Absolutely we did! Not only did over a hundred CCEA members fly up to Carson for our 2023 Lobby Day, but our legislative team maintained a strong presence throughout the session!

Working together with the governor and legislative leaders, added $2.4 billion to the education budget and passed SB231 to allocate an additional $250 million for educator raises.

In addition to this historic funding, CCEA also had an ambitious policy agenda and passed a number of bills that will be in effect this year!

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Yeah, I’ve seen those funding numbers a lot—that’s great!! Can you also tell me more about the policy bills you mentioned?

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What about the reorg and SOTs? It seems like right now, they just act as a rubber stamp for what principals want.

You’re absolutely right.

After four years of the school district reorganization, we also sought to strengthen SOTs and address the issue of principals not spending their allocated budgets on improving student outcomes, passing over licensed educators in favor of hiring subs to fill vacancies, and hoarding so-called carryover dollars in perpetuity.

SB282 does a number of key things:

First, it gives SOTs voting authority over school budgets and plans of operation and more say over the selection of a new principal in the case of a vacancy—now your vote actually matters!

Second, it puts guardrails in place around carryover dollars, requiring principals to spend 95% of these funds within 24 months specifically on improving student achievement.

And lastly, it requires the selection of staff to be in compliance with our collective bargaining agreements.

It sounds like this will give SOTs a lot more teeth?

How can I get involved in the SOT at my school this year?

We’ve included all the information you need to know about joining your SOT this upcoming school year right over here >>>

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Join your School Organizational Team!

SOT elections are coming up, and thanks to the changes made by SB282, there’s never been a better time to join yours and make a real impact in your school!

CCEA will be sending out more information as the process approaches and is available to answer any more questions you may have about what serving entails. In the meantime, here are the key dates you need to keep in mind:

2023-2024 SOT Nominations: September 5th - September 19th

Accept/Decline Deadline: 12:00pm | September 20th

2023-2024 SOT Elections: September 21st - September 25th

Accept/Decline Deadline: 6:00am | September 29th
You're right to be concerned! Safety was a top priority for us this session.
The rise in school violence that we've seen in recent years has been unprecedented. Our schools are not safe, and our educators and students alike don't feel safe on our CCSD campuses.

In fact, the lack of safety in our schools is a top reason why educators are leaving the district, and it's a major driver of chronic student absenteeism. Hundreds of weapons were confiscated in our schools during the 2022-2023 school year. Simply put, the status quo, when it comes to school safety, is a school shooting just waiting to happen.

That's why CCEA worked with Assemblywoman Angie Taylor—who we heavily supported in the 2022 election—to move her Assembly Bill 285, and directly with Governor Lombardo to move his Assembly Bill 330, to ensure every bus, every classroom, and every campus in CCSD is safe for educators and students alike.

It's no secret that one of the biggest issues we're facing in CCSD is a dysfunctional School Board of Trustees, who—as one lawmaker put it—act more like they're on Desperate Housewives than the professionals focused on student outcomes that we need them to be.

Together with the Chair of Assembly Education, Asm. Bilbray-Axelrod, and Republican Asm. Yurek, we passed Assembly Bill 175 to address this dysfunction.

That's why we worked with Sen. Pazina, who we heavily backed in 2022, to pass Senate Bill 292.

Along with reinstating a three year probationary period for principals, SB292 also puts consequences in place for principals who are responsible for creating these toxic school climates.

Under this legislation, after one year of more than 50% staff turnover and a drop in academic rating, the Area Superintendent is required to provide mentorship to those principals. After the second year, if these issues continue, those principals would be subject to removal.

Our goal with this legislation is to create a culture of deterrence on our campuses to prevent violent and disruptive student behavior from occurring and ensuring there are appropriate consequences if it does occur.

Key for our members is that your hands are no longer tied when it comes to removing a student from school who is violent with an intent to cause harm.

Definitely! Increased accountability for admin was also a major priority for us this session.

We've seen a huge rise in toxic school climates across CCSD, where unaccountable principals are brought in, and, as a result of their failed leadership, educators and staff flee and student performance plummets.

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The requirements for intervention in this legislation intentionally represent a very high threshold, and the language of this bill was in place between 2015 and 2019 before being quietly repealed in an omnibus education bill at the very end of the session that year.

While it was in effect, not a single principal lost their position because this policy worked effectively as a deterrent.

The intent of this legislation was not to be punitive, but rather to ensure we have an effective and collaborative principal in every school site.

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Thank you so much!