

California Department of Education

Executive Office

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# California State Board of EducationMay 2024 AgendaItem #02

## Subject

California Community Schools Partnership Program: Approval of Cohort 3 Implementation Grantees.

## Type of Action

Action, Information

## Summary of the Issue

The California Department of Education (CDE) is requesting the State Board of Education (SBE) approve the California Community Schools Partnership Program (CCSPP) Cohort 3 Implementation Grant Awards.

## Recommendations

The CDE recommends that the SBE approve the CCSPP Cohort 3 Implementation Grant Awards (Attachment 1).

## Brief History and Key Issues

### 2021–2031 California Community Schools Partnership Program

In 2020, the state invested $45 million of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) funds to expand and sustain existing community schools, and funded 20 grants to local educational agencies (LEAs) serving 156 community school sites.

In 2021 the California Legislature allocated $3,015,997,000 for the CCSPP to establish new, and expand existing, community schools and to create a statewide technical assistance (TA) infrastructure to create and sustain community school implementation and programming. In 2022, the Legislature allocated an additional $1,132,554,000 to further expand access to the CCSPP. State law and the SBE-adopted California Community Schools Framework establish the CCSPP as a critical equity program rooted in the four pillars of community schools: (1) integrated supports services, (2) family and community engagement, (3) collaborative leadership and practices for educators and administrators, and (4) extended learning time and opportunities. The program prioritizes schools with more than 80 percent unduplicated students (low-income students, English language learners, and youth in foster care) for grantmaking to implement community schools. The assets-based and justice-driven core practices that guide the community school strategy seek to address longstanding opportunity gaps and disparities in student academic outcomes.

For the complete language of the CCSPP Act (California *Education Code* 8900–8902) please visit the California Legislative Information web page at: <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=EDC&division=1.&title=1.&part=6.&chapter=6.&article=>.

To guide its grantmaking and creation of a statewide TA system for community schools, the CDE conducted listening sessions in 2021 and presented a community schools framework to the SBE in January 2022. The California Community Schools Framework (Framework) now serves as the guiding document to support the implementation of the CCSPP at the school, district, county, and state level. In addition to signaling California’s intent to adapt the four pillars of community schools, the Framework identifies four cornerstone commitments that define California’s community schools implementation: (1) acommitment to assets-driven and strength-based practice, (2) a commitment to racially just and restorative school climates, (3) a commitment to powerful, culturally proficient and relevant instruction, and (4) a commitment to shared decision making and participatory practices.

For the complete language of the Framework please visit the CDE’s CCSPP web page at: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gs/hs/ccspp.asp>.

Per statute, the SBE has an active role in the implementation of the CCSPP. The SBE approves all CDE-recommended LEA grantees, and the CDE-recommended TA contract awardees. In addition, statute requires the Superintendent to update the SBE annually regarding the CDE’s CCSPP application processes and administration plan. To date, the SBE has approved 495 grants to LEAs and CDE’s application process and administration plans in November 2021 and 2022.

### CCSPP Grantmaking to LEAs

State law establishes grant opportunities starting in the 2021–22 program year through the 2030–31 program year, as follows:

* Planning grants (at least 10 percent of 2021 funding = $287,416,400) for the 2021–22 and 2022–23 program years. Grants are up to $200,000 per qualifying entity for LEAs with no community schools. Planning grants have a matching requirement of one-third, with grant periods of up to two years. Any remaining planning grant funding after 2022–23 shall be made available for implementation grants. A total of $83,294,554 was awarded to 419 LEAs for planning grants:
	+ In 2021–22, the SBE approved $38,200,122 to 192 LEAs (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr22/documents/may22item02a1rev.docx>). Subsequently, one LEA appealed and was awarded a planning grant, bringing the total number of planning grants to 193 and $38,400,122.
	+ In 2022–23, the SBE approved $44,894,432 to 226 LEAs (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr23/documents/mar23item09a1rev.docx>).
* Implementation grants (up to 70 percent of 2021 funding = $2,191,251,800) for the 2021–22 through 2030–31 program years. Annual grants between $100,000 and $500,000 per school are available for new, expanded, or continuing community schools, with a matching requirement of one-third, with grant periods of five years.
	+ In 2021–22, the SBE approved $625,575,000 to 76 LEAs, supporting 458 school sites (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr22/documents/may22item02a2rev2.docx>). Of these school sites, 447 were at or above the 80 percent Unduplicated Pupil Count (UPC) preference set in statute, and 11 were in rural LEAs serving between 70–80 percent UPC.
	+ In 2022-23, the SBE approved $750,500,000 to 128 LEAs, supporting 570 school sites (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr23/documents/may23item09a1.docx>). Of these school sites, 551 are at and above 68 percent UPC, 15 are rural schools serving between 58–68 percent UPC, and four school sites have 58 percent and above Non-Stability Rate (a student is considered non-stable when they are continuously enrolled for less than 245 days or when they exit the school with a disqualifying exit).
* Extension grants (at least 20 percent of 2021 funding = $574,832,800) for the 2024–25 through 2030–31 program years. Grants are intended to extend implementation funding from five to seven years. LEAs may receive up to $100,000 annually per community school with a one-to-one matching funds requirement.
* Implementation and Extension Grant Note: The 2022–23 Budget Act increased the total amount for Implementation Grants and Extension Grants from $2,766,084,600 (the grant amounts from 2021) to $3,758,638,600 (with the additional $1,132,554,000 and subtracting the $140,000,000 for county coordination grants, described below). This additional allocation will allow the CDE to fund implementation grants at a greater number of priority schools, ensure sufficient funding for eligible planning grantees to receive implementation grants, and ensure eligible implementation grantees receive extension grants.

