



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statewide Community Engagement Initiative to Help Districts and Communities Undertake School Improvement Work Together

SACRAMENTO — [The San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools](#) (SBCSS), the [California Association for Bilingual Education](#) (CABE), and [Families In Schools](#) (FIS) have been selected to partner with the [California Collaborative for Educational Excellence](#) (CCEE) to lead the groundbreaking Community Engagement Initiative, a multi-year effort under the state’s new school accountability system that strives to build capacity in school communities so they can facilitate difficult conversations and collaborate on solutions that lead to improved teaching and learning.

“We are thrilled about leading the CE Initiative with both the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools and Families In Schools to build and expand opportunities around community engagement and to value the diverse cultural, linguistic and experiential backgrounds of students, families and communities-at-large,” said Jan Gustafson Corea, CEO of CABE.

The CCEE, a statewide agency created under the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) to support school improvement efforts, and the California Department of Education (CDE) selected the three entities.

The Community Engagement Initiative is a key element of the new California System of Support, which was created to provide resources and supports to public schools so that all students succeed.

“It’s an honor to be part of leadership looking to develop and disseminate vital information that can help our schools and communities thrive,” said Oscar E. Cruz, president and CEO of Families In Schools.

Creating more opportunities for authentic community engagement is considered by many education stakeholders to be an area that needs more statewide focus and attention.

In response, the CE Initiative will begin identifying effective models of community engagement, as well as developing metrics to evaluate the models.

“This is a tremendous opportunity for our region to reach out to our communities to develop and provide insights and expertise on improving educational outcomes for all students in California,” San Bernardino County Superintendent Ted Alejandre said.

In addition, the CE Initiative will also look to:

- Develop peer partnerships between school districts and county offices of education to broaden equity-based community engagement
- Share successful practices in community engagement statewide reflective of the rich cultural, social and linguistic backgrounds of our families and students

- Serve as a resource and facilitator to build relationships in school districts' efforts to expand community engagement

“The Community Engagement Initiative is a unique opportunity to build the capacity of districts and their communities to engage with each other for the betterment of students,” said Josh Daniels, the CCEE Director in charge of the CE Initiative. “There are no better partners to do this work with than San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, Families In Schools, and CABE.”

The three entities, along with the CCEE, will begin work in November.

Visit the CDE's website at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/sw/t1/ccei.asp> for more information.

About the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence (CCEE)

The California Collaborative for Educational Excellence is a statewide agency that exists to “advise and assist” LEAs in achieving their LCAP goals (EC 52074) and shall do so by “facilitating continuous improvement” for LEAs within the California System of Support. (EC 52059.5).

www.ccee-ca.org

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About the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools (SBCSS)

The San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools is committed to working with school districts, other agencies, families and communities at large within San Bernardino County by providing services, information, advocacy and leadership – always with a focus on transforming students lives through education. SBCSS oversees the programs and operations of the office and serves as the employer of record for nearly 2,000 employees including teachers, paraprofessionals, and administrative staff.

www.sbcss.k12.ca.us

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About the California Association of Bilingual Educators (CABE)

The California Association of Bilingual Educators is a non-profit organization incorporated in 1976 to promote bilingual education and quality educational experiences for all students in California. CABE has chapters, members and affiliates, along with partnerships with other state and national advocacy organizations working to promote equity and student achievement for students with diverse cultural, racial, and linguistic backgrounds. CABE recognizes and honors the fact that we live in a rich multicultural, global society and that respect for diversity makes us a stronger state and nation.

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About Families In Schools (FIS)

Families In Schools envisions a public education system where students have all the opportunities and resources necessary to succeed in school and in life. For over seventeen years, FIS has provided capacity building to schools and organizations to effectively empower and engage parents, particularly those representing low-income communities and communities of color, in becoming more knowledgeable and confident advocates for their children's education, and allies and partners with schools. Currently, FIS partners with over 400 schools and organizations state and nationwide to help families fulfill their role as their child's first teacher.

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