California provides instruction and support services to roughly 5.9 million students in grades kindergarten through twelve in more than 10,000 schools throughout the state. A system of 58 county offices of education, more than 1,000 local school districts, and more than 1,200 charter schools provides instruction in English, mathematics, history, science, and other core competencies to provide students with the skills they will need upon graduation to either enter the workforce or pursue higher education.

The Budget includes total funding of $128.6 billion ($78.6 billion General Fund and $50 billion other funds) for all K-12 education programs. The Budget reflects the highest Proposition 98 funding levels ever and provides ongoing funding for core programs such as the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), special education, transitional kindergarten, nutrition, school facilities, preschool and expanded learning.

Proposition 98

Proposition 98 is a voter-approved constitutional amendment that guarantees minimum funding levels for K-12 schools and community colleges (collectively referred to as K-14 schools). The Guarantee, which went into effect in the 1988-89 fiscal year, determines funding levels according to multiple factors including the level of funding in 1986-87, General Fund revenues, per capita personal income, and school attendance growth or decline. The Local Control Funding Formula is the primary mechanism for distributing these funds to support students attending K-12 public schools in California.
The Budget projects the Guarantee to be in Test 1 for 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23. This means that the funding level of the Guarantee is equal to approximately 38.03 percent of General Fund revenues, plus local property tax revenues. To accommodate enrollment increases related to the expansion of transitional kindergarten, the Budget rebenches the Test 1 percentage, from approximately 38.03 percent to approximately 38.3 percent, to increase the percentage of General Fund revenues due to the Guarantee.

The significant increase in revenues projected for 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23 results in a corresponding increase in resources for K-14 schools. The Budget reflects Proposition 98 funding levels of $96.1 billion in 2020-21, $110.2 billion in 2021-22, and $110.4 billion in 2022-23, representing a three-year increase in the minimum Guarantee of $35.8 billion over the level funded in the 2021 Budget Act.

**Proposition 98 Rainy Day Fund**

The Budget includes 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23 payments of approximately $3.1 billion, $4 billion, and $2.2 billion (respectively) into the Public School System Stabilization Account, for a balance of more than $9.5 billion at the end of 2022-23. Under current law, there is a cap of 10 percent on school district reserves in fiscal years immediately succeeding those in which the balance in the Account is equal to or greater than 3 percent of the total K-12 share of the Guarantee. The balance of $7.1 billion in 2021-22 triggers school district reserve caps beginning in 2022-23.

**Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF)**

The Budget includes an LCFF cost-of-living adjustment of 6.56 percent—the largest cost-of-living adjustment in the history of LCFF. Additionally, to help school districts and charter schools address ongoing fiscal pressures, staffing shortages, and other operational needs, the Budget includes $4.32 billion ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund to increase LCFF base funding by an additional 6.28 percent. The Budget also includes $101.2 million ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund to augment LCFF funding for county offices of education, which face similar cost pressures to school districts and charter schools.

**School Fiscal Stability**

To support the fiscal stability of all local educational agencies, including those with a declining student population, the Budget allows school districts to use the greater of
current year or prior year average daily attendance or an average of the three prior years’ average daily attendance to calculate LCFF funding. Further, to minimize reductions in LCFF funding that would otherwise occur due to increased absences in 2021-22, the Budget enables all classroom-based local educational agencies that can demonstrate they provided independent study offerings to students in fiscal year 2021-22 to be funded at the greater of their current year average daily attendance or their current year enrollment adjusted for pre-COVID-19 absence rates in the 2021-22 fiscal year.

The Budget also allows all classroom-based charter schools to be funded at the greater of their current year average daily attendance or their current year enrollment adjusted for pre-COVID-19 absence rates in the 2021-22 fiscal year.

The Budget reflects $2.8 billion ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund and $413 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund to implement these school fiscal stabilization policies.

