



May 15, 2024

Via: *Electronic Submittal*: <https://csm.ca.gov/dropbox.shtml>

Gayle Miller, Chairperson  
Commission on State Mandates  
980 9th Street, Suite 300  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RECEIVED**  
April 30, 2024  
Commission on  
State Mandates

Revised May 16, 2024

***Re: Transitional Kindergarten Program, 23-TC-02***

***Position: Support***

Dear Ms. Miller:

On behalf of the St. Helena Unified School District, I am writing in support of the test claim: Transitional Kindergarten Program, 23-TC-02, which is tentatively scheduled to be considered by the Commission on State Mandates (Commission) at its November 22, 2024, hearing.

California is currently in the second year of phasing in universal transitional kindergarten (UTK). By 2025-26, the state expects all local educational agencies (LEAs) to make transitional kindergarten (TK) available to all children who will have their fourth birthday by September 1 of the school year. To assist with the implementation of UTK, the state funds TK average daily attendance by annually rebenching Proposition 98 with General Fund dollars to account for the newly eligible TK students. Over the past two fiscal years, the state has provided nearly \$1 billion in ongoing funding for the implementation of UTK. That annual cost is expected to grow to approximately \$2.7 billion when UTK is fully implemented in 2025-26.

While the state has highlighted its commitment to fund UTK, the funding distribution methodology that is being utilized leaves out community-funded (basic aid) school districts, which means that districts like ours do not receive funding for implementing TK. Although interpretations of current law vary, the state has clearly expressed that TK should be offered by all districts, making it an unfunded mandate for community-funded districts not receiving dollars to implement this new, full grade level.

The requirement for community-funded districts to implement UTK clearly meets the determination requirement of the state imposing a new program or higher level of service on LEAs. The state continues to maintain that implementation of UTK is an expectation of all school districts; however, the state is only providing funding for UTK to state-funded districts. The refusal of the state to provide funding for community-funded districts for UTK implementation, while at the same time maintaining that it is still an obligation to implement, constitutes an unfunded mandate by the state.

For these reasons, we strongly support the test claim filed by the Hope Elementary School District and the Sunnyvale School District. Without support from the Commission on this test claim, community-funded

districts will be forced to take funding from other programs that currently serve students in order to implement this new grade.

We implore that the Commission staff recommends the test claim to be approved and that Commission members approve the claim when it is heard this fall.

A. Certification

I certify by my signature below, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California, that the statements made in this document are true and complete to the best of my own personal knowledge or based on information and belief and that I am authorized and competent to do so.

May 15, 2024



Kay Vang, Chief Business Official  
St. Helena Unified School District  
465 Main Street  
St. Helena, CA 94574  
707-967-2704  
kvang@sthelenaunified.org

cc: Members and Staff, Commission on State Mandates

## **DECLARATION OF SERVICE BY EMAIL**

I, the undersigned, declare as follows:

I am a resident of the County of Sacramento and I am over the age of 18 years, and not a party to the within action. My place of employment is 980 Ninth Street, Suite 300, Sacramento, California 95814.

On May 31, 2024, I served the:

- **Current Mailing List dated May 29, 2024**
- **Louann Carlomagno, Superintendent, Hillsborough City School District Comments on the Test Claim filed May 6, 2024 revised May 20, 2024**
- **An Huang Chen, Board Member, Hillsborough City School District Comments on the Test Claim filed May 6, 2024 revised May 20, 2024**
- **Don Geddis, Board Vice President, Hillsborough City School District Comments on the Test Claim filed May 6, 2024 revised May 20, 2024**
- **Gilbert Wai, Board Member, Hillsborough City School District Comments on the Test Claim filed May 6, 2024 revised May 20, 2024**
- **Larissa Graham, Parent, Hope School District Comments on the Test Claim filed May 6, 2024 revised May 20, 2024**
- **Luis Mori-Quinoz, Hope School District Comments on the Test Claim filed May 6, 2024 revised May 20, 2024**
- **Carolyn Chow, Chief Business Officer, Palo Alto Unified School District Comments on the Test Claim filed May 7, 2024 revised May 20, 2024**
- **Brian Hiefield, Teacher's Spouse, Hope School District Comments on the Test Claim filed May 6, 2024 revised May 16, 2024**
- **Kay Vang, Chief Business Official, St. Helena Unified School District Comments on the Test Claim filed April 30, 2024 revised May 16, 2024**
- **Jill Vinson, Superintendent, Cardiff School District Comments on the Test Claim filed May 2, 2024 revised May 15, 2024**
- **Andree Grey, Superintendent, Encinitas Union School District Comments on the Test Claim filed May 6, 2024 revised May 15, 2024**
- **Allison Heiduk, Literacy TOSA, Hope School District Comments on the Test Claim filed May 3, 2024 revised May 15, 2024**
- **Abby Carrington, 5th Grade Teacher, Montecito Union School District Comments on the Test Claim filed May 2, 2024 revised May 15, 2024**
- **Kris Munro, Superintendent, Santa Cruz City Schools District Comments on the Test Claim filed April 30, 2024 revised May 15, 2024**

- **Chris Hodges, Hope School District Comments on the Test Claim filed May 7, 2024 revised May 14, 2024**
- **Vinita Singh, Director-Business Services, Sequoia Union High School District Comments on the Test Claim filed May 1, 2024 revised May 14, 2024**
- **Kerstin Kramer, Superintendent-Chief Learning Officer, Tahoe Truckee Unified School District Comments on the Test Claim filed May 6, 2024 revised May 14, 2024**

*Transitional Kindergarten Program, 23-TC-02*

Statutes 2021, Chapter 44, Section 60 (AB 130);

Education Code Section 48000, Effective July 9, 2021

Hope Elementary School District and Sunnyvale School District, Claimants

by making it available on the Commission's website and providing notice of how to locate it to the email addresses provided on the attached mailing list.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct, and that this declaration was executed on May 31, 2024 at Sacramento, California.



