



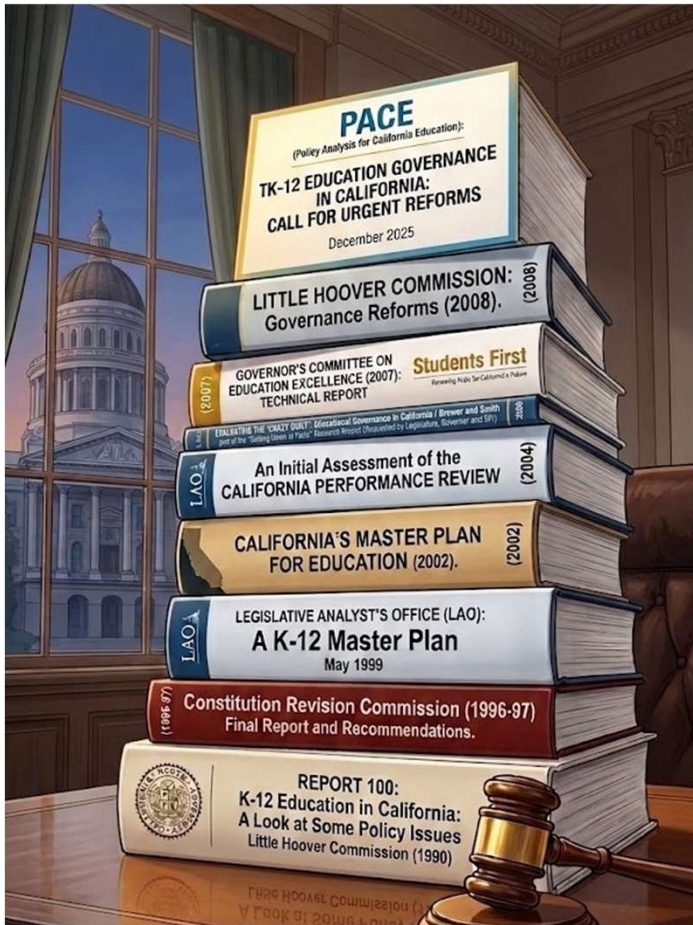
Strengthening Governance of California's Education System: Accountability for Delivering Results for Our Children

SENATE EDUCATION & BUDGET INFORMATIONAL HEARING

MAY 6, 2026

BROOKS ALLEN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



“California can no longer postpone reforms that have been recommended regularly for a century. So we are going to modernize the governance system by unifying the policy-making State Board with the Department of Education that implements those policies. And we’re empowering the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to help align our education policies from early childhood through college. These critical reforms will bring greater accountability, clarity, and coherence to how we serve our students and schools.”

- Governor Gavin Newsom

Problem Highlighted Regularly Over the Past Century

“Today California’s K-12 education system is governed by a fragmented set of entities with overlapping roles that sometimes operate in conflict with one another, to the detriment of educational services offered to students.”

**-California’s Master Plan for Education (2002), produced by
the Legislature’s Joint Committee to Develop a Master Plan for Education**



Problem Highlighted Regularly Over the Past Century

“California’s education system lacks coordination. California’s educational institutions are supposed to work together. Unfortunately, **schools and colleges are not coordinated in their efforts to prepare students. ... More than 20 state entities** are responsible for education and workforce preparation policy. The work of these entities overlaps and results in duplication of roles, efforts and resources that could be spent in the classroom.

In addition, **no one person is responsible for developing policies to improve California’s education and training system or for coordinating all these disparate groups.”**

- California Performance Review (2004)



