California Department of Education

Executive Office

SBE-002 (REV. 11/2017)

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# **MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** June 14, 2019

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

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

**SUBJECT:** Low-Performing Students Block Grant March 2019 Report

## Summary of Key Issues

On June 27, 2018, Governor Brown signed Assembly Bill 1808 into law, adding California *Education Code* (*EC*) Section 41570, which established a one-time, $300 million Low-Performing Students Block Grant (LPSBG) in the 2018–19 fiscal year. The LPSBG is intended to provide California’s low-performing students with additional supports to increase their academic achievement as defined in *EC* Section 41570(d). LPSBG funds are available for expenditure or encumbrance through the 2020–21 fiscal year.

For the purposes of this grant, “low-performing students” meet the following criteria as outlined in *EC* Section 41570(d):

1. The pupil does not meet academic achievement standards based on the most recently available results of the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress, established by Article 4 (commencing with Section 60640) of Chapter 5 of Part 33 of Division 4, in any of the following ways:
2. The pupil does not meet the achievement standard, also referred to as “level 1,” in both English language arts and mathematics.
3. The pupil does not meet the achievement standard, also referred to as “level 1,” in either English language arts or mathematics, and nearly meets the achievement standard, also referred to as “level 2,” in the other subject.
4. The pupil does not meet the achievement standard, also referred to as “level 1,” in either English language arts or mathematics, and does not have a valid score for the other subject.
5. The pupil is not an unduplicated pupil, as defined in Section 42238.02, for the same school year used as the basis for the performance results.
6. The pupil is not a pupil identified for special education services pursuant to the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 United States Code Section 1400 et seq.), for the same school year used as the basis for the performance results.

EC Section 41570(e–f) requires local educational agencies (LEAs) to use LPSBG funds for evidence-based services for the pupils identified that directly support pupil academic achievement, including, but not limited to, professional development activities for certificated staff, instructional materials, or additional supports for pupils.

As a condition of receiving LPSBG funds, LEAs were required to develop a plan describing how the funds will increase or improve evidence-based services for the pupils identified pursuant to EC Section 41570(d) to accelerate increases in academic achievement, and how the effectiveness of the services will be measured.

The LEA plan was required to include information regarding how the services align with and are described in the school district’s local control and accountability plan (LCAP), the county superintendent of schools’ LCAP, or the charter school’s LCAP, as applicable. To ensure community and stakeholder input, the plan was required to be discussed and adopted at a regularly scheduled meeting of the governing board of the school district, the county board of education, or the governing body of the charter school. However, LEAs were not required to submit the plan to the California Department of Education (CDE) or receive prior approval of the LPSBG plan or budgets from the CDE.

LEAs receiving LPSBG funds were required to submit a report to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction by March 1, 2019, regarding the adopted plan to use the grant funds to increase the academic performance of pupils identified pursuant to EC Section 41570(d).

EC Section 41570(f)(3) requires the CDE to compile the information reported on the adopted plan and submit a report to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature on or before July 1, 2019. The CDE has complied with this requirement by submitting the report to the policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature, and has posted the report on the LPSBG Program Information web page on the CDE website at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/aa/ca/lpsbgprginfo.asp>. *EC* Section 41570(f)(3) also requires the CDE to update the State Board of Education (SBE) on the contents of that report. This Memorandum serves as the required update for the SBE.

## Attachment(s)

None