



## California County Superintendents Educational Services Association

*Promoting, influencing, and advocating for high-quality education.*

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May 12, 2022

The Honorable Tony Thurmond  
State Superintendent of Public Instruction  
California Department of Education  
1430 N Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(sent via email)

Dear Superintendent Thurmond,

I submit this letter on behalf of the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA), which represents the 58 county superintendents of schools. Motivated by the recent and current system outage for CALPADS, we wanted to take this opportunity to offer our partnership to achieve our shared goal to serve all students equitably. In the future, we think it would be helpful if we are utilized in a way that allows us to help the department communicate a common message, and create opportunities for us to provide valuable input from our leaders in the field, to minimize the impact with helpful insight before a statewide technology rollout or update.

In a time when student outcome data is already troubling, we are concerned about the potential impact that these technical database maintenance issues may have on our districts, charters, and county operated programs. And most importantly, our students.

Below we outline the major impacts regarding the issues that our LEAs are experiencing due to the ongoing statewide database outages.

- The system is still down and is not communicating with other systems while many are trying to access student information and/or test.
- With the system still down, meeting the new federal requirement under ESSA to test 95% of students is becoming unattainable for many LEAs.
- This system outage won't push LEAs to Differentiated Assistance (DA) alone, but many may find themselves eligible for differentiated assistance and/or comprehensive support and improvement for no other reason than that they could not administer the test due to CALPADS/SEIS/TOMS integration issues.

CCSESA has a Technology Steering Committee (TSC), which provides leadership and technical support to county offices of education and school districts by providing services and resources to promote a safe/secure learning and work environment, increase technical expertise and promote collaborative efforts to support and enhance operational programs. The TSC has offered to support the CDE in the future by being



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testers for platforms to test for “bugs” before statewide releases and provide the “boots on the ground” perspective to help ensure a smooth rollout of future updates and changes to the system. TSC is also here to be thought partners and appreciates the communication and responsiveness that they have received from the Educational Data Management Division. If we can provide any specific examples to help you better understand the impact, we are happy to connect and discuss. Our TSC CCSESA Staff Liaison is Derick Lennox, and he can be reached at [dlennox@ccsesa.org](mailto:dlennox@ccsesa.org) or (925) 200-7215.

CCSESA has always valued the strong partnership we have with the CDE and hope that we can be a part of the solution moving forward.

Sincerely,

Karen Stapf Walters  
Executive Director, CCSESA

cc: Mary Nicely, Chief Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Jerry Winkler, Director, Educational Data Management Division  
Cindy Kazanis, Director, Analysis, Measurement & Accountability Reporting Division