AGENDA

1. Welcome
   Tamika Lang, Boeing Company, Council Chair

2. Introduction of Topic
   David Rattray, Executive Vice President, L.A. Area Chamber of Commerce

3. Introduction of Speaker
   Kim Pattillo Brownson, First 5 LA, VP, Policy & Strategy
   - Jeff Bell, Education Program Budget Manager, CA Department of Finance
   - Edgar Cabral, Deputy Legislative Analyst, Legislative Analyst Office

4. Q&A – Facilitated by David Rattray

5. Informational Items – Facilitated by David Rattray
   - LA Times, Newsom’s Budget Includes $900 M to Address CA Teacher Shortage
   - CA Edge Coalition Summary of Governor Newsom’s 20/21 State Budget
Jeff Bell
Program Budget Manager
State of California Department of Finance

Jeff Bell is the Program Budget Manager for the California Department of Finance’s Education Systems Unit, which is responsible for overseeing the budget, programs, and policies affecting higher education, K-12 education, child care, the State Library, and local library grant programs.

Prior to his current position, Jeff served as a Director of Management Consulting Services at School Services of California, an education consulting company based in Sacramento. Prior to that, Jeff was the Assistant Program Budget Manager for the Education Systems Unit at the Department of Finance. Jeff began his state career in 1997 as a Finance Budget Analyst in the Education Systems Unit. He has served as a Principal Program Budget Analyst in various assignments, primarily working on budget and policy issues surrounding the state K-12 education budget.

In addition to working at Department of Finance, Jeff served as both an Education Consultant and later as a Fiscal Staff Director in the State Senate, where he was directly involved in staffing budget negotiations between the Governor and legislative caucus leaders. At the local level, Jeff served for 4 years as the County Budget Administrator for Placer County.

Prior to working in state and local government, Jeff was an active-duty officer in the U.S. Navy for 10 years, where he served as a surface warfare officer, engineering officer, and targeting and intelligence officer.
Edgar Cabral
Principal Fiscal and Policy Analyst
Legislative Analyst's Office

Edgar Cabral is a Principal Fiscal and Policy Analyst at the Legislative Analyst's Office. For the past 8 years, Edgar has worked on a variety of K-12 education issues, including school finance, school district fiscal oversight, testing, and accountability.

In 2013 Edgar co-wrote a brief report that describes California’s new Local Control Funding Formula. In January 2015, Edgar and a colleague published a report that reviews the first year of school districts’ Local Control and Accountability Plans. Prior to working on education issues at the LAO, Edgar spent two years in the office’s Criminal Justice section.

He has a B.A. in Sociology from the University of California, Irvine and a Master’s in Public Policy from the University of California, Berkeley.
Newsom’s budget includes $900 million to address California teacher shortage

Gov. Gavin Newsom unveils his $222.2-billion spending proposal on Friday. (Associated Press)
Gov. Gavin Newsom’s proposed state budget includes $900 million to recruit and retain teachers, part of a plan to attack a critical statewide shortage of instructors, especially in math, sciences and for students with disabilities.

The plan, included in his $222.2-billion budget unveiled Friday in Sacramento, was among a range of education measures that also includes the creation of an early childhood development department, significantly more money to cover the costs of teaching students with disabilities and a funding boost to the school lunch program, a hedge against possible reductions at the federal level.

Overall, permanent funding increases were modest as Newsom relied on one-time spending as a safeguard against potential leaner revenue in future years. Higher education and K-12 schools combine to represent about half the state’s general fund spending.

The final budget must be approved by the Legislature and will be updated in May.

The governor expressed disappointment with student achievement levels, noting that Latino and black students continue to score on the low end of an unacceptable achievement gap. Despite some measurable performance gains, Newsom said, “none of us are naive, and none of us are spiking the ball.”
Newsom’s proposals would make it more affordable to become a teacher and offer more pay for them to serve where most needed. One proposal would provide $100 million to fund a $20,000 bonus for teachers who work four years in a high-need subject at a high-need school.

The governor said 75% of state school districts face a shortage of fully trained teachers, especially in high school math and science and at all grade levels for students with disabilities. High-need schools have three times as many under-prepared teachers, he said.