**Learning Recovery Emergency Block Grant**

The Budget establishes the Learning Recovery Emergency Fund and appropriates $7.9 billion one-time Proposition 98 General Fund to support the Learning Recovery Emergency Block Grant. This block grant will support local educational agencies in establishing learning recovery initiatives through the 2027–28 school year and these funds can be used for any of the following purposes:

- **Instructional Learning Time**—Increasing the number of instructional days or minutes provided during the school year and/or summer school or intersessional instructional programs;
- **Closing Learning Gaps**—Accelerating progress to close learning gaps through the implementation, expansion, or enhancement of learning supports, such as tutoring or other one-on-one or small group learning supports;
- **Pupil Supports**—Integrating pupil supports to address other barriers to learning, and staff supports and training, such as the provision of health, counseling, or mental health services, including the provision of such supports through a community schools model;
• **Instruction**—Providing access to instruction for credit-deficient pupils to complete graduation or grade promotion requirements and to increase or improve pupils’ college eligibility; and,

• **Academic Services**—Providing additional academic services for pupils, such as diagnostic, progress monitoring, and benchmark assessments of pupil learning.

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**ARTS, MUSIC, AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS DISCRETIONARY BLOCK GRANT**

The Budget provides $3.6 billion one-time Proposition 98 General Fund to schools districts, county offices of education, charter schools, and the state special schools to be spent on a variety of purposes, including arts and music programs, obtaining standards-aligned professional development, acquiring instructional materials, developing diverse book collections, operational costs, and expenses related to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

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**COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

Community schools partner with education, county, and nonprofit entities to provide integrated health, mental health, and social services alongside high-quality, supportive instruction, with a strong focus on community, family, and student engagement. The 2021 Budget Act included $3 billion Proposition 98 General Fund, available over several years, to expand and strengthen the implementation and use of the community school model to all schools in communities with high levels of poverty. This investment supported a whole-child framework for school transformation to guide local educational agencies in planning and implementing other recent state investments in universal nutrition, before/after school and summer school enrichment and care, universal transitional kindergarten, behavioral health supports, and other similar initiatives.

To further support the implementation of the community school model for use in schools in communities with high levels of poverty, the Budget includes additional funding of approximately $1.1 billion one-time Proposition 98 General Fund to assure that eligible local educational agencies interested in applying on behalf of its high-needs schools have access to the community schools grants.
**EDUCATOR WORKFORCE**

Preparing, training, and recruiting a diverse, expert workforce of administrative, credentialed, and classified staff to work in public K-12 schools is critical to the success of the entire system. This is especially true given current staffing shortages that have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 Pandemic. The 2021 Budget Act included $2.9 billion to accelerate the preparation and support the training and retention of well-prepared educators. To further support this effort, the Budget includes $48.1 million General Fund for the following:

- **Teacher Examination Fees**—$24 million one-time General Fund in 2022-23 and 2023-24 to waive certain teacher examination fees.

- **Integrated Teacher Preparation Programs**—$20 million one-time General Fund to support a competitive grant program that provides grants to public and private institutions to develop and implement integrated teacher preparation programs.

- **Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) Support**—$2.7 million General Fund for state operations support at the CTC, including workload associated with the administration of multiple grant programs, data gathering efforts, and early childhood education preparation and licensure activities.

- **Career Counselors**—$1.4 million General Fund to establish career counselors for prospective educators at the CTC.

- **Substitute Teaching Assignments**—Extending statute authorizing any holder of a credential or permit issued by the CTC to serve in a substitute teaching assignment aligned with their authorization, including for staff vacancies, for up to 60 cumulative days for any one assignment.

**TEACHER AND SCHOOL COUNSELOR RESIDENCIES**

An important foundation of a whole child-centered school transformation effort is a well-prepared workforce of teachers and school counselors. To increase the pipeline of teachers and school counselors, the Budget provides $250 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund to expand residency slots for teachers and school counselors. The Budget also enables school counselor, social worker, and psychologist candidates to be eligible for the Golden State Teacher Grant Program, which provides incentives to individuals to consider earning a credential and serving at a priority school in California for four years, within eight years after completing a preparation program.
**Educator Support for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Instruction**

To support educators in providing effective STEM instruction that engages and inspires students, the Budget includes $85 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund to create Pre-K through 12 grade educator resources and professional learning to implement the Next Generation Science Standards, the California Math Framework, the California Computer Science Standards, and the math and science domains of the California Preschool Learning Foundations. These funds will also support the alignment of other state STEM educator support initiatives (i.e., UC Subject Matter Projects, Early Math Initiative, etc.) with this work, to create a cohesive statewide continuum of instructional supports for all STEM educators.

The Budget also provides $35 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund, available over three years, to continue the work of the Educator Workforce Investment Grant program in the areas of computer science, special education and support for English Learners.

**State Preschool**

The Budget invests $312.7 million Proposition 98 General Fund and $172.3 million General Fund to increase State Preschool Program adjustment factors for students with disabilities, dual language learners, and childhood mental health and adds an adjustment factor for three-year-olds. These adjustment factor increases include support for new requirements for State Preschool providers to: (1) incrementally ramp up to serving at least 10 percent students with disabilities by July 1, 2024, and (2) provide additional supportive services for dual language learners. Specifically, over three years, preschool providers would be required to serve 5 percent of students with disabilities in FY 2022-23, 7.5 percent in FY 2023-24 and 10 percent in 2024-25.

Additionally, the Budget enables all students participating in State Preschool to maintain continuous eligibility for 24 months (increased from 12 months) after eligibility is confirmed, enables children with an individualized education program to be categorically eligible to participate in State Preschool, and expands access to eligible families from families at 85 percent of the state median income to families at 100 percent of the state median income for California State Preschool. The Budget includes support for the following:
• **Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program**—$250 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund to support the Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program, which funds infrastructure necessary to support general education and special education students in inclusive classrooms.

• **State Preschool Family Fee Waivers**—For the 2022-23 fiscal year, $10.5 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund and $10.8 million one-time non-Proposition 98 General Fund to waive the family share of cost for children participating in the State Preschool Program.

• **State Preschool Funding Hold Harmless: Reimbursement for Authorized Hours of Care**—For the 2022-23 fiscal year only, reimbursing preschool providers for maximum authorized care, from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.

**Other Significant Adjustments:**

• **Local Educational Agency Preschool Planning and Implementation Grants**—The Budget includes $300 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund for planning and implementation grants for all local educational agencies.

• **Full-Year Costs of State Preschool Rate Increases**—The Budget provides $166.2 million Proposition 98 General Fund to support the full-year costs of State Preschool rate increases that began January 1, 2022.

• **After School Education and Safety and 21st Century Community Learning Centers programs**—The Budget provides $148.7 million one-time General Fund to maintain reimbursement rate increases from the 2021 Budget Act for the After School Education and Safety and 21st Century Community Learning Centers programs in fiscal year 2022-23.

• **California Universal Preschool Planning Grant Program**—The Budget provides $18.3 million General Fund per year for three years, to support the California Universal Preschool Planning Grant Program, which will support preschool planning within the state’s mixed delivery system consistent with the state’s Master Plan for Early Education.

• **2021-2022 State Preschool Family Fee Waivers**—For the 2021-22 school year, the Budget provides an additional $1.1 million one-time General Fund to augment funding previously provided to waive the family share of cost for children participating in the State Preschool Program.
• **Early Identification for Learning Disabilities**—The Budget provides $2 million one-time General Fund to incorporate early identification for learning disabilities into the state’s preschool assessment tools, including a process for follow-up by expert evaluators.

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**TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN**

The Budget provides $614 million ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund to, beginning in the 2022-23 school year, to support the first year of expanded eligibility for transitional kindergarten, shifting from all children turning five-years-old between September 2 and December 2 to all children turning five-years-old between September 2 and February 2. Additionally, the Budget provides $383 million Proposition 98 General Fund to add one additional certificated or classified staff person to every transitional kindergarten class, reducing student-to-adult ratios to more closely align with the State Preschool Program.

The Budget also increases the pipeline of qualified transitional kindergarten teachers by allowing the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to issue a one-year emergency specialist teaching permit in early childhood education that authorizes the permit holder to teach transitional kindergarten provided that they hold a bachelor’s degree or higher, a valid child development permit, and meet certain subject matter requirements.

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**EXPANDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM**

The 2021 Budget Act included $1 billion ongoing and $753 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund in the first year of a multi-year investment plan to implement expanded-day, full-year instruction and enrichment for all elementary school students, with a focus on local educational agencies with the highest concentrations of low-income students, English language learners, and youth in foster care. At the release of the 2021 Budget Act, the state projected that full fiscal implementation of the program would not take place until 2025-26.

The Budget accelerates the implementation of this program by allocating an additional $3 billion ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund to the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program, increasing total ongoing program funding to $4 billion. Consistent with the implementation plan outlined in the Governor’s Budget, beginning in 2023-24, local educational agencies will be required to offer expanded learning opportunities to all...
low-income students, English language learners, and youth in foster care. Local educational agencies with the highest concentrations of these students will be required to offer expanded learning opportunities to all elementary students. The Budget continues to assume that full fiscal implementation of the program will take place by 2025-26.

**EARLY LITERACY**

To increase grade-level reading proficiency among young readers, and to provide access to effective literacy supports to California children, the Budget provides $250 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund, available over five years, for grants to high-needs schools to train and hire literacy coaches and reading specialists to guide productive classroom instruction and to offer one-on-one and small group intervention for struggling readers. Additionally, the Budget provides $10 million one-time General Fund for the Department of Public Health to partner with First 5 California on the Books for Children Program.

The Budget also includes statutory language that clarifies that Expanded Learning Opportunities Program funds may be used to hire literacy tutors that would assist students as part of the program’s enrichment activities.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE**

To build the capacity of local educational agencies to engage more effectively with their communities, the 2018 Budget Act included $13.3 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund, available over five years, to create the Community Engagement Initiative. This program, administered by the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence, disseminates best practices for school-community interaction through peer-to-peer coaching among local educational agencies, who work through an intentional process to improve community relational capacity. Thus far, the Initiative has reached several dozen local educational agencies.

To further positive relationship building between schools and their communities, the Budget scales up the initiative by providing an additional $100 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund to expand the reach of the program to hundreds of additional local educational agencies. Additionally, the work done by local educational agencies that participate in the initiative will align with work to build community schools, for which community engagement is a core value.
SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Budget reflects the state’s ongoing commitment to invest in and improve instruction and services for students with disabilities. Specifically, the Budget includes the following investments and policy changes:

- $500 million ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund for the special education funding formula, paired with the following policy changes to further the state’s commitment to improving special education instruction and services:
  - Amending the special education funding formula to calculate special education base funding allocations at the local educational agency level, rather than the special education local plan area level.
  - Consolidating two special education extraordinary cost pools into a single cost pool to simplify the current funding formula, and increasing funding by $14 million ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund.
  - Beginning in 2023-24, allocating Educationally Related Mental Health Services funding directly to local educational agencies rather than to SELPAs.
  - Developing an Individuals with Disabilities Education Act addendum to the Local Control and Accountability Plan to support inclusive planning and promote cohesion between special education and general education planning.
  - Supporting efforts to develop comprehensive Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) by focusing a special education resource lead on IEP best practices, and establishing an expert panel to continue the work of creating a model IEP template.
  - Establishing a pathway to a diploma for students who take the California Alternate Assessment and providing resources to identify alternative coursework options for students with disabilities to demonstrate completion of the state graduation requirements.

- $2 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund to create resources for inclusionary practices for families and communities.

- $2 million ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund to establish a special education resource lead to support families of pupils with disabilities and provide capacity building, training, and technical assistance on family support for families of pupils with disabilities, and conflict prevention and alternate dispute resolution in special education.
In addition to these resources and programmatic improvements, the Budget includes $849,000 General Fund and 6 positions to support the State Department of Education’s efforts to strengthen the transition process of young children with disabilities from federal Part C services (provided by regional centers) to federal Part B services (provided by school districts). These resources are paired with $65.5 million in fiscal year 2022-23 that rises to $82.5 million in fiscal year 2023-24 for the Department of Developmental Services and regional centers to strengthen the transition process (see the Health and Human Services Chapter for additional information about these initiatives). Finally, the Budget includes statutory changes to support the continuity of services provided to young children with disabilities by enhancing coordination between the Departments and supporting parents’ ability to access the resources and information needed to be active participants in the transition process.

COLLEGE AND CAREER PATHWAYS

The Budget includes a multi-pronged strategy to train workers to meet critical job needs to support California’s economic growth. Promoting pathways in technology, healthcare, education, and climate-related fields allow students to advance seamlessly from high school to college and career and provide the workforce needed for economic growth. To enhance and expand the offering of these educational pathways, the Budget includes:

• $500 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund over seven years to support the development of pathway programs focused on technology (including computer science, green technology, and engineering), health care, education (including early education), and climate-related fields. These programs are predicated on developing local partnerships that bring together school systems, higher education institutions, employers, and other relevant community stakeholders.

• $200 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund, available over five years, to strengthen and expand student access and participation in dual enrollment opportunities. Dual enrollment allows high school students to take classes that both count towards high school graduation and earning college credit, with some students able to graduate high school with an associate’s degree.

HOME-TO-SCHOOL-TRANSPORTATION

To support school transportation programs, the Budget provides $637 million ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund to reimburse local educational agencies for up to
60 percent of their transportation costs in the prior year. Additionally, commencing in 2023-24, the Budget reflects the application of an ongoing cost-of-living adjustment to the current LCFF Home-to-School transportation add-on.

**Zero-Emission School Buses**

School bus fleets are dominated by diesel combustion vehicles. These buses create pollution that harms the environment and are costly to operate. The cost of fuel and repairs necessary to maintain a diesel combustion system erode resources that could otherwise be used to support other aspects of school transportation programs.

The Budget includes $1.5 billion one-time Proposition 98 General Fund, available over five years, to support greening school bus fleets through programs that will be operated by the California Air Resources Board and the California Energy Commission. This is part of a larger $6.1 billion package to accelerate the state’s transition to Zero-Emission Vehicles. See Climate Change Chapter for additional detail.

**Nutrition**

In 2020, the U.S. Department of Agriculture allowed states to apply for a waiver of certain requirements connected to the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program. Specifically, California was granted a waiver of income eligibility requirements, which allowed schools to provide subsidized meals to all students regardless of income, and local educational agencies were allowed to receive reimbursement through the federal Seamless Summer Option, which provides a higher reimbursement for meals than the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program. For the 2021-22 school year, schools claiming meals under the Seamless Summer Option received an even higher reimbursement equivalent to the Summer Food Service Program rate. These flexibilities are scheduled to expire on June 30, 2022.

The Budget includes $596 million Proposition 98 General Fund to fund universal access to subsidized school meals. Further, the Budget includes an additional $611.8 million ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund to augment the state meal reimbursement rate sufficient to maintain meal reimbursement rates beginning in 2022-23. This higher rate of reimbursement will enable local educational agencies to continue offering higher-quality and more diverse meals for students. If the federal government extends the waiver that allows for the allocation of higher federal reimbursement rates, any unused state funding for rate increases in 2022-23 would instead be made available for food procurement grants.
Additionally, the Budget includes $600 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund, available over three years, for school kitchen infrastructure upgrades and equipment, food service employee training, and compensation for work related to serving universal meals using more fresh, minimally processed California-grown foods. The Budget also includes $100 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund to support local educational agency procurement practices for plant-based or restricted diet meals, to procure California-grown or California-produced, sustainably grown, whole or minimally processed foods, including for use in plant-based or restricted-diet meals, or to prepare meals fresh onsite. Both of these programs are complementary to the provision of school meals for all students as well as the Farm to School Program.

**Farm to School Program**

The use of local, minimally processed foods in school meals is both healthier for children and better for the environment, allowing students to establish healthy habits that will serve them well into adulthood. The 2021 Budget Act included $60 million one-time General Fund over two years to support the California Farm to School Program, which connects local producers and school food buyers; increases food education opportunities in classrooms, gardens, and on farms; and engages schools and students with the agricultural community.

The Budget strengthens this investment by providing an additional $30 million one-time General Fund to establish additional farm to school demonstration projects with priority towards high-need schools, and $3 million ongoing General Fund to expand the regional California Farm to School Network by adding 16 new positions at the California Department of Food and Agriculture. The network supports local food procurement and farm to school programs throughout the state.

**K-12 School Facilities**

The Kindergarten through Community College Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2016 (Proposition 51), approved by voters in November 2016, authorized $7 billion in state General Obligation bonds to support K-12 school facilities construction. These funds support new construction, modernization, retrofitting, career technical education, and charter school facility projects. The Budget allocates the remaining Proposition 51 bond funds—approximately $1.4 billion—to support school construction projects and provides $1.3 billion one-time General Fund with 2021-22 funds, approximately $2.1 billion one-time General Fund in 2023-24 and $875 million one-time General Fund in 2024-25 to support new construction and modernization projects through the School
Facility Program. Additionally, $250 million one-time General Fund in 2021-22 is provided to support a school facility project in the Lynwood Unified School District.

The Budget also includes $100 million one-time General Fund with 2021-22 funds and $550 million in 2023-24 to support the California Preschool, Transitional Kindergarten and Full-Day Kindergarten Facilities Grant Program. This program’s grant funds may be used to construct new school facilities or retrofit existing school facilities for the purpose of providing transitional kindergarten, full-day kindergarten, or preschool classrooms.

The Budget also includes $30 million Proposition 98 General Fund per year for two years to support eligible facilities costs for the Charter School Facility Grant Program. These funds can be used by eligible charter schools for costs associated with remodeling buildings, deferred maintenance, initial installation or extension of service systems and other built-in equipment, site improvements, and facility modifications to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

OTHER K-12 BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

OTHER SIGNIFICANT ADJUSTMENTS:

• **Classified School Employee Summer Assistance Program**—An increase of $35 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund and $90 million ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund for the Classified School Employee Summer Assistance Program, which provides supplemental pay for classified staff during intersessional months when they are not employed.

• **Model Curricula**—An increase of $14 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund to support county offices of education in developing model curricula related to the Vietnamese American refugee experience, the Cambodian genocide, Hmong history and cultural studies, and Native American studies.

• **Agricultural Career Technical Education Incentive Grant**—An increase of $2 million ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund to support an augmentation to the Agricultural Career Technical Education Incentive Grant program.

• **K-12 Teacher Residency Program Technical Assistance Center**—An increase of $20 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund to Support a K-12 Teacher Residency Program Technical Assistance Center.

• **Accelerated Reading Support**—An increase of $15 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund over three years to support 6,000 teachers in completing the
coursework necessary to receive a supplementary state certification in reading and literacy.

- **Center on Teaching Careers**—An increase of $1.7 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund to the Tulare County Office of Education to support the educator recruitment work of the Center on Teaching Careers.

- **California School for the Deaf-Riverside: Athletic Complex Replacement and Expansion**—An increase of $2.5 million General Fund for the study and preliminary plans phases of an overall $43.1 million General Fund project to replace all outdoor sport fields (football, track, softball, and baseball) and add a stand-alone practice soccer field at the Riverside School for the Deaf. The existing fields date to the opening of the school in the 1950s.