



Linda Darling-Hammond, President, and Members of the State Board of Education
State Board of Education
1430 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
Via email: SBE@cde.ca.gov

July 7, 2023

RE: Letter of Support for the 2023 *Mathematics Framework*

Dear President Darling-Hammond and Members of the State Board of Education:

We respectfully submit this letter of support for the *2023 Mathematics Framework* on behalf of the Curricular and Improvement Support Committee (CISC) - Mathematics Subcommittee of the California County Superintendents. As mathematics education specialists working to support excellence and equity in quality mathematics programs within 58 diverse counties, we strongly support the *2023 Mathematics Framework* and urge you to adopt it at this meeting.

Within our 11 service regions of all 58 counties, we are deeply engaged with the teachers, administrators, families, and additional educational partners in local education agencies (LEAs) throughout our state. As such, we see first-hand the untapped mathematical assets of our students and teachers. Simultaneously, we recognize the incredible efforts and commitment to educational excellence in our communities. Adoption of this framework will empower educators to operationalize years of research and evidence and boldly propel California's students forward.

Educators throughout California care deeply about our students' mathematical learning. Emerging from the pandemic's significant and disparate impacts, teachers are seeking clarity and guidance to ensure mathematics learning that is engaging, enjoyable, meaningful, and inclusive. School leaders want and need support in building systems, adopting instructional resources, designing courses, and providing professional learning to support high quality math instruction for each and for every child. Accordingly, all California educators deserve the assurance that comes with the substantial research and thoughtful design of this practical framework. By adopting the *2023 Mathematics*

Framework, we can fulfill our commitment to educators by providing them the proper tools and supports necessary to help them succeed.

As a community of mathematics education specialists working in all 58 counties, we are invested in the purpose and potential of the Mathematics Framework as a guiding document to support our districts, schools, and educators individually and collectively. After careful review, we are eager to implement and actualize the beautifully woven concepts that communicate a vision for school mathematics in California, including:

Equity:

The framework provides multilayered supports - structural, instructional, and cultural - and effective approaches for ending exclusionary practices and creating opportunities that foster mathematical agency and identity for *all* students.

Clarifying the WHY, HOW, and WHAT of mathematics learning:

Through the Drivers of Investigation, the focus on Standards for Mathematical Practice, the Content Connections, and Big Ideas, educators and students will deepen their knowledge of mathematics, and build their internal and interconnected conceptual understanding of mathematics, which can grow, adapt, and continue to evolve throughout their lives. This dimensional approach gives meaning to focus, rigor, and coherence.

Support for Educators:

The Framework equips teachers with the necessary pedagogical tools and knowledge to create engaging and equitable mathematics classrooms. It provides support for leaders to design systems for addressing the needs of the learners they serve, and it is an essential element within our Statewide System of Support.

As experienced educators in the field, we emphatically urge the State Board of Education to adopt the 2023 *Mathematics Framework* for the benefit of California's students. This framework offers a compelling vision and practical design to support our collective efforts for California students. With a focus on relevance and equity, all students are empowered to envision themselves as mathematicians, understanding the why, how, and what of mathematics. Teachers and school leaders need these tools and resources to create dynamic, engaging math programs. The CISC mathematics subcommittee is poised and eager to collaborate with our state agencies and partners to rollout the framework and to develop toolkits and implementation resources tailored to the needs of all schools and districts across our 58 counties. California cannot wait on mathematics

education; we need positive action to push forward and help our children thrive. For these reasons, we strongly support the adoption of the *2023 Mathematics Framework*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ellen Barger', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ellen Barger

CISC Chair

CISC Mathematics Subcommittee Co-Chair

Associate Superintendent, Curriculum & Instruction

Santa Barbara County Office of Education