California Department of Education
Executive Office
SBE-002 (REV. 11/2017)

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# **MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** February 4, 2019

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

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

**SUBJECT:** Update on the Implementation of the Integrated Local, State, and Federal Accountability System: Status Update on the Development of a Measure of Individual Student Growth.

## Summary of Key Issues

This Information Memorandum provides the State Board of Education (SBE) with an update on the status of the development of a measure of individual student growth. At the July 2018 meeting, the SBE directed the California Department of Education (CDE) to conduct further study on a measure of individual student growth, including the impact of future years of assessment data, changes in the model to reduce year-to-year volatility, consideration of additional growth models or options, and an examination of growth models implemented in other states. (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr18/documents/jul18item01.docx>). The CDE has engaged the California Comprehensive Center (CCC) to conduct this research and to facilitate a stakeholder process on the future direction of this work.

The growth model stakeholder feedback group, facilitated by the CCC, recently convened to discuss a measure of individual student growth. This group is comprised of researchers, advocacy groups, and county and district staff. The first meeting was held on February 4, 2019. After a brief overview of the work to date on this topic and development of California’s accountability system, Joseph Martineau with the National Center for Improvement of Education Assessment led an exploration of the following topics:

* Vertical scales and how they measure different domains from one grade to another in each content area, by design.
* A possible framework for selecting a growth model and questions that should be considered to develop a theory of action with the final step being the evaluation and selection of a growth measure based on characteristics.
* The establishment of common vocabulary for different types of growth models and for interpreting measures of growth.

Participants collaboratively engaged in small group activities and discussions to solidify their understanding of growth measures and to share their expectations of what information a measure of individual student growth would provide. The groups shared the highlights of their small group discussions with all the participants and reached general consensus that: (1) different growth models provide different information, (2) a key step in the development of a measure of student growth is to determine what information is desired, and (3) it is important to be precise about the intended use of information gathered from a measure of individual student growth—whether for accountability or other valuable purposes. The first meeting was very productive and set the foundation for the work and conversations at future meetings.

The CDE will continue to update the SBE on the work of the Growth Model Stakeholder Group throughout the year.

## Attachment(s)

None.