

County of Monterey



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

LUIS A. ALEJO, Chair, District 1
GLENN CHURCH, Vice Chair, District 2
CHRIS M. LOPEZ, District 3
WENDY ROOT ASKEW, District 4
MARY L. ADAMS, District 5

April 10, 2023

The Honorable Mike Gipson
California State Assembly
1020 O Street, Room
Sacramento, Ca 95814

Re: AB 906 (Gipson) Local control funding formula: county offices of education: alternative education grant – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Gipson:

The County of Monterey is pleased to support your measure Assembly Bill (AB) 906. This measure will ensure there is sufficient funding to provide robust services and supports to students being served by the Monterey County Office of Education's (MCOE) juvenile court and community schools.

MCOE serves students through our county's year-round juvenile court school and county community school. Both are an important safety net for students facing unique barriers to academic achievement and social-emotional well-being. In general, a juvenile court school provides public education for students who are incarcerated in facilities operated by county probation departments.

A county community school provides opportunities for students to prepare for post-secondary education, meet graduation requirements, access quality prenatal and parenting education, receive health and wellness services, and more. In both settings, these schools are designed to support the achievement of all students through individualized academic, social-emotional, and career-technical education courses of study. Students frequently attend juvenile court and community schools for a short period of time and ultimately return to a comprehensive school.

MCOE's schools operate year-round and have highly specialized staffing needs, resulting in relatively fixed costs. But actual funding, based on average daily attendance (ADA), is highly variable since students enter and exit the schools frequently throughout the calendar year. Attendance is based on referrals from probation departments, school districts, and families. The decline in referrals has outpaced statewide declining enrollment trends but does not change the baseline need for these programs to continue offering high-quality educational services.

AB 906, and a related request in the Budget Act of 2023, will benefit students attending juvenile court schools and community schools throughout California. AB 906 establishes a base funding level for juvenile court and community schools to support the unique staffing and programming necessary to serve students. In addition to base funding, the bill accounts for attendance volatility of enrollment unique to the most at-risk students and attendance by averaging the average daily attendance (ADA) across three years. Overall, these students have experienced difficult life circumstances and need extensive and specialized supports that differ from their peers in the community.

For these reasons, the County of Monterey strongly supports AB 906. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the County of Monterey's Public Policy Advisor, Ashley Walker of Nossaman LLP at 916-442-8888.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Luis A. Alejo".

Luis A. Alejo, Chair
Board of Supervisors

Cc: Honorable Members, Assembly Education Committee
Tanya Lieberman, Chief Consultant, Assembly Education Committee
Bob Becker, Assembly Republican Consultant
The Honorable Anna Caballero, 14th Senate District
The Honorable John Laird, 17th Senate District
The Honorable Robert Rivas, 29th Assembly District
The Honorable Dawn Addis, 30th Assembly District
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)
Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)