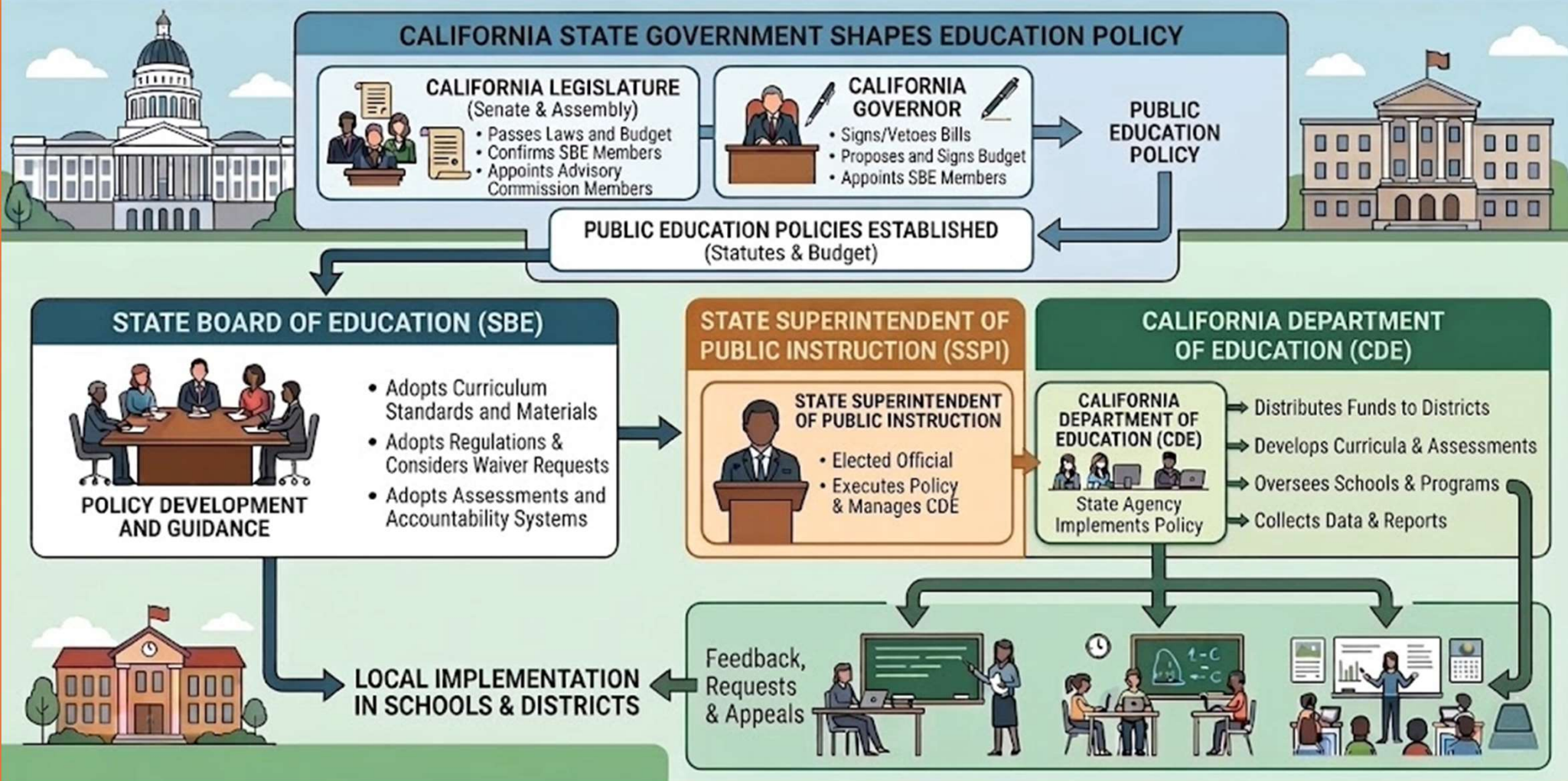
Problem Highlighted Regularly Over the Past Century

“This allocation of responsibilities fundamentally fails to link policy promulgation with administration of programs to carry out those policies. It fails to link programmatic and management functions with budget authority. ... It weaves together operations of entities serving two independently elected officers... **It is a highly irrational model of governance. This problem is not new, and when groups consider education governance in California, the current structure is always found lacking.**”

