

California Department of Education

Executive Office

SBE-003 (REV. 11/2017

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# California State Board of EducationJanuary 2019 AgendaItem #20

## Subject

Appointment of Lupita Cortez Alcalá to Chief Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction in accordance with Article IX, Section 2.1, of the Constitution of the State of California.

## Type of Action

Action, Information

## Summary of the Issue(s)

State Superintendent-elect Tony Thurmond has nominated a Chief Deputy Superintendent and requests that the State Board of Education (SBE) approve this nomination of Lupita Cortez Alcalá, effective immediately.

## Recommendation

The California Department of Education (CDE) recommends that the State Board of Education appoint the new Chief Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction in accordance with Article IX, Section 2.1, of the Constitution of the State of California.

## Brief History of Key Issues

Article IX, Section 2.1, of the Constitution of the State ofCalifornia requires the SBE to approve the nomination of Constitutional Officers.

## Summary of Previous State Board of Education Discussion and Action

In July 2015, the SBE approved the appointments of Michelle Zumot and Glen Price to the role of Chief Deputy Superintendents of Public Instruction. In January 2015 and December 2010, the SBE approved the appointment of Richard Zeiger to the role of Chief Deputy Superintendent.

## Fiscal Analysis (as appropriate)

The funding for this position is annually allocated in the CDE budget.

## Attachment(s)

Attachment 1: Biography (2 pages)

# Biography

Prior to being nominated as Chief Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction, Lupita Cortez Alcalá served as the Executive Director of the California Student Aid Commission. In this capacity, Lupita provided a prominent voice in the statewide discussion on college cost of attendance and reform of financial aid. Through her leadership, she was a spokesperson for issues impacting California’s $2 billion Cal Grant student financial aid program, and provided oversite of the delivery of the agency’s Cal Grant, Middle Class Scholarship, California Dream Act, and seven other grant or loan repayment programs, supporting schools and students.

Prior to heading the Student Aid Commission, Lupita served as a chief advisor to State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson. She spent more than 12 years with the California Department of Education (CDE) and worked closely with the State Board of Education. Lupita was a key leader in strategic policy for pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade (K-12) education, serving as Deputy Superintendent of Instruction and Learning Support. While there, Lupita advanced issues for English learners; language arts; history; visual & performing arts; physical education; teacher support; migrant students; curriculum and instructional resources; early childhood programs; science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education; high school initiatives; and, career technical education. Lupita was notably responsible for implementing the California State Standards in English Language Arts and Literacy and Mathematics, California English Language Development Standards, Next Generation Science Standards, Blueprint for Environmental Literacy, and Innovate: A Blueprint for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics She is credited with creating the 2013 through 2015 California STEM Symposium, overhauling the Migrant Education Program, and implementing $500 million in Career Pathway Trust Grants and the Career Technical Education Model Curriculum Standards and Frameworks.

As a Commissioner and former Chair of the California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls, Lupita worked to expand opportunity for girls by initiating a series of STEM and science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) Town Hall events focusing on access and equity in education and, with the CDE, developing professional learning modules focusing on instructional strategies to increase access to STEAM.

Lupita previously served as Deputy Legislative Secretary for Governor Gray Davis. In this capacity, Lupita advised Governor Davis on all K-12 and higher education matters, while helping to increase and expand access to available state programs for the state’s education community. Prior to joining the Davis administration, she served as a state and federal legislative advocate for the California School Boards Association. In 2014 and 2015, Lupita was a participant in the prestigious Resnick Aspen Action Forum in Aspen, Colorado.

Lupita is a native of Tijuana, Mexico and moved with her family from Mexico to the San Diego area when she was 3 years old. Like many of the students whom the Commission and the CDE help, Alcalá and her siblings were English learners and the first in their family to attend college in the United States. She holds a bachelor’s degree in political science from the University of California, San Diego, and a master’s degree in planning administration and social policy from the Harvard University School of Education in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Lupita began her career as an Early Academic Outreach Counselor for the University of California, San Diego, serving students in the San Diego region.

Lupita is a member of the PUENTE Advisory Board, the University of California, Davis, C-STEM, GIRL Advisory Board, and the Linked Learning Alliance Equity Council.  Lupita has distinguished herself as a strong pre-K-12 public school and higher education advocate that is passionate about providing access and opportunity to all students.