

In This Issue

- October 2, 2026 Meeting

Web Links

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

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

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 Christi Barrett, Hemet Unified SD
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 Todd Finnell, Imperial COE
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CCEE Member Emeritus

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

CCEE Executive Director

Matt J. Navo

Advisory Council Highlights

October 2, 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, October 2, 2026, to provide input and guidance on the work of the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence (CCEE). AC Facilitator Gary Waddell and Executive Director Matthew Navo welcomed members and thanked them for taking the time to participate. The meeting focused on three key areas: governance restructure priorities, new DA and DTA criteria, and the new Mathematics Diagnostic and an update on the Mathematics Network. Advisory Council was asked to provide feedback on the topics discussed.

Executive Director Navo also welcomed new Advisory Council member Jacqueline "Jackie" White, Sacramento County Superintendent of Schools, and guest, State Board Member Alison Yoshimoto Towery.

The next AC meeting is tentative for January 2027 at the ACSA Superintendents Symposium in Monterey, CA.

HOT TOPICS: Governance Restructure Priorities

Matt Navo provided an overview of the upcoming education governance restructuring and facilitated discussion about its potential impact on student outcomes. The changes include a Governor-appointed, Senate-confirmed Education Commissioner serving as CDE's executive leader beginning in 2027, changes to the State Board, and a second phase of governance reform that could address the roles of CCEE, county offices, and other statewide support entities.

Council members expressed cautious optimism. They saw potential for greater alignment and consistency across the state, but emphasized that success will depend heavily on the leadership selected, meaningful local input, effective implementation, and the ability to reduce unnecessary compliance and duplication. Members also raised concerns about the compressed timeline for the new Commissioner to understand the system and develop recommendations for further restructuring.

Executive Director Navo closed the discussion by referencing the experience of Texas' education governance structure as a point of comparison and linked an article for the AC to review at their leisure.

— 2026 - 27 Meeting Dates (Times: 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.)

August 14, 2026

October 2, 2026

~~December 4, 2026~~ *Canceled*

January 2027 *Tentative*

February 5, 2027

April 2, 2027

June 4, 2027

Links / References

- [Agenda for October 2, 2026](#)
- [AC Bylaws](#)

Resources discussed:

- [AB 181 Overview & Timeline](#)
- [Texas Education Commissioner – 10 Years Later](#)

CCEE Topic: SSOS Role Clarity - NEW DA and DTA Criteria

Senior Advisor, Jennie Wright, provided an update on changes to Differentiated Assistance (DA) and Direct Technical Assistance (DTA), including the transition to a three-year cycle and the framework of universal, targeted, and intensive support. The Council was asked to provide feedback on what CCEE should consider as districts move into a three-year intensive support cycle, including what makes DTA helpful and what approaches may not be effective.

A key area of discussion was the role of county offices of education, CCEE, and other support providers. An AC Member asked whether districts identified for DA or DTA could choose to work directly with CCEE or another provider rather than their county office. Jennie explained that CCEE partners directly with districts receiving DTA and can bring in additional expertise or outside providers when appropriate. Members noted that the process is different for DA, where the county office has the primary role.

Council discussion focused on what effective intensive assistance should look like over three years. Members emphasized support that is collaborative, responsive to local context, and focused on building capacity rather than compliance. The group also discussed challenges when LEAs do not meaningfully engage with available assistance and the possible need for a clearer escalation framework.

Resources discussed:

- [CCEE Advise/Assistance PPT](#)

New Mathematics Diagnostic & Mathematics Network

Senior Advisor, Stacey Wedin, and Senior Specialist Belinda Gaspar reviewed SB 1067, which requires annual mathematics diagnostic assessments for K–2 students beginning in 2028–29. SBE must establish assessment criteria by July 2027, CDE must publish approved assessments by January 2028, and LEAs must select an assessment by June 2028.

Council members expressed particular concern about the short implementation window. Drawing on lessons from the Reading Difficulties Risk Screener, members noted that districts may need substantially more time for professional learning, labor discussions, technology procurement and configuration, bandwidth planning, and integration with existing assessment systems.

Key takeaway: Members supported focusing implementation on how diagnostic information improves teaching and learning, while emphasizing the need for adequate time, resources, infrastructure, and professional learning.

CCEE also provided an update on the Statewide Mathematics Network, which brings together mathematics leaders and state-funded initiatives to improve

coordination and support implementation of California's Mathematics Framework.

The Network is charged with strengthening coordination across the SSOS, developing a user-friendly clearinghouse of evidence-based mathematics resources, and identifying and disseminating effective LEA practices. Its broader goals include increasing collaboration and collective responsibility, connecting mathematics work more intentionally to the SSOS, understanding impact in the field, and sharing lessons from work with LEAs.

Resources discussed:

- [SB 1067 – Mathematics Diagnostic Assessment](#)
- [Mathematics Diagnostic Presentation](#)
- [K–2 Mathematics Diagnostic Timeline](#)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Executive Director Navo concluded the meeting by sharing new reports and upcoming opportunities for the Advisory Council with resources available to districts and county offices: Secondary School Redesign Phase 2, the IEP Template, Superintendent Resources, SSOS resources, and the 2nd Annual SSOS Virtual Conference: Connecting California, scheduled for November 18, 2026. Members were encouraged to share both opportunities with their networks.

- [Secondary School Redesign \(SSRD\)](#) Phase 2- 50 million.
- [IEP Template Released](#) (Released Sept. 2026)
- New Superintendent Resources - [AI in Action](#) & [San Jose Center for Innovation 2026 release](#).
- [SSOS Overview from statewide Meeting 2026](#)
- [New Sup CCEE Quick Guide](#)
- [2nd Annual SSOS Virtual Conference: Connecting California](#) (Nov. 18, 2026)

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/>