

**Marin County School Districts
Joint Legislative Advisory Committee (JLAC)
Annual Priorities 2018**

Marin County

Marin County serves over 35,000 PreK-14 public school students in small to mid-size, rural and suburban districts. Like schools throughout California, Marin schools serve an increasingly diverse population of students and families with a growing student population of English Language Learners.

Joint Legislative Advisory Committee (JLAC)

JLAC is a countywide committee of superintendents and elected school board members advocating on behalf of public school children in Marin County.

Recognizing the challenges and limited resources of our state education system, JLAC is committed to focusing on top actionable priorities that will enable Marin's students to be provided with the best possible education programs.

ACTIONABLE AND IMMEDIATE CONCERNS

1. Pension Liabilities and School Funding

JLAC continues to urge the legislature to address pension liabilities as a statewide issue, and not require districts to use their restoration, base or supplemental LCAP funds to pay for unconstrained and ever-increasing pension obligations. The current and expected STRS and PERS rate increases continue to have an inverse impact on the restoration of pre-recession funding levels and on a district's ability to adequately implement LCAP priorities.

2. Special Education

JLAC advocates for the protection of Special Education Local Plan Areas and maintaining the current funding structure. Allowing for LCFF based formulas will impede basic aid districts from providing a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE).

JLAC also supports the reduction of Unwarranted Claims with IEP Mandate. In order to help districts manage excessive special education costs often associated with private school placement, reasonable restrictions should be placed into statute that require districts and parents to create and implement IEPs providing an opportunity to deliver FAPE for students, before families can unilaterally place their children in a private school environment and request reimbursement.

(Over)

3. School Construction and Modernization

The Governor is proposing to spend \$640 million for the K-14 bond authority for school construction and modernization. If the state budget also increases Prop. 51 spending to 25%, which would total only \$1.5 billion of the \$6 billion in new Construction and Modernization funds, this is still inadequate to fund the current existing backlog currently submitted to the Office of Public School Construction. In Marin, our local bond measure construction budgets have included the expected state funds in order to reach completion.

If increased funding is not available, projects will be delayed, greatly adding to costs, probably to unaffordable levels, especially as demands on the building industry increase due to the North and South state wildfires. Underfunding school construction and modernization leaves our shovel-ready projects in jeopardy of being stopped or abandoned completely.

4. Charter Schools (Transparency)

School board trustees have a duty to wisely spend public tax dollars on the best education possible for the children in their district. We advocate for legislation requiring that the Brown Act, the Public Records Act, the Political Reform Act and Government Code Section 1090 apply to charter schools and that charters schools are held to high standards of good governance. Good governance means:

- Meetings are open to the public
- Documents accessible to the public
- Board members disclosing their financial interests
- Boards prohibited from entering into a contract that may financially benefit one of its members.

It is in the State's interest that good governance practices are in place related to charter schools and that all public education funding is directly benefitting students.