



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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Jorge A. Aguilar, Superintendent

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January 22, 2021

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Via E-Mail: dfisher@saccityta.com

David Fisher, President
Sacramento City Teachers Association
5300 Elvas Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95819

Re: District-wide Assessments for Students

Dear Mr. Fisher,

This follows my letter to you of January 14, 2021, regarding a meeting between SCTA and the District to discuss District-wide assessments following the January 11, 2021 decision by Arbitrator Carol Vendrillo. As you know, Arbitrator Vendrillo found enforceable an agreement between the District and SCTA ("[Testing MOU](#)") signed by my predecessor, Superintendent Banda, on November 30, 2016, that required the District to obtain agreement from SCTA prior to implementing any "District initiated/District-wide" assessments of our students.

The Testing MOU requires that the parties "make a good faith and timely effort to mutually develop and mutually agree" on each such assessment. By [email dated January 12, 2021](#), you requested that the District, in light of the arbitration decision, "suspend implementing any student assessments that do not comply with [the arbitrator's] ruling." Specifically, you requested that the District:

Suspend the undertaking of any district initiated/district-wide student assessment that 'is not specifically and unambiguously directed by state or federal or programmatic (e.g. International Baccalaureate) mandate.'
To our knowledge, the student assessments that fall under those mandates are the Smarter Balance Assessments (SBAC), California Science Test (CAST), and ELPAC initial and Summative Assessments.

In your January 12 email, you also indicated that SCTA will agree to allow the District to proceed with administering the PSAT, SAT, Advanced Placement (AP) Exams, and the 1st and 3rd Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) assessments for the current school year, provided we work with SCTA to address the challenges presented with administering these assessments while our students remain in a distance learning model.

Following your email, the District agreed to put a pause on those District-wide assessments that are not listed above or agreed to between SCTA and the District. In an effort to reach agreement as soon as possible and with the hope that the District and SCTA can reach agreement in sufficient time to allow for the administration of these critical ongoing assessments, the District would like to reconvene the Assessments

Committee to meet with SCTA to discuss the District's proposed assessment schedule for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year and for the 2021-2022 school year. The District's representatives are available to meet with your assessments team in the afternoon on February 1, 2 or 5, 2021, in order to engage in these critical discussions. Please let us know by January 26, 2021, which dates work for SCTA or please propose alternative dates to begin these meetings as soon as possible.

We genuinely hope that the parties can move forward together in developing an assessment schedule that includes formative and summative assessments to understand, monitor and support *all* of our students in the learning.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jorge A. Aguilar', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jorge A. Aguilar
Superintendent