For more information on the CCSPP grants please visit the CDE’s CCSPP web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gs/hs/ccspp.asp>. The Program Timeline (Attachment 2) also shows the calendar of activities and funding amounts to date by activity.

## Update on Technical Assistance

The 2021–22 Budget Act allocated up to $141,833,000 for CDE to contract with County Offices of Education (COEs) to create a CCSPP TA system. In January 2022, the CDE recommended and the SBE approved a TA system comprised of a lead TA provider and a set of regional TA providers. Statute envisions the TA system to support LEA grantees in the cross-cutting and boundary breaking work that it takes to successfully implement community schools, including reaching out into the community and to families, facilitating services for students on or near school grounds, and leveraging funding from multiple sources to create and sustain holistic programming.

### State Transformative Assistance Center

The CCSPP State Transformative Assistance Center (S-TAC)—led by the Alameda County Office of Education partnering with the UCLA Center for Community Schools, National Education Association, and Californians for Justice—has created guidance documents in response to the needs of grantees. In collaboration with the CDE, the S-TAC updated the Implementation Plan Template to support prospective Cohort 3 Implementation Grant applicants: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UTMlvLo4oYBZF7BU69QOs3eTeRYMEhxI/copy>.

Additionally, the S-TAC is continuing to develop resources that provide grantees with implementation guidance and opportunity to gauge their progress. Resources are in development and will include a document that synthesizes the CA Community Schools Framework, a developmental implementation rubric that aims to strengthen and build the capacity of all interest-holders to meet the collective vision of the approach, reflection tools, and curated resources.

This year the S-TAC has begun to transition from creating all resources to co-creating resources with the Regional Transformation Assistance Centers (R-TACs). Additionally, the S-TAC has been working on supporting and building the capacity of the R-TACs.

Lastly, the S-TAC is coordinating the second annual Community Schools Summit for the California Community Schools Partnership Program on June 13–14, 2024, in Hollywood. All CCSPP grantees, R-TACs, educators, students, families, and community partners who support community schools are invited to attend. For more information and to register please visit the S-TAC website: <https://www.acoe.org/stac>.

### Implementation Grant – Cohort Three

Funding available for implementation grants is $2,011,914,800 allocated in the 2021 Budget Act and an additional $992,554,000 allocated to both implementation and expansion grants in 2022. Statute also specifies that any remaining planning grant funds shall be made available for implementation grants.

The CDE has appreciated the outreach work of the S-TAC, the R-TACs, and key partners (counties, labor, and advocates) to ensure LEAs were aware of and were supported in applying for this opportunity. While statutory priority was given to planning grantee LEAs and LEAs with schools serving 80 percent or more high-need students, every eligible LEA (serving over 50 percent high need students or with higher than the statewide average rates of dropout, suspension and expulsion, or child homelessness, foster youth, or justice-involved youth) was encouraged to apply.

Implementation grants are available to LEAs or consortia who have developed community school implementation plans with each of their school communities. These grants are for five years and range between $75,000–$500,000 annually, depending on a school’s student population (see chart below). For Cohort 3, the CDE added a category for small schools with an enrollment of 10–24.

| Enrollment Category | Annual Grant Amount*Years One through Four* | Annual Grant Amount*Year Five* | Total Grant Amount over Five Years |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Very Small:10–24 students | $75,000 | $56,500 | $356,500 |
| Small:25–150 students | $150,000 | $112,500 | $712,500 |
| Small/Medium:151–400 students | $250,000 | $187,500 | $1,187,500 |
| Medium:401–1,000 students | $300,000 | $225,000 | $1,425,000 |
| Medium/Large:1,001–2,000 students | $400,000 | $300,000 | $1,900,000 |
| Large:2,001 or more students | $500,000 | $375,000 | $2,375,000 |

For the Cohort 3 Implementation Grant, the CDE posted the Request for Applications (RFA) on November 13, 2023, with a due date of February 9, 2024. The CDE hosted two application webinars, which had over 200 attendees. The R-TACs supported their regions with application workshops, office hours, and one-on-one support to applicants resulting in a higher quality pool of applications.

