## Securing Education Resources to Finance California's Future

PACE Annual Conference February 7, 2020 Sacramento, California







## Funding for schools in California has improved...



https://gettingdowntofacts.com/publications/working-toward-k-12-funding-adequacy-californias-current-policies-and-funding-levels

## ...but funding remains short of adequate levels given the goals of state policies.



Average *actual operational spending* was \$12,204 per student in 2016-17.

GDTFII estimated that the *adequate cost* per pupil would be around \$16,890.

https://gettingdowntofacts.com/publications/working-toward-k-12-funding-adequacy-californias-current-policies-and-funding-levels

## Districts' budgets are being impacted by rising costs.

#### **Costs of Special Education**

Changes in State Special Education Funding and Number of Students with Disabilities from 2005 to 2014



Inflation-adjusted state special education funding has decreased, while the number of students with disabilities has grown.

https://gettingdowntofacts.com/publications/revisiting-finance-and-governance-issues-special-education

## Districts' budgets are being impacted by rising costs.

#### **Growing Pension Liabilities**

Realized and Projected CalSTRS Statutory Contributions, 2006–2021, as Percent of Salaries



https://gettingdowntofacts.com/publications/pensions-and-california-public-schools-0

## Districts' budgets are being impacted by rising costs.



https://edpolicyinca.org/publications/challenges-employee-and-retiree-health-benefit-costs-california-districts

Fully Funded Schools

> Governor's proposed 2020-21 budget includes Additional \$4 Billion

> > November 2020 over \$4 Billion via *Schools and Communities First* measure

> > > March 2020 \$15 Billion Facilities Bond Measure

# What would it look like if our schools were adequately funded?

## How can we get there as a state?



## Agenda

- 10:15-11:15: Panelist presentations
- 11:15-11:30: Panelist Q&A
- 11:30-11:45: Table conversations
- 11:40-11:45: Table share out

### Panelists





**PACE** 



Carrie Hahnel, Independent Consultant



Fred Silva, Director of

Public Policy,

California Forward



Sawait Seyoum, Sacramento City parent advocate & Senior Legislative Advocate, Disability Rights California



## On a mission to build power for kids.

PACE 2020 Annual Conference February 2, 2020



#### There are Not Enough Adults on School Campuses



#### CA's Staff to Student Ratios

	National average	СА	CA rank
Total staff	1:8	1:11	48
Teacher	1:16	1:24	50
Librarian	1:1,128	1:7,783	50
Guidance counse	lor 1:482	1:760	49
Administrator	1:207	1:300	47



### The Tale of Three High Schools



Typical California High School: -Approximately 1,100 students -More than 60% are low income

California: *Gunderson High School*, San Jose Unified School District

Illinois: *Urbana High School*, Urbana School District

New Jersey: *Garfield High School*, Garfield School District



#### A Tale of Three Schools Comparing Investments

Gunderson High School (San Jose, California)	<b>Urbana High School</b> (Urbana, Illinois)	Garfield High Schoo (Garfield, New Jersey)
San Jose Unified	Urbana School District	Garfield School District
\$10,982	\$14,364	\$17,388
29% higher	11% lower	24% higher
\$8,493	\$16,210	\$13,997
51% higher	18% lower	27% higher
	(San Jose, California) San Jose Unified \$10,982 <b>29% higher</b> \$8,493	(San Jose, California)(Urbana, Illinois)San Jose UnifiedUrbana School District\$10,982\$14,364 <b>29% higher11% lower</b> \$8,493\$16,210



#### A Tale of Three Schools Comparing Opportunities and Services

Student Engagement	Gunderson High School; CA	Urbana High School; IL	Garfield High School; NJ
SPORTS TEAMS	17	19	22
CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS	8	17	40

#### **FIGURE 1**

Gunderson, Urbana, and Garfield High Schools Staffing Data

	Gunderson High School	Urbana High School	Garfield High School
TEACHERS	60	87	96
ADMINISTRATORS AND OTHER CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL	9 (including 3 administrators)	20 (including 4 administrators)	20 (including 3 administrators)
TOTAL CERTIFICATED STAFF	69	107	116



#### **Education is Powered by People and Adult-Child Interactions**

California's teacher salaries were 85.5% of wages for college graduates in other professions and about 92% of compensation if pensions and benefits are both taken into account.

#### TABLE 1

The number of teachers depends on both salary levels and expenditures (2017-18)

STATE	STUDENTS ENROLLED PER TEACHER (RANK)	AVERAGE TEACHER SALARY (RANK)
California	22.7 (49th)	\$80,680 (2)
Florida	<b>19.7</b> ( <b>46th</b> )	\$48,168 (46)
Illinois	15.7 (34th)	\$65,721 (11)
New Jersey	<b>11.8</b> ( <b>3rd</b> )	\$69,917 (6)*
New York	<b>11.6</b> (1st)	\$84,227 (1)
Texas	<b>15</b> ( <b>23rd</b> )	\$53,334 (27)
United States	15.8	\$60,477

Four states, Utah, Nevada, Arizona and California, stand out as serious outliers with pupil-teacher ratios over 22. Florida is the next highest.

Data: National Education Association, 2019 Rankings and Estimates. \*NEA Estimate



#### Recent K-12 Investments Must be Considered in Historical Context



Academic studies from 2007 showed that State needed to spend between \$17 - \$32 billion more for schools to reach the state's academic goals.

From 2007-08 to 2011-12 (Great Recession), annual funding fell by \$15.6 billion.

