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California School Boards Association



March 27, 2020

Karen Stapf Walters
Executive Director
California State Board of Education
Via Email
KStapfWalters@cde.ca.gov

Dear Ms. Stapf Walters,

The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic situation has posed unprecedented challenges for our Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) and local communities. LEAs are responding to extraordinary circumstances and supporting their communities with basic and urgent needs, which include providing meals to students, distance learning, and childcare in some cases for our first responders. LEAs must focus staff resources on meeting the basic needs of students, staff, and community while maintaining safety for all given the shelter-in-place order and other precautions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. This proposal offers recommendations regarding the administrative requirements for the Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAPs) to allow school and district leaders to focus on supporting the needs of their students and communities while maintaining the Local Control Funding Formula equity tenets.

Recommendations:

To preserve the legislative intent of focusing on services and outcomes for all students, with special emphasis on English learner, low income, and foster youth students, informed by stakeholders while also allowing LEAs to respond to the extraordinary circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is recommended that:

1. The current LCAP development process and written plan requirements for the 2020-21 LCAP year be suspended. In lieu of those requirements, each LEA will be required to submit an *Equity Assurance* to their Board for public hearing and adoption with their budget per current requirements. This document includes a brief description of how the LEA’s strengths and challenges will inform actions and services for the coming year, and certifies that:
 - Each LEA will continue to address the needs of English learner, low income, and foster youth students and any other student group as identified by local data or the most recent data available in the California School Dashboard.
 - The LEA’s budget was developed in alignment with the principles of LCFF.
2. The three-year LCAP will begin with the 2021-22 fiscal year. LEAs will be required to report planned and actual expenditures for their 2019-20 LCAP, along with their 2020-21 expenditures, in a stand-alone Annual Update as part of the next three-year LCAP approval process in June of 2021.
3. Unless a waiver is obtained and/or the federal requirement is temporarily suspended, each LEA with CSI-identified schools include in their *Equity Assurance* the responses to the Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) prompts addressing school identification, support, monitoring and evaluation.



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4. After Board adoption, the LEA submits the budget and *Equity Assurance* (including CSI responses if applicable) to the county superintendent of schools per current requirements. The county superintendent of schools submits the budget and *Equity Assurance* (including CSI responses if applicable) to the state superintendent.

Sincerely,

Sandra Morales
Assistant Executive Director
California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA)

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