



Board of Education

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BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Date: March 6, 2015

CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER – DR. OLIVINE ROBERTS

BC NO.	FROM	REGARDING
CAO-28	Lisa Hayes	Letter in Response to Reauthorization of ESEA

CHIEF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER – GABE ROSS

BC NO.	FROM	REGARDING
CCO-153	Gabe Ross	My Brother's Keeper Local Action Summit

CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER – CATHY ALLEN

BC NO.	FROM	REGARDING
COO-5	Jim Dobson	Solar Energy/Energy Efficiency



**SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD COMMUNICATION**

BC NO: CAO-28

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM - <i>(Check a Box)</i>	No:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Yes:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Date: 3/6/2015
From the Office of the Superintendent						
To the Members of the Board of Education						
Prepared by: Lisa Hayes, Director, State and Federal Programs					Contact Email: Lisa-Hayes@scusd.edu	
Subject: Letter in Response to Proposed Reauthorization of ESEA						
<p>Per a Board member’s request, a letter from State Superintendent Tom Torlakson is attached. The letter from Superintendent Torlakson to Senator Lamar Alexander, Chairman of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, is in response to information about the most recent draft of the “Every Child Ready for College and Career Act,” which is one of the latest proposals for re-authorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) also known as No Child Left Behind.</p>						
<p>Approved by:</p> <p>José L. Banda, Superintendent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Date: 3/6/2015</p>						



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
TOM TORLAKSON, State Superintendent of Public Instruction
916-319-0800



CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MICHAEL W. KIRST, President
916-319-0827

1430 N Street Sacramento, CA 95814-5901

February 20, 2015

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
154 Russell Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

As State Superintendent of Public Instruction and President of the State Board of Education, we have reviewed the most recent draft of the Every Child Ready for College and Career Act and are providing some comments for your consideration. California has recently made substantial statutory changes to our assessment, funding, and local accountability systems and we believe many of the proposed changes in the discussion draft would complement our state's policies. Overall, we support providing more flexibility to states and local communities as proposed in your discussion draft bill; however, we also have some concerns about specific proposals, as delineated below.

Limiting Appropriations for all Titles until 2021

California understands the need to balance a budget, but freezing authorized appropriations for six years does not take future budgets or needs into consideration. Poverty populations, State and local funding and revenues, federal budgets, and other factors can all lead to the need for changes to federal spending. Locking in certain appropriation levels now is short-sighted, especially when additional resources will be needed for successful implementation of the state-adopted content standards, including professional development, assessments, technology, and supports to English learners.

Assessment Frequency

We fully support the policy shift to provide states with the most flexibility to develop an assessment system that works best to fit each state's needs. California made the decision in 2014 to administer the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium assessments and the state is still developing the remainder of our assessment system. We believe that states should have the flexibility to balance the needs of parents and teachers to receive important information about students' performance on assessments, while considering the amount of time schools dedicate to assessing students.

Accountability Systems

While California believes that it is appropriate for the federal government to require that states and local educational agencies develop an accountability framework, we strongly support allowing states and local educational agencies the use their own accountability systems to ensure schools are making progress. California is currently in the process of revising the state accountability system to align it with the specified state priorities under the Local Control Funding Formula. For more than a decade, California has had accountability systems that only reflect student assessments and graduation rates. We believe that the narrow concentration on English language arts and mathematics assessments has negatively impacted schools' decisions to provide a broad-based education to students.

Title I Portability

California does not support extending Title I portability for eligible students to private schools. This proposal essentially allows Title I dollars to be used as vouchers and this is not a policy that we support. Moreover, Title I dollars are not intended to be student-by-student funding, as whole schools benefit from the resources provided by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Prohibition on Requirements Regarding Teacher Evaluation

Because of California's diversity with over 2,000 local educational agencies, a student population comprised of nearly 25 percent English learners and 59 percent of pupils who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals, we strongly agree with the discussion draft's policy shift that would remove teacher and principal evaluation from being prescribed by Washington, D.C.

Elementary and Secondary Education Act Waivers

California agrees with proposed changes limiting the use of federal waivers. Major reforms in education policy should go through the legislative process where the public, including states and local educational agencies, have the opportunity to provide input. Waivers are an important part of our system; however, they should only be utilized as a tool to address exceptions and unusual circumstances, not as a means to create entirely new policy.

California Context

In 2013, California adopted the Local Control Funding Formula that creates base State funding with adjustments for grades kindergarten through three, four through six, seven and eight, and a smaller adjustment for grades nine through twelve. Supplemental grants equal to 20 percent of the adjusted base grant for targeted disadvantaged students who are classified as English learners, eligible to receive a free or reduced-price meal, foster youth, or any combination of these factors (unduplicated count). Finally, concentration grants equal to 50 percent of the adjusted base grant for targeted students exceeding 55 percent of a local educational agency's enrollment are also available.

