



COUNTY SCHOOL FACILITIES CONSORTIUM  
2016-17 GOALS AND PRIORITIES

*Prepared September 2016*

MISSION STATEMENT

THE COUNTY SCHOOL FACILITIES CONSORTIUM (CSFC) ADVOCATES FOR QUALITY SCHOOL FACILITIES FOR ALL STUDENTS BY FOCUSING ON FLEXIBILITY IN CALIFORNIA'S SCHOOL FACILITY FUNDING PROGRAM, PROMOTING EQUAL ACCESS TO FUNDING FOR COUNTY OFFICES OF EDUCATION, AND ENGAGING ON LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES.

Goals and Objectives

The following issues are identified as priorities by CSFC for advocacy in 2016-17:

1. State funding program advocacy.  
Represent the unique facilities needs of County Offices of Education (COEs) on Proposition 51 implementation and in policy discussions about a future program for state school facilities funding.
2. Represent COEs on legislative and regulatory school facilities issues.  
Monitor the development and implementation of laws, regulations, and policies with implications for facilities, and empower COE representatives to educate their districts about these issues. Engage as needed to provide the COE perspective.
3. Pursue opportunities to optimize special education integration.  
Advocate for and educate policymakers on improvements that will optimize integration of special education facilities in order to serve students in their least restrictive environment. Promote the use of universal design features.
4. Education and outreach with State officials and legislators.  
Develop relationships and educate Legislators and members of the Administration on issues unique to COEs and the students we serve.
5. Foster strategic partnerships.  
Explore, develop, and strengthen relationships with strategic partners and coalitions in the education community and beyond.

## Goals & Priorities: Background and Action Items

### 1. State funding program advocacy.

Much of CSFC's efforts over the past year focused on advocating for state school bond Proposition 51, which CSFC endorsed, and helping county offices appropriately support that effort. We encouraged county offices of education to adopt resolutions in support of Proposition 51, and to tell the story about facilities needs in their local communities. With the anticipated passage of Proposition 51 in November, our focus will shift toward smooth implementation of the bond. We also anticipate that policymakers will revive discussions about the future of the state facilities funding program after Proposition 51, and CSFC will continue to engage in these conversations to represent the unique COE perspective.

With the revival of the School Facility Program, we should anticipate renewal of related issues that could affect county office projects, such as Financial Hardship, the Priority Funding process, processing and approving projects on the Unfunded List and Acknowledged List, audit findings and procedures, and more. We also anticipate discussion about bond implementation issues such as the required Routine Restricted Maintenance contribution.

**ACTION:** CSFC will continue to engage in advocacy efforts regarding the implementation of Proposition 51 and discussions about the future of the state facilities funding program. Regarding a future state program, our advocacy efforts will reflect the following principles, as outlined in the February 2015 CSFC white paper:

- Recognize that COEs are a critical part of the education infrastructure.
- The State-Local partnership for the provision of school facilities should continue.
- COEs often lack local resources and are therefore dependent on the State program, which plays an important role in providing a safety net.
- Ability to pay should be considered (ex: SFP Financial Hardship program).
- A new program should optimize opportunities for integration of special education facilities on school district sites.

Additionally, we will monitor and engage on emerging School Facility Program and Proposition 51 implementation issues as needed.

### 2. Represent COEs on legislative and regulatory school facilities issues.

CSFC will continue to engage on a variety of policy issues affecting school facilities. Efforts over the last year included drought response and the development of new irrigation efficiency regulations, ongoing implementation and oversight of the Proposition 39 energy efficiency program, refinement of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), and obligations established under the *Williams* lawsuit to inspect district facilities. It is important that such programs and initiatives are resources, not burdens, for COEs and schools.

**ACTION:** CSFC will monitor development and implementation of relevant programs and policies, engaging as necessary to provide a unique COE perspective, and represent schools in general, on school facilities issues. CSFC leadership will continue to educate its members about such issues, empowering COE representatives to inform the districts in their regions. CSFC will work with the Division of the State Architect, the California Department of Education, the Office of Public School Construction, and other state agencies and elected officials on relevant policy issues as they unfold.

### 3. Pursue opportunities to optimize special education integration.

Over the past few years, CSFC has dedicated significant energy to a very important policy issue: identifying ways to optimize integration of special education facilities in order to serve students in their least restrictive environment. At the 2016 CASH Annual Conference, CSFC leadership hosted a successful workshop exploring this issue, building upon our initial workshop from 2015. CSFC leadership met with top representatives at the California Department of Education multiple times over the past year to advocate for a revision to Title 5 siting and plan approval regulations that would encourage greater coordination between districts and COEs to ensure facilities projects meet the needs of special education students, optimizing integration in their least restrictive environment. We coordinated with CDE to explore development of universal design standards.

*ACTION:* Participate in the California Department of Education Title 5 review and stakeholder process, to advocate that the regulations should require an applicant to certify as part of their project plan approval that a conversation has taken place between the school district and COE regarding special education facilities needs. Pursue opportunities to encourage the use of universal design features. Continue policymaker and stakeholder education efforts.

### 4. Education and outreach with State officials and legislators.

CSFC has continued to develop and maintain relationships with key State officials and legislators, including: State Allocation Board members and their staff, the Office of Public School Construction leadership, the Legislative Analyst's Office, the Department of Finance analysts, and California Department of Education officials. In particular, new term limits enacted in 2012 will allow legislators to serve up to twelve years in either house, making these relationships that much more important.

*ACTION:* CSFC will continue efforts to inform and educate members and staff of the Legislature and Executive Branch about the unique roles, responsibilities, and facilities needs of COEs. CSFC will develop resources to prepare its members for engaging on policy issues with their local representatives.

### 5. Foster strategic partnerships.

CSFC recognizes that joining efforts with other organizations can amplify our voice on important policy matters. Over the past year, CSFC has continued its outreach to other organizations in the education community, including the Facilities Subcommittee of County Offices (FSCO) and the Business and Administration Steering Committee (BASC) of the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA). We reached out to other education stakeholders, such as SELPA administrators and other education management representatives. We continued to work collaboratively with the Coalition for Adequate School Housing (CASH) on a number of facilities issues, and we engaged with Californians for School Facilities (CSF) on federal issues. While CSFC's position is sometimes distinct from the work of these organizations, coalition-building can help us achieve our common goals.

*ACTION:* CSFC will continue to work collaboratively with our existing coalition partners. We will participate in meetings and gatherings of other organizations, and we will continue to explore and develop relationships with other organizations in the education community.