



## OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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February 19, 2021

Via E-Mail: [dfisher@saccityta.com](mailto: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 22, 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. The District agreed to put a pause on District-wide assessments with the expectation that we would convene the Assessments Committee and meet with SCTA to discuss these

assessments and the District's proposed assessment schedule for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year and for the 2021-2022 school year.

We have offered seven dates to SCTA for this work to begin, but SCTA has not agreed to any dates thus far. Unfortunately, in response to our January 22 letter, your email of January 26, 2021, stated that SCTA was unable to meet on any of the dates offered and would require "some time to develop our Assessment Committee and to discuss our priorities before commencing meetings with the District." Almost one month has now passed and we have not heard from SCTA regarding reconvening an Assessments Committee. Our students demand that the District provides common assessments in order to offer them the full educational rights to which they are entitled (see [Board Presentation Item 7.5 of February 18, 2021](#); [Power Point](#)).

It is critically important that these important discussions begin soon so we can move this work forward. The District's representatives are available to meet with your assessments team on any day during the week of March 8-12, 2021, on or after 3:00 p.m. to engage in these critical discussions. Please let me know by February 26, 2021, which of these dates work for SCTA.

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 their learning.

Sincerely,



Jorge A. Aguilar  
Superintendent