

California Department of Education

Executive Office

SBE-003 (REV. 11/2017)

ssb-sfsd-mar19-item01

# California State Board of Education March 2019 Agenda Item #14

## Subject

Adoption of Standards for Comprehensive Reviews of School Districts

## Type of Action

Action, Information

## Summary of the Issue(s)

Pursuant to *Education Code (EC)* Section 41327.1, the State Board of Education shall adopt and may update a comprehensive list of professional and legal standards that school districts are encouraged to use as a guide to conduct a good educational program and for improving fiscal and management practices. These standards are also used in the comprehensive reviews conducted by the Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) pursuant to *EC* sections 41326 through 41328 for school districts that have become insolvent and received state emergency loans to evaluate their improvement and determine when sufficient progress has been made to return to local control.

## Recommendation

The California Department of Education (CDE) recommends that the State Board of Education (SBE) adopt the attached list of Standards for Comprehensive Reviews.

## Brief History of Key Issues

FCMAT was created by legislation in 1992 (Assembly Bill 1200) as an independent agency to provide fiscal and management assistance to local educational agencies. The Standards for Comprehensive Reviews of School Districts referenced above were developed by FCMAT in the areas of Governance/Community Relations, Personnel Management, Pupil Achievement, Financial Management, and Facilities Management. The standards are aligned with industry best practices and with applicable state and federal law, including the California *EC*. The standards are designed and intended to affect functions directly at the district, school site and classroom level and if implemented, lead to a district’s recovery in the five operational areas. The standards are used by FCMAT to conduct independent, external reviews of school districts and develop recommendations for improvement and recovery plans. Each standard is measured on a consistent rating format and given a score. The purpose of the scoring is to establish a baseline of information by which to measure the future improvements in each rated area.

In 2004, *EC* Section 41327.1 added the requirement that the SBE adopt and periodically update the standards. The standards were last revised in 2009 and contain some outdated and duplicative information. Sometimes a particular element was repeated in multiple standards across operational areas causing duplicate reporting of findings and recommendations. In the revised standards that are attached for approval, FCMAT eliminated those that were duplicative or outdated. Other standards were either clarified, combined or adjusted. In addition to the FCMAT staff, feedback from experts outside the organization was used to review the revised standards. The overall focus was ensuring that each standard was vital to a district’s recovery.

FCMAT is proposing to use the following scaled rating from zero to four, indicating the extent to which a standard has been met.

1. **Not Implemented**. There is no significant evidence that the LEA has planned for or implemented the standard.
2. **Planning**. The LEA is planning in preparation for implementing the standard.
3. **Implementation Begun**. The LEA has begun implementing elements of the standard.
4. **Implemented**. The LEA has effectively implemented all critical elements of the standard.
5. **Sustained**. The LEA has implemented all elements of the standard and sustained the implementation effectively for at least one year.

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

The standards were last updated by the State Board of Education in 2009.

## Fiscal Analysis (as appropriate)

The standards are intended to be used to improve school district fiscal and management practices.

## Attachment(s)

* **Attachment 1:** Standards for Comprehensive Reviews (20 Pages)