



June 2, 2023

The Honorable Toni Atkins  
President Pro Tem of the Senate  
1021 O Street, Suite 6620  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Speaker Anthony Rendon  
California State Assembly  
1021 O Street, Suite 8330  
Sacramento CA 95814

**RE: Opposition to \$400 million reduction to Golden State Pathways Program Approved by Senate on May 23rd**

Dear Senator Atkins and Speaker Rendon:

We are writing to express our opposition to a proposed cut of \$400 million to the Golden State Pathways Program. The cut was approved by the Senate on May 23rd, and we have been advised the Assembly also supports this cut. The proposed cut would eliminate 80 percent of the funding for this program which was enacted in the 2022-2023 budget.

The Golden State Pathways Program provides funding to local educational agencies (LEAs) to build career pathways in technology, health care, education, and climate fields. LEAs that receive funds are required to: offer an integrated curriculum addressing both academic and career preparation; include work-based learning opportunities; and integrate academic and social supports for students. LEAs receiving the funds are also required to provide students with an opportunity to complete at least 12 postsecondary credits through dual enrollment, Advanced Placement (AP) courses, or the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program.

The [evidence](#) is clear: These pathways benefit low-income, students of color by improving graduation rates and access to A-G coursework and dual enrollment. Students who participate in these pathways transition to and persist in postsecondary education at higher rates than their peers. These pathways provide a tremendous benefit to students in becoming ready for college and a career - something that is crucial to California's future and economy.

The Golden State Pathways Program complements the ambitious college completion goals that the Governor and the post-secondary systems agreed upon in last year's Compacts and Roadmap--and would provide the necessary resources to K12 districts to play their role in building aligned pathways.

The last few years have been brutal for our young people and communities. Our economic systems are still reeling from pandemic disruptions, inflation, and labor shortages. Our educational systems are also in deep struggle, with chronic absenteeism on the rise, college enrollment in decline, and student disengagement at an all-time high.

Please reject the proposed cut to the Golden State Pathways Program. An 80 percent cut to this program would severely reduce access for low-income students of color and deny many the opportunity to strengthen their readiness for college and career.




Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,





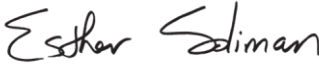

Brian M. Rivas  
 Senior Director, Policy and Government Relations  
 The Education Trust—West

 <b>The Education Trust—West</b>		
 Brian Rivas Senior Director of Policy & Government Relations	 Anne Stanton President and CEO Linked Learning Alliance	 Linda Collins Founder & Executive Director Career Ladders Project
		
 Vanessa Aramayo Executive Director	 Dina Walker President & CEO	

Alliance for a Better Community	BLU Educational Foundation	Zima Creason Executive Director California EDGE
 Californians for Justice	 CENTRAL VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION	 CSLX COMMUNITY SCHOOLS LEARNING EXCHANGE
 Karn Saetang Policy and Alliance Director Californians for Justice	<i>Sarah Moffat</i> Sarah Moffat Director of External Affairs Central Valley Community Foundation	 Hayin Kimner Managing Director Community Schools Learning Exchange
 DOLORES HUERTA FOUNDATION FOR COMMUNITY ORGANIZING	 Fresno Unified School District	 iecf Inland Empire Community Foundation where giving grows
 Amerika Nino-Rodriguez Director of Student Success Dolores Huerta Foundation	 Nancy Witrado Director of College Readiness Fresno Unified School District	 R. Michelle Decker President & CEO Inland Empire Community Foundation
 JUST // EQUATIONS	 PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH	 Tulare County Office of Education <i>Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools</i>

 <b>Pamela Burdman</b> Executive Director Just Equations	 <b>Jessica Gunderson</b> Co-Chief Executive Officer Partnership for Children & Youth	 <b>William J. Davis</b> Administrator, College & Career Readiness Tulare County Office of Education
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 <b>Celine Calanoc</b> Career Technical Education Incentive Grant Coordinator LAUSD	 Sarahi <b>Franco</b> CTEIG, Work Based Learning Coordinator LAUSD	 <b>Justin Frank</b> Public Information Officer LAUSD
 <b>Ripsime Oganyan</b> CTEIG Coordinator LAUSD	 <b>Esther Soliman</b> CTE-Linked Learning Administrator LAUSD	 <b>Helene Sparangis</b> CTEIG Coordinator LAUSD



 <p>Linda Kingston  Director CTE &amp; Master  Schedule  Sacramento City Unified  School District</p>	 <p>Christina Espinoza  Director, CCR  Sacramento City Unified  School District</p>	 <p>Abraham Abullarade  Work Based Learning  Coordinator  Sacramento City Unified  School District</p>
		
 <p>Sue Hubbard  Director of College and  Career Connections  Elk Grove Unified School  District</p>	 <p>Rebecca Lacocque  Linked Learning Coach  Oakland Unified School  District</p>	 <p>Chuck Mills  Senior Grants Administrator  TreePeople</p>
		

 <p>Alysia Bell President UNITE-LA</p>	 <p>Leslie Tamminen Director 7th Generation Advisors</p>	 <p>Kirk Anne Taylor Executive Director Climate Action Pathways for Schools</p>
		
 <p>Katherine Wilcox Executive Director EnCorps, Inc.</p>	 <p>Mark Basnage Executive Director MakeKnowledge</p>	 <p>Dr. Victor C. Thompson Executive Director National Pacific Islander Education Network</p>
		
 <p>Sofia Valadez-Paez Pathways Curriculum Coach Pasadena Unified School District</p>	 <p>Michele Wolfe Vice-President Programs PUENTE Learning Center</p>	 <p>Karen Cowe CEO Ten Strands</p>

cc: Members of the Senate Budget Committee  
Members of the Assembly Budget Committee  
Elisa Wynne, Staff Director, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
Yong Salas, Consultant, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
Andrew Medina, Policy Consultant, Office of the President pro Tempore  
Christian Griffith, Chief Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee  
Erin Gabel, Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee  
Edgar Cabral, Deputy Legislative Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office  
Misty Feusahrens, Education Consultant, Speaker's Office  
Nichole Murillo, Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary, Governor's Office  
Chris Ferguson, Education Program Budget Manager, State Department of Finance  
Brooks Allen, Executive Director, State Board of Education  
Ben Chida, Chief Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Governor's Office