify priorities and student groups that need extra assistance and resources as part of their Local Control and Accountability Plans. The lengthy planning process culminates the following June with the adoption of the LCAPs.

Allen said that there had been unintended miscommunication last year about when individual districts’ test data become public documents. That point is after districts receive final, vetted test results from the state and begin to share them with school boards. That may occur weeks before the state has accurate data from 100% of districts and charter schools and releases the statewide dashboard update, he said. That latter date will be no later than Oct. 15 in 2026, if the Legislature passes the governor’s proposal, Allen said.

He declined to comment on the administration’s view of Grove’s bill.

A spokesperson for Grove, Brooke Sorensen, told EdSource shortly after the committee vote that “as of right now, Sen. Grove is not working with the administration. She intends to move this bill forward since the test scores are critical in assessing public school systems.”

Note: Lawmakers will have to grapple with solutions on how to deal with the revenue shortfalls, including whether to tap into the reserves that the state has built up over the past several years.

How Will Newsom, Legislators Deal With Growing Revenue Shortfalls?

By Dan Walters
CalMatters
April 16, 2023

When Gov. Gavin Newsom proposed a 2023-24 budget in January, he acknowledged that the revenue estimates made six months earlier were way too optimistic and that the state had evolved from a nearly \$100 billion surplus to a \$22.5 billion deficit.

Never mind. Nine months into the current fiscal year, it’s evident that revenue, principally from personal income taxes, will fall well short of that downward revision. The deficit could hit \$30 billion as he and legislative leaders begin to focus on a final version for adoption in June.

Through February, the administration reported, revenues were running nearly \$5 billion below expectations and they fell short by nearly \$1 billion more in March.

The numbers bolster contentions by the Legislature’s budget analyst, Gabe Petek, that the state’s fiscal situation was unhealthier than Newsom was admitting. In his initial response to the January budget, Petek said, “Our estimates suggest that there is a good chance that revenues will be lower than the administration’s projections for the budget window, particularly in 2022-23 and 2023-24.”

The next stop for the annual budget process will come in May, when Newsom must unveil revised revenue estimates and appropriations. The worsening revenue data set the stage for what could be contentious negotiations with a June 15 constitutional deadline for passing a budget.

The essential problem is that when Newsom was forecasting an immense surplus and bragging that “no other state in American history has ever experienced a surplus as large as this,” he and the Legislature spent much of it on rebates to taxpayers and expansions of programs, especially those benefiting the poor.

Although Newsom insisted at the time that much of that spending was one-time in nature and therefore wouldn’t make unsustainable long-term commitments, it nevertheless raised expectations of permanency. Thus, when Newsom offered a new budget in January, he clawed back many of those allocations, particularly those that hadn’t yet been spent, sparking complaints from would-be recipients.

As revenues continue to fall short, expectations will have to shrink further, the competition for money among budget stakeholders will become more intense and the pressure on Newsom and legislators will increase.

They may be tempted to do something that Newsom says he doesn’t want to do and that Petek says would be foolhardy: tap into the state’s “rainy day” reserves to relieve stakeholder pressure.

The reserves are meant to be used during a severe economic downturn, but California’s fiscal problem is occurring during a relatively prosperous post-pandemic recovery. The shortfall in revenues is occurring because of the state’s narrowly based revenue system, one that is largely dependent on earnings of high-income taxpayers, particular in the shaky technology sector.


The stock market has reacted negatively to the Federal Reserve System’s interest rate increases, which are meant to combat inflation. Declines in the market manifest themselves in lower taxable earnings by investors who are such a large factor in the revenue stream. The system is so narrowly based that lower incomes for just a handful of wealthy Californians can have a big effect on revenues.

Dipping into reserves to cover the revenue shortfall would weaken their ability to cushion a recession if and when that occurs, which is why Petek strongly discourages Newsom and legislators from succumbing to stakeholder pressure by using them.

A deficit north of \$30 billion, which is a real possibility, is no joke and coming after such huge – and probably irresponsible surplus estimates – poses a serious political dilemma for politicians who would much prefer to be showering money on their constituents as they did last year.

