



March 4, 2022

Linda Darling-Hammond, President and
Members of the State Board of Education
State Board of Education
1430 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
Via email: SBE@cde.ca.gov

Re: Item #04: Update on the Implementation of the Integrated Local, State, and Federal Accountability and Continuous Improvement System: 2020–21 Data Release, 2022 Accountability Considerations, Continuing Development Work for Future California School Dashboards, California's Dashboard Alternative School Status Program, and the 2021–2022 Addendum Template for the Elementary and Secondary Education Act Consolidated State Plan.

Dear President Darling-Hammond and Members of the State Board of Education:

We respectfully submit this letter on behalf of the Curriculum and Instruction Steering Committee (CISC) of the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA) in support of the CDE's proposal to pursue a waiver to allow California to maintain Dashboard Alternative School Status (DASS) modified methods business rules for calculating the Academic Achievement and Graduation Rate Indicators.

We believe that the current modified methods fairly evaluate the more than 1,000 alternative schools that serve some of California's most vulnerable students. We are concerned that changes to the current modified methods could portray an inaccurate picture of our DASS school students' outcomes as well as result in an overidentification of DASS schools for Comprehensive Support and Improvement.

Alternative educational settings serve our students who have been expelled, incarcerated, are on probation, habitually truant, behaviorally challenged, and/or are severely credit deficient. As such, learning environments, wrap-around services, and social and emotional support are thoughtfully designed to address the unique needs of our DASS school students. The current alternative accountability system for our DASS schools reflects this thoughtful and intentional design and provides a valid depiction of DASS school student performance. For these reasons, we strongly support the CDE's proposal to pursue a waiver to request the continued use of an alternative accountability system for DASS schools.



Sincerely,

Jennifer Hicks, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services
Placer County Office of Education
Chair, CISC

Cc:

Brooks Allen, Executive Director, SBE
Sara Pietrowski, Policy Consultant, SBE
Mary Nicely, Chief Deputy Superintendent, CDE
Cindy Kazanis, Director, CDE