



## **CUE Legislative Update**

**Prepared by John Cradler, CUE Legislative Consultant**

**November 5, 2017**

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This update covers current bills and the resolution that CUE is supporting. Between now and January, legislators are considering ideas and needs for new bills that would be introduced in January 2018. I met with Assembly Member Kevin Mullin last Friday at a luncheon and established that we would get together soon to discuss ideas for possible new legislation. Later this month I am meeting with Michael Kirst, State Board of Education President, and Manny Barbara, CEO of the Silicon Valley Education Foundation, to discuss possible legislation pertaining to regionalizing educational resources from K-14. I will also share with Mike Kirst the CUE Platform and the role we are playing in legislative advocacy. If anyone has ideas for programs, projects, or policies that you believe should be supported with legislation, let me know.

### **AJR 7 Update:**

*AJR 7 Resolved that The CA Legislature respectfully urges the President of the United States and members of the United States Congress to continue to protect net neutrality, open Internet access, the federal Lifeline program's discounted telephone service for qualifying low-income consumers, and the E-rate program's discounted telecommunication and Internet access services for schools and libraries. (lines 33-39 of AJR 7)*

Now that AJR 7 has passed both houses of the California Legislature, the following actions are taking place:

1. The Chief Clerk of the Assembly will transmit copies of AJR 7 to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the author for appropriate distribution.
2. A press release was prepared and distributed by CUE to the media resulting in articles related to the resolution appearing in a variety of publications to include *THE Journal*.
3. The final resolution was sent to FCC Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel to be shared with the other members of the FCC. I had been in touch with Rosenworcel as we were moving the resolution through the CA legislature, and she provided significant encouragement and offered assistance.
4. The chaptered version of AJR 7 was also distributed to the Legislative Advocacy Representatives for associations that provided support letters to include: CoSN, ISTE, SETDA, and NCTET.

The final chaptered and enrolled version of AJR 7 can be found at:

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201720180AJR7](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AJR7)

### **AB 1665, *Internet for All Now Act* Signed by the Governor**

AB 1665, by Eduardo Garcia, was approved by the governor on October 14, 2017. The overall goal of AB 1665 is to approve funding by December 31, 2022 for infrastructure projects that will provide broadband access to no less than 98% of California households as identified by the California Public Utilities Commission on or before January 1, 2017. **CUE provided testimony and supported this bill.**

The bill would make funds from the Rural and Urban Regional Broadband Consortia Grant Account available to facilitate the deployment of broadband infrastructure by assisting infrastructure grant applicants in the project development or grant application process. Schools and libraries are included, with the potential for additional funding to support increased bandwidth and connectivity as needed. This bill addresses the need for students to have home-access to broadband in typically underserved areas, thereby addressing the “homework gap.” Following are some of the major purposes of this bill:

1. Requires the CPUC to identify priority unserved areas to achieve the legislature’s goal of 98% deployment in each region and set objectives for timely decisions.
2. Maintains funding priority for last-mile unserved households and allows improvements in underserved areas only if adjacent to unserved areas.
3. Ensures most disadvantaged residents living in publicly-subsidized housing will be online and able to participate in the digital economy to get out of poverty.
4. Makes available \$300,000 from the CPUC into a Broadband Infrastructure Account to support the provision of the bill.

Details on the process for schools and libraries and relevant entities about how to apply for funding under the provisions of SB 1665 will be made available to CUE members. CUE leadership should be aware that previous Legislative Advocacy Award recipient Sunne McPeak, with the California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF), played a leadership role in getting this bill developed, amended, and processed through the legislature. For bill text and analysis go [here](#).

**Nomination for CUE Legislator of the Year:** After being nominated by John Cradler, the CUE Legislative Advocacy Committee agreed to submit Kevin Mullin, Assembly Member and Speaker pro Tempore, to be awarded the CUE Legislator of the Year Award. Kevin Mullin was the author of AJR 7, and a principal co-author of AB 1665, the Internet for All Act.

## Other State Bills of Interest to CUE

**AB 37 (O'Donnell):** This bill would require the superintendent to additionally recommend **visual and performing arts standards in the subject of media arts** and require that those recommendations go through the same development, public review, and approval process for recommended revisions to the visual and performing arts content standards.

- *Status:* Passed 7/24/17 – CUE position is support.

**SB 135 (Dodd):** This bill would require the commission to develop, and the state board to adopt, reject, or modify, a **model curriculum in media literacy—for kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive**. The bill would require the commission to submit the model curriculum to the state board on or before January 1, 2019 and would require the state board to adopt, reject, or modify the model curriculum on or before March 31, 2019.

- *Status:* Passed the senate floor, and Assembly Education Committee (6-0) and is now on the suspense file at the Senate Appropriations Committee. This is still an active bill in “committee process.” – CUE position is support.

**SB 203 (Jackson):** This bill would require, on or before December 1, 2018, the Superintendent of Public Instruction to identify best practices and recommendations for instruction in **digital citizenship, Internet safety, and media literacy** and to report to the appropriate fiscal and policy committees of the legislature on strategies to implement the best practices and recommendations statewide.