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Jill Magee  
Commission on State Mandates  
980 Ninth Street, Suite 300  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 323-3562

# COMMISSION ON STATE MANDATES

## Mailing List

**Last Updated:** 5/29/24

**Claim Number:** 23-TC-02

**Matter:** Transitional Kindergarten Program

**Claimants:** Hope Elementary School District  
Sunnyvale School District

### TO ALL PARTIES, INTERESTED PARTIES, AND INTERESTED PERSONS:

Each commission mailing list is continuously updated as requests are received to include or remove any party or person on the mailing list. A current mailing list is provided with commission correspondence, and a copy of the current mailing list is available upon request at any time. Except as provided otherwise by commission rule, when a party or interested party files any written material with the commission concerning a claim, it shall simultaneously serve a copy of the written material on the parties and interested parties to the claim identified on the mailing list provided by the commission. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 1181.3.)

**Amber Alexander**, *Department of Finance*

Education Systems Unit, 915 L Street, 7th Floor, Sacramento, Ca

Phone: (916) 445-0328

Amber.Alexander@dof.ca.gov

**Michael Alferes**, Fiscal and Policy Analyst, K-12, *Legislative Analyst's Office*

925 L Street, Suite 1000, Sacramento, CA 95816

Phone: (916) 319-8332

michael.alferes@lao.ca.gov

**Lindsay Alker**, Certificated Teacher, *Montecito Union School District*

385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108

Phone: (805) 969-3249

lalker@montecitou.org

**Brooks Allen**, Executive Director, *California State Board of Education (SBE)*

1430 N Street, Suite 5111, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 319-0708

BRAllen@cde.ca.gov

**Jaime Allison**, Certificated Teacher, *Montecito Union School District*

385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108

Phone: (805) 969-3249

jallison@montecitou.org

**Stacy Allison**, Certificated Teacher, *Montecito Union School District*

385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108

Phone: (805) 969-3249

sallison@montecitou.org

**Virginia Alvarez**, Chief Business Official, *Montecito Union School District*  
385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108  
Phone: (805) 969-3249  
valvarez@montecitou.org

**Mercy Anykia**, *Hope School District*  
748 Cieneguitas Road, Unit C, Santa Barbara, CA 93110  
Phone: (785) 550-9998  
anyikame@gmail.com

**Lili Apgar**, Specialist, *State Controller's Office*  
Local Reimbursements Section, 3301 C Street, Suite 740, Sacramento, CA 95816  
Phone: (916) 324-0254  
lapgar@sco.ca.gov

**Socorro Aquino**, *State Controller's Office*  
Division of Audits, 3301 C Street, Suite 700, Sacramento, CA 95816  
Phone: (916) 322-7522  
SAquino@sco.ca.gov

**Kim Aragon**, Employee, *Hope School District*  
3970 La Colina Road, #14, Santa Barbara, CA 93110  
Phone: (805) 682-2564  
karagon@hopeschooldistrict.org

**Tim Barker**, Teacher, *Hope School District*  
3970 La Colina Road, #14, Santa Barbara, CA 93110  
Phone: (805) 682-2564  
tbarker@hopeschooldistrict.org

**Harmeeet Barkschat**, *Mandate Resource Services, LLC*  
5325 Elkhorn Blvd. #307, Sacramento, CA 95842  
Phone: (916) 727-1350  
harmeeet@comcast.net

**Robert Bauer**, Trustee, *Portola Valley School District*  
4575 Alpine Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028  
Phone: (650) 851-1777  
rbauer@pvsd.net

**Jammie Behrendt**, Associate Superintendent, *Menlo Park City School District*  
181 Encinal Ave, Atherton, CA 94027  
Phone: (650) 321-7140  
jbehrendt@mpcsd.org

**Ginni Bella Navarre**, Deputy Legislative Analyst, *Legislative Analyst's Office*  
925 L Street, Suite 1000, Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: (916) 319-8342  
Ginni.Bella@lao.ca.gov

**Daniel Berman**, Parent, *Montecito Union School District*  
385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108  
Phone: (805) 969-3249  
Dgcberman@gmail.com

**Kimberly Berman**, 6th Grade Certificated Teacher, *Montecito Union School District*  
385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108

Phone: (805) 969-3249  
kberman@montecitou.org

**Ryan Blasena**, *Hope School District*  
3970 La Colina Road, #14, Santa Barbara, CA 93110  
Phone: (805) 682-2564  
rblasena@hopeschooldistrict.org

**Mitchell Bragg**, Board Member, *Montecito Union School District*  
385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108  
Phone: (805) 969-3249  
mbragg@montecitou.org

**Robert Bravo**, Superintendent, *Campbell Union High School District*  
3235 Union Ave, San Jose, CA 95124-2095  
Phone: (408) 371-0960  
rbravo@cuhisd.org

**Mike Brown**, *School Innovations & Advocacy*  
5200 Golden Foothill Parkway, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762  
Phone: (916) 669-5116  
mikeb@sia-us.com

**Nick Bruski**, Principal, *Montecito Union School District*  
385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108  
Phone: (805) 969-3249  
nbruski@montecitou.org

**Guy Burdick**, Consultant, *MGT Consulting*  
2251 Harvard Street, Suite 134, Sacramento, CA 95815  
Phone: (916) 833-7775  
gburdick@mgtconsulting.com

