

THE CHILDREN'S MOVEMENT OF CALIFORNIA

CHILDREN NOW January 7, 2013

The Honorable Darrell Steinberg
Senate President pro Tempore, State of California
Sacramento, CA 95814



The Honorable John Pérez
Speaker of the California State Assembly
State Capitol, Rm. 219
Sacramento, CA 95814



The Education Trust-West

Re: Weighted Student Formula Is Critical for Students, Schools, and Communities

Dear Senator Steinberg and Mr. Speaker:

We are greatly appreciative of your strong support for Proposition 30, and hopeful that its passage represents a critical turning point in California's commitment to funding public schools. In addition to our goal of funding stability and growth for schools, we recognize that this provides an ideal opportunity to continue discussions on much-needed reforms to the finance system for public education.

We are committed to continuing discussions which began last year, and continued into the fall, on moving to a Weighted Student Formula that would streamline the existing school finance system, while making progress towards a new system that will encourage local innovation, address historic inequities, and result in a system that allocates adequate resources based on student characteristics and need.

Problem-solving this significant initiative is essential and we believe it is time for California to move forward and implement this reform. For far too long we have evaluated and bemoaned the failings and inequities in how we fund education, and now an opportunity exists to fundamentally restructure our finance system for the better. Governor Brown has demonstrated his commitment to an alternative funding formula. We must seize upon this opportunity and begin working earnestly on designing a new funding system that not only addresses issues relating to equity, transparency, and local control but also guides our hand in making future investments.

With this effort we can finally implement a system that achieves equity, transparency, and accountability for the children of California. We join with the many education stakeholders below in expressing our interest in working with the Legislature and Administration to accomplish this important goal.

Sincerely,



The Dirk and Charlene Kabcenell Foundation



THE CHILDREN'S MOVEMENT OF CALIFORNIA



ACEL Fresno Charter School

Growing Up In Santa Cruz

ACLU

Harbour Consulting

Army Reserve Child, Youth & School Services

Hart-Ransom Union Elementary School District



Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment

Healing Hearts One At A Time



Attendance Works

League of Women Voters, California

Azusa Unified School District

LP Learning

B. Kilmer & Associates Playgrounds

MALDEF



California Alliance of African American Educators

NewSchools Venture Fund



California Collaborative on District Reform

Parent Leadership Action Network



California LULAC Institute

PICO



California School Health Centers

Public Advocates

Californians for Justice

Public Counsel

Campaign for Quality Education

Rowland Reading Foundation

Children Now

San Mateo County Child Care Partnership

CSBA

Santa Cruz County Parents Association

Congregation Emanu-El

Silicon Valley Leadership Group

Dirk and Charlene Kabcenell Foundation

Silver Giving Foundation

Ed Trust- West

Tikkun Consulting

Ed Voice

Tikun Olam

First 5 Fresno County

United Way

Full Circle Fund

Youths together

George Stafford & Associates



THE CHILDREN'S MOVEMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Including these prominent individuals:

Superintendent Tony Smith
Oakland Unified School District

Superintendent Dr. Vincent Matthews
San Jose Unified School District

Superintendent Jon Grundy
Pasadena Unified School District

Superintendent Thelma Melendez de Santa Ana
Santa Ana Unified School District

Superintendent Jonathan Raymond
Sacramento City Unified School District

CC:

Governor Jerry Brown

Lark Park, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor

Sue Burr, Executive Director, State Board of Education

Dr. Michael Kirst, President, State Board of Education

Senator Carol Liu, Chair, Senate Education Committee

Senator Marty Block, Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee on Education

Senator Bob Huff, Senate Minority Leader

Assembly Member Joan Buchanan, Chair, Assembly Education Committee

Assembly Member Susan Bonilla, Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Education

Assembly Member Connie Conway, Assembly Minority Leader