California Department of Education

Executive Office

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# **MEMORANDUM**

DATE: February 17, 2020

TO: MEMBERS, State Board of Education

FROM: TONY THURMOND, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Update on Accountability Report Cards

This memorandum provides updates on ongoing redesign efforts to the School Accountability Report Card (SARC) including upgrades to the registration process, search functionality, and a modernized look and feel of the web application. Additionally, this memorandum provides updates on the State and Local Educational Agency (LEA) Report Cards, including new data elements such as Per Pupil Expenditures (PPE) on the LEA Report Cards (LARCs) and school improvement funds on the LARCs and on the State Accountability Report Card (STARC).

## School Accountability Report Card

### **Background**

Proposition 98, which was passed by California voters in 1988, requires the annual submission of the SARC by February 1. Subsequent legislation including California *Education Code* (*EC*) Sections 33126, 33126.1, and 35256, clarify the data reporting requirements in the SARC. At the federal level, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Title I, Part A, Section 1111(h), further clarifies the data reporting requirements for the SARC. To ensure compliance with these requirements, the State Board of Education (SBE) annually reviews and approves the SARC template. Most recently, at their July 2020 meeting, the SBE approved modifications to the 2019–2020 SARC template used for SARCs published during the 2020–2021 school year based on the revision of the state and federal accountability reporting requirements and in response to the COVID-19 crisis (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr20/documents/jul20item06.docx>).

The SARC contains school-level information and fulfills requirements under both federal and state statute listed above. Public schools, including charter schools and county offices of education, as well as non-public non-sectarian schools, are required annually to create and disseminate a SARC. The CDE, while not required by law, leverages the data submitted to the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS) by LEAs to pre-populate data tables in the SARC for public schools, charter schools and county offices of education. Additionally, the LEA governing board must approve each SARC prior to submitting it to the CDE or publishing it on their web page.

There are two methods available for LEAs to submit SARCs to the CDE via the online SARC Web Application: (1) use the online electronic partially pre-populated SARC template to complete and post the SARC; or (2) provide an accurate URL to the web page address where the SARC has been posted on the school/LEA web page.

Additional information, including a link to the blank SARC template, is available on the SARC web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/sa/>.

### **New Registration Process and Web Application Functionality**

The San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJCOE) first developed a SARC web application for LEAs to submit their SARCs electronically for the 2012–13 school year SARCs, due February 1, 2014. Senate Bill 75 (Chapter 9, Statutes of 2019) authorized $350,000 for the CDE to contract with SJCOE to rebuild the SARC web application for ease of use by schools and LEAs. In 2020, 7,778 out of 10,177, or 76.4 percent of LEAs used the SARC Web Application to post/submit their SARCs to the CDE. In preparation for this year’s SARCs, SJCOE has redesigned the registration process for accessing the secure SARC web application which will significantly increase the number and percentage of LEAs using the system. Currently, 8,564 out of 10,416, or 82.2 percent of LEAs used the SARC Web Application to post/submit their SARCs to the CDE.

The redesigned SARC Web Application system consolidates all active schools into one system, including Nonpublic, Nonsectarian (NPS) Schools. Previously, the NPS SARCs were located on a separate system, and only one method was available for NPS schools to post/submit their SARCs to CDE: the provision of providing an active uniform resource locator (URL) of the website address where the SARC was posted on the school’s website. With the system redesign and the integration of the NPS schools into the SARC Web Application system, the NPS now have available the same two methods as public schools to post/submit their SARCs to the CDE via the online SARC Web Application: (1) use the online partially pre-populated electronic SARC template located on the SARC Web Application to complete and post the SARC; or (2) provide an active URL of the website address where the SARC is posted on the school/LEA website. The CDE is also able through this new system to provide NPS schools with immediate access to pre-populated state data.

The new user account functionality leverages the work that SJCOE developed for the California School Dashboard system for the SARC Web Application related to account access and an annual registration process. Previously, only district-level user accounts (i.e., usernames and passwords) of Superintendents and their designees had the capability to create additional user accounts at the district-level and/or school-level. With the system redesign, school-level user accounts of Direct Funded Charter (DFC) School Administrators and NPS School Administrators and their designees have the capability to create additional school-level user accounts for their respective school(s).

