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California State Senate

SENATOR
MARÍA ELENA DURAZO
TWENTY-SIXTH SENATE DISTRICT



CHAIR:
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
MEMBER
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE
NO. 5 ON PUBLIC
SAFETY, JUDICIARY,
TRANSPORTATION & LABOR
BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW
HEALTH
HOUSING
JUDICIARY
LABOR, PUBLIC
EMPLOYMENT & RETIREMENT

June 19, 2026

The Honorable John Laird, Chair
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8720
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: 2026–27 Education Budget Trailer Bill – Indigenous Community Schools Demonstration and Technical Assistance Model

Dear Chair Laird:

I write to request an allocation of **\$5 million** within the 2026–27 Education Budget Trailer Bill. Rather than an isolated school site subsidy, this request represents **a single, integrated investment to scale an existing Indigenous language immersion and community schools demonstration into a statewide technical assistance hub**. The demonstration model is the California Languages of Indigenous Peoples Institute (CALI), an existing initiative of Anahuacalmecac International University Preparatory, a public charter school in Los Angeles.

While California has made significant, admirable investments in the community school framework, the current baseline model fails to reach far enough to effectively sustain and revitalize Indigenous languages or support the specialized needs of Indigenous Youth.

To begin to rectify these long-standing structural disparities, this \$5 million capacity-building investment is structured around two tightly connected functions:

- **An Indigenous Language Immersion Community School Demonstration Model:** CALI, Anahuacalmecac's existing California Languages of Indigenous Peoples

Institute as the operational proof point, building on curriculum, immersion frameworks, and holistic TK-12 college-preparatory pathways already in practice, and scaling them.

- **An Indigenous Community Schools Technical Assistance Hub:** Operating an infrastructure asset aligned to the CCSPP R-TAC model, as a statewide, Indigenous-specific coordinating layer that works alongside the existing eight regional RTACs (including the Greater Los Angeles RTAC). This hub will deploy dedicated technical assistance capacity, coaching, professional learning, partnership protocols, Indigenous student identification tools, and Indigenous language resources.

Establishing a statewide Indigenous language immersion demonstration and technical assistance model would inform development of a statewide framework that integrates culturally responsive educational methods, enhanced family engagement, and comprehensive wraparound services, supporting increased student achievement.

A **\$5 million investment** would allocate dedicated resources to advance Indigenous language immersion instruction, enhance college and career pathways, and schools serving Indigenous students with the necessary tools to address persistent educational disparities.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



MARÍA ELENA DURAZO
Senator, 26th District