

May 7, 2021

Linda Darling-Hammond
President, State Board of Education
State Capitol Room 400
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Item 02

Distance Learning Curriculum and Instructional
Guidance Project: Presentation of Draft
Guidance for Adoption.

Dear Dr. Darling-Hammond:

On behalf of our fellow educational leaders on the Curriculum & Instruction Steering Committee (CISC) under the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association, we are writing to support the California Department of Education's (CDE) recommendation to adopt the draft Distance Learning Curriculum and Instructional Guidance, which under the recommendation would be retitled California Digital Learning Integration and Standards Guidance.

The process in which this guidance was developed is worth acknowledging and celebrating. It integrates the best of what we have learned over this past year while honoring and amplifying the important messages of the existing frameworks. It reframes and integrates essential principles of digital learning, mathematics, literacy and language development. The process of development and iteration brought together subject matter experts from all content areas, and allowed for the important conversations, improvement cycles, and multiple perspectives in its development.

We want to commend our colleagues from the numerous County Offices of Education for lending their time and expertise to this document. This includes the Sacramento County Office of Education for leading this effort in a way that thoroughly included a diverse group of stakeholders to make sure this guidance centers equity and access for all students. They also led the efforts to fundamentally redesign the structure and foundational message when stakeholders made it clear that content cannot be separated from instruction and that conceptions of identifying "critical standards" can often be misguided. Additionally, more than 30 individuals from county offices of education engaged in given feedback and helping to shape the content of this guide. For these reasons, we recommend that the State Board of Education adopt the draft guidance.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Hicks
CISC Chair
Placer County Office of
Education



Ellen Barger
CISC Math Subcommittee Chair
Santa Barbara County Education
Office



Lucy Pearson-Edwards
CISC ELA/ELD Subcommittee Chair
Napa County Office of Education