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number HR-1

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: David Chavez,
Chief of Human Resources/Labor Relations
Cabinet Approval: 

Date: April 28, 2023

Phone Number: 457-3548

Regarding: Staffing Update for 2023/2024 School Year

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board an update pertaining to the staffing of schools for the 2023/24 school year. To ensure stability for students and staff, the goal is to complete staffing by the end of May, with all known vacancies filled by May 31.

A comprehensive District team comprised of Human Resources, School Leadership, Fiscal Services, Facilities, Transfers, English Learner Services, and Special Education is committed to student-centered decisions, stability for students/staff/schools, and hiring exceptional teachers and administrators throughout the staffing process. Criteria analyzed includes the following: Unduplicated Student Counts (LCFF), district class size targets, elimination of combination classes, Dual Immersion programs, bilingual classes, transfer requests, and small schools.

Certificated Teachers:

- Spring Lateral Fair held on March 22
 - 767 applied; 162 attended; 53 lateral matches
- Spring Overage Fair held on April 12
 - 77 teachers attended; 53 were true overage and placed; 24 were from designated sites
- Teacher Pipeline Placements will be made the week of May 1
- Remaining teacher vacancies will be filled via vetted external candidates, with recruitment fairs scheduled throughout the spring and summer

Counselors:

- Additional five (5) counselors are being added in the 2023/24 school year
 - 1.0 FTE – Provide Bullard Talent and Baird Middle School with 1.0 FTE (currently 1.0 split between the two sites)
 - 1.0 FTE – College Planning and Financial Aide Counselor on Special Assignment
 - 3.0 FTE – Restorative Practices Counselors HS

Vice Principals:

- Fort Miller, Leavenworth, Pyle, and Tenaya do not meet the parameters for retaining their second vice principal

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact David Chavez at 457-3593.


Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D.



Date: 04/28/2023

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number ID-1

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Jennifer Stacy-Alcantara & Dr. Marie
Williams, Instructional Superintendent
Cabinet Approval: 

Date: April 28, 2023

Phone Number: 457-3753

Regarding: National Speech and Debate Association's Championships Out of State Trip

The purpose of this board communication is to provide the Board information regarding students from Bullard and Edison High School who will be competing for the National Speech and Debate Association Tournament. The tournament is in compliance with all Common Core State Standards, Listening and Speaking skills. Speech and Debate class provides skills that will carry on with students in all walks of life, including in career pathways, relationships, and being a productive citizen in their community. Bullard High School Speech and Debate class has produced judges, attorneys, supervisors in organizations, teachers, professors, and medical professionals. This year, we had five students who earned a spot to the State Tournament in Carlsbad High School on April 21, 2023, to April 23, 2023. For the National Tournament in Phoenix, Arizona, from June 10, 2023, to June 17, 2023, we have seven students attending. The National Speech and Debated Association is the largest academic competition in the United States and only the top two percent of teams even make the National Tournament. Finally, this year, Edison High School will have reached their 28th year in having a speech and debate class, and Bullard High School will have reached their 47th year in having a speech and debate class. Accompanying the students to the National Speech and Debate Association's Championships will be two Bullard High teachers and one Edison High teacher.

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Jennifer Stacy-Alcantara at (559) 457-3753


Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D.



Date: 04/28/2023

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number ID-2

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Jeremy Ward, Assistant Superintendent,
College and Career Readiness
Cabinet Approval: 

Date: April 28, 2023

Phone Number: 248-7460

Regarding: Sunnyside High School Receives Future Farmers of America Charter

The purpose of this board communication is to provide the Board information about Sunnyside High School receiving its state charter for Future Farmers of America (FFA) at the FFA State Conference held in March 2023. FFA is a dynamic youth organization that changes lives and prepares members for leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education. FFA develops members' potential and helps them discover their talent through hands-on experiences both inside and outside of the classroom. Agricultural Education programs are based on a three-circle model that develops the whole student through classroom and laboratory instruction, student leadership, and work-based learning experiences known as Supervised Agricultural Experiences. The mission of FFA is to prepare students for successful careers and a lifetime of informed choices in the global agriculture, food, fiber, and natural resources systems and advance student's personal well-being as well as global well-being.