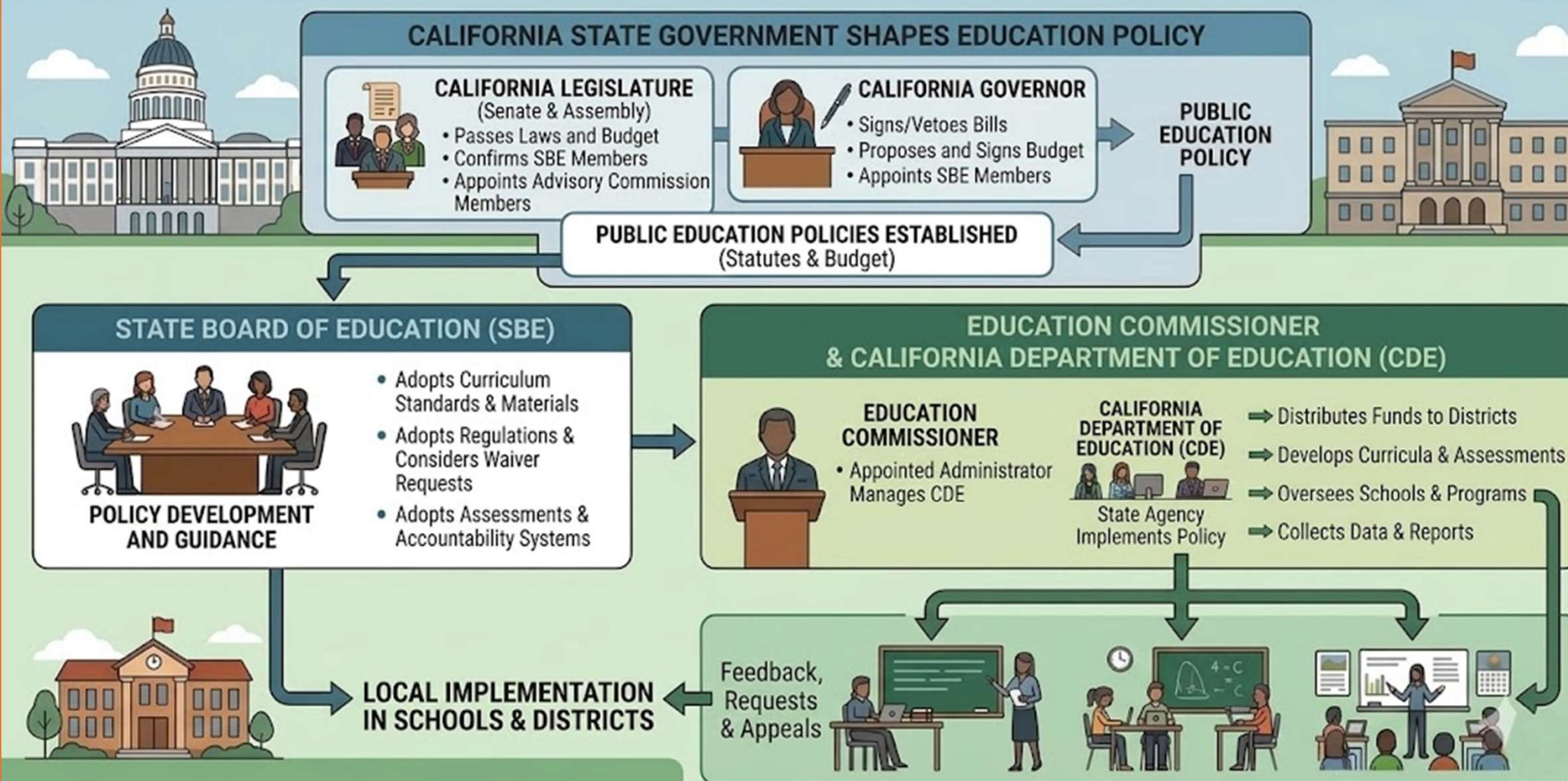
- Governor's Committee on Education Excellence Technical Report (2007)