In a 2017 survey, two thirds of principals serving schools with high proportions of students of color and students from low-income families reported that they had to leave teaching positions vacant or hire teachers on substandard credentials, according to research from the Palo Alto-based Learning Policy Institute.

Statewide, the number of teachers working on an “emergency-style” permit increased more than five-fold from 2013 to 2017, according to research from the institute. Between 2002 and 2013, enrollment in teacher-education programs declined about 70%, and it’s barely budged upward since.

Newsom’s proposed budget includes more than $400 million toward teacher training programs, including those aimed at bringing in more minority teachers.

“A teacher that looks like you,” Newsom said. “That’s incredibly important.”

“We have got to focus on recruitment,” he said, “and the special subject matters where we are seeing deep systemic underrepresentation.”

Newsom said his advisors looked at comparatively high achievement levels in Massachusetts and improving performance in states such as New Jersey — and the necessity to bolster the teaching force became obvious.

“It’s not all that damn complicated,” he said. “It seems self evident that we should focus and concentrate our efforts in those areas.”
He did not bring up strategies that make it easier to fire bad teachers or rate teachers to improve academic results, which have been key elements of education policy in many states and at the federal level.

“The governor, through his budget, is definitely saying that you can’t get accountability just by measuring and punishing,” said state Board of Education President Linda Darling-Hammond, a Newsom appointee. “You have to get accountability and productivity by investing in people's capacity to do the job.”

UC Berkeley sociologist and education professor Bruce Fuller commended the creation of a new office for early childhood, calling it a “clear nod toward good, more-efficient government. These funding streams are now scattered among many agencies, like tributaries splitting off during a downpour.”

The group Education Trust-West lauded the addition of 10,000 additional slots in the state’s funding for preschool.

In his remarks, Newsom noted the connection between poverty and student performance and listed measures to address it. These include $300 million in grants for school districts to provide “wrap-around” services, such as healthcare. More broadly, Newsom made connections between the cumulative needs of students and families and government services targeting healthcare, criminal justice and homelessness.

Advocates, including Children’s Defense Fund-California, praised the approach, but not necessarily the execution or total financial commitment.

“We are pleased with the governor’s continued investment in community schools, Medi-Cal and transforming the juvenile justice system,” the organization said in a statement. “With that said, poverty is a significant underlying cause of the poor outcomes and challenges facing California’s children, particularly children of color, and this budget proposal does not fully the address the economic inequities across the state.”

While expressing appreciation for the gains, L.A. schools Supt. Austin Beutner called the state’s school system “woefully underfunded.”
“This budget proposal does not go far enough in funding supports for our most vulnerable students, including students whose families are experiencing homelessness and students with special needs,” Beutner said in a statement.

Newsom said he had to balance legitimate needs with budget limitations. He pegged the overall increase in funding for kindergarten through community college at about 3%.

Newsom also said he would set aside new funding to help school systems pay down pension debts, which have the potential to cripple funding for student programs over the next decade or so.

The University of California and Cal State systems would see a 5% rise — and a cumulative increase of 12% over two years. His higher education proposal also included expanded education opportunities in prisons, more grants for low-income students and resources for immigrant students.

Los Angeles Unified is not as hard-hit as many other districts — especially in rural areas and the Bay Area — for teachers. But it is stretched to fill all classrooms with a fully credentialed instructor. In November, about 85% of its special-education classrooms had a fully qualified teacher, although another 10% were in training to earn their credential.

The district already is benefiting from previous state grants that offset the cost of earning a teaching credential and provide mentoring from a veteran teacher. Such support can be important in retaining teachers. The district also has a program to help teacher aides become fully credentialed instructors, which the new state money also would support.

