June 6, 2022

Hon. Nancy Skinner  
Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
1020 N Street, Suite 502  
Sacramento, CA  95814

Hon. Phil Ting  
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 8230  
Sacramento, CA  95814

Hon. John Laird  
Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee #1  
1020 N Street, Suite 502  
Sacramento, CA  95814

Hon. Kevin McCarty  
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #2  
1021 O Street, Suite 8230  
Sacramento, CA  95814

RE: SUPPORT FOR MAY REVISION MATHEMATICS & SCIENCE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT – RETURN $385 MILLION TO STAND ALONE PROGRAM

Dear Senator Skinner, Assemblymember Ting, Senator Laird and Assemblymember McCarty:

The California Association of Science Educators (CASE) and The Education Trust-West (ETW) respectfully request you remove $385 million from the Learning Recovery Discretionary Block Grant established in the Legislative Budget proposal and restore it to a stand-alone Math, Science, Computer Science Professional Development Funding.
From a policy perspective, the critical professional development proposal set out in the Governor’s May Revision would provide critically needed funds to support educators with high quality professional learning to effectively implement the Next Generation Science Standards, the California Math Framework, the California Computer Science Standards and the science and mathematics domains of the California Preschool Learning Foundations. Importantly, the funds do not create a new program but instead build on the existing infrastructure and capacity for professional learning of state-sponsored and nonprofit educator training initiatives in math and science and include a focus on family and community engagement. This is not an effort that can succeed as a part of a discretionary block grant. Last week the State Assembly approved AB 2565 (Rubio) on a unanimous vote which shows the importance of approaching this needed professional development in a targeted and systematic way.

The proposal in the May Revise would use one-time Proposition 98 funds over multiple years to build the capacity of existing and new professional learning networks and resources ($85 million) and to fund local educational agencies for local professional development activities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics ($300 million). The $85 million will create an ongoing infrastructure for science & math training that will be long lasting and sustainable. This is a crucial step in preparing out state’s teaching staff.

CASE and ETW are working with a broad coalition of equity groups, local educational agencies, and nonprofit educational organizations to advocate for state investments to support California educators in science and math. The May Revision proposal addresses the priorities identified by science and math classroom educators, teacher leaders, county offices of education, representatives from higher education and equity advocates. This professional development is crucial to improving California’s students’ learning and achievement. California’s students are not doing well in math and science. Less than 40 percent of California’s students met math standards on the 2019 California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress and only 30 percent of students statewide met or exceeded standards on the 2019 California Science Test. Alarmingly, just 3 percent of English learners met standards, with even lower results in grades 8 through 12. Frequently, math and science are the problem areas for students who do not complete the A-G course series, and fewer than 51 percent of 2020 high school graduates passed these courses required to be eligible to attend the California State University or the University of California.

The May Revision proposal on Math and Science Professional Development recognizes the need to build educator capacity to advance meaningful access to mathematics and science teaching and learning. High quality standards-based math and science instruction are vital to advancing equitable outcomes for California students.

For these reasons, CASE and ETW urge your support for the May Revision Math and Science Professional Development Funding. If we can be of further assistance, please contact CASE legislative advocates Jeff Frost at jeff@ballfrostgroup.com and Andrea Ball at andrea@ballfrostgroup.com and Education Trust-West Senior Director, Policy and Government Relations Brian Rivas at brivas@edtrustwest.org.
Sincerely,

Peter A’Hearn  
President  
California Association of Science Educators

Dawn O’Connor  
Executive Director, Core Learning Department  
Alameda County Office of Education

Bruce Grip  
President  
California Mathematics Council

Shari Dickstein-Staub  
Director  
California Partnership for Math & Science Education

Magaly Lavadenz, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Professor of English Learner Research, Policy and Practice  
Executive Director, Center for Equity for English Learners  
School of Education  
Loyola Marymount University

Brian Rivas  
Senior Director, Policy and Government Relations  
Education Trust-West

Tristan Brown  
Legislative Director  
California Federation of Teachers

Kyndall Brown  
Executive Director  
California Mathematics Project

Jessica Sawko  
Director  
California STEM Network, A Project of Children Now

Teresa Barnett  
Executive Director  
Community Resources for Science
Jessica Parker  
Senior Director of Educator Engagement  
Exploratorium

Dr. Anita Kreide  
Founder  
Discovery Learning Partners

Nathan Inouye  
Past-President  
Gold Coast Science Network

Pamela Burdman  
Executive Director & Founder  
Just Equations

Anne Hawthorne  
Executive Director  
Los Angeles United Methodist Urban Foundation & Kid City Hope Place

Ann Reid  
Executive Director  
National Center for Science Education

Ken Sorey  
Executive Director  
National Laboratory for Education Transformation

Araceli Simeon  
Executive Director  
Parent Organization Network

Deycy Hernandez  
Senior Vice President of Policy and Advocacy  
Partnership for Los Angeles Schools

Arun Ramanathan  
CEO  
Pivot Learning

Erin Apte  
Senior Legislative Counsel  
Public Advocates

Jeffrey A. Vaca  
Chief Governmental Relations Officer  
Office of the Riverside County Superintendent of Schools
Alexandra Martinez
Instructional Coordinator UTK-12 Mathematics
San Diego Unified School District

Dr. Heather A. Wygant
Dr. Heather A. Wygant
Science Coordinator
Santa Cruz County Office of Education

Mary Maranville
Mary Maranville
Founder, CEO and Farmworker’s Daughter
SEE-AG (Students for Eco-Education and Agriculture)

David Palter
Senior Director, Higher Education and Workforce Development
Silicon Valley Leadership Group

Jennie Snyder, Ed.D.
Deputy Superintendent, Instructional Services
Sonoma County Office of Education

Karen Cowe
Chief Executive Officer
Ten Strands

Dr. Leena Baksh
Executive Director
STEM4Real

Troy Brown, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
San Joaquin County Office of Education

Copy:
Hon. Toni Atkins, Senate President pro Tempore
Hon. Anthony Rendon, Assembly Speaker
Keely Bosler, Director of Finance
Chris Ferguson, Department of Finance
Amber Alexander, Department of Finance