**Shelby Burguan**, Budget Manager, *City of Newport Beach*  
100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660  
Phone: (949) 644-3085  
sburguan@newportbeachca.gov

**Jennifer Burks**, Superintendent, *Solana Beach School District*  
309 North Rios Avenue, Solana Beach, CA 92075-1298  
Phone: (858) 794-7100  
jenniferburks@sbsd.net

**Sharon Burns**, Principal, *Menlo Park City School District*  
181 Encinal Avenue, Atherton, CA 94027  
Phone: (650) 326-5164  
sburns@mpcsd.org

**Edgar Cabral**, Fiscal and Policy Analyst, K-12, *Legislative Analyst's Office*  
925 L Street, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95816  
Phone: (916) 319-8332  
edgar.cabral@lao.ca.gov

**Evelyn Calderon-Yee**, Bureau Chief, *State Controller's Office*  
Local Government Programs and Services Division, Bureau of Payments, 3301 C Street, Suite 740,  
Sacramento, CA 95816  
Phone: (916) 324-5919  
ECalderonYee@sco.ca.gov

**Louann Carlomagno**, Superintendent, *Hillsborough City School District*  
300 El Cerrito Avenue, Hillsborough, CA 94010  
Phone: (650) 342-5193  
lcarlomagno@hcsdk8.org

**Abby Carrington**, 5th Grade Teacher, *Montecito Union School District*  
1551 Myra Street, Carpinteria, CA 93013  
Phone: (908) 812-1771  
acarrington@montecitou.org

**Veronica Causor-Lara**, Manager, Internal Audit, *San Jose Unified School District*  
855 Lenzen Avenue, San Jose, CA 95126  
Phone: (408) 535-6000  
vcausorlara@sjusd.org

**Michael Chaix**, Superintendent, *Cucamonga School District*  
8776 Archibald Avenue, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730-4698  
Phone: (909) 987-8942  
mchaix@cuca.k12.ca.us

**Carolyn Chow**, Chief Business Officer, *Palo Alto Unified School District*  
25 Churchill Ave, Palo Alto, CA 94036  
Phone: (650) 329-3980  
cchow@pausd.org

**Carolyn Chu**, Senior Fiscal and Policy Analyst, *Legislative Analyst's Office*  
925 L Street, Suite 1000, Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: (916) 319-8326  
Carolyn.Chu@lao.ca.gov

**Graham Clark**, Superintendent, *Fremont Union High School District*  
589 West Fremont Avenue, PO Box F, Sunnyvale, CA 94087  
Phone: (408) 522-2201  
graham\_clark@fuhsd.org

**Brian Clausen**, Trustee, *San Luis Coastal Unified School District*  
1500 Lizzie Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401  
Phone: (805) 549-1202  
bclausen@slcusd.org

**Brooke Cloud**, Montecito Union School District, *Certificated Teacher*  
385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108  
Phone: (805) 969-3249  
bcloud@montecitou.org

**Ronan Collver**, Superintendent, *Brisbane School District*  
1 Solano Street, Brisbane, CA 94005  
Phone: (415) 467-0550  
rcollver@brisbanesd.org

**Kelly Cousineau**, *Hope School District*  
3970 La Colina Road, #14, Santa Barbara, CA 93110  
Phone: (805) 682-2564  
kellycousineau@gmail.com

**Kim Crail**, Board Vice President, *Montecito Union School District*  
385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108



Phone: (805) 969-3249  
kcraill@montecitou.org

**Heidi Craine**, Certificated Teacher, *Montecito Union School District*  
385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108  
Phone: (805) 969-3249  
hcraine@montecitou.org

**Margaret Demauro**, Finance Director, *Town of Apple Valley*  
14955 Dale Evans Parkway, Apple Valley, CA 92307  
Phone: (760) 240-7000  
mdemauro@applevalley.org

**Martina Dickerson**, Staff Finance Budget Analyst, *Department of Finance*  
Education, Department of Finance, Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: (916) 445-0328  
Martina.Dickerson@dof.ca.gov

**John Doe**, Certificated Teacher, *Montecito Union School District*  
385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108  
Phone: (805) 969-3249  
cornelas@montecitou.org

**Andra Donovan**, *San Diego Unified School District*  
Legal Services Office, 4100 Normal Street, Room 2148, , San Diego, CA 92103  
Phone: (619) 725-5630  
adonovan@sandi.net

**Jennifer Dudley**, Superintendent - Principal, *Fort Ross Elementary School District*  
30600 Seaview Road, Cazadero, CA 95421  
Phone: (707) 847-3390  
jdudley@fortrossschool.org

**Matt Dunkle**, Superintendent, *Forestville Union School District*  
632 Highway 116, Forestville, CA 95436  
Phone: (707) 887-2279  
mdunkle@forestvilleusd.org

**Jacqueline Duran**, Board Member, *Montecito Union School District*  
385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108  
Phone: (805) 969-3249  
jduran@montecitou.org

**Theana Earls**, Employee, *Hope School District*  
3970 La Colina Road, #14, Santa Barbara, CA 93110  
Phone: (805) 682-2564  
tearls@hopeschooldistrict.org

**Melissa Erickson**, Certificated Teacher Education Specialist, *Montecito Union School District*  
385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108  
Phone: (805) 969-3249  
merickson@montecitou.org

**Cindy Everman**, *Hope School District*  
3970 La Colina Road, #14, Santa Barbara, CA 93110  
Phone: (805) 682-2564  
everman@cox.net