The CDE received 352 implementation grant applications that passed the initial screening, as follows:

* 113 Charter Schools
* 24 COEs
* 215 School Districts

Every application was read and scored by at least two trained readers. After this process, 288 eligible applicants are recommended for the implementation grant for a total of $1,292,007,500 funding 995 school sites. These schools represent 836 schools that serve 80 percent or more unduplicated students, 34 rural schools that serve 70 percent or more unduplicated students, 8 schools with a non-stability rate of 80 percent or higher, 59 schools whose LEA was a planning grantee and that serve 70 percent or more unduplicated students, and 58 rural schools whose LEA was a planning grantee and that serve 60 percent or more unduplicated students.

This adjustment to award current planning grantees with schools serving 70 percent or more unduplicated students is consistent with the approach set forth in the May 2023 item, which articulated CDE’s intent to award planning grantees this year at a similar rate as last year, and which forecast both the possibility of limiting future remaining funding to current planning grantees or other applicants above last year’s unduplicated pupil count funding thresholds. The 288 applicants recommended for implementation grants break down as follows:

* 94 Charter Schools
* 23 COEs
* 171 School Districts
	+ 65 Elementary School Districts
	+ 12 High School Districts
	+ 94 Unified School Districts

Every CCSPP region is represented in Cohort 3 implementation grants:

* Bay Area Region: 33
* Capital Region: 29
* Central Coast Region: 14
* Central Valley Region: 59
* Greater Los Angeles Region: 53
* Northern California Region: 38
* Southern Coast Region: 42
* Southern Inland Region: 20

If SBE approves these 288 LEAs for implementation grants, this would leave approximately $594,691,746 remaining for Implementation Grant Cohort 4. While the CDE will likely have sufficient funds to award implementation grants to all planning grantees with schools with unduplicated student percentages comparable to this cohort, adoption of the proposed $1,292,007,500 for Cohort 3 may limit the ability of the Board to award future grants to LEAs who are not current planning grantees, including those at or above the unduplicated percentage threshold of this cohort. The CDE is considering giving priority to Planning Grantees in Cohort 4.

CDE recommends awarding the full $1,292,007,500 for cohort 3 because the current cohort has demonstrated readiness through a rigorous application process, and directing funds to LEAs that have engaged in the requisite planning will maximize the success of this statewide program. If approved, the CDE will issue Grant Award Notifications to each LEA.

### Coordination Grants to County Offices of Education

In the 2022 Budget Act, $140 million was allocated for grants to COEs with two or more CCSPP grantee LEAs to coordinate partnerships between LEAs, county-level government agencies, nonprofit community-based organizations, and other external entities to support community school implementation for grant recipients in their county. Coordination Grants will be allocated annually for a minimum of seven years. Allocation levels are determined by the number of CCSPP grantees in a county.

* In 2022, the CDE awarded $13,950,000 to 41 COEs.
* In 2023, the CDE awarded $17,150,000 to 52 COEs.

Eligible COEs and funding levels may be adjusted based on the Cohort 3 Implementation Grant awards. This year, the CDE anticipates awarding $18,900,000 to 52 COEs for the third round of Coordination grant funding.

## Summary of Previous State Board of Education Discussion and Action

In October 2021, the CDE provided an information memorandum providing the SBE with an introduction to the community school model and an overview of the CCSPP.
(<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/pn/im/documents/oct21memocctd01.docx>)

In November 2021, the SBE approved the CCSPP proposed 2021–22 application process and administration plan.
(<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr21/documents/nov21item17.docx>)

In January 2022, the SBE approved establishing a lead TA center and giving priority to applicants serving small and rural schools. The SBE also adopted the California Community Schools Framework.
(<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr22/documents/jan22item02.docx>)

In May 2022, the SBE approved the CDE’s recommended planning and implementation proposed list of grantees and the Lead TAC.
(<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr22/documents/may22item02rev.docx>)

In August 2022, the CDE provided a memorandum updating the SBE regarding support to planning and implementation grantees, and an update on the R-TACs and TA system.
(<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/pn/im/documents/aug22memocctd01.docx>)

In November 2022, the SBE approved the eight R-TACs and the proposed 2022–23 CCSPP Administrative Plan.
(<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr22/documents/nov22item04.docx>)

In March 2023, the SBE approved the CDE’s recommended Cohort 2 planning grant proposed list of grantees.
(<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr23/documents/mar23item09rev.docx>)

In May 2023, the SBE approved the Cohort 2 Implementation Grantees.
(<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr23/documents/may23item09.docx>)

In November 2023, the CDE provided an update on the CCSPP including presentations by the S-TAC and the Southern Inland R-TAC.
(<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr23/documents/nov23item16.docx>)

## Fiscal Analysis

The 2021–22 Budget Act provides a total of $3,015,997,000 for the CCSPP. The 2022–23 Budget Act added a total of $1,132,554,000 to the CCSPP, to be distributed as explained in the Brief History and Key Issues section of this Agenda Item. The Program Timeline (Attachment 2) shows the calendar of activities and funding amounts to date by activity.

## Attachment(s)

* **Attachment 1:** California Community Schools Partnership Program: Cohort 3 Implementation Grants (74 Pages)
* **Attachment 2:** California Community Schools Partnership Program Timeline (1 Page)