

CCSESA FOCUS

An Update to County Superintendents of Schools

Thursday, August 27, 2015

Governor Signs CAHSEE Exemption for 2015; Next Step is SB 172

Last night Governor Brown signed SB 725 (Hancock) into law, thereby eliminating the requirement to pass the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) as a condition of graduating from high school for students completing grade 12 in 2015. Since SB 725 is an urgency bill, it takes effect immediately. The text of the bill is short and straightforward:

“Notwithstanding any other law, the high school exit examination shall not be required as a condition of receiving a diploma of graduation or a condition of graduation from high school for a pupil completing grade 12 in 2015 and who has met all other high school graduation requirements.”

The Governor signed the bill without comment, so there was no reference to his position on the future of CAHSEE. That issue was addressed today by the Legislature when the Assembly Appropriations Committee took action to approve SB 172 (Liu). However, the bill does not have the broad-based support that was enjoyed by SB 725. SB 172 was passed out of committee today with only Democratic legislators voting “yes”.

As amended today, SB 172 would allow students to graduate without passing the CAHSEE through July 31, 2018. The Legislature has until September 11 to take final action on SB 172. The Governor will then have thirty days to sign or veto the bill.

In an article published today by EdSource, CDE Deputy Superintendent Keric Ashley was quoted saying, “In the meantime, the California Department of Education is having our contractor prepare to offer the next administration of CAHSEE in November, if the bill is unsuccessful.”

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