



President
E. Toby Boyd

April 14, 2020

Vice President
David B. Goldberg

California Congressional Delegation,

Secretary-Treasurer
Leslie S. Littman

On behalf of our 310,000 California educators, education support professionals, and the 6 million students of this great state, we thank you for the last round of federal funding for our public schools, but we urge you to support additional legislation to address the COVID-19 crisis. Our schools are on the front lines responding to this crisis as we engage in distance learning, feeding students, and supervising children of essential workers. We also need funding that addresses the aftermath of this crisis in providing services to our students, families and communities, as we plan to reopen public schools and higher education campuses safely.

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Our immediate needs include personal protective equipment (PPE) for all frontline workers and more funding to help people get back on their feet – which includes the families of our students directly affected by the virus, as well as those suddenly unemployed through no fault of their own. Looming challenges include what we expect to be a rapid decline in revenue due to the COVID-19 emergency, which could in turn require California to slash spending on health and education – two areas which are crucial to rebuilding our communities and directly supporting our students. We need more funding and support at this time, not less.

Executive Director
Joe Boyd

We also ask you to help us address the long-festering challenges that have been aggravated by the COVID-19 crisis like food insecurity, lack of access to health care, the digital divide, and college student debt. Students can't thrive without good nutrition, and families need quality health care they can access and afford. In our efforts to offer distance learning, many students are facing additional challenges due to the limited internet access and lack of available devices in their homes. Furthermore, college graduates are burdened with unprecedented debt due to the rising costs of higher education and will find it more difficult accessing affordable housing and a greater challenge entering the labor force following this pandemic.

California has led the way on many levels in dealing with the COVID-19 crisis. However, we will fall behind if we do not plan for the months ahead and proactively address the needs of our educators, students, families and communities. We urge you to support the legislation detailed in the attached document. Stand with California educators, families, students and communities. Your leadership is needed now more than ever.

Sincerely,

E. Toby Boyd