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## MEDIA ADVISORY

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **The CCEE Stands Ready to Work Alongside Struggling Districts Under *CA System of Support***

*Fall 2017 CA School Dashboard results shine spotlight on students with disabilities*

[The California Collaborative for Educational Excellence \(CCEE\)](#) wholeheartedly applauds school districts across the state that are excelling or showing improvement based on the [Fall 2017 California School Dashboard results](#) released today. We also stand ready to work alongside struggling districts which the state now deems eligible for additional support, i.e. *differentiated assistance* under the *California System of Support*.

The *CA System of Support* includes the [CCEE](#), [county offices of education](#), and the [California Department of Education](#). Working together, this support team acts like a statewide safety net to help struggling districts and schools get back on track.

Based on Dashboard data, 228 districts are now eligible for *differentiated assistance*. Of that amount, 163 are in need of extra support due to the educational disparities facing their students with disabilities.

In response, the CCEE will begin focusing on the needs of students with disabilities in those districts based on our strong belief that when schools improve teaching and learning for these children, all young people will succeed because educators are finally tackling deep-rooted, systemic issues.

Here's what you need to know about the CCEE:

#### **WHO WE ARE**

The CCEE is part of the *CA System of Support* which acts like a statewide safety net to help struggling districts and schools get back on track.

Our mission is to offer personalized, immediate, and evidence-based support to county offices of education,

school districts, and charter schools in order to improve learning for all students. We offer support directly on a one-on-one basis or in partnership with other agencies.

Created in 2013 under the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), the CCEE is a small dynamic team made-up of California's foremost leaders in education research, strategy, school governance, and professional development.

Our team is led by Executive Director Dr. Carl Cohn, a nationally recognized and respected thought leader in public education.

### **THE CCEE'S ROLE IN THE *CA SYSTEM OF SUPPORT***

The *CA System of Support* is made up of three entities: CCEE, county offices of education, and the California State Department of Education.

Each entity has specific responsibilities but, working together, this statewide support team is charged with providing all districts with additional support, i.e. *differentiated assistance*. Rather than "doing to" districts and schools as in the past, the current approach is about "doing with" because it is more likely to lead to sustained improvement.

### **WHEN THE CCEE GETS INVOLVED**

The CCEE may get involved with a district that is eligible for *differentiated assistance* in the following ways:

- After working with a district to identify its strengths and weaknesses, county offices of education can choose to refer that district to the CCEE for extra support.
- Alternatively, a district has the flexibility to reach out to the CCEE on its own. We will then work with that district and its county office of education to determine the best way to provide extra support.
- The CCEE never dictates a specific set of interventions or establish top-down directives for improvement strategies. We work alongside educators to uncover solutions, resources or expertise that can help.
- Our approach is to help *build capacity*, i.e. the knowledge, skills and expertise needed to make more evidence-based, equitable and collaborative decisions in the best interests of all students.
- The CCEE specializes in tackling the educational disparities facing students with disabilities, low-income

students, English Learners, and foster youth.

- The CCEE will move swiftly to help support districts, but we believe real change takes time and there are no quick fixes.

The CCEE already provides additional support to counties, school districts, and charter schools across the state (see attached chart).

To find out more about our work thus far or how we fit into the *CA System of Support*, please go to our website [www.ccee-ca.org](http://www.ccee-ca.org) or contact Ana Tintocalis, Sr. Manager of Outreach/Communications, 916-666-2274, [atintocalis@ccee-ca.org](mailto:atintocalis@ccee-ca.org).

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The *right* kind of support.

## WHAT WE DO:

### Pilot Partnerships

The CCEE provides county offices of education, school districts, and charter school leadership teams with customized, research-driven, and hands-on support through multi-year pilot partnerships that equip local educators with the knowledge, skills and expertise to drive student learning. The CCEE is currently engaged in 11 pilot partnership spanning the entire state:

- Los Angeles Unified (Local District Central)
- Sausalito Marin City School District
- Newark Unified School District
- Victor Valley Union High School District
- Anaheim Union High School District
- Palo Verde Unified School District
- Dos Palos Oro Loma Joint Unified School District
- Ponomo Unified School District

### Professional Learning Networks (PLNs)

Bringing various education stakeholders together for an ongoing exchange of knowledge and capacity building is the goal of CCEE's Professional Learning Networks (PLNs). Groups comprised of county office of education leaders, school district officials, and charter school educators learn from each other about how to continually improve student learning.

To date, more than 300 local educational agencies (LEAs) in California are connected through PLNs that the CCEE organizes and supports.

### Customized Training & Assistance

Personalized, immediate support is what the CCEE strives to provide. Our team can 1) tailor trainings to focus on the specific needs of a county office of education, school district or charter school and/or 2) provide one-on-one technical assistance to overcome unique challenges.

### Professional Development

The CCEE offers a series of workshops and trainings that equips educators and community members with the practical skills needed to understand and effectively carry out school improvement goals under the state's school finance and accountability systems. Topics covered include:

- Dashboard/LCAP Updates
- Data & Evaluation
- Demonstration of Increased or Improved Services for Unduplicated Students
- Differentiated Assistance