- *Status:* Passed Senate Education Committee and in Senate Appropriations Committee is on the suspense file. This is still an active bill in “committee process.” – CUE position is support.

**SB 577 (Hill):** This bill would authorize up to **five community college districts to offer a teacher credentialing program of professional preparation** that meets specified requirements, including that the program has been accredited by the commission’s Committee on Accreditation on the basis of standards of program quality and effectiveness.

- *Status:* Passed the assembly, now on hold and referred to the Committee on Higher Education. This is still an active bill in “committee process.” – CUE position is watch.

**AB 418 (Chau), Computer Science Grant Program:** This bill would establish the Computer Science Education Grant Pilot Program under the administration of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. **Under the program, eligible local educational agencies, as defined, could apply to receive grants, not to exceed two years, to establish and maintain computer science courses** in underserved areas and among pupils from groups historically underrepresented in the field of computer science, and to provide professional development for teachers to teach computer science, either as a stand-alone course or as integrated into other courses.

- *Status:* This is an active bill in “committee process.” – CUE position is support.

**AB 375 (Chau), California Broadband Internet Privacy Act:** As mentioned in the last update, AB 375 seeks to ensure that California protects students’ online privacy while offering basic protections to all

broadband Internet users. After much opposition from cable providers and other corporations, the bill was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee for amendments to be considered. **CUE members provided testimony in support of this bill.**

- *Status:* On 9/16/17 the bill was ordered to the inactive file by Senator McGuire.

**How to locate and monitor progress on California bills:** The California Legislative Information website makes it easy for anyone to access and track progress on state bills and resolutions. A "Daily Updates" report feature displays: 1) activity the previous day such as new analyses, 2) hearings, 3) placement on the Daily File, 4) amendments, 4) history actions with votes, and more. To use this free legislative information service go to: <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billSearchClient.xhtml>.

## **CDE Funding Update**

**ESSA Transition Plan:** With the enactment of the ESSA, California will combine local, state, and federal requirements into a single, coherent system for planning, accountability, and continuous improvement and support. Each part of the emerging system will align with the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) to support continuous learning and improvement, equity, and transparency. The transition plan describes how California will use the 2016–17 school year to transition from current separate state and federal processes systems into a single, coherent system starting in the 2017–18 school year. For details about ESSA go to: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/re/es/essa1617transplan.asp>.

**ESSA Title IV-A:** Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants will be established which are intended to: 1) provide all students with access to a well-rounded education; 2) improve school conditions for student learning; and 3) improve the use of technology in order to improve the academic achievement and digital literacy of all students.

**Implications of ESSA for educational technology:** Most of the ESSA funding will be merged with LCFF, which means that schools/districts would need to incorporate technology-related resources into the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). This process was described in prior *OnCUE* articles. The ESSA Title IV-A funding would be obtained through a separate planning process. Soon more information will become available from the CDE regarding funding levels and the application process for ESSA funding.

Note: We stay in touch with Geoff Belleau, the CDE Educational Technology Consultant, for updates on ESSA and other initiatives relevant to CUE.

## **CUE to Host State Superintendent Candidate Forum**

It is strongly supported by the CUE Legislative Advocacy Committee that CUE host a forum whereby each of the two candidates for State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) addresses questions relevant to education and technology at the March CUE Conference. The candidates are [Tony Thurmond](#) and [Marshall Tuck](#). Former State Superintendent of Public Instruction Delaine Eastin has agreed to moderate the forum. CUE will need to establish details and invitation letters.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/delaine-eastin-4160814/>. Sponsoring this forum will be an opportunity to educate the candidates about educational technology and CUE. We have always found it to be quite valuable

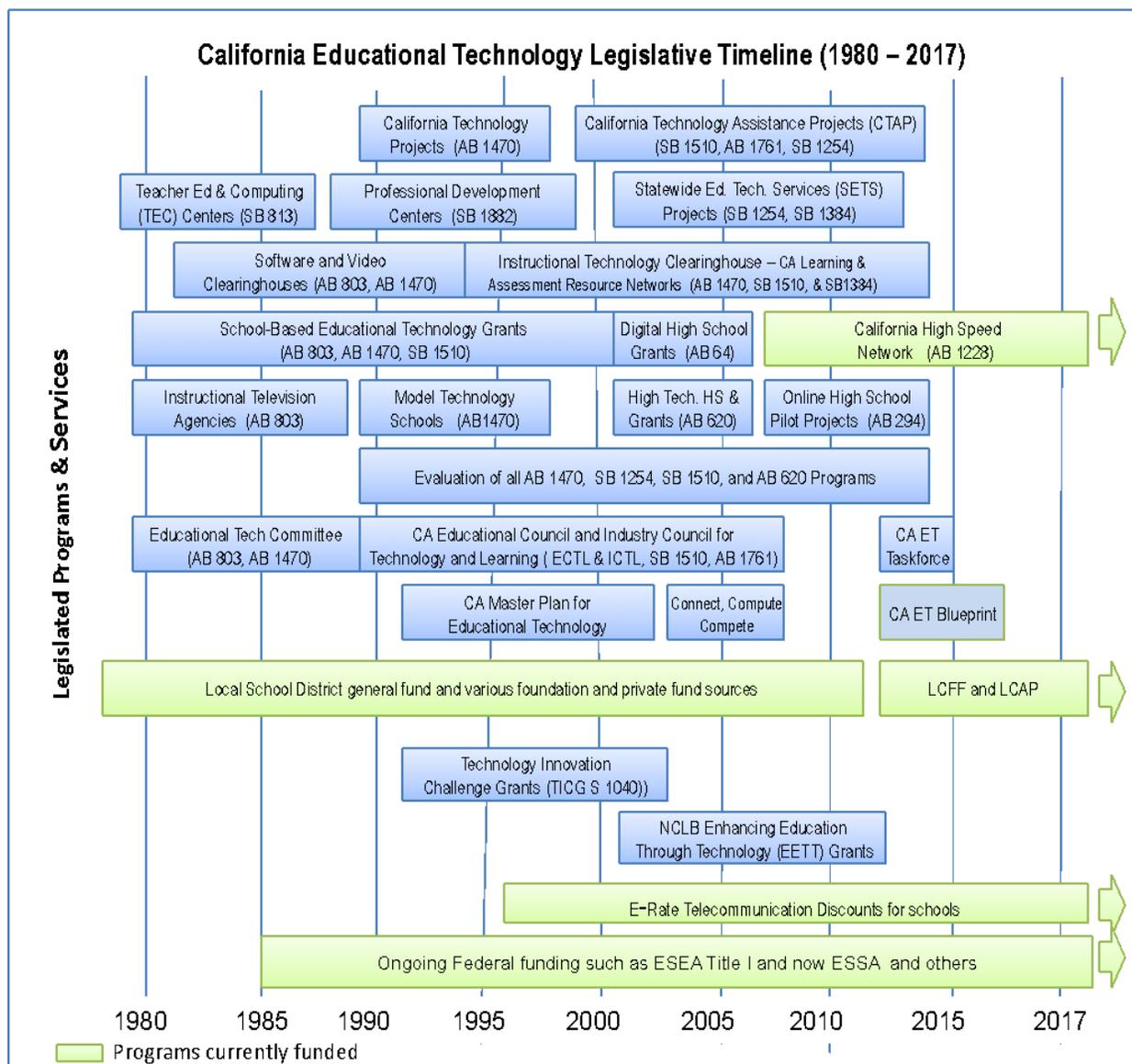
to be able to work with the SPI and the CDE in the development of policies and programs related to educational technology.

### **California Educational Technology Legislative History**

For the CUE 40-year history project, I prepared an article with a graphic for the next issue of *OnCUE* that illustrates the many programs and projects supporting the access to, and educational use of, technology to support teaching and learning, made possible by state and federal legislation. As the CUE legislative representative, I was able to involve CUE directly or indirectly in almost all of this legislation. In most cases CUE would be a partner association in supporting these bills along with ACSA, CTA, CSEA, CDE, and others.

Each of the bills was developed to address well-documented needs. Needs included providing for equity of access to professional development, effective educational applications of technology, information on new and emerging technology, planning and managing educational technology programs, using technology to support student assessment and related data management, online access to instruction and professional learning, and much more. A few years ago, funding for these programs was eliminated and consolidated into the current Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

The graphic on the following page shows that funding for most of the state programs and projects has been consolidated into LCFF, leaving funding decisions at the local level. Educators are now finding that the aforementioned resources are still needed—especially the professional development and the clearinghouse for the identification of electronic learning and assessment resources that support Common Core State Standards. LCFF has created an equity issue in that wealthier districts can afford needed staff development and support, while others must use most of the LCFF funding for salaries and other basic costs. Furthermore, most of the programs to include CTAP, CLRN, and MTS were extensively evaluated and found to be a cost-effective resource to enable teachers and administrators to effectively implement technology in support of state curriculum standards.



## CUE Advocacy

The focus on advocacy is to influence implementation of existing programs to include collaborating with other education associations, proactively developing state legislation, providing policy advice on the development of new state and federal education initiatives, and continuing to monitor and take positions on current and emerging legislation and initiatives relevant to the CUE advocacy platform.

As opportunities arise, CUE will continue to be proactive in the development, co-development, and sponsorship of state and federal legislation and resolutions. The CUE Legislative Advocacy Committee meets monthly to take positions on relevant bills and other related actions suggested by the CUE legislative consultants and the committee members. Anyone who is interested in being involved in supporting the CUE advocacy effort should contact Mary Kopp, CUE Senior Program Manager, at [mkopp@cue.org](mailto:mkopp@cue.org), John Cradler at [cradler@earthlink.net](mailto:cradler@earthlink.net), or John Fleischman at [johnfleischman@gmail.com](mailto:johnfleischman@gmail.com).