California Department of Education

Executive Office

SBE-002 (REV. 11/2017)

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# MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** February 17, 2021

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

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

**SUBJECT:** California Assessment System Feedback: 2020 Assessment Coordinator Survey Report and 2020 California Assessment Post-Conference Report.

## Summary of Key Issues

The California Department of Education (CDE) is committed to providing resources and professional development support to assist local educational agencies (LEAs) in the successful implementation of the California Assessment System, which includes the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) and the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC). The CDE has an existing contract with the Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) through which the SCOE gathers feedback and recommendations from attendees at key meetings, trainings, structured feedback sessions, and surveys, and then provides the CDE with reports that include an analysis of any feedback and recommendations based on attendees’ input and any other related information gathered. These reports provide key information and direction for the CDE to consider in determining future trainings and outreach efforts to meet the needs identified by LEAs and other stakeholders.

Two reports are available as attachments to this Information Memorandum. They include the following:

* *2020 Assessment Coordinator Survey Report*
* *2020 California Assessment Conference Post-Conference Report*

The *2020 Assessment Coordinator Survey Report* is the culmination of a large-scale campaign to identify helpful resources to address needs of LEA coordinators to successfully implement the activities required to administer the CAASPP and ELPAC tests. After surveying coordinators, the SCOE provided to the CDE an analysis report of findings based on the gathered information. This report provides key information and direction for the CDE to consider in determining future outreach efforts needed to respond to the survey of LEA CAASPP and ELPAC coordinators. Highlights of the findings include the following:

* Create an Available Resources web pages on the CAASPP and ELPAC websites, to increase awareness of available resources such as (need an example or two here.
* Collaborate with, Educational Testing Service and the SCOE for the creation of a template for manuals to ensure that they are written and organized in an engaging way, are easy to navigate, follow best practices for data visualization, and are fully compliant with Section 508 accessibility requirements.
* Take advantage of all opportunities to build awareness of Tools for Teachers at CDE-sponsored trainings and conferences where classroom educators and site administrators are the primary audience.
* Change the way in which CDE reaches out to LEA coordinators who are new to their role by using a welcome letter that describes key resources and provides contact information.

The *2020 California Assessment Conference Post-Conference Report* provides feedback from respondents who attended the second California Assessment Conference (CAC), held virtually in October 2020.The purposes of the CAC were to (1) replace the multiple training sessions that had been held in previous years; and (2) provide CAC participants with the opportunity to learn about the various components of the California Assessment System. About 1,000 participants joined this two- day conference to learn how assessment tools and resources can be used to support teaching and learning in California classrooms. Based on respondents’ feedback, the SCOE made recommendations for the CDE to consider for the 2021 CAC, which is scheduled for October 12–14, 2021, at the Riverside Convention Center. Highlights of the recommendations include the following:

* Increase the number of, and diversity of, shared practice sessions so attendees can learn from other educators.
* Provide multiple content area options during each time slot so attendees can access content topics throughout the conference.
* Include expert panel discussions to offer additional topics in a format different from a presentation.
* If the conference next fall is virtual, propose the following logistical changes including: to provide more time between sessions, shorten the conference days, redesign the CDE office hours, and have keynote speakers open and close the conference.

## Attachment(s)

* Attachment 1: *2020 Assessment Coordinator Survey Report* (82 Pages)
* Attachment 2: *2020 California Assessment Conference Post-Conference Report* (58 Pages)