

May 21, 2025

Assemblymember Buffy Wicks
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 8140
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 95 (Fong) – California Education Interagency Council

Dear Chair Wicks:

Just Equations, an Oakland-based policy institute focused on the important role of mathematics in education equity, is pleased to support AB 95, which would establish the California Education Interagency Council to improve coordination across California’s education and workforce systems.

Through our research and advocacy, Just Equations has highlighted unnecessary math barriers and math misalignments throughout the education pipeline from middle school to college degrees—including with respect to developmental math, math placement, and college admissions. Our most recent report, [A Complex Equation: Confronting Math Barriers on the Path to STEM](#), highlights the maze of inconsistent and often opaque math requirements that complicate community college students’ paths to bachelor’s degrees, particularly in STEM fields, where transfer students are often underrepresented.

The report notes that even well-intended policy reforms are often stymied by inherent tensions between institutional autonomy and systemwide consistency, a dilemma that is hard to address absent statewide coordination. As the report notes, “States with a higher education governing body or coordinating board are better positioned to set priorities and support institutions in reaching them than states such as California, where the three higher education segments operate independently.”

Our education systems serve the same set of students. We owe it to those students—and our state as a whole—to provide streamlined paths to their academic goals, rather than thwart their progress through the arbitrary barriers that occur in the absence of coordination. As you know, those barriers can be greatest for Californians who have historically been excluded from educational opportunity.

The proposed interagency council represents a critical step toward addressing historical fragmentation and to ensuring more efficient, transparent, and evidence-based use not only of the billions of dollars our state invests in education and workforce programs, but also of another precious resource: our students’ time.



We urge your colleagues in the Legislature to join us in supporting AB 95.

Sincerely,

Pamela Burdman

Pamela Burdman
Executive Director