



July 15, 2016

CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF TEACHERS SECURES SIGNIFICANT BUDGET VICTORIES

The California Federation of Teachers secured major budget victories in the 2016-2017 Annual Budget. Due to the outstanding lobbying efforts of leadership, members and staff, the CFT secured millions of dollars in appropriations that will benefit CFT members and the students they serve. Significant appropriations in the areas of early childhood education, K-12 and community colleges were signed into law by Governor Brown on June 27, 2016. Below are brief descriptions of those appropriations.

Early Childhood Education

An Early Education Block Grant was proposed by Governor Brown in January that would have consolidated Proposition 98 dollars from the State Preschool Program, Transitional Kindergarten and the Preschool Quality Rating and Improvement System Grant into a \$1.6 billion block grant for local educational agencies. The block grant amount essentially represented flat funding for all of the programs. In addition, the proposal would have removed Transitional Kindergarten language in current law.

The CFT, in conjunction with numerous education organizations, opposed this proposal from the introduction by the Governor in January. Realizing that there was a great deal of opposition to the proposal, the Governor revised the proposal slightly to provide a year of transition time. Both the Assembly and Senate Budget Committees rejected the Governor's proposal.

In the end, the Annual Budget signed by the Governor includes an early childhood education package that increases funding by \$100 million, maintains the current funding streams, maintains Transitional Kindergarten language in current law, increases the number of state preschool slots available by 8,877 over four years and increases the standard reimbursement rate by 10% across the board.

Classified School Employee Teacher Credentialing Program

The Annual Budget passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor includes an appropriation of \$20 million to fund a CFT-sponsored piece of legislation, AB 2122 (McCarty), known as the California Classified School Employee Teacher Credentialing Program. The appropriation will provide grants to school districts and county offices of education to provide incentives of up to \$4,000 per year to classified public school employees to obtain their Bachelor's degree and their teaching credential. The legislation both addresses the current teacher shortage by increasing the number of applicants to teacher credentialing programs and provides a career ladder for classified school employees.

Community Schools and Restorative Justice

The Annual Budget and associated Trailer Bills signed by the Governor on June 27, 2016 include a \$27.4 million appropriation to establish the Learning Communities for School Success Program. \$18 million will come from a one-time allocation, and an additional \$9.4 million allocation will come from annual Prop 47 savings.

Three-year grants will be awarded by the Department of Education on a competitive basis to fund programs such as Community Schools, Restorative Justice programs and other programs that advance social-emotional learning, positive behavior interventions and supports, culturally responsive practices and trauma informed strategies.

Senate Bill 527 (Liu) and Assembly Bill 1014 (Thurmond), companion bills currently in the Assembly and Senate Appropriations Committees respectively and almost certain to pass the Legislature in August, will define specifically how these dollars can be spent. The CFT worked extensively throughout the legislative session to support and advance SB 527 (Liu).

City College of San Francisco Restoration Funding

A \$41.5 million appropriation was included in the Annual Budget signed by the Governor to provide “restoration funding” for City College of San Francisco. The language of the appropriation requires the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges to provide the San Francisco Community College District with a revenue adjustment for restoration of apportionment revenue for five fiscal years. Beginning in the 2017–18 fiscal year, the San Francisco Community College District shall be entitled to restoration of any reduction in apportionment revenue due to decreases in full-time equivalent students (FTES), up to the level of attendance of FTES funded in the 2012–13 fiscal year, if there is a subsequent increase in FTES. These revenue adjustments would not be subject to the growth cap, thereby allowing for growth up to the pre-accreditation crisis levels.

Community College Part-Time Faculty Office Hours

Community Colleges will receive an increase of \$3.6 million in reimbursements to fund part-time faculty office hours – bringing the total allocation to nearly \$7.2 million in 2016-2017. Community colleges must spend these dollars to pay for office hours and then will be reimbursed for up to one-half of those expenditures by the state.

FOR QUESTIONS OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

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