Investments since 2011-12 have been significant, but current spending is only slightly higher than it was in the early 2000's when adjusted for inflation.

Student teach ratios in 2017-18 almost back to 2007-08 levels



#### **California Education Spending Lags Most Other States**

#### TABLE 2

California's education spending lags most other large states (2015-16)

STATE	PER-PUPIL EXPENDITURE ADJUSTED FOR REGIONAL COST DIFFERENCES (2016)	PERCENT OF TOTAL TAXABLE RESOURCES SPENT ON EDUCATION (2016)
California	\$10,281	3.2%
Florida	\$9,764	2.8%
Illinois	\$13,829	4.5%
New Jersey	\$16,543	4.9%
New York	\$19,697	5.0%
Texas	\$8,619	3.8%
United States	\$12,756	3.7%

Adjusting for regional costs differences, Education Week ranks California 39th in per-pupil expenditures and 40th (with several other states) for the portion of resources it devotes to education.

Data: Education Week, Quality Counts, June 5, 2019; National Center for Education Statistics and the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis



#### **California Education Spending Lags Most Other States**

Investment Effort	Additional Funding	
NATIONAL AVERAGE	\$11 Billion	
ILLINOIS	\$26.7 Billion	
NEW JERSEY	\$37 Billion	



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#### Securing Education Resources to Finance California's Future: Insights from Forthcoming Research

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## **Current sources of education funding**



Policy Analysis for California Education

PACE

## The State General Fund is more dependent on personal income taxes than ever before



Education funding has been shaped by a complicated web of court decisions, policies, and voter initiatives

#### **1972** Senate Bill 90

Increased state aid and established a revenue limit system in an attempt to equalize the amount of funding received by districts.

Bill 8

Determined

property tax

how much local

revenue goes to

school districts.

#### **1978** Proposition 13

Dramatically limited annual property tax increases by capping tax rates and assessed value. It also limited state and local ability to raise taxes.

#### **1971-76 1979** Serrano v. Assembly

Serrano v. Priest I and II

Established that California must reduce local wealth-based funding disparities.

#### 1991 & 2011 Realignment

Shifted certain programs and tax revenues from the state General Fund to local governments and/or special funds, effectively lowering the Proposition 98 guarantee.

2016 Proposition 55

Extended the personal income tax increases established by Proposition 30.

#### **1992** Educational Revenue Augmentation Funds

Shifted some local property tax revenues into a separate fund to help meet Proposition 98 minimum funding requirements.

1988 Proposition 98

Created a constitutional minimum guaranteed funding level for K-12 and community college education.

#### 2012 Proposition 30

Increased sales tax rate and the income tax rate for high-income earners, in order to prevent cuts to education.

## Where Could Additional Funding for Education Come From?

#### New taxes

Other tax reforms

#### Reprioritization

## New tax considerations

Experts, advocates, and policymakers we spoke with said:

- State <u>and</u> local revenue sources will need to be identified
  - BUT, principles of equity and local control will need to be balanced
- A balanced mix of tax options must be employed to:
  - ✓ Maximize revenues
  - ✓ Spread the tax burden
  - ✓ Minimize volatility
  - ✓ Mitigate against negative economic consequences

## Potential tax options

Most often identified by experts, advocates and policymakers we spoke with:

Services Tax	Expand sales tax to services, potentially in combination with reductions/changes to retail sales taxes
Split Roll	Split the property tax roll in order to allow corporate property values to grow at market rate
Other Local Taxes	While some suggested lowering the parcel tax vote threshold, most focused on ways to expand local tax authority to include other taxes <i>besides</i> the parcel tax
Taxes on Corporations	Increase corporate income tax, particularly on highest-earning corporations
Taxes on High-Income Earners	Further increase the personal income tax on the highest-income earners
Reduce Tax Expenditures	Including credits, deductions, incentives, and other tax breaks

## New revenues are important but insufficient

Experts, advocates, and policymakers we spoke with said California must also:

- 1. Reexamine its priorities
- 2. Improve practice, outcomes, and accountability
- 3. Improve collaboration between elected officials, state education leaders, and advocates
- 4. Strengthen public and political will to fully fund education
- 5. Break down silos between early education, K-12 education, higher education, and other children's services segments

## What can state leaders do?

- 1. Take an active role in coordinating and leading a conversation about increasing education funding
- 2. With education stakeholders, develop a master plan for education funding that covers more than just K-12 education, particularly early education
- 3. Strengthen fiscal transparency and analysis so that stakeholders understand how money is being used and see the results of that spending
- 4. Work with researchers and policy analysts to examine how to modernize California's school funding infrastructure

### Panelist Q&A





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Carrie Hahnel, Independent Consultant



Fred Silva, Director of

Public Policy,

California Forward



Sawait Seyoum, Sacramento City parent advocate & Senior Legislative Advocate, Disability Rights California

## Table conversation

- Introductions
  - Your name & role
- Discussion questions
  - What do you see as the most viable policy options for raising more revenues for education?
  - How should state leaders think about balancing local control including local taxation - with issues of equity?
  - How can stakeholder groups work together to ensure that an ambitious and high-impact solution is brought to fruition?

## Group Shareout

## Next up...!

- Go downstairs, get your lunch, and bring it back into the Magnolia Ballroom by 12:15
- 12:15 1:00 Lunchtime presentation of the 2020 PACE/USC Rossier Annual Poll in the Magnolia Ballroom