

DATE: JUNE 22, 2022

CONGRATULATIONS TO CALIFORNIA, 2022 RECIPIENT OF THE FRANK NEWMAN AWARD FOR STATE INNOVATION!

Education Commission of the States is pleased to honor the state of California with the 2022 Frank Newman Award for State Innovation, in recognition of its coordinated approach to educating all students from preschool to postsecondary, with explicit attention toward whole-child supports and services, as well as its historic financial investments to ensure educational equity.

Frank Newman Award
for State Innovation



California

California educates nearly one-eighth of all public school students in the nation, and its major initiatives have been focused on recognition of, and support for, the unique needs of students today. The state's Local Control Funding Formula, recognized as one of the nation's most equitable formulas, distributes funding to the schools with the greatest needs and gives more flexibility to districts to respond to local challenges and opportunities. In the last two years, the state has approved an ongoing increase to the school funding formula to add more teachers, counselors, paraprofessionals and other student support providers on campuses. The budget also

includes a large investment to scale summer, before- and after-school programming; and to convert thousands of schools into full-service community schools with wraparound supports. Additionally, beginning this school year, all public school students began to receive two free meals per day, regardless of family income status.

The state's investments are not limited to K-12; they extend into both ends of the education continuum, early learning and postsecondary. For example, the state is on track to have universal pre-K available for all 4-year-olds by 2025, and it has already expanded its popular Cal Grant scholarship program, which benefited an additional 100,000 community college students last year. Leaders also allocated funding to construct affordable student housing and \$115 million to expand zero-cost textbooks and open-educational resources.

California is demonstrating an intentional, comprehensive investment of funding and other resources that recognize and honor whole-child approaches to education, not only instruction.



A nomination letter read, "... [W]e believe there is no other state doing as much to advance educational equity for its neediest students as California is doing today."

Education Commission of the States will present California leaders with the Newman Award at the 2022 National Forum on Education Policy, taking place July 13-15 in Washington, D.C.

The Frank Newman Award for State Innovation is one of three awards that Education Commission of the States gives each year to celebrate outstanding commitment to public education. The others are the James Bryant Conant Award, which recognizes individual achievement, and the Education Commission of the States Corporate Award, which recognizes a for-profit corporation, nonprofit organization or foundation.

For more information about California's historic investments in education, email education@gov.ca.gov.

For more information about Education Commission of the States or its awards, contact Mandy Zatynski, director of communications, at mzatynski@ecs.org.