As part of the Local Control Funding Formula, local educational agencies are required to develop, adopt, and annually update a three-year Local Control and Accountability Plan, beginning on July 1, 2014, based on documented input from stakeholders. The Plan's template was adopted by the California State Board of Education in November 2014. In addition, the State Board of Education is required to adopt evaluation rubrics to assist local educational agencies and oversight entities in evaluating strengths, weaknesses, and areas that require improvement, technical assistance, and interventions where warranted, on or before October 1, 2015. The State identified eight state priorities that local educational agencies must address in their template, including: implementation of academic content and performance standards, parental involvement, pupil achievement, pupil engagement, school climate, student access to a broad course of study, and pupil outcomes in a broad course of study.

California took these steps because they are the best course of action for California and our students, and we remain hopeful that the current discussion draft could support and complement our state's policy direction. Please consider the California Department of Education and State Board of Education as a resource should you have any questions about California's current initiatives. If there are any data or other information that could inform your work, please do not hesitate to contact us, or have your staff contact John Hooper, Federal Policy Liaison, by telephone at 916-319-0821 or by e-mail at jhooper@cde.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

TOM TORLAKSON
State Superintendent of Public Instruction
California Department of Education

MICHAEL W. KIRST
President
California State Board of Education

TT/MK:jh

cc: Members, California Congressional Delegation

Last Reviewed: Friday, February 27, 2015



**SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD COMMUNICATION**

BC NO: CCO-153

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM - <i>(Check a Box)</i>	No:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Yes:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Date: 3/6/2015
From the Office of the Superintendent						
To the Members of the Board of Education						
Prepared by: Gabe Ross, Chief Communications Officer					Contact Email: gabe-ross@scusd.edu	
Subject: My Brother's Keeper Local Action Summit						
<p>Mayor Kevin Johnson, Superintendent Banda and other community leaders will meet from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18, for the My Brother's Keeper: Sacramento Local Action Summit. The summit is a strategy session for discussing how Sacramento will meet President Obama's My Brother's Keeper Community Challenge, which calls for city leaders to develop plans to improve life outcomes for youth, including boys and young men of color. The plan calls for opening up opportunities for young people through kindergarten readiness, early reading, college and career ready graduates, post-secondary education, jobs and violence reduction. The summit will be held at Sierra Health Foundation.</p>						
Approved by:						
José L. Banda, Superintendent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				Date: 3/6/2015		



**SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD COMMUNICATION**

BC NO: COO-5

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM - <i>(Check a Box)</i>	No:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Yes:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Date: 3/6/2015
From the Office of the Superintendent						
To the Members of the Board of Education						
Prepared by: Jim Dobson, Director of Facilities Management and Operations					Contact Email: JimD@scusd.edu	
Subject: Solar Energy/Energy Efficiency						
<p>At the February 19 Board meeting, Member Cochrane raised the possibility of the district working with partners to bring solar energy projects to SCUSD. Staff has been monitoring the rapidly changing solar technology field and has met with several potential partners, including Chevron Energy Solutions, Siemens and SMUD to explore options for the use of renewable energy sources.</p> <p>Our first step in this journey is to address the energy efficiency of our aging school buildings across the district. Most of our sites are many decades old, built long before the construction industry began to focus on saving energy. The majority of our sites have single pane windows, inadequate insulation in the walls and ceilings, drafty doors and windows and inefficient heating ventilation and air conditioning systems. Improvements to these systems – the “building envelope” of our schools -- are critical to reducing the district’s energy use and bringing down energy costs. Through Project Green, and using bond funding, the district has been working summers to make these energy retrofits at schools. But there is still a long way to go before every school achieves energy efficiency. Improvements to these systems are critical to getting the biggest bang out of an investment in solar technology.</p> <p>Once we have properly sealed dual pane windows, energy efficient HVAC and proper insulation, our next move will be to thoroughly explore solar as a means of further “greening” the district. With 75 schools and 5.5 million square feet of facilities, moving to solar would be a major investment. Realizing savings in light of construction costs at our older facilities may take time. One avenue to explore might be a small solar project at one of our newer, more energy efficient schools.</p> <p>At Member Cochrane’s suggestion, we will be reaching out to the Antioch school district staff to learn more about their journey on this path.</p>						
Approved by:						
José L. Banda, Superintendent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				Date: 3/6/2015		