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Advisory Council Members (Superintendents) Statewide [Map Link](#)

Ted Alejandre, San Bernardino COE
 Heather Armelino, Enterprise ESD
 Christi Barrett, Hemet USD
 Ryan Bentz, Glenn COE
 John Campbell, Kings Canyon USD
 Michele Cantwell-Copher, Fresno COE
 Amie Carter, Sonoma COE
 Todd Cutler, Lake Tahoe USD
 Debra Duardo, Los Angeles COE
 Dana Eaton, Brentwood Union SD
 Lisette Estrella-Henderson, Solano COE
 Todd Finnell, Imperial COE
 Dave Gordon, Sacramento COE
 Matthew Harris, Petaluma City Schools
 Scott Kuykendall, Stanislaus COE
 Joshua Lightle, Paramount Union SD
 Krystal Lomanto, San Benito COE
 Cesar Morales, Ventura COE
 Sara Noguchi, Modesto City Schools
 Gina Potter, San Ysidro SD
 Gary Waddell, Santa Clara USD
 Christine Walker, Hueneme, ESD

CCEE Member Emeritus

Christine Lizardi Frazier, Ed.D.

CCEE AC Facilitator

Gary Waddell, Santa Clara USD

Advisory Council Highlights

June 13, 2025

This newsletter is intended to inform the field. Please share this with your regional superintendents or any interested parties.

INTRODUCTION

The Advisory Council (AC) met on Friday, June 13, 2025, to provide input and guidance on the work of CCEE. The final meeting of the 24-25 school year began with a discussion with Mike Fine, CEO of FCMAT, a recap on the Statewide System of Support, and concluded with the Executive Director's final report. The next CCEE Advisory Council meeting will be **August 29, 2025**.

HOT TOPICS: LEAs in Fiscal Distress

Matt Navo transitioned the AC into the Hot Topic discussion of today's meeting and introduced FCMAT Executive Director, Mike Fine. Mike focused on statewide trends that impact solvency, including declining enrollment, increasing fixed costs, the effects of state budget and federal policy shifts, and other factors affecting districts across California.

He provided a presentation and responded to AC member questions, which focused on the state budget landscape, uncertainty in funding structures related to potential changes in various funding sources, and their impact on districts. Below is a list of reference materials;

California School District Fiscal Outlook

Mike provided an overview of the [fiscal health](#) of California school districts. He notes that while the financial situation is stronger than during the Great Recession, there are signs of weakening. Mike highlights several [key issues](#) affecting school districts, including [declining enrollment](#) across all regions, ongoing expenditures supported by one-time pandemic funds, lower cost-of-living adjustments, and high inflationary pressures on costs such as utilities and insurance. He also mentions the impact of federal policy changes and funding uncertainties. On the positive side, Mike points out that the state has higher reserves than during the Great Recession, but cautions about potential budget deferrals in the coming years.

School District Financial Challenges

Mike discussed the financial condition of school districts, noting that while most appear strong, there are concerns about small and tiny districts. He

CCEE Executive Director

Matt J. Navo

— 2024 - 25 Meeting Dates (Times: 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.)

~~August 9, 2024~~

~~October 18, 2024~~

~~December 20, 2024~~

February 14, 2025

April 11, 2025

June 13, 2025

— 2025 - 26 Meeting Dates (Times: 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.)

August 29, 2025

October 3, 2025

December 19, 2025

February 27, 2026

April 17, 2026

June 5, 2026

Links / References

- [Agenda for June 13, 2025](#)
- [AC Bylaws](#)

explains that these smaller districts have less ability to manage declining enrollment and the expiration of one-time funds. Mike also highlights the challenges faced by larger districts, using San Bernardino City as an example of a district dealing with significant enrollment decline over the next ten years. He concludes by discussing Plumas Unified School District, which is facing potential state receivership due to governance issues, financial mismanagement, and significant deficit spending despite being a basic aid district.

Mike explains the complex situation with [Plumas Unified School District](#), which is facing financial difficulties and requires a customized receivership approach. The district's unique status as a single-district county and basic aid district necessitates special legislation. Mike outlines the plan to appoint an administrator in place of the superintendent and district board, while addressing the complications arising from the board's dual role as the county board. The proposed solution involves protecting the county superintendent from the county board's influence. Matt likens the situation to a soap opera, and Gina expresses gratitude for Mike's past assistance with her district.

Please see reference materials:

- [Edsource article on district bailouts](#)
- Trends Impacting Fiscal Solvency – [Link Here](#)
- Fiscal Health of Districts / Counties (April 2025):
<https://www.fcmat.org/PublicationsReports/LEA%20Fiscal%20Status%20Charts%20-%2004.17.25.pdf>
- Declining enrollment (recent presentation to CSBA):
<https://www.fcmat.org/publicationsreports/declining-enrollment-csba-delegate-assembly-05-17-25.pdf>
- Childhood Sexual Assault: Fiscal Implications for California Public Agencies (January 31, 2025):
<https://www.fcmat.org/PublicationsReports/child-sexual-assault-fiscal-implications-report.pdf>

Statewide System of Support (SSOS)

Matt introduced Mindy Fattig and Steven Sterling Mitchel to discuss the Statewide System of Support (SSOS). Mindy and Steven presented recent accomplishments and upcoming initiatives, including a [new landing page](#) and [resource hub](#) to centralize access to tools and information. They highlight the integration of various initiatives and the expansion of the Community Engagement Initiative. A new Special Education Leadership Academy is being launched to support small and rural district leaders, with 170 enrollees and plans to create a virtual handbook for wider distribution.

A first-ever virtual SSOS Conference is planned for **November 12, 2025**, to align resources and provide learning opportunities. Click the [link here](#) for more information. There is also a second Core Working Group that has recently launched, focusing on four key areas: balancing state and local control, improving the DA and DTA identification system, enhancing coherence and capacity around accountability, and addressing the persistence of

compliance-focused approaches. The group aims to provide recommendations for state leaders ahead of potential changes in 2027.

Check out the new [SSOS one-pagers](#), designed to provide updates on the SSOS evaluation results.

Please see reference materials:

- SSOS [slide deck](#)
- SSOS State Virtual Conference
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sdVgDPgCFLc>
- [CEI Video- Ontario](#)

CCEE HIGHLIGHTS

Michelle Magyar, Executive Advisor, is excited to share a new Hot Topics series, featuring the Executive Director's insights on [school transformation efforts](#), including a spotlight on the success of the [Intensive Assistance Model in Madera Unified](#).

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Executive Director Matt Navo wrapped up the meeting with a special thanks and congratulations! Several participants, including Gary Waddell, Sara Noguchi, and Chris Hartley (CCEE), are retiring! Matt and the team wish them all the best

The next meeting is scheduled for August 29th, 2025, and participants are encouraged to submit topics for discussion through a [provided link](#) for 2025-26.

Executive Director Navo also provided updates/notes/links to the following:

- [2025 EOY Report](#)
- [Spring Legislative Reports 2025](#)
- [CCEE Hot topic 2025](#)

The CCEE is a statewide organization created in 2013 to advise and assist Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) and the County Office of Education (COE) in accomplishing the goals identified in their Local Control Accountability Plans (LCAPs). If you would like more detailed information on the CCEE and its current initiatives, please visit the CCEE website at <https://ccee-ca.org/>