



officers

president Rafael Plascencia **president-elect** Daryl F. Camp, Ed.D. **vice president** Rene Rickard, Ed.D.

vice president for legislative action Gina Potter, Ed.D. **past president** Parvin Ahmadi **executive director** Edgar Zazueta, Ed.D.

August 13, 2024

RE: ACSA Responds to Gov. Newsom's Smartphone Policy Letter to School Leaders

ACSA appreciates the governor's letter to school leaders that acknowledges the very real and serious impacts smartphone and social media use have on student mental health. Our members see the negative consequences in academic and behavioral growth regularly and we agree school districts should be empowered to create policies that reflect the needs of their students, educators, and local school community.

Creating new policies can be a time-intensive process and ACSA looks forward to working with the administration and education partners to uplift best practices to assist local school leaders in their efforts.

However, to ensure meaningful improvements to student socio-emotional health, we should also consider a more holistic approach that includes reducing the persistent, negative content that targets young people and perpetuates hateful and harmful content online via social media platforms. Legislation including ACSA's co-sponsored Senate Bill 976 (Skinner) and ACSA-supported Senate Bill 1504 (Stern) are critical policy initiatives that would bolster the local solution of limiting cell phones in school. As schools seek to provide new resources for student behavioral health, we should not overlook the potential of tools that address the source of the problem. We respectfully request the consideration of comprehensive solutions that improve students' well-being.

Media Contact:

Naj Alikhan

ACSA Senior Director of Marketing and Communications

nalikh@acsa.org