The annual secure registration process provides County Superintendents, District Superintendents, DFC School Administrators, and NPS School Administrators with immediate access and full user account capability to the SARC Web Application system. Using this new process, Superintendents, DFC and NPS School Administrators each can register to obtain their unique secure username and password. They then use their unique secure username and password and can immediately access the SARC Web Application system and can create additional user accounts for their designated SARC Coordinators as needed. This process has a secure self-identification process by which the authorized registrants use their school or district email address, as listed on the California School Directory, for self-identifying purposes. Annual registration will ensure that current, authorized staff have access to the system and new County and District Superintendents, new DFC School Administrators, and new NPS School Administrators will have immediate access to the online SARC Web Application system. This also ensures that each LEA and school-site has a designated SARC user account to confirm that a SARC can be submitted for every active school in California.

### **Technical Redesign and Modernization and Updates to the Search Functionality**

This redesign also includes a new look to the homepage of the “Find a SARC”, which employs a more user-friendly search method, and has added links on the home web page to provide the public with convenient access to SARC information. Additionally, this homepage includes the following links to existing SARC information: (1) Resources which provides quick access via links to many SARC resources; and (2) Contact Us which provides a quick and easy method to send an email to the SARC Team.

One feature of the new search page is that the look and feel are more in line with the current search functionality developed for the California School Dashboard, so will be more intuitive to navigate compared to the old SARC search function. When users select a SARC for a specific school, a landing page will now include basic school information including district name, address, and indicate whether or not the school is an NPS or charter school or a Dashboard Alternative School Status (DASS) school. It will also include the school’s county-district-school (CDS) code and basic enrollment and demographic information about the school, including numbers and percentages of various student groups. Finally, the landing page also links immediately to the school’s current year full SARC report and also provides access to viewing a school’s full SARC in an accessible format such as in a Portable Document Format (PDF) when available. When two years of SARCs (current and prior year) are available for a school, the option to select the prior year SARC is also available for users.

## Local Educational Agency Report Cards

**Background**

Under federal statute, LEAs receiving Title I, Part A assistance must create and disseminate an annual LARC which must include information on the LEA as a whole, but also must include information for each school served by the LEA. LEAs in California receiving Title I funds meet their federal school-level reporting requirements through the SARC (except for per-pupil expenditures, explained below) and LEA-level reporting requirements through the LARC. While federal statute requires LEAs to produce LARCs, the CDE creates the LARC containing LEA-level aggregate data on the behalf of LEAs. Additionally, a current blank LARC template is available on the CDE web page in Spanish. Additional information and access to these reports are available on the LARC web page <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/le/>.

### **Per Pupil Expenditures**

ESSA specifies that LARCs must now include new data elements to meet compliance standards, including school improvement funds and 2018–19 PPE data that was first collected for all LEAs by the CDE in 2020.

Specifically, ESSA Section 1111(h)(1)(C)(x) and 1111(h)(2)(C) requires that the PPE data reflect personnel and non-personnel spending per-pupil, disaggregated by funding source (local, state, and federal), for each LEA and each school in the state. Note that although these data are reported at the school-level as well as at the LEA level, both data types are reported in the LARC because the SARC already contains state-required school-level finance data calculated differently than the PPE data required by federal statute. Additionally, LARCs annually report the following data elements for all LEAs:

* Student achievement data
* High school graduation rates
* State performance on National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)
* Educator qualifications
* Personnel and non-personnel per-pupil spending

## State Accountability Report Card

Pursuant to ESSA, Title I, Part A, Section 1111(h), each state must annually produce a STARC. The State is responsible for creating and disseminating the STARC, which contains state-level aggregate information, including the number of students statewide, disaggregated by student groups. ESSA also specifies that the STARC must now include new data elements to meet compliance standards, including school improvement funds. Annually, the STARC annually reports on the following data elements at the statewide level:

* Student achievement data
* High school graduation rates
* State performance on NAEP
* Educator qualifications

Like the LARC and the SARC template, the STARC is available on our web page in both English and in Spanish. Additional information and access to the report is available on the STARC web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/sc/>.

## Attachment(s)

N/A