

Inspiration

From the desk of Ted Alejandro, County Superintendent

Governor's Proposed Budget Calls For Increases In Education Funding



Gerry Shelton, partner for Capitol Advisors Group, gives budget updates at a Budget Perspectives Workshop for county chief business officials and other school administrators in January.

In mid-January, Gov. Gavin Newsom released his budget proposal, which includes funding for education. The response from the education community has been largely favorable, based on assumptions taking place with both California's economy, as well as trends across the nation.

The state continues to see a positive economic landscape, with unemployment falling to 3.9 percent during the fourth quarter of 2019 and national gross domestic product growth of 2.3 percent during the same period.

Gov. Newsom sees continued growth during the 2020-21 budget cycle, although he anticipates slower growth, especially toward the end of the next budget year. The governor is proposing \$84 billion for the Proposition 98 guarantee, with approximately \$74 billion targeted for K-12 schools and districts. The Prop. 98 funding would include a \$2.9 billion increase from the 2019-20 budget. It also would include a modest cost of living allowance (COLA) of 2.29

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Newsroom Spotlights

County Honor Bands, Orchestras To Perform In February, March



In February and March, two regional San Bernardino County honor bands and countywide orchestra will hold their annual performances. [Read more here.](#)

Award Nomination Process Opens For Education Medal Of Honor and Distinguished Service Award

percent.

Many of Gov. Newsom's proposals for public education funding include one-time monies for programs to improve teacher recruitment, training and retention (\$900 million) and for schools to provide wrap-around services across their communities (\$300 million). Gov. Newsom also looks to provide short-term funding for on-going programs that support early learners with exceptional needs (\$250 million), as well as meal reimbursements for enhanced school nutrition (\$70 million).

In terms of pension relief for the California State Teacher Retirement System (CalSTRS) and California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS), Gov. Newsom does not provide any new funds, citing the 2019 Budget Act that included buying down increasing employer contribution rates for CalSTRS and CalPERS. Many districts regard higher pension costs as their most significant fiscal challenge. Additional supplemental funds from the legislature would help districts address existing liabilities, providing long term relief for district budgets.

Our county's schools and districts received keen insights and data about the budget process during an annual workshop on Jan. 22 with Capitol Advisors Group, based in Sacramento. The budget process will be finalized in the coming months with negotiations by both houses of the state legislature. County Schools will continue to monitor developments and provide our districts with the most up-to-date information to make budget decisions that best serve their students and communities.

Celebrating Women In Math and Science Conference 2020

Every January, San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools' Alliance for Education and American Association of University Women are proud to welcome hundreds of female middle and high school students onto the campus of Victor Valley College for the exciting Celebration of Women in Math and Science Conference.

This is the 15th year these incredible community organizers have worked closely with County Schools to



orchestrate an exceptional panel of guests who offer great insight into the world of science and math from a women's perspective.



The San Bernardino County Education Medal of Honor and Distinguished Service Award are calling for nominations that honor outstanding contributions to public education by volunteers/service groups, business/government partners, educators and alumni. Deadline for entries is Feb. 20. [Read more here.](#)

San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools January Photo Gallery



Take a look at some of the great events sponsored by the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools during the month of January. [See the photos.](#)

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Featured presenters are able to share with students their unique experiences within their chosen fields. Workshops included aerospace, medicine, finance, law enforcement, firefighting, forestry and aeronautical engineering.

According to data from the National Girls Collaborative Project, male students were more likely than female students to take engineering (21 percent vs 8 percent) and enroll in Advanced Placement computer science (77 percent vs 23 percent).

With continued support and expertise, we hope conferences like this open doors to future generations of female engagement and participation.

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