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
| Alliance for a Better Community | BLU Educational Foundation | Zima Creason  
Executive Director  
California EDGE |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>![](Californians for Justice)</td>
<td>![](CENTRAL VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION)</td>
<td>![](CSLX COMMUNITY SCHOOLS LEARNING EXCHANGE)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Karn Saetang  
Policy and Alliance Director  
Californians for Justice | Sarah Moffat  
Director of External Affairs  
Central Valley Community Foundation | Hayin Kimmer  
Managing Director  
Community Schools Learning Exchange |
| ![](Dolores Huerta Foundation) | ![](Fresno Unified School District) | ![](iecf) |
| 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) |
|  |  | Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools |
Pamela Burdman  
Executive Director  
Just Equations

Jessica Gunderson  
Co-Chief Executive Officer  
Partnership for Children & Youth

William J. Davis  
Administrator, College & Career Readiness  
Tulare County Office of Education

Celine Calanoc  
Career Technical Education Incentive Grant Coordinator  
LAUSD

Sarahi Franco  
CTEIG, Work Based Learning Coordinator  
LAUSD

Ripsime Oganyan  
CTEIG Coordinator  
LAUSD

Esther Soliman  
CTE-Linked Learning Administrator  
LAUSD

Justin Frank  
Public Information Officer  
LAUSD

Helene Sparangis  
CTEIG Coordinator  
LAUSD
Linda Kingston  
Director CTE & Master Schedule  
Sacramento City Unified School District

Christina Espinoza  
Director, CCR  
Sacramento City Unified School District

Daniel Spinka  
Linked Learning Coordinator  
Sacramento City Unified School District

Jackie Nevarez  
Coordinator II, College and Career Experience  
Sacramento City Unified School District

Abraham Abullarade  
Work Based Learning Coordinator  
Sacramento City Unified School District

Sue Hubbard  
Director of College and Career Connections  
Elk Grove Unified School District

Rebecca Lacocque  
Linked Learning Coach  
Oakland Unified School District

Chuck Mills  
Senior Grants Administrator  
TreePeople

UNITE LA  
Education Innovation Through Collaboration

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