“We have many communities that are building these programs that recruit people in, and then put them under the wing of a great teacher for a year while they’re getting their credential from a university,” Darling-Hammond said. “Their retention rates are very high. Their effectiveness is high. They become part of the long-term solution, rather than part of the revolving door of people in and out.”
Howard Blume covers education for the Los Angeles Times. He’s won the top investigative reporting prize from the L.A. Press Club and print Journalist of the Year from the L.A. Society of Professional Journalists chapter. He co-hosts “Deadline L.A.” on KPFK, which the press club named best radio public affairs show in 2010. He teaches tap dancing and has two superior daughters.
CA EDGE Coalition’s Summary of Governor Newsom’s 20/21 State Budget

The CA EDGE Coalition applauds Governor Newsom for making significant investments in the areas of education and workforce development in this year’s January budget plan. Specifically, we are pleased to see additional funding that seeks to address student hunger, dual enrollment, apprenticeships, workforce training, and supporting undocumented students. These are major budget priorities the CA EDGE Coalition will be closely monitoring. Most notably, Governor Newsom’s $222 billion budget plan includes the following investments:

- Apprenticeship Programs: An increase of $83.2 million dollars to community colleges for apprenticeship programs. With these funds, community colleges will be able to support and expand access to work-based learning models, increase apprenticeship instructional hours, and
provide funding support for the CA Apprenticeship Initiative.

- Faculty Opportunities: $15 million dollars in one-time funding for a pilot fellowship program for improving faculty diversity at community colleges.

- Fighting Student Hunger: An increase of $11.4 million dollars to establish or support food pantries at community college campuses.

- Supporting Dual Enrollment Students: An increase of $5 million dollars for community colleges to provide instructional materials for dual enrollment students.

- Supporting Immigrant Students: An increase of $10 million dollars to provide legal services to immigrant students, faculty, and staff on community college campuses. Additionally, an increase of $5.8 million dollars to fund Dreamer Resource Liaisons and student support services, including those related to career pathways and economic mobility, for immigrant students in community colleges.

- Student Loans: CSU and UC allotted a combined $10 million dollars in one-time funding to support the convening of a student loan working group and to provide student loan outreach.

- Workforce Development: $193 million dollars in one-time funding for the Workforce Development Grant Program to address workforce shortages in high-need subjects and areas.

- Regions Rise Together Initiative: $758,000 dollars ongoing to establish offices of Business and Economic Development in the Central Valley, Inland Empire, Central Coast, and North Coast. This initiative, directed by Governor Newsom and the Office of Business and Economic Development, is intended to provide a focus on bringing business and economic development to these regions.

In addition to these budget priorities, the CA EDGE Coalition is proudly serving on the California Student Aid Commission statewide workgroup which is currently exploring how the state’s financial aid programs can best serve the needs of students. The workgroup is looking to address
the total cost of attendance of California’s higher education institutions, and as the budget plan mentions, the Administration expects the workgroup to consider strategies to mitigate the underlying drivers of non-tuition costs.

Other significant investments in the budget relative to EDGE priorities include:

• New Department of Better Jobs and Higher Wages: The budget allocates $2.4 million dollars in one-time funding to create the Department of Better Jobs and Higher Wages, which will consolidate the workforce functions currently dispersed across the Labor and Workforce Development Agency. This new agency is intended to better align data, policy, and program analysis of the state’s workforce training programs and improve the education and training of workers for the jobs of the future.

• Career Opportunities for Incarcerated Individuals: To further assist incarcerated individuals with finding gainful employment and prepare them to enter the workforce, the CA Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) will expand post-secondary educational opportunities to individuals who have completed an associate’s degree. Additionally, CDCR will partner with the CSU system to establish bachelor’s degree programs at several California prisons. The Budget also includes $1.8 million dollars in 2020-2021 and $3.5 million ongoing for tuition, books, materials, training, and equipment for students participating in this program.

• Social Entrepreneurs for Economic Development Initiative: $10 million dollars in one-time funding for the CA Workforce Development Board to launch the Social Entrepreneurs for Economic Development Initiative which seeks to provide micro-grants and entrepreneurial training to immigrants.

Despite the Governor’s remarkable funding investments in this year’s January budget, there are no additional dollars allocated towards CalGrants, which are essential in supporting low and middle-income students pursuing higher education in the state. CalGrants provide financial aid for tuition and living expenses that do not have to be paid back. Nonetheless, we know there is more work to be done to ensure California’s
underserved populations have the opportunity to develop the skills and abilities needed in today's labor market. As we enter a new legislative session, the CA EDGE Coalition looks forward to working with Governor Newsom and members of the legislature to ensure sound policies and sufficient funding is provided for critical resources that support California's students and adult learners.