California Department of Education

Executive Office

SBE-002 (REV. 11/2017)

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# MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** February 15, 2018

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

**FROM:** TOM TORLAKSON, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT:** Developing a New State Accountability System: Update on the Development of a Student-Level Growth Model

## Summary of Key Issues

This Information Memorandum provides the results of student-level growth model simulations conducted by the California Department of Education’s (CDE’s) testing vendor, Educational Testing Service (ETS). At the request of the CDE, ETS’s technical experts conducted statistical analyses of the following three proposed growth models that were selected based on the desired characteristics reviewed and discussed at the January 2017 State Board of Education (SBE) meeting:

1. “Change-in-distance-to-met” measures absolute growth of each student from the prior year to the current year using Distance from Level 3 as the measurement threshold.
2. “Conditional percentile rank of the gain” ranks the growth of students who are grouped together as a result of having the same prior year test scores, in the same subject and grade.
3. “Residual gain” is the difference between a student’s predicted test score and actual test score. Note: the predicted score is based on both prior English language arts/literacy and mathematics test scores, as well as the scores of all other students in the same grade.

Attachment 1 provides an analysis of the simulations for these growth models conducted by ETS. The reporting of these results should facilitate the process of selecting a student-level growth model for incorporation into the California School Dashboard (Dashboard).

## Prior State Board of Education Action and Discussion

Since March of 2015, the SBE has worked on the development and implementation of a new integrated local, state, and federal accountability system. As part of these discussions, the SBE indicated an interest in the inclusion of a growth model in the new system. Specifically, beginning with the January 2016 SBE meeting, the SBE requested that the CDE provide additional information on the options for a student-level growth model.

In a June 2016 Information Memorandum, (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/pn/im/documents/memo-dsib-amard-jun16item01.doc>) the CDE provided a progress update and clarified key issues related to the design of a school- and district-level accountability model, as opposed to reporting individual student-level growth and performance.

In February 2016, the SBE received an Information Memorandum (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/pn/im/documents/memo-dsib-amard-feb16item01.doc>) that provided an overview of student-level growth models that can be used to communicate Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment results.

In January 2017, the SBE discussed criteria for selecting a growth model used for school and district accountability (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr17/documents/jan17item02.doc>).

Following the SBE discussion in January 2017, the CDE further consulted with ETS, the Technical Design Group (TDG), the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) Technical Advisory Group (TAG), and the Statewide Assessment Stakeholder Group, regarding potential growth models. Three models were selected for simulation. The discussion and recommendations of the groups were summarized and presented to the SBE in a June 2017 Information Memorandum (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/pn/im/documents/memo-asb-adad-jun17item03.doc>).

The results of the simulations conducted by ETS, using the three growth models, are available in Attachment 1.

## Future Stakeholder Input

The CDE is hosting the following meetings to brief stakeholders on the ETS analysis and obtain feedback on the three growth model options.

* CDE TDG meeting, including a representative from the CAASPP TAG

(February 20, 2018)

* Local Control Funding Formula and Assessment Stakeholders

(February 26, 2018) (Note: this meeting is open to the public and will be held on in the SBE Room at the CDE, 1430 N Street, Sacramento, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.)

The CDE anticipates scheduling future meetings, as needed, to obtain additional feedback to inform the SBE’s decision on selecting a growth model. Specifically, at the May 2018 SBE meeting, the CDE will share the stakeholder feedback, discuss the options for incorporating the growth model in the 2018 Dashboard, and request action from the SBE to select one of three growth models for inclusion in the 2018 Dashboard.

## Attachment(s)

* Attachment 1: Educational Testing Services Memorandum: California Growth Study Results (52 pages)