



# County of Monterey

## Board of Supervisors

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August 14, 2025

The Honorable Adam Schiff  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Alex Padilla  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren  
1401 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jimmy Panetta  
200 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

### **Re: Educational Categorical Program Funding - Support**

Dear Senator Schiff, Senator Padilla, Representative Lofgren, and Representative Panetta:

On behalf of the County of Monterey Board of Supervisors, I write to express our support for continued federal funding for educational categorical programs, which are essential to promote equity, opportunity, and long-term economic growth in California. These categorical programs provide critical targeted support that supplements general education funding, enabling school districts to address the specific needs of our most vulnerable student populations.

In Particular, Federal Title I funding, which supports schools with high concentrations of low-income students, plays a foundational role in advancing educational equity in California. With over half of California's public-school students qualifying for free or reduced-price lunch, Title I funding helps ensure students in underserved communities have access to tutoring, academic interventions, and extended learning opportunities that would otherwise be out of reach.

Title II funding, dedicated to improving teacher and principal quality, has been essential in California's ongoing efforts to recruit and retain highly qualified educators, particularly in hard-to-fill roles such as special education, math, science, and bilingual instruction. These funds support professional development, teacher mentoring, and leadership training, helping to address the state's persistent teacher shortage and elevate instructional quality across all districts.

Title III funding provides vital support for California's more than 1 million English Learners. In our local districts, these funds are used to strengthen English language development programs, support dual-language instruction, and promote family engagement efforts that bridge linguistic and cultural barriers. In doing so, Title III funding not only helps students succeed academically, but also fosters greater inclusion and integration within our diverse communities.

Funding through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is indispensable in supporting students with disabilities throughout California. Full and sustained funding for IDEA would allow districts to provide critical services—including specialized instruction, therapy, assistive technology, and inclusive classroom support—without compromising other essential educational services.

Support for Career and Technical Education (CTE) through the Perkins Act helps prepare students across California for high-demand careers in fields such as healthcare, advanced manufacturing, and information technology. In our county and throughout the state, CTE programs offer hands-on training,



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industry certifications, and internship opportunities that connect students to the real-world workforce and address statewide labor shortages.

Finally, Impact Aid funding remains critical for California school districts that lose local tax revenue due to the presence of federal land, including military installations, national parks, and tribal lands. This funding ensures these districts can continue to provide high-quality education despite their unique fiscal challenges.

In short, these categorical programs are not luxuries—they are necessities. They reflect the federal government’s vital role in ensuring that every student, regardless of their background, disability, home language, or zip code, receives a fair and equitable education. California’s size and diversity make it particularly reliant on these targeted investments, and the return on that investment is seen every day in the lives of students and families throughout our county and our state.

We urge you to champion full and sustained funding for these programs for Fiscal Year 2026 and to advocate for the federal government to meet its longstanding commitments to our schools and communities.

Sincerely,

**DRAFT**

**Chris M. Lopez, Chair**  
Board of Supervisors