



November 1, 2013

To: Dr. Michael Kirst, President
Members, California State Board of Education
Tom Torlakson, Superintendent of Public Instruction

From: Teri Burns, Senior Director, Policy & Programs

Copy: Karen Stapf-Walters, Executive Director, California State Board of Education
Judy Cias, General Counsel, California State Board of Education

RE: CSBA Comments Regarding the November 2013 SBE Agenda

The California School Boards Association (CSBA) is pleased to provide you with comments relative to your upcoming meeting agenda. As always we welcome your questions or comments.

As we prepare for our Annual Education Conference in San Diego December 5-7, on behalf of our officers, I once again want to invite you to attend any or all days of the conference and interact directly with governing board members from around California.

Item #3 - Common Core State Standards (CCSS) Implementation

CSBA appreciates the hard work of the English Language Arts/English Language Development Curriculum Framework and Evaluation Criteria Committee and the Instructional Quality Commission (IQC) in expediting the review of materials to meet diverse student needs under the CCSS. We thank the CDE for the development of the resources data-base and look forward to seeing it become a rich and robust site for LEAs to use.

Materials will be an important factor in successful implementation and many districts are struggling to identify sufficient funding for the transition. We encourage the Board to advocate for additional funding in the next state budget for the one-time purchase of materials, professional development and technology.

Item #4 - Leadership Planning Guide

CSBA commends the development of the guide and appreciates the ability to have contributed to its content. We anticipate sharing the document widely with our

members in an effort to expedite local district and county office implementation of the Common Core.

While the survey results are not surprising, they are concerning. There is much work to be undertaken by already under-resourced school districts in a very short time. In an ideal world, we'd have 100 percent of districts well into preparations by now. CSBA stands ready to work with you to inform, educate and support local governing boards in the implementation process.

Item #5 – Mathematics Framework Adoption

CSBA Recommends: Support

CSBA believes the work of the IQC in this area has been thorough. We support adoption of the Frameworks and encourage the Board to move forward expeditiously to advise LEAs of the availability of the Framework for CCSS preparation purposes.

Item #6 – Adoption of Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Grades 6-8

CSBA Recommends: Support

CSBA recommends adoption of the new standards. We believe the awareness phase will be critical to ensuring community buy-in for the new standards. We encourage CDE to post talking points to inform the general community in addition to efforts to expose the teacher and administrator audiences. CSBA looks forward to working with you to educate school board members about the changes that will result from this adoption. We support the work of the Science Expert Panel for grades 6-8 incorporating an integrated model for these grades.

Item #8– California Assessment System Transition

CSBA has been receiving many inquiries regarding the status of state testing for the current year in light of federal threats to withhold funds. It would certainly be appreciated by our members if the SBE would give clear indication how you intend to proceed with implementation of AB 484, including the possible application of APIs for some schools and addressing implications for those schools currently in Program Improvement status. We continue to support the moratorium on state summative testing as we begin to actively implement the CCSS.

Item #13 – Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP)

CSBA has provided a separate memo on this rather lengthy topic. We believe these initial proposed regulations honor the key precept of subsidiarity and are faithful to the goals of transparency and accessibility by all stakeholders.

Item #14 – Criteria and Standards for Fiscal Stability Conforming to LCFE

CSBA Recommends: Support

CSBA appreciates the opportunity to have participated in the review of the criteria and standards revisions. The process was open and collaborative and a good result has been fashioned.

We appreciate the work of the Board in addressing all of these complex and inter-related issues. CSBA continues to prepare our members for the work of governance in this highly dynamic year. We look forward to working with the Board and the CDE to communicate a common message to the public about these many changes.