**Meaghan Faulman, Hope School District**

3970 La Colina Road, #14, Santa Barbara, CA 93110

Phone: (805) 682-2564

meg.faulman@gmail.com

**Ben Faulman, Hope School District**

3970 La Colina Road, #14, Santa Barbara, CA 93110

Phone: (805) 682-2564

benfaulman@yahoo.com

**Donna Ferebee, Department of Finance**

915 L Street, Suite 1280, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 445-8918

donna.ferebee@dof.ca.gov

**Chris Ferguson, Department of Finance**

Education Systems Unit, 915 L Street, 7th Floor, 915 L Street, 7th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 445-3274

Chris.Ferguson@dof.ca.gov

**Marites Fermin, Chief Business Officer, Menlo Park City School District**

181 Encinal Avenue, Atherton, CA 94027

Phone: (650) 321-7140

mfermin@mpcsd.org

**Diana Galindo-Roybal, Superintendent, Goleta Union School District**

401 North Fairview Avenue, Goleta, CA 93117

Phone: (805) 681-1200

droybal@gusd.us

**Michael Gallagher, Superintendent, Sunnyvale School District****Claimant Contact**

819 Iowa Ave, Sunnyvale, CA 94086

Phone: (408) 522-8200

michael.gallagher@sesd.org

**Brianna Garcia, Education Mandated Cost Network**

1121 L Street, Suite 1060, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 446-7517

briannag@sscal.com

**Len Garfinkel, General Counsel, California Department of Education**

1430 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 319-0860

lgarfinkel@cde.ca.gov

**Don Geddis, Board Vice President, Hillsborough City School District**

300 El Cerrito Avenue, Hillsborough, CA 94010

Phone: (650) 342-5193

don@dongeddis.com

**Brett Geithman, Superintendent, Larkspur-Corte Madera School District**

230 Doherty Drive, Larkspur, CA 94939

Phone: (415) 927-6960

bgeithman@lcmschools.org

**Juliana Gmur, Acting Executive Director, Commission on State Mandates**

980 9th Street, Suite 300, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 323-3562  
juliana.gmur@csm.ca.gov

**Laura Godinez**, Employee, *Hope School District*  
3970 La Colina Road, #14, Santa Barbara, CA 93110  
Phone: (805) 682-2564  
lgodinez@hopeschooldistrict.org

**Alyssa Gonzalez**, K-6 Art Specialist Credentialed Teacher, *Montecito Union School District*  
385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108  
Phone: (805) 969-3249  
agonzalez@montecitou.org

**Larissa Graham**, Parent, *Hope School District*  
3903 Laguna Blanca Drive, Santa Barbara, CA 93110  
Phone: (805) 302-4848  
larissagraham10@gmail.com

**Andree Grey**, Superintendent, *Encinitas Union Elementary School District*  
101 South Rancho Santa Fe Road, Encinitas, CA 92024-4308  
Phone: (760) 944-4300  
andree.grey@eusd.net

**Kevin Grier**, Superintendent, *Loma Prieta Joint Union School District*  
23800 Summit Road, Los Gatos, CA 95033  
Phone: (408) 353-1101  
k.grier@lpjUSD.us

**Richard Gross**, Trustee, *Fort Ross Elementary School District*  
30600 Seaview Road, Cazadero, CA 95421  
Phone: (707) 847-3390  
richardgross2@icloud.com

**Heather Halsey**, Executive Director, *Commission on State Mandates*  
980 9th Street, Suite 300, Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: (916) 323-3562  
heather.halsey@csm.ca.gov

**Gary Hanning**, President, *Portola Valley School District*  
Board of Trustees, 4575 Alpine Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028  
Phone: (650) 851-1777  
ghanning@pvdsd.net

**Mike Heffner**, Superintendent-Principal, *Bonny Doon Union Elementary School District*  
1492 Pine Flat Road, Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
Phone: (831) 427-2300  
mheffner@bduesd.org

**Gabrielle Herbst**, Employee, *Hope School District*  
3970 La Colina Road, #14, Santa Barbara, CA 93110  
Phone: (805) 682-2564  
gherbst@hopeschooldistrict.org

**Brian Hiefield**, Teacher's Spouse, *Hope School District*  
7700 Bradford Drive, Goleta, CA 93117  
Phone: (805) 708-3087  
jorgeman38@gmail.com

**Eve Hinton**, Trustee, *San Luis Coastal Unified School District*

1500 Lizzie Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-3062

Phone: (805) 549-1202

ehinton@slcusd.org

**Tiffany Hoang**, Associate Accounting Analyst, *State Controller's Office*

Local Government Programs and Services Division, Bureau of Payments, 3301 C Street, Suite 740,  
Sacramento, CA 95816

