

## In This Issue

- April 17, 2026 Meeting

## Web Links

- [CCEE Advisory Council Webpage](#)
- [CCEE Website](#)
- [CCEE Resources](#)

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

Ted Alejandre, San Bernardino COE  
 Heather Armelino, Enterprise ESD  
 Christi Barrett, Hemet USD  
 Ryan Bentz, Glenn COE  
 Troy Brown, San Joaquin 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  
 Todd Finnell, Imperial COE  
 Dave Gordon, Sacramento COE  
 Joshua Lightle, Paramount Union SD  
 Krystal Lomanto, San Benito COE  
 Lynn Mackey, Contra Costa COE  
 Cesar Morales, Ventura COE  
 Didi Peterson, Sylvan Union SD  
 Gina Potter, San Ysidro SD  
 David Toston, Santa Clara COE  
 Christine Walker, Hueneme, ESD  
 Damon Wright, Santa Clara USD

### CCEE Member Emeritus

Gary Waddell, Ed.D.  
 Christine Lizardi Frazier, Ed.D.

### CCEE Executive Director

Matt J. Navo

# Advisory Council Highlights

April 17, 2026

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, April 17, 2026, to provide input and guidance on the work of CCEE. AC facilitator, Gary Waddle, outlined the agenda for the meeting, starting with an update on Special Education Resource Leads (SERLs) from CCEE Senior Advisor Kimberly Salomonson. The Advisory Council also received an update from CCEE Deputy Executive Director Mindy Fattig on the work of CCEE around the new digitized IEP Template. Executive Director Navo and CCEE Executive Advisor Michelle Magyar closed the meeting with a request for the AC to review the CCEE Quarter III report and a few other updates.

The next CCEE Advisory Council meeting will be held on **June 5, 2026**.

## HOT TOPICS: Special Education

CCEE Executive Director, Matthew Navo, transitioned the AC into the Hot Topic discussion of today's meeting, an overview of the Special Education Resource Leads (SERLs) with Kimberly Salomonson, CCEE Senior Advisor.

Senior Advisor Salomonson provided a presentation sharing the [Special Education Resource Lead agencies \(SERLs\)](#) and the [Statewide System of Support Resource hub and directory](#), describing them as one-stop shops for free tools, guidance, and support. Kimberly invited participants to share bright spots and challenges they are facing in the field, and encouraged them to explore the resource hub at [systemofsupport.org](http://systemofsupport.org).

Deputy Director Mindy Fattig explained that the hub provides free, state-funded, evidence-based resources with dedicated implementation support contacts, and clarified that districts can access these resources without limitations. One AC member shared that while his district is doing important work in special education, they are currently conducting a comprehensive review of their special services due to challenges from a critical parent group, and expressed interest in receiving support from the resource hub to help address these concerns.

Another AC member shared that while they are a destination district for special education with rigorous programs, they have made progress in inclusion through co-teaching models at the middle school level, particularly in science,

---

## — 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 April 17, 2026](#)
- [AC Bylaws](#)

social studies, and PE. The district proactively manages class sizes by accounting for potential special education students when planning enrollment, ensuring general education classrooms remain manageable despite not having hard caps. Mindy provided an update on funding, noting the governor's proposal to increase the SELPA base rate to \$999 per student, up from \$450 ten years ago, while acknowledging that more students are being identified with disabilities post-COVID, particularly at younger ages.

## CCEE Topics: IEP Template Update and Alternate Pathway to a Diploma

Deputy Director Mindy Fattig provided the AC an update regarding the digitization of the IEP Template and legislative developments impacting students with disabilities.

CCEE was allocated funds in the 25-26 budget to select a special education software vendor and coordinate the digitization of the new student-centered IEP template. Special Education Information System (SEIS) out of the San Joaquin Office of Education was selected and the digitized template is slated to be available by June 30, 2026. CDE will translate the new template in 10 common languages by fall 2026 and those will be posted on the CDE website. The template aims to be more customizable based on individual student needs with a focus on being student centered while still complying with all state and federal legal requirements. Optional LEA implementation will be available in the fall 2026 which will be supported by training resources. For information regarding the California IEP and its development, please see link here to the [California IEP Expert Panel Report](#).

The group discussed challenges in special education, including difficulties with exit criteria communication and parent education. Some members highlighted issues with local doctors pushing parents to request assessments. Mindy suggested using high-quality IEP resources to better frame exit criteria as positive achievements rather than service removals. The discussion then shifted to labor relations, with superintendents noting challenges in rural areas including difficulty filling specialized positions and funding issues. One member shared how safety care training, a proactive approach in deescalation of behaviors, has been implemented district-wide to address employee safety concerns and has resulted in reduced suspensions.

The group also discussed legislative efforts regarding substitute teacher length for students with disabilities and dual credentialing, as well as an alternative pathway to a high school diploma for eligible students. Leg Staff highlighted an ongoing bill (AB 2191) that would create additional support for implementing the alternative diploma pathway. The conversation ended with updates on CCEE's resources and initiatives, including the System of Support Resource Hub and the Ecosystem Toolkit.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Executive Director Navo and Senior Advisor Michelle Magyar concluded the meeting by providing the Advisory Council the [CCEE Quarter III Report](#) for their review and provided them the following updates:

- [Ecosystem Tool Kit](#)
- [SSOS Resource Hub](#)
- [Ca. Ed. Together Resource hub](#)
- [2026-27 Meeting Schedule Doodle](#) - Please complete by **May 1, 2026**
- New [Hot Topic](#) and Frontline Voices [blog/podcast](#)

If you have a topic that you would like discussed with other Superintendents, please list the topic here.

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/>