

California Department of Education

Executive Office

SBE-003 (REV. 11/2017)

sab-sasd-mar24item01

# California State Board of Education March 2024 Agenda Item #03

## Subject

Developing an Integrated Local, State, and Federal Accountability and Continuous Improvement System: Update Regarding Exploring the Feasibility of Adding a Subset of Standardized Questions for Inclusion in School Climate Surveys for Reporting Results in the Local Indicator Self-Reflection Tool for Priority 6: School Climate.

## Type of Action

Action, Information

## Summary of the Issue(s)

With the approval of a new accountability system in May 2016, the State Board of Education (SBE) established an annual review process of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) evaluation rubrics, which are reported through the online California School Dashboard (Dashboard). This process includes the review of local indicators, performance standards, and self-reflection tools to consider necessary changes or improvements based on newly available data, recent research, and/or educational partner feedback. In March of 2023, the SBE adopted a revised version of the Local Indicator Self-Reflection Tool for Priority 6: School Climate and directed the California Department of Education (CDE) to explore the feasibility of implementing a small subset of standardized questions related to students’ sense of safety and school connectedness to school climate surveys.

## Recommendation

The CDE recommends that the SBE approve the receipt of the Considerations for Developing a Set of Standardized School Climate Survey Questions Report provided in Attachment 1.

The CDE also requests feedback about the concepts outlined in the paper and direction from the SBE on next steps.

## Brief History of Key Issues

Current law provides the SBE with authority to approve the performance standards for all local indicators, approve self-reflection tools, and determine if updates or revisions are necessary. The SBE adopted the Local Indicator Self-Reflection Tool for Priority 6: School Climate at its meeting in September 2016. The SBE later adopted minor revisions to the Local Indicator Self-Reflection Tool for Priority 6: School Climate in March 2018, based on the work of the School Conditions and Climate Work Group (CCWG).

At its January 2023 SBE meeting, the SBE received an Information Item regarding the history of the tool, information on the Center for School Climate at WestEd and updates regarding how the Center is working with local educational agencies (LEAs) on the implementation and use of local surveys for improvement. Overall, the feedback from this item demonstrated a desire and need to improve the current self-reflection tool to address the following:

1. Frequency of survey administration
2. Disaggregation of student groups

In addition, the SBE directed the CDE to explore the feasibility of implementing a small subset of standardized questions related to students’ sense of safety and school connectedness to school climate surveys. At its March 2023 meeting, the SBE adopted a revised Local Indicator Self-Reflection Tool for Priority 6: School Climate that integrated feedback provided to the SBE by the Center for School Climate at WestEd. Following the March 2023 SBE meeting, CDE and SBE staff partnered with the Region 15 Comprehensive Center (R15CC) to design a process to explore the feasibility of implementing a small set of standardized survey questions that could be added to existing surveys. Attachment 1 provides an update on the design and implementation of the process that the CDE, SBE staff, and R15CC used to engage LEAs, survey vendors, and diverse educational partners in fulfilling the SBE’s request.

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

In January 2024, the SBE approved the Revised Self-Reflection Tool for the Local Performance Indicator for Priority 6: School Climate (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr24/documents/jan24item08.docx>).

In March 2023, the SBE approved the Revised Self-Reflection Tool for the Local Performance Indicator for Priority 6: School Climate and directed the CDE to investigate the feasibility of including a small number of standardized survey questions within school climate surveys statewide (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr23/documents/mar23item04.docx>).

In January 2023, the SBE received an information item that provided the SBE with background on the history of the development of the Priority 6: School Climate Self-Reflection Tool, a review of the tool itself, information related to the Center for School Climate at WestEd, and an update regarding the way in which the Center for School Climate at WestEd and other partners are working to assist LEAs with the implementation and use of local surveys for improvement (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr23/documents/jan23item05.docx>).

In August 2020, the SBE received the following Information Memorandum providing background information and an implementation plan for California *Education Code* Section 52064.5 related to the standards for local indicators (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/pn/im/documents/aug20amard01.docx>).

In March 2018, the SBE approved the Revised Self-Reflection Tool for the Local Performance Indicator for Priority 6: School Climate (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr18/documents/mar18item01.docx>).

In February 2018, the SBE received the following Information Memorandum related to Priority 6: School Climate:

* Update on the Development of a Revised Self-Reflection Tool for the Local Performance Indicator for LCFF Priority 6: School Climate (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/pn/im/documents/memo-exec-ocd-feb18item01.docx>)

In November 2017, the SBE received a summary report of the work of the CCWG. The report included a synopsis of the framework recommendations including state-level and LEA-level recommendations. The CCWG’s recommendations comprise both those that can be acted on with existing resources and authority, and those for which additional resources and authority will be necessary to implement (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr17/documents/nov17item03rev.doc>).

In June 2017, the SBE received the following Information Memorandum related to Priority 6: School Climate:

* Update on the School Conditions and Climate Workgroup (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/pn/im/documents/memo-exec-ocd-jun17item01.doc>)

In March 2017, the SBE heard an update on the development of the new accountability system; an overview of alternative schools in preparation for the development of applicable indicators; a work plan for state indicator development; and an update on the local indicators—specifically, the work by the CCWG (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr17/documents/mar17item02.doc>).

In February 2017, the SBE received the following Information Memorandum:

* Updated Summary of SBE Actions Related to Adopting the LCFF Evaluation Rubrics (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/pn/im/documents/memo-sbe-feb17item01v2.doc>)

In January 2017, the SBE received the following Information Memoranda:

* Update on School Conditions and Climate Workgroup (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/pn/im/documents/memo-exe-jan17item01.doc>)
* Update on the LCFF Evaluation Rubrics Components: Statements of Model Practices (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/pn/im/documents/memo-exe-jan17item02.doc>)

In November 2016, the SBE approved self-assessment tools for LEAs to determine progress on the local performance indicators for Priorities 1, 6, 9, and 10; revised the standards for local performance indicators to clarify that LEAs must report the results of the local measurement of progress to their local governing boards at a regularly scheduled public meeting of the local governing board; and added language to the criteria to determine LEA eligibility for technical assistance and intervention under the LCFF statutes to clarify the applicability of the criteria to charter schools (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr16/documents/nov16item03.doc>).

In September 2016, the SBE approved the performance standards for all local indicators and the state indicators (except for the Academic Indicator), and the annual process for the SBE to review the rubrics to determine if updates or revisions are necessary (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr16/documents/sep16item01.doc>).

## Fiscal Analysis

None

## Attachment(s)

* Attachment 1: Considerations for Developing a Set of Standardized School Climate Survey Questions (20 pages)