



April 18, 2023

The Honorable Mike Fong
Chair, Assembly Higher Education Committee
Legislative Office Building
1020 N St., Room 173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **AB 247:** Education finance: school facilities: Kindergarten Through Community College
Public Education Facilities Bond
Position: **Support**
Location: Assembly Higher Education Committee – Set for hearing on April 25, 2023.

Dear Assemblymember Fong,

On behalf of the California Association of School Business Officials (CASBO), representing over 24,000 school business leaders in K-14 education, we are pleased to support AB 247 (Muratsuchi), which establishes the Kindergarten-Community Colleges Public Education Facilities Bond Act 2024 as state general obligation bond act, which become operative only if approved by the voters.

CASBO supports maintaining the historic partnership between the state and local school districts for financing school facilities, ensuring school districts, county offices of education, and community college districts have access to resources to modernize and upgrade its infrastructure. Bond dollars authorized by previous state school bonds are almost entirely exhausted, which creates an immediate fiscal urgency to support a new state general obligation bond. Therefore, a robust state bond program is needed to ensure California's students and teachers have access to healthy and safe spaces for learning.

The 2018 Getting Down to Facts II research titled, "[Financing School Facilities in California: A 10-Year Perspective](#)," highlights the importance of the state's commitment to address inequities in raising local revenues, aging facilities and modernization needs to serve students in 21st century classrooms, and the volatility in school facility funding. We believe AB 247 creates a path forward with a strong commitment to ensuring students' safety and educational success are prioritized by providing necessary funding for our school facilities.

CASBO requests your "Aye" vote when it comes to your committee. Should you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth Esquivel at eesquivel@casbo.org.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Esquivel
Assistant Executive Director of Governmental Relations
California Association of School Business Officials