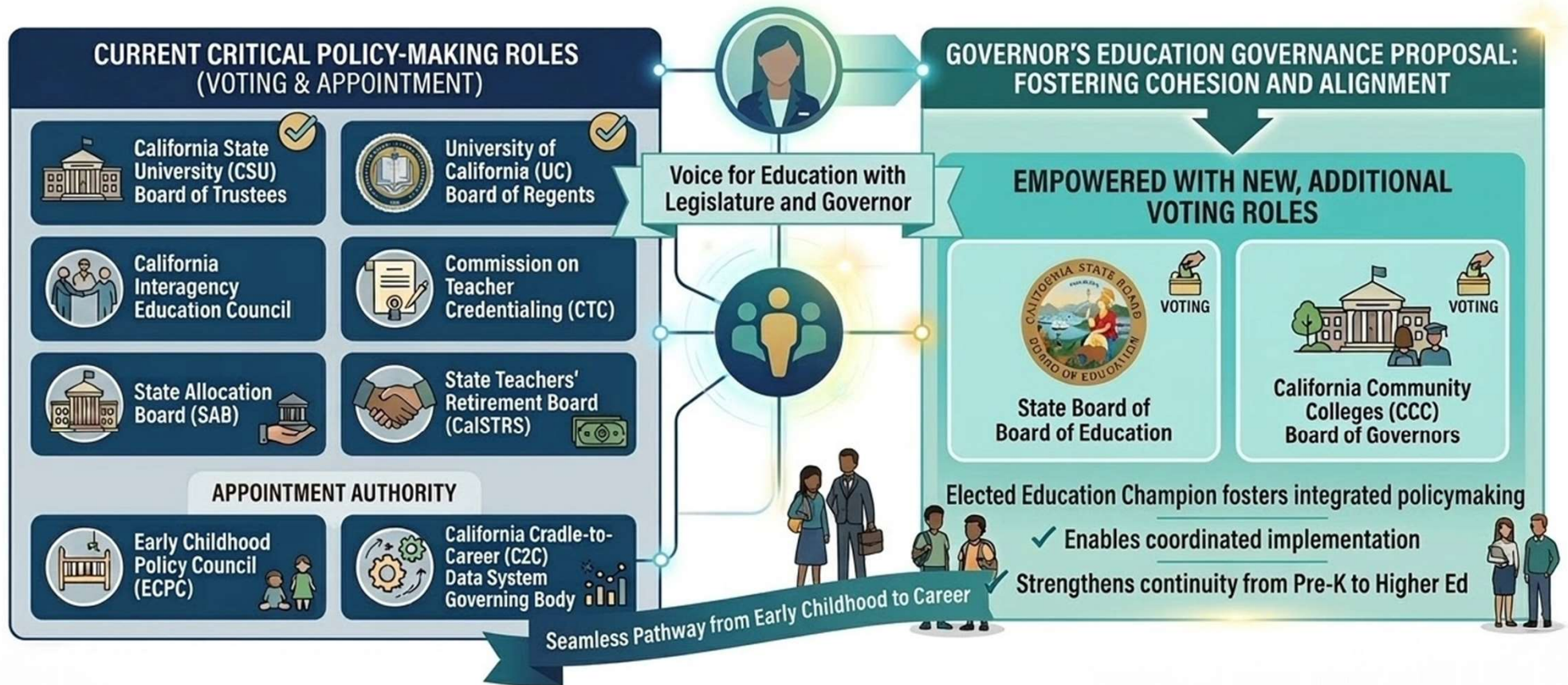
CALIFORNIA TK-12 EDUCATION POLICY: CREATION & IMPLEMENTATION WORKFLOW

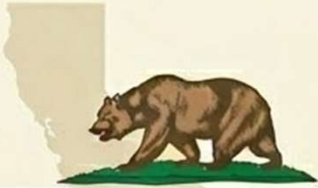


CALIFORNIA TK-12 EDUCATION POLICY: CREATION & IMPLEMENTATION WORKFLOW (Proposed)



THE CALIFORNIA SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: Independent Education Policy Leader (Early Childhood through Postsecondary)





The Moment is Right: California's Governance Opportunity



A Rare Opportunity, Occurring at Best Every Eight Years, to Strengthen the Education System.

- 1. Leadership Transitions at End of Terms**
Both the Governor and Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) are reaching the end of their terms, initiating a transition period for all top-level appointed CDE and SBE staff and a significant change in leadership.
- 2. Securing Key Transformative Initiatives**
A cohesive state-level foundation of support is needed to ensure the sustained success of the initiatives that the Governor, Legislature, SPI and SBE have championed together to transform the promise of public education in our state (eg, UTK, community schools, literacy initiatives, expanded learning and universal meals)
- 3. Adopting High-Performing States' Model**
There is widespread support across all statewide associations representing local administrators and school leaders for finally moving to the state education governance model used by most high-performing states
- 4. Strong and Aligned State Support Critical in Changing Federal Context**
In the context of recent federal policy actions, it is more clear than ever that California's state education governance system needs to be strong, coherent, and aligned with a clear focus on the needs of our children.



