California Department of Education

Executive Office

SBE-002 (REV. 11/2017)

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# **MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** February 12, 2019

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

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

**SUBJECT:** California Assessment System Feedback from Local Educational Agency Coordinators and Professional Learning Participants.

## Summary of Key Issues

The California Department of Education (CDE) is committed to providing resources and professional development support to assist local educational agencies (LEAs) in the successful implementation of California’s system of assessments. As part of this support, the CDE, through an existing contract with the Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE), gathers feedback and recommendations from attendees at key meetings, trainings, structured feedback sessions, and surveys. The SCOE then provides the CDE with reports that include an analysis of any feedback and recommendations based on the information gathered. These reports provide key information and direction for the CDE to consider in determining future outreach efforts to meet the needs identified by LEAs. This year, the SCOE produced eight reports:

* *California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) Coordinator Survey Report, November 2018*
* *English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) Coordinator Survey Report, November 2018*
* *2018–19 New CAASPP Coordinator Training: Post-Training Report, November 2018*
* *2018–19 New ELPAC Coordinator Training: Post-Training Report, November 2018*
* *2018–19 CAASPP Institute Post-Training Report*
* *2018–19 California Science Test (CAST) Academy Post-Training Report*
* *2018–19 ELPAC Academy Post-Training Report, October 2018*
* *2018 Assessment and Accountability Information Meeting Feedback Report*

The 2018 CAASPP Coordinator Survey Report and the 2018 ELPAC Coordinator Survey Report were the culmination of a large campaign to identify helpful resources and additional needs to assist LEA coordinators in successfully implementing the activities required to administer the CAASPP and ELPAC assessments. The new CAASPP and new ELPAC Coordinator training reports shared feedback about the training sessions for coordinators new to their roles after the trainings were provided. The CAASPP Institute post-training, CAST Academy, and ELPAC Academy reports synthesize any feedback received during these training opportunities. The 2018 Assessment and Accountability Information Meeting Feedback Report provides an additional opportunity to gather feedback from attendees to address the needs of LEAs.

Attendees of the various meetings and outreach activities conducted throughout California included educators, site administrators, district and site coordinators, and county office of education representatives. Some of the key highlights of these reports include the following:

* Results of the 2018 CAASPP Coordinator Survey revealed that coordinators would like additional quality trainings, more communication concerning best practices, and improved timeliness of information.
* Respondents to the 2018 ELPAC Coordinator Survey shared ways in which current resources can be improved, streamlined, and made easier to locate.
* CAASPP and ELPAC coordinators requested that the CDE to focus on creating simple resources for use with parent/guardian audiences.
* ELPAC coordinators also would like additional training opportunities and more communication about the Test Operations Management System (TOMS) and the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System.
* New CAASPP and new ELPAC coordinators reported increased understanding of their roles and responsibilities after completing the training sessions, and requested more opportunities for hands-on practice and demonstration in TOMS and other viewing systems.
* Attendees at the training events consistently cited the need for more time with hands-on practice. They expressed strong a desire to receive information about best practices and noted the need for resources designed specifically for classroom practitioners.
* Attendees at training events also requested that the CDE offer a separate professional training opportunity designed for classroom practitioners.
* Attendees requested plenty of opportunities to hear from their peers about assessment-related successes, challenges, and best practices.
* Attendees asked for more opportunities for hands-on exploration of the assessment tools and systems.

These findings support the goal of the CDE to provide resources and training to LEAs to ensure the successful implementation of California’s system of assessments.

Feedback from the 2018 Assessment and Accountability Information Meeting revealed a strong preference to continue the annual in-person meeting, and that it be held closer to the beginning of the academic year. Respondents also would like monthly updates providing timely information throughout the year. Originally, the CDE planned to transition to a virtual meeting. In response to this feedback, the CDE is returning to the in-person format and has scheduled the meeting to occur in August for 2019 instead of late September/early October.

As a result of the extensive feedback received from training participants, meeting attendees, and recommendations from the SCOE, the CDE has made the following additional outreach decisions for the coming year:

* In responding to the request to notify coordinators about resources early and often, the CDE will implement a series of webinars throughout the year to provide more frequent communications about key assessment events.
* To address the needs of classroom educators to have training opportunities earlier in the year, the CDE is launching the first annual California Assessment Conference. This two-and-a-half-day conference will combine multiple training events designed for classroom educators in a single conference. This will allow teachers to receive the training they want while minimizing their time away from the classroom. The conference will include time for attendees to hear about best practices and connect with their peers as well as after opportunities for hands-on exploration of assessment tools and systems.
* The CDE will reach out to site-level administrators to identify needs and resources that may be useful for school sites.
* The CDE will remain committed to continuous improvement of the resources provided to a variety of diverse audiences.

## Attachment(s)

* Attachment 1: *California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) Coordinator Survey Report, November 2018* (36 pages)
* Attachment 2: *English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) Coordinator Survey Report, November 2018* (36 pages)
* Attachment 3: *2018–19 New CAASPP Coordinator Training: Post-Training Report, November 2018* (9 pages)
* Attachment 4: *2018–19 New ELPAC Coordinator Training: Post-Training Report, November 2018* (10 pages)
* Attachment 5: *2018–19 CAASPP Institute Post-Training Report* (19 pages)
* Attachment 6: *2018–19 California Science Test (CAST) Academy Post-Training Report* (14 pages)
* Attachment 7: *2018–19 ELPAC Academy Post-Training Report, October 2018* (13 pages)
* Attachment 8: *2018 Assessment and Accountability Information Meeting Feedback Report* (19 pages)