California Department of Education

Executive Office

SBE-002 (REV. 11/2017)

memo-gad-dec20item01

# **MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** November 30, 2020

**TO:** MEMBERS, State Board of Education

**FROM:** TONY THURMOND, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT:** Update on California’s Every Student Succeeds Act Consolidated State Plan: Correspondence from the U.S. Department of Education

## Summary of Key Issues

California’s Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) State Plan amendments were approved by the State Board of Education (SBE) on January 8, 2020, and the updated State Plan was sent to the U.S. Department of Education (ED) on January 31, 2020. On October 5, 2020, ED sent a letter (see Attachment 1) raising concerns that using modified methods to calculate state indicators for the Dashboard Alternative School Status (DASS) schools is **not** permissible under the ESSA 1111(c)(4)(B) and 1111(c)(4)(C). The ED requested that California provide a response within 60 days to demonstrate how it is meeting the requirement to include all schools in its system of annual meaningful differentiation consistent with California’s Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) consolidated State Plan or for California to provide a plan to meet the requirement to include all schools in its system of annual meaningful differentiation prior to the next time it uses its accountability system. The SBE and CDE requested additional time (see Attachment 2) to respond to the ED concerns to allow for the SBE formally review these issues at the January 2021 SBE meeting.

## Attachment(s)

* **Attachment 1:** Letter from the ED Related to the Consolidated State Plan (5 pages)
* **Attachment 2:** Response Letter to the ED (3 pages)