

Geographic Lead Differentiated Assistance

CA Education Code 52071(f)

Information prepared in October 2025



Geographic Lead Agencies

- Assembly Bill 1808 of 2018 established the California Geographic Lead Agencies (Geo Leads) to build the capacity of county offices of education (COEs) to ensure that counties are equipped to build the capacity of their local educational agencies (LEAs) to support the continuous improvement of student performance.
- There are 9 Geo Leads across 7 geographic areas of the state that work together to provide the support for county offices, school districts, and charter schools. The Geo Leads also connect COEs and LEAs to the other initiatives within California's Statewide System of Support.

Geographic Lead Agencies



To find a Geographic Lead Agency

- Go to the Geo Lead Agency webpage on the California Department of Education (CDE) website to review the list of Geo Lead Agencies and the counties they serve. This list is located at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/sw/t1/crss.asp>.
- Or go to the new Directory located in the top right corner of the System of Support website located at <https://systemofsupport.org>.

Original Role of Geographic Lead Agencies

The Lead Agencies will work together to support the following goals for all counties. The Lead Agencies will also connect COEs to the other initiatives within the California Statewide System of Support.

- Support the continuous improvement of student performance within the state priorities across student groups.
- Address the gaps in achievement between student groups.
- Improve outreach and collaboration with stakeholders to ensure that goals, actions, and services as described in school district and COEs LCAPs reflect the needs of the community, especially for historically under-represented or low-achieving populations.
- Serve as a facilitator, resource connector, and capacity builder for COEs

Current Role of Geographic Leads

- Build the capacity of other COEs to provide support to school districts.
- Identify existing resources and (if requested by the CDE/CCEE) develop new resources to improve student outcomes under state priorities, or other areas of identified need.
- Coordinate and calibrate support provided to LEAs with other geographic and expert lead agencies, special education resources lead agencies, the CCEE, and the CDE.
- Provide necessary assistance to LEAs.
- Be willing to establish goals and be held accountable for improved performance across multiple measures.
- Perform other duties as specified by the CDE and the CCEE.

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/sw/t1/crss.asp>

Background

The 2023 Budget Act introduced changes to the TK-12 accountability system by adding:

- Equity Multiplier
- New technical assistance requirements
- Additional Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) requirements

Intent: To better identify and address equity gaps in schools, building on lessons learned from the first decade of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

New Requirement in 2025

[EC52071](#)(f) For any school district in which **one or more pupil subgroups** meets the criteria for technical assistance for **three or more consecutive years**, the school district's **geographic lead** agency shall, in collaboration with the county superintendent of schools, provide technical assistance to the school district pursuant to subdivision (c)*. The geographic lead agency shall evaluate whether the assistance of one or more expert lead agencies should be consulted as part of the technical assistance process.

**See presenter notes.*

Universal (1)

Available at no cost to all districts, charters, COEs, and SELPAs in California.

Includes tools, resources, and professional learning offered by technical assistance providers through the Statewide System of Support, coordinated by CCEE and CDE.

Targeted/ Supplemental (2)

Differentiated Assistance (DA)

When a district, COE or charter school meets [specific criteria](#) the county superintendent or the CDE will work jointly with the LEA in affirming and/or supporting focus areas of work that builds local capacity through expertise and collaboration, fostering co-learning, reflection, and evidence to drive urgent action, improve student outcomes, and sustain lasting change.

CALPADS DA

When a **district or COE** fails to submit accurate and timely CALPADS data, the county superintendent or the CDE will provide technical assistance focused on data management and strengthening the district;s capacity to meet student and community needs.

GeoLead DA

When a district has 1 or more student groups meet [specific criteria](#) for three or more consecutive years, the geographic lead—alongside the county superintendent—must provide targeted technical assistance. They may bring in expert lead agencies to strengthen support and improve outcomes.

***begins with 2025 Dashboard**

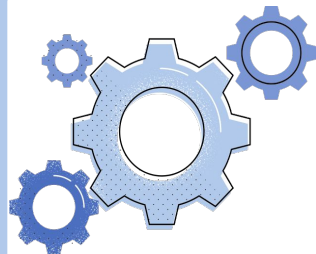
Intensive (3)

Provided to districts, COEs, and charters facing persistent, multi-year challenges.

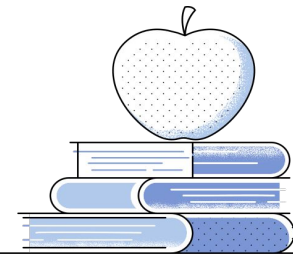
Accessed through identification by CDE, CCEE, or COEs via DTA or intensive CIM.

Involves close collaboration among state and local partners to tailor support strategies.

May include expert technical assistance to drive improved student outcomes.



Technical Assistance Providers



Responsible	District DA <u>EC52071(c)</u>	Charter DA <u>EC47607.3</u>	GeoLead DA <u>EC52071(f)</u>	DTA <u>EC52072</u>	Intervention <u>EC52072.1</u>
County Superintendent of Schools	✓	✓	✓	✓	State Superintendent of Public Instruction
Geographic Lead Agency	Upon request of County Superintendent of Schools or a school district (EC52071(d)).	✓ For Charters authorized by County Board of Education.	✓ Can partner with System of Support Lead Agencies.	GeoLeads are informed of DTA eligibility by CCEE and invited to participate for any LEAs in GeoArea.	
CA Collaborative for Educational Excellence	Upon request of County Superintendent of the county in which the district is located (EC52071(c)(1)(D)).	Upon request of County Superintendent of the county in which the charter is located (EC47607.3(c)).	(Not specified in EC52071(f) but GeoLead can request support per EC52071(c)(1)(D)).	✓	
Eligibility Notes	1+ student group 2+ priorities	1+ student group; 2+ priorities; 2+ consecutive years	1+ student group; 2+ priorities; 3+ consecutive years* <i>*Starting with 2025 Dashboard does not apply to Charters/COEs.</i>	3+ student groups; 2+ priorities; 3 of 4 consecutive years	LEA must be eligible for DTA, plus CCEE recommendation , and SBE approval .

GeoLead DA Process Overview

Foundational Support

Identification

State agencies identify districts meeting criteria and notify COEs and Geographic Lead Agencies.

Collaboration

GeoLead meets with COE at least twice (Fall/Spring) to discuss district strengths and possible needs.

(Similar to CCEE's [DTA](#) consultation.)

Assistance

GeoLead and COE review data, LCAP, and prior DA services to determine potential opportunities for additional support.

(GeoLead attends meeting with LEA if COE requests.)

Partnerships

Based on areas of need, GeoLead identifies potential partners in the CA System of Support and informs COE.