



April 20, 2023

The Honorable Dave Cortese
Chair, Senate Labor, Public Employment, and Retirement Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 6740
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Senate Bill 765 (Portantino). Teachers: retired teachers: teacher preparation: student financial aid.
SUPPORT (As amended 04/11/23)

Dear Senator Cortese,

On behalf of the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA), California Association of School Business Officials (CASBO), California School Boards Association (CSBA), and the Riverside County Superintendent of Schools, we are pleased to support Senate Bill 765 (Portantino), which would provide relief to the ongoing staff shortages facing schools throughout the state. We recognize that there are many factors contributing to the shortages, which we are actively working to address. However, the immediate need for students to have adequate staffing levels should be considered with greater urgency.

SB 765 would allow retired CalSTRS members to return to an education position, as defined, in a more expeditious manner and with greater consistency. This measure draws upon previous Executive Orders seeking to mitigate staffing shortages with important guardrails in place and also a defined timeframe. Specifically, SB 765 lifts the CalSTRS compensation cap on retirees' earnings and removes the 180-day sit out requirements before a retiree may return to an education position, under certain circumstances. This is authorized when the local educational agency (LEA) provides necessary documentation to CalSTRS regarding the eligibility of a retired member and demonstrated efforts to otherwise fill that position.

Our support of SB 765 is consistent with previous efforts that provided greater flexibility for CalSTRS retired members to assist with pressing staffing shortages. California's education leaders shared how this optional tool in the prior schoolyears supported their needs based on the local conditions and circumstances. Students, educators, retirees, and LEAs benefited from the assistance provided by temporary exemptions, which would have otherwise prevented qualified, experienced educators from returning to K-12 schools without jeopardizing their earned, well-deserved pension benefits.

Our ultimate goal is to provide our students the best education possible. SB 765 will enable LEAs to meet the very immediate needs of our students with experienced and qualified educators, while longer term solutions are developed and implemented. For the aforementioned reasons, we support SB 765. Please do not hesitate to contact Dorothy Johnson, ACSA Legislative Advocate, regarding our position at (916) 329-3807.

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Sincerely,



Dorothy Johnson
Legislative Advocate
Association of California School Administrators



Chris Reefer
Legislative Director
California School Boards Association



Jeffrey A. Vaca
Chief Governmental Relations Officer
Riverside County Superintendent of Schools



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

cc: The Honorable Anthony Portantino, California State Senate
Honorable Members, Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee
Alma Perez, Principal Consultant, Senate Labor, Public Employment, and Retirement
Committee
Cory Botts, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Scott Seekatz, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus