



ASSEMBLY FLOOR ALERT

DATE: August 29, 2018
TO: Members of the California State Assembly
SUBJECT: SB 328 (Portantino)
POSITION: OPPOSE

On behalf of the undersigned organizations representing California statewide groups and local education agencies, we are writing to respectfully oppose SB 328 (Portantino) which is currently on the Assembly Floor. This measure would require all middle and high schools in California (with the exception of those in rural school districts) to change their school day start time to 8:30 a.m. or later by 2021.

Our organizations recognize the importance of maximizing student sleep. However, we must oppose SB 328 because it fails to recognize the negative and disproportionate safety, fiscal, family and community impacts of imposing a one-size-fits all mandate to the determination of when our local schools begin the regular school day. We firmly believe that, in a state as large, geographically and socio-economically diverse as ours, this is a decision that should only be made by locally elected school district trustees—informed by input from parents, teachers and other stakeholders—who know the needs of their students and community.

In many non-rural communities, this bill will not actually result in students getting more sleep. In fact, the bill could have a disproportionately negative impact on lower-income and working families, particularly laborers and service industry employees who don't have the option of starting their work day later. We know from experience that many of these parents will drop their children off at school at the same time they do now, regardless of whether there is supervision, and there is not enough funding from the state for before school programs to ensure the safety of students who will be dropped off early.

Home-to-school transportation throughout California is also underfunded – an issue affecting all urban, suburban and rural California school districts. The ability of school districts to manage and maximize the efficient use of their bus fleet to serve all students is contingent upon being able to stagger school start times. Additional buses and drivers would be necessary to meet local needs if the range of available school start times is reduced, and the bills does not provide funding to cover the associated costs.

It is important to note that examples of out-of-state schools that have implemented later start times, frequently cited by proponents of this bill, may not be applicable given the greater resources available in other states to address these unintended consequences.

For all of these reasons, we must respectfully continue to oppose SB 328 (Portantino) and ask that you once again vote "NO" when it comes before you on the Assembly Floor.

Sincerely,



Nancy Chaires Espinoza
Legislative Advocate
California School Boards Association



Sara Bachez
Assistant Executive Director
California Association of School Business Officials



Jeffrey Frost
Legislative Advocate
California Association of Suburban School Districts



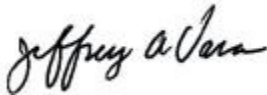
Seth Bramble
Legislative Advocate
California Teachers Association



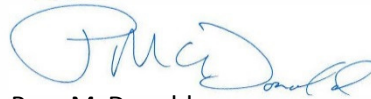
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