Phone: (916) 323-1127

THoang@sco.ca.gov

**Chris Hodges**, Parent, *Hope School District*

3770 Lincolnwood Drive, Santa Barbara, CA 93110

Phone: (917) 849-9060

cphodges@gmail.com

**An Huang Chen**, Board Member, *Hillsborough City School District*

300 El Cerrito Avenue, Hillsborough, CA 94010

Phone: (650) 342-5193

anhuangchen12@gmail.com

**Anne Hubbard**, Superintendent, *Hope Elementary School District*

**Claimant Contact**

3970 La Colina Road, Suite #14, Santa Barbara, CA 93110

Phone: (805) 682-2564

ahubbard@hopeschooldistrict.org

**Meredyth Hudson**, Assistant Superintendent of Business, *Campbell Union High School District*

3235 Union Ave, San Jose, CA 95124-2096

Phone: (408) 371-0960

MHudson@cuhdsd.org

**Kyle Hyland**, *School Services of California*

1121 L Street, Suite 1060, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 446-7517

KyleH@sscal.com

**Rusty Ito**, Vice Principal, *Montecito Union School District*

385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108

Phone: (805) 969-3249

rito@montecitou.org

**Dmitri Jarocki**, *Hope School District*

3970 La Colina Road, #14, Santa Barbara, CA 93110

Phone: (805) 682-2564

dmitrijarocki@gmail.com

**Jason Jennings**, Director, *Maximus Consulting*

Financial Services, 808 Moorefield Park Drive, Suite 205, Richmond, VA 23236

Phone: (804) 323-3535

SB90@maximus.com

**Corey Josenhans**, *Hope School District*

550 Apple Grove Lane, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Phone: (805) 689-2913

cljosen75@gmail.com

**Lilly Josenhans**, *Hope School District*

550 Apple Grove Lane, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Phone: (805) 698-3087

lillypinney@yahoo.com

**Angelo Joseph**, Supervisor, *State Controller's Office*Local Government Programs and Services Division, Bureau of Payments, 3301 C Street, Suite 740,  
Sacramento, CA 95816

Phone: (916) 323-0706

AJoseph@sco.ca.gov

**Meg Kailikole**, Business Manager, *Mendocino Unified School District*

44141 Little Lake Road, Mendocino, CA 95460

Phone: (707) 937-5868

musdcbo@mcn.org

**Christy Kelso**, Hope School District, *Hope School District*

3970 La Colina Road, #14, Santa Barbara, CA 93110

Phone: (805) 682-2564

ckelso@me.com

**Sarah Kempe-Mehl**,

4559 Nueces Drive, Santa Barbara, CA 93110

Phone: (805) 680-3524

sarahkempemehl@gmail.com

**Kerstin Kramer**, Superintendent, Chief Learning Officer, *Tahoe Truckee Unified School District*

11603 Donner Pass Road, Truckee, CA 96161-4953

Phone: (530) 582-2550

kkramer@ttusd.org

**Yvonne Kreck**, Board President, *Alexander Valley Union School District*

8511 Highway 128, Healdsburg, CA 95448

Phone: (707) 433-1375

mreno@alexandervalleyusd.org

**Claire Krock**, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, *Hope School District*

3970 La Colina Road, #14, Santa Barbara, CA 93110

Phone: (805) 682-2564

claire.krock@peabodycharter.net

**Jennifer Kuhn**, Deputy, *Legislative Analyst's Office*

925 L Street, Suite 1000, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 319-8332

Jennifer.kuhn@lao.ca.gov

**Lisa Kurokawa**, Bureau Chief for Audits, *State Controller's Office*

Compliance Audits Bureau, 3301 C Street, Suite 700, Sacramento, CA 95816

Phone: (916) 327-3138

lkurokawa@sco.ca.gov

**Audin Leung**, Student Leader, *Free the Period California*

1 Shield Ave, Pierce Co-op TB14, Davis, CA 95616

Phone: (415) 318-9343

freetheperiod.ca@gmail.com

**Ryan Lewis**, Superintendent, *Lake Elsinore Unified School District*

545 Chaney Street, Lake Elsinore, CA 92530

Phone: (951) 253-7000  
Ryan.Lewis@leusd.k12.ca.us

**Jeffrey Linder**, Certificated Teacher, *Montecito Union School District*  
385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108  
Phone: (805) 969-3249  
jlinder@montecitou.org

**Kristin Lindgren-Bruzzone**, General Counsel, *California School Boards Association*  
3251 Beacon Boulevard, West Sacramento, CA 95691  
Phone: (916) 669-3243  
klindgren-bruzzone@csba.org

**Kristin Lindquist**, Director of Special Education, *Hope School District*  
3970 La Colina Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93110  
Phone: (805) 682-2564  
KLindquist@hopeschooldistrict.org

**Diego Lopez**, Consultant, *Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee*  
1020 N Street, Room 502, Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: (916) 651-4103  
Diego.Lopez@sen.ca.gov

**Yirong Lu**, ESN Upper (Grade 4-6), *Hope School District*  
3970 La Colina Road, #14, Santa Barbara, CA 93110  
Phone: (805) 682-2564  
ylu@hopeschooldistrict.org

**Everett Luc**, Accounting Administrator I, Specialist, *State Controller's Office*  
3301 C Street, Suite 740, Sacramento, CA 95816  
Phone: (916) 323-0766  
ELuc@sco.ca.gov

**Irina Ludkovski**, Parent and Community Member, *Hope School District*  
3970 La Colina Road, #14, Santa Barbara, CA 93110  
Phone: (805) 682-2564  
i.m.ludkovski@gmail.com

**Karen Luna**, Certificated Teacher, *Montecito Union School District*  
385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108  
Phone: (805) 969-3249  
kluna@montecitou.org

**Amelia Madden**, Certificated Teacher, *Montecito Union School District*  
385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108  
Phone: (805) 969-3249  
amadden@montecitou.org

**Jill Magee**, Program Analyst, *Commission on State Mandates*  
980 9th Street, Suite 300, Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: (916) 323-3562  
Jill.Magee@csn.ca.gov

**Christine Mallery**, CBO-Associate Superintendent, *Fremont Union High School District*  
589 West Fremont Avenue, PO Box F, Sunnyvale, CA 94087  
Phone: (408) 522-2245  
christine\_mallery@fuhd.org

**Darryl Mar**, Manager, *State Controller's Office*  
3301 C Street, Suite 740, Sacramento, CA 95816  
Phone: (916) 323-0706  
DMar@sco.ca.gov

**Kim Marme**, *Hope School District*  
3970 La Colina Road, #14, Santa Barbara, CA 93110  
Phone: (805) 682-2564  
kmarme@hopeschooldistrict.org

**Rania Mather**, Certificated Teacher, *Montecito Union School District*  
385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108  
Phone: (805) 969-3249  
rmather@montecitou.org

**Tina McKendell**, *County of Los Angeles*  
Auditor-Controller's Office, 500 West Temple Street, Room 603, Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Phone: (213) 974-0324  
tmckendell@auditor.lacounty.gov

**Becca McNees**, *Hope School District*  
3970 La Colina Road, #14, Santa Barbara, CA 93110  
Phone: (805) 682-2564  
bmccnees@hopeschooldistrict.org

**Michelle Mendoza**, *MAXIMUS*  
17310 Red Hill Avenue, Suite 340, Irvine, CA 95403  
Phone: (949) 440-0845  
michellemendoza@maximus.com

**Nellie Meyer**, Superintendent, *Mountain View Los Altos High School District*  
1299 Bryant Avenue, Mountain View, CA 94040-4599  
Phone: (650) 940-4650  
nellie.meyer@mvla.net

**Eric Monley**, Interim Director of Fiscal Services, *San Jose Unified School District*  
855 Lenzen Avenue, San Jose, CA 95126  
Phone: (408) 535-6000  
emonley@sjusd.org

**Jimmy Monreal**, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, *Santa Cruz City Schools District*  
133 Mission Street, Ste. 100, Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
Phone: (831) 429-3410  
jmonreal@sccs.net

**Lisa Monson**, Certificated Teacher, *Montecito Union School District*  
385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108  
Phone: (805) 969-3249  
Lmonson@montecitou.org

**Paige Moore**, Business Manager, *Nevada City School District*  
800 Hoover LN, Nevada City, CA 95959  
Phone: (530) 265-1823  
pmoore@ncsd.k12.ca.us

**Matthew Morgan**, Principal-Superintendent, *Harmony Union School District*  
1935 Bohemian Highway, Occidental, CA 95465

Phone: (707) 874-1205  
mmorgan@harmonyusd.org

**Luis Mori-Quiroz**, Parent, *Hope School District*  
748 Cieneguitas Road, Unit C, Santa Barbara, CA 93110  
Phone: (517) 410-3417  
moriluis@gmail.com

**Kimberley Morris Rosen**, Trustee, *Portola Valley School District*  
4575 Alpine Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028  
Phone: (650) 851-1777  
kimberley.morris@gmail.com

**Jason Morse**, Superintendent, *Mendocino Unified School District*  
44141 Little Lake Road, Mendocino, CA 95460  
Phone: (707) 937-5868  
jmorse@mcn.org

**Katie Moses**, Architect,  
695 Russell Way, Santa Barbara, CA 93110  
Phone: (805) 451-5599  
kkcorliss@yahoo.com

**Marilyn Munoz**, Senior Staff Counsel, *Department of Finance*  
915 L Street, Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: (916) 445-8918  
Marilyn.Munoz@dof.ca.gov

**Kris Munro**, Superintendent, *Santa Cruz City Schools District*  
133 Mission St, STE 100, Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
Phone: (831) 429-3410  
kmunro@sccs.net

**Melissa Ng**, Staff Finance Budget Analyst, *Department of Finance*  
Education, 915 L Street, 7th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: (916) 445-0328  
Melissa.Ng@dof.ca.gov

**Connie Ngo**, Chief Business Official, *Portola Valley School District*  
4575 Alpine Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028  
Phone: (650) 851-1777  
cngo@pvdsd.net

**Michelle Nguyen**, *Department of Finance*  
Education Unit, 915 L Street, Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: (916) 445-0328  
Michelle.Nguyen@dof.ca.gov

**Andy Nichols**, *Nichols Consulting*  
1857 44th Street, Sacramento, CA 95819  
Phone: (916) 455-3939  
andy@nichols-consulting.com

**Katie Nimitarnun**, Certificated Teacher, *Montecito Union School District*  
385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108  
Phone: (805) 969-3249  
knimitarnun@montecitou.org



**Holly Noble**, Certificated Teacher, *Montecito Union School District*

385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108

Phone: (805) 969-3249

hnoble@montecitou.org

**Autumn Noe**, Classified Employee and Parent, *Montecito Union School District*

3950 Via Real SPC 165, Carpinteria, CA 93013

Phone: (805) 708-0607

autumnnoe@gmail.com

**Susannah Osley**, Board President, *Montecito Union School District*

385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108

Phone: (805) 969-3249

sosley@montecitou.org

**Arthur Palkowitz**, *Law Offices of Arthur M. Palkowitz*

**Claimant Representative**

12807 Calle de la Siena, San Diego, CA 92130

Phone: (858) 259-1055

law@artpalk.onmicrosoft.com

**Kirsten Pangilinan**, Specialist, *State Controller's Office*

Local Reimbursements Section, 3301 C Street, Suite 740, Sacramento, CA 95816

Phone: (916) 322-2446

KPangilinan@sco.ca.gov

**Jamie Poe**, *Hope School District*

3970 La Colina Road, #14, Santa Barbara, CA 93110

Phone: (805) 682-2564

itsjamiepoe@gmail.com

**Jayson Poe**, *Hope School District*

3970 La Colina Road, #14, Santa Barbara, CA 93110

Phone: (805) 682-2564

jayson.poe@gmail.com

**Eric Prater**, Superintendent, *San Luis Coastal Unified School District*

1500 Lizzie Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-3062

Phone: (805) 549-1202

eprater@slcusd.org

**Anthony Ranii**, Superintendent, *Montecito Union School District*

385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108

Phone: (805) 969-3249

aranii@montecitou.org

**Roberta Raper**, Director of Finance, *City of West Sacramento*

1110 West Capitol Ave, West Sacramento, CA 95691

Phone: (916) 617-4509

robertar@cityofwestsacramento.org

**Seth Reddy**, *San Jose Unified School District*

855 Lenzen Avenue, San Jose, CA 95126

Phone: (408) 535-6000

sreddy@sjusd.org

**Tim Reinauer**, *Hope School District*

436 Foxen Drive, Santa Barbara, CA 93105

Phone: (805) 886-4017  
TimReinauer@gmail.com

**Sandra Reynolds**, President, *Reynolds Consulting Group, Inc.*  
P.O. Box 891359, Temecula, CA 92589-1359  
Phone: (888) 202-9442  
rcginc19@gmail.com

**Jeanette Rodriguez-Chien**, Superintendent, *Sonoma Valley Unified School District*  
17850 Railroad Avenue, Sonoma, CA 95476  
Phone: (707) 935-4246  
jchien@sonomaschools.org

**Gregory Sackos**, Superintendent, *Desert Center Unified School District*  
1434 Kaiser Road, PO Box 6, Desert Center, CA 92239  
Phone: (760) 895-8254  
gregsackos@eaglemtnschool.com

**Diane Satterthwaite**, *Hope School District*  
3970 La Colina Road, #14, Santa Barbara, CA 93110  
Phone: (805) 682-2564  
DSATT@HOPESCHOOLDISTRICT.ORG

**Vanessa Scarlett**, Certificated Teacher, *Montecito Union School District*  
385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108  
Phone: (805) 969-3249  
vscarlett@montecitou.org

**Debra Schade**, Board President, *Solana Beach School District*  
309 North Rios Avenue, Solana Beach,, CA 92075-1298  
Phone: (858) 794-7100  
debraschade@sbsd.net

**Cindy Sconce**, Director, *MGT*  
Performance Solutions Group, 3600 American River Drive, Suite 150, Sacramento, CA 95864  
Phone: (916) 276-8807  
csconce@mgtconsulting.com

**Beth Scott**, Employee, *Hope School District*  
3970 La Colina Road, #14, Santa Barbara, CA 93110  
Phone: (805) 682-2564  
escott@hopeschooldistrict.org

**Claudia Scott**, Santa Barbara Citizen,  
4822 La Gama Way, Santa Barbara, CA 93111  
Phone: N/A  
cscott@westmont.edu

**Rena Seifts**, Associate Superintendent, *Sonoma Valley Unified School District*  
17850 Railroad Avenue, Sonoma, CA 95476  
Phone: (707) 935-4246  
rseifts@sonomaschools.org

**Amod Setlur**, Trustee, *Portola Valley School District*  
4575 Alpine Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028  
Phone: (650) 851-1777  
asetlur@pvsd.net

**Camille Shelton**, Chief Legal Counsel, *Commission on State Mandates*  
980 9th Street, Suite 300, Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: (916) 323-3562  
camille.shelton@csm.ca.gov

**Carla Shelton**, *Commission on State Mandates*  
980 9th Street, Suite 300, Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: (916) 323-3562  
carla.shelton@csm.ca.gov

**Steve Shields**, *Shields Consulting Group, Inc.*  
1536 36th Street, Sacramento, CA 95816  
Phone: (916) 454-7310  
steve@shieldscg.com

**Natalie Sidarous**, Chief, *State Controller's Office*  
Local Government Programs and Services Division, 3301 C Street, Suite 740, Sacramento, CA 95816  
Phone: 916-445-8717  
NSidarous@sco.ca.gov

**Samantha Simon**, Special Projects Facilitator, *Montecito Union School District*  
385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108  
Phone: (805) 969-3249  
ssimon@montecitou.org

**Vinita Singh**, Director District Business Services, *Sequoia Union High School District*  
480 James Avenue, Redwood City,, CA 94062  
Phone: (650) 369-1411  
vsingh@seq.org

**Thomas Skaff**, *Hope School District*  
3970 La Colina Road, #14, Santa Barbara, CA 93110  
Phone: (805) 682-2564  
skaffhelping.others@gmail.com

**Michael Smallen**, Trustee, *Fort Ross Elementary School District*  
30600 Seaview Road, Cazadero, CA 95421  
Phone: (707) 847-3390  
mjrksmall@icloud.com

**Jessica Smith**, Board Member, *Montecito Union School District*  
385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108  
Phone: (805) 969-3249  
jsmith@montecitou.org

**Wesley Smith**, Superintendent, *Newport-Mesa Unified School District*  
2985 Bear Street, Costa Mesa, CA 92626  
Phone: (714) 424-5070  
wsmith@nmsud.us

**Melissa Spink**, Student Meals Program Coordinator, *Montecito Union School District*  
385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108  
Phone: (805) 969-3249  
mspink@montecitou.org

**Jestin St. Peter**, Principal, *Hope School District*  
3970 La Colina Road, #14, Santa Barbara, CA 93110

Phone: (805) 682-2564  
jstpeter@hopeschooldistrict.org

**Amy Steets**, *Hope School District*  
3970 La Colina Road, #14, Santa Barbara, CA 93110  
Phone: (805) 682-2564  
amy.steets@gmail.com

**Chana Stewart**, Director of the Early Learning Center, *Menlo Park City School District*  
181 Encinal Ave, Atherton, CA 94027  
Phone: (650) 321-7140  
cstewart@mpcsd.org

**Noah Stites-Hallett**,  
4559 Nueces Drive, Santa Barbara, CA 93110  
Phone: (805) 680-3524  
noah.stiteshallett@gmail.com

**Christina Stokes**, Certificated Teacher, *Montecito Union School District*  
385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108  
Phone: (805) 969-3249  
cstokes@montecitou.org

**Katherine Stratch**, *Menlo Park City School District*  
181 Encinal Ave, Atherton, CA 94027  
Phone: (650) 321-7140  
kstrach@mpcsd.org

**Adrian Talley**, *Hope School District*  
3970 La Colina Road, #14, Santa Barbara, CA 93110  
Phone: (805) 682-2564  
atalley@hopeschooldistrict.org

**Wyatt Talley**, *Hope School District*  
3970 La Colina Road, #14, Santa Barbara, CA 93110  
Phone: (805) 682-2564  
wyatttalley@me.com

**Amy Tang-Paterno**, Educational Fiscal Services Consultant, *California Department of Education*  
Government Affairs, 1430 N Street, Suite 5602, Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: (916) 322-6630  
ATangPaterno@cde.ca.gov

**Sarah Tellez**, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, *Los Gatos Union School District*  
17010 Roberts Road, Los Gatos, CA 95032  
Phone: (408) 335-2000  
stellez@lgusd.org

**Jolene Tollenaar**, *MGT Consulting Group*  
2251 Harvard Street, Suite 134, Sacramento, CA 95815  
Phone: (916) 243-8913  
jolenetollenaar@gmail.com

**Tristin Tracy**, *Hope School District*  
3970 La Colina Road, #14, Santa Barbara, CA 93110  
Phone: (805) 682-2564  
tjt805@yahoo.com

**Jeffrey Trader**, Assistant Superintendent, Chief Business Official, *Newport-Mesa Unified School District*

2985 Bear Street, Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Phone: (714) 424-5003

jtrader@nmusd.us

**Linda Trigueiro**, Certificated Teacher, *Montecito Union School District*

385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108

Phone: (805) 969-3249

ltrigueiro@montecitou.org

**Janet Tufts**, Superintendent, *Howell Mountain Elementary School District*

525 White Cottage Rd. N., Angwin, CA 94508

Phone: (707) 965-2423

jt tufts@hmesd.org

**Brian Uhler**, Principal Fiscal & Policy Analyst, *Legislative Analyst's Office*

925 L Street, Suite 1000, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 319-8328

Brian.Uhler@LAO.CA.GOV

**Bree Valla**, Superintendent-Principal, *Vista Del Mar Union School District*

Vista de las Cruces School, 9467 San Julian Rd., Gaviota, CA 93117

Phone: (805) 686-1880

bvalla@vdmusd.org

**Chris Vanden Heuvel**, Superintendent, *Healdsburg Unified School District*

1028 Prince Street, Healdsburg, CA 95448

Phone: (707) 431-3488

cvandenheuvel@husd.com

**Kay Vang**, Chief Business Official, *St. Helena Unified School District*

465 Main Street, St. Helena, CA 94575

Phone: (707) 967-2704

kvang@sthelenaunified.org

**Jason Vilorio**, Superintendent, *Laguna Beach Unified School District*

550 Blumont Street, Laguna Beach, CA 92651

Phone: (949) 497-7700

jviloria@lbusd.org

**Jill Vinson**, Superintendent, *Cardiff School District*

1888 Montgomery Ave, Cardiff by the Sea, CA 92007

Phone: (760) 632-5890

jill.vinson@cardiffschools.com

**Gilbert Wai**, Board Member, *Hillsborough City School District*

300 El Cerrito Avenue, Hillsborough, CA 94010

Phone: (650) 342-5193

the3wais@gmail.com

**Julie Walsmith**, Employee, *Hope School District*

3970 La Colina Road, #14, Santa Barbara, CA 93110

Phone: (805) 682-2564

jwalsmith@hopeschooldistrict.org

**Adam Whelen**, Director of Public Works, *City of Anderson*

1887 Howard St., Anderson, CA 96007

Phone: (530) 378-6640  
awhelen@ci.anderson.ca.us

**Selina Wimmel**, School Office Assistant, *Montecito Union School District*  
385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108  
Phone: (805) 969-3249  
swimmel@montecitou.org

**Colleen Winchester**, Senior Deputy City Attorney, *City of San Jose*  
200 East Santa Clara Street, 16th Floor, San Jose, CA 95113  
Phone: (408) 535-1987  
Colleen.Winchester@sanjoseca.gov

**Leisa Winston**, Superintendent, *Huntington Beach City School District*  
8750 Dorsett Drive, Huntington Beach, CA 92646  
Phone: (714) 964-8888  
lwinston@hbcsd.us

**Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez**, Deputy Executive Director for Legislative Affairs, *California State Association of Counties (CSAC)*  
1100 K Street, Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: (916) 650-8104  
jwong-hernandez@counties.org

**Elisa Wynne**, Staff Director, *Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee*  
California State Senate, State Capitol Room 5019, Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: (916) 651-4103  
elisa.wynne@sen.ca.gov

**Bruce Yonehiro**, Chief Counsel, *California Department of Education*  
1430 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-5901  
Phone: (916) 319-0860  
BYonehiro@cde.ca.gov

**Roberta Zarea**, Superintendent, *Portola Valley School District*  
4575 Alpine Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028  
Phone: (650) 851-1777  
rzarea@pvsd.net

**Ron Zecher**, Certificated Teacher, *Montecito Union School District*  
385 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108  
Phone: (805) 969-3249  
rzecher@montecitou.org

**Helmholt Zinser-Watkins**, Associate Governmental Program Analyst, *State Controller's Office*  
Local Government Programs and Services Division, Bureau of Payments, 3301 C Street, Suite 700,  
Sacramento, CA 95816  
Phone: (916) 324-7876  
HZinser-watkins@sco.ca.gov