To date, 140 ninth grade students are engaged in FFA with the plan to expand one grade level per year over the next three years. Sunnyside's Agriscience and Technology Pathway students have been actively engaged in projects during the 2022/23 school year. Eighty-nine plant projects were entered at the Fresno Fair. Sixty-seven took first place in their division, sixteen took second place, and two took third place. Ag Mechanics entered their Produce Plant Stand Project, which won Best of Show. Students have been competing on FFA teams and have also attended the World Ag Expo in February. These students were actively involved in creating all the plant arrangements and centerpieces for Fresno Unified's annual Excellence in Education dinner. They are enhancing their community's well-being through projects and engagement as well as developing their own personal growth and leadership skills.

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Jeremy Ward at 248-7465.


Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D.



Date: 04/28/2023

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number ID-3

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

Date: April 28, 2023

Phone Number: 457-3694

Regarding: Literacy Board Workshop Update

The purpose of this board communication is to provide the Board with an update in response to questions that surfaced during the Literacy Board Workshop held on April 20, 2023.

Developing long-term strategies for addressing the issue of students not being on grade level requires a comprehensive approach that involves collaboration between teachers, parents, staff, and community members. The Literacy Task Force was created to identify the barriers and solutions to the lack of student achievement. Fresno Unified and the Literacy Task force will co-create a plan with actionable goals and metrics tied to student progress and achievement. The following questions were asked at the Board Workshop:

Question- What about small group instruction?

- Response- Small group instruction is a high-leverage strategy utilized by teachers in the classroom for differentiated literacy instruction. In addition, there is Orton Gillingham training for more than 200 teacher's and 50 para-educators from kindergarten through second grade. Training will be expanded to all teachers in these grade levels through the Cullinan Education Center. Orton Gillingham is a structured method of teaching foundational reading skills during small group instruction.

Question- What about expanding winter and summer sessions for struggling students?

- Response- Winter and summer opportunities already exist to support struggling students. There will be additional Extended Learning opportunities through Summer Academy. Tutors will be placed at specified sites (up to 18) and utilize Orton Gillingham literacy strategies with students not on grade level. The task force will also inform the expansion and focus of support.

Question- What about in-person tutoring for struggling students?

- Response- There are Extended Learning opportunities through the After School Program. Cullinan Education Center provides free, in person tutoring at ten elementary sites using Orton Gillingham literacy strategies.
- Every school site has an intervention program that includes site-based tutorials and interventions as designed by each site and captured in the School Plan for Student Achievement. Plans include enhanced services for English Learners, low performing students, and students with disabilities.

Question- What about reading specialists to support struggling students?

- The task force will have goals that address the question regarding Reading Specialists. The group will research, benchmark other districts using Reading Specialists, and assess the resources available to secure this support.

As the Literacy Task Force moves forward, emphasis will be placed on three objectives: 1) Preschool through second grade classroom instruction, 2) High quality support outside the classroom, and 3) Family and community partnerships.

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Instructional Superintendent, Ed Gomes at 457-3554.


Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D.



Date: 04/28/2023

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number ID-4

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Tangee Pinheiro, Instructional Superintendent
Cabinet Approval: 

Date: April 28, 2023

Phone Number: 457-3220

Regarding: Individualized Education Program Completion Plan

The purpose of this board communication is to provide the Board an overview of the plan to accomplish full compliance with Individualized Education Program (IEP) by June 30, 2023. To achieve this goal, progress monitoring includes a weekly report to teams, including the Regional Instructional Managers (RIMs), Manager IIIs for Special Education, and School Site Leaders to review and ensure that all IEPs are scheduled to be conducted and finalized by June 30, 2023. An additional report will be provided weekly with the number of IEPs that were finalized each week.

RIMs are working collaboratively with case managers and teachers on special assignments to ensure sufficient support to allow for preparation and scheduling of IEPs. In addition, a weekly review will occur between the RIMs, Manager IIIs and Instructional Superintendents to monitor progress and to determine if additional support is needed.

It is challenging to close achievement gaps at challenging levels when students with disabilities do not have plans. Two weeks ago, Fresno Unified had over 1,500 IEPs that were out of compliance. As of Monday, April 24, 2023, nearly 300 IEPs were completed systemwide with 1,264 districtwide left to complete.

If you have any questions pertaining to the information in this communication, or require additional information, please contact Tangee Pinheiro, 457-3220.

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

Date: 04/28/2023