

Agenda-Special Session September 23, 2004

California State Board of Education (SBE) meeting agenda.

State Board Members

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AGENDA

September 23, 2004

Special Session

PUBLIC SESSION AGENDA
Thursday, September 23, 2004
4:00 p.m.

California Department of Education
Executive Conference Room
1430 N Street, 5 th Floor
Sacramento, California
916-319-0827

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes (August 2004 Special Session Meeting)

[ITEM 1](#) Standardized Reporting and Testing (STAR) Program: Approve Extension of Educational Testing Service (ETS) Contract to December 31, 2006. INFORMATION ACTION
(PDF; 41KB; 2pp.)

[ITEM 2](#) Standardized Reporting and Testing (STAR) Program: Approve Contract Amendