OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

August 25, 2026

Dear County and District Superintendents, Charter School Leaders, and School Community Partners,

As we welcome students and families back for a new school year, we want to reaffirm our shared commitment to ensuring every student in California has access to a safe, supportive, and welcoming learning environment.

California's schools serve students and families from diverse backgrounds, languages, and lived experiences. This diversity is one of our greatest strengths. It also requires continued focus on creating school communities where all students feel a sense of belonging and all families feel respected, valued, and supported.

For many families – particularly immigrant families – schools serve as trusted places of connection, stability, and support. Beyond academic instruction, schools often act as a critical bridge to resources and services that help students and families thrive.

We recognize that some families may be experiencing uncertainty, stress, or barriers related to health care, housing, food insecurity, or access to trusted community resources and information in their primary language. During these times, schools play an essential role in helping families feel connected and supported.

California has made historic investments in community schools and integrated student supports to help districts better meet the needs of students and families – particularly in times of uncertainty.

As a result of the budget I signed this year, and in partnership with the Legislature, California invested an additional $100 million to strengthen schools' capacity to:

- Provide integrated academic, social service, and legal supports to students and families

It's also important to note that in California's public schools, the law requires that the following be upheld:

1. **Non-Discrimination:** All students, including those who are undocumented or come from immigrant families, have the right to attend public school, participate in school activities, and receive a quality education without discrimination.
2. **Safe School Environment:** Legislation that I signed last year ensures that students and families feel safe attending California schools by ensuring that (1) schools are prohibited from voluntarily granting access to campus by immigration enforcement officers in the absence of a judicial warrant or court order; (2) school officials are prohibited from collecting information or documents about the citizenship or immigration status of students or their parents or guardians, unless explicitly required by law; and (3) all school districts' adopted comprehensive school safety plans include procedures to notify parents and guardians of pupils, teachers, administrators, and school personnel of confirmed immigration enforcement presence on the schoolsite.
3. **Confidentiality of Student Information:** Legislation that I signed last year affirms that schools must protect the privacy of their students by prohibiting them from sharing personal information about students or their family members for immigration enforcement purposes without a court order or judicial subpoena.

In addition, my administration encourages districts to ensure families can easily access trusted information and referral pathways for:

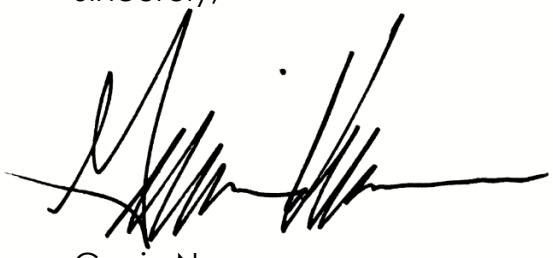
- Health care and mental health support, including free tools for all Californians, such as Brightlife and Soluna
- Housing and food assistance
- Family support and community-based services

Information, toolkits and links to supports are available on our state resource hub and the California Department of Education's related website for sharing with your greater school community. We hope these resources are useful and we intend to update them as the need arises.

Together, we can ensure every child feels safe, supported, and ready to thrive – and every family knows they have trusted partners in their local schools.

In closing, as we begin this school year, we are grateful for your leadership and your continued commitment to California's students and families. The work you do each day creates opportunities for students to learn, grow, and succeed.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom
Governor of California