CALIFORNIA EDUCATION GOVERNANCE REFORM: IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

Reform Implementation in a Time of Electoral Transitions
(Continuity Provided Through Legislative Policy Leadership & SBE Stability)



June 2026

(1) Enactment of Governance Changes



Summer & Fall 2026

(2) Transition Planning: With Key State Actors, Consultation with Local Education Leaders & Interest Holders



November 3, 2026

(3) Elections: New Governor & Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI)



JANUARY 2027



(4) New Governor & SPI Sworn In



(5) New Education Commissioner Appointed



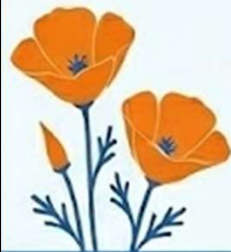
(6) Current CDE & SBE Staff transition to reporting to Education Commissioner
(Pending reappointments of positions)



(7) New Office of the SPI opens staffed by deputies and other professionals (11 total)

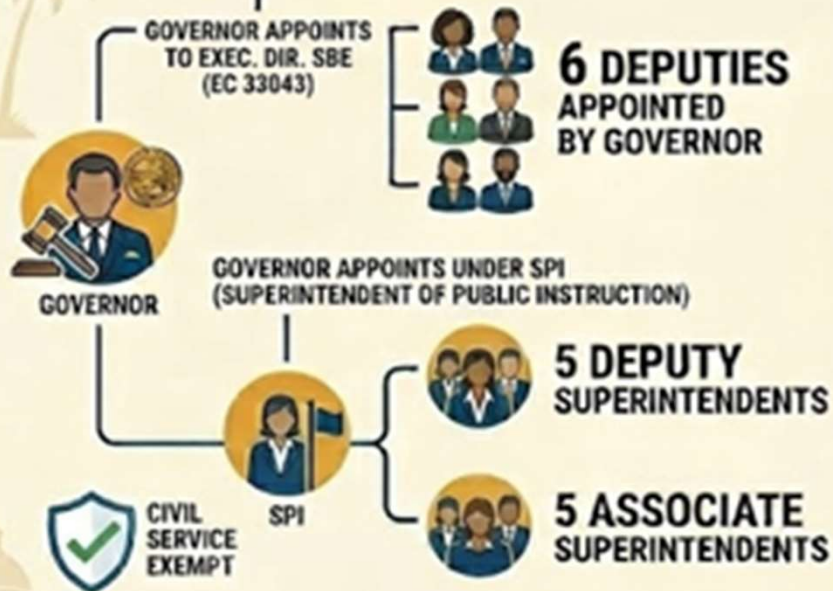


(8) New SPI joins State Board of Education & California Community Colleges Board of Governors as a Voting Member





CURRENT SYSTEM

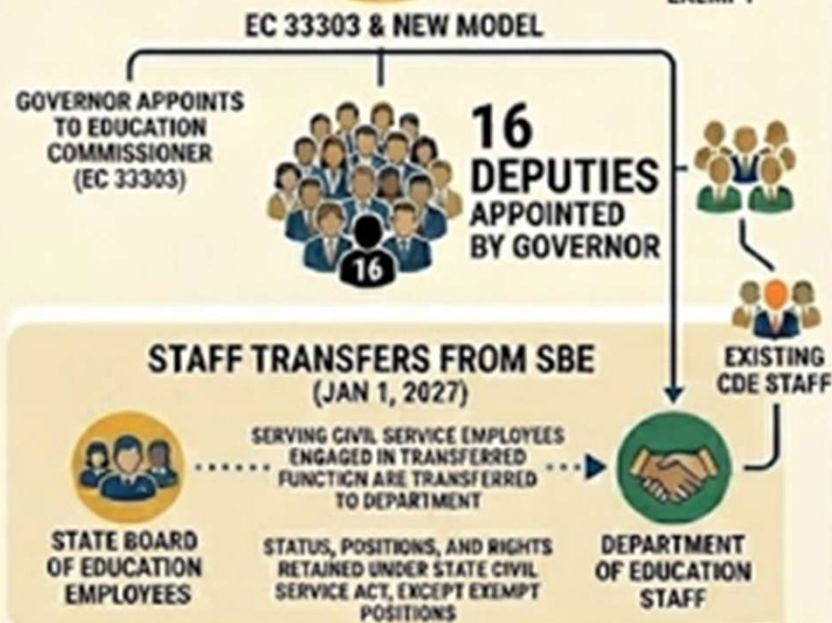


TRANSITION: JAN 1, 2027

PROPOSED UNIFIED GOVERNANCE (JAN 1, 2027 & BEYOND)

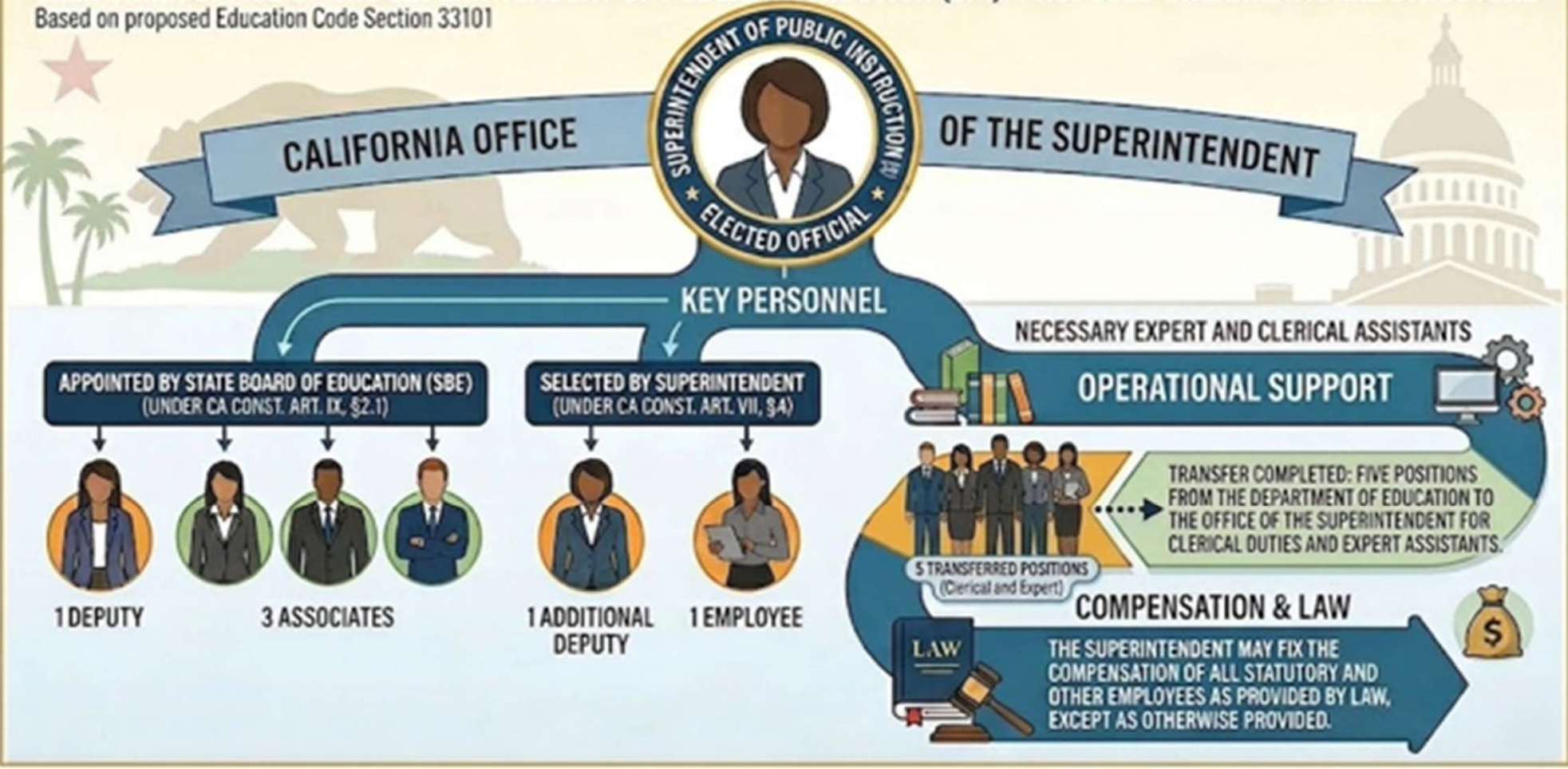


CIVIL SERVICE EXEMPT



CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (SPI): PROPOSED ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Based on proposed Education Code Section 33101



Historic Opportunity

“Without good governance, good schools are the exception, not the rule.”

Governing America's Schools: Changing the Rules, the National Commission for Governing America's Schools (1999)



Questions?

