

April Legislative Update
Jeff Frost, CASP legislative Advocate

CASP Sponsoring Legislation to Expand PBIS and Restorative Justice Tools

CASP is sponsoring SB 463 (Hancock) to implement a statewide trainer of trainers program. The bill is an effort to fund a statewide program for professional development and training of school and district staff on how to implement PBIS and restorative justice programs. There is broad support for this bill including the Public Counsel and a number of other social justice organizations. The bill will be heard in the Senate Education Committee in April. We are currently working to get additional organizations to support the bill. Again this year, the key will be working to get funding to implement the components of the bill as a part of the 2015-16 State Budget.

CASP Working to Impact Legislative Audit Request on Mental Health Services

In February 2015, State Senator Jim Beall (D-San Jose) sent a letter to the Joint Legislative Audit Committee requesting the Auditor General do an audit focused on the services being provided to student with mental health needs by school districts and SELPAs. The initial letter unfortunately had a number of incorrect assertions about the role and qualifications of school psychologists and was far too broad to lead to a successful audit. We have met with the staff of Senator Beall to provide them with accurate information about the qualifications of school psychologists, gave them additional background about the shift of the services to LEAs from county mental health and tried to focus the staff on the fact that the major problem is that LEAs are not able to access the same federal funds that were available to county mental health when they operated the mental health program. We pointed them to the introduction of AB 1018 (Cooper) which would allow districts and SELPAs to access federal EPSDT funding which would greatly improve the ability to provide a wider array of educationally necessary services to these students. Senator Beall has agreed to rewrite the letter requesting an audit and they indicated a willingness to allow CASP to review the letter and provide input.

CASP Legislation of Interest

In addition to our CASP co-sponsored bill on PBIS, SB 463 (Hancock), the CASP Legislative Committee has taken the positions on the following education bills of interest and will be monitoring these measures during the Legislative Session.

AB 58 (Rodriguez) – School Safety Plans

AB 58 would add a requirement that active shooter training be incorporated in School Safety Plans. The bill would require that the active shooters training be based on drills and exercise guidelines developed by the National Association of School Psychologist.
CASP Position: Watch

AB 288 (Holden) – College and Career Access Pathways

AB 288 establishes the College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) partnerships to offer dual enrollment to a broader range of students by reducing policy barriers that hinders

the development of such programs. The pathways would be uniquely customized to the needs of local student populations, with the goal of developing a seamless pathway from high school to community college for career technical education or preparation for transfer, or helping high school students achieve college and career readiness.

CASP Position: Support

AB 1018 (Cooper) – Medi-Cal: EPSDT

AB 1018 (Cooper) allows local education agencies (LEA) and Special Education Local Plan Areas (SELPAs) to provide mental health services for Medi-Cal eligible students under the federal Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment program (EPSDT).

CASP Position: Support

AB 1369 (Frazier) – Special Education: Dyslexia

AB 1369 would require local educational agencies to screen all pupils enrolled in kindergarten and grades 1 to 3 to identify dyslexia or other reading and writing dysfunctions, and to notify a pupil's parent or legal guardian of any identified dyslexia or other reading and writing dysfunction.

The bill would also require local in-service training programs for school psychologists, regular education teachers, and special education teachers in local educational agencies to include a component on, and, commencing with the 2016–17 academic year, the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to require institutions of higher education that provide teacher training programs to include instruction in, the recognition of, and appropriate evidence-based teaching methodologies for, dyslexia or other reading and writing dysfunctions.

CASP Position: Oppose

SB 118 (Liu) – School-Based Health and Education Partnership Program

SB 118 would rename the Public School Health Center Support Program as the School-Based Health and Education Partnership Program. The bill would provide funding for the expansion and renovation of existing school health centers and would also change the amount of the grant funding.

CASP Position: Watch

SB 403 (Liu) – California Community Schools Act

SB 403 provides a framework in the education code to promote the expansion and effectiveness of cross-agency collaboration in support of student success, stronger families and healthier communities. The use of Community Schools as an operating model to align resources creates more effective use of limited public and private funds, leverages the new state education priorities and the Local Control Funding Formula and accountability plans.

CASP Position: Watch

SB 451 (Lara) – School Counselors

SB 451 encourages K-12 districts to adopt education school counseling programs, defines the scope of school counseling, and encourages ongoing professional development. The bill would define educational counseling and enumerate the roles

counselors play on school campuses, drawing attention to the opportunities to utilize counselors to meet the state priorities under LCFF and the Governor's ultimate goal of equity, access, and achievement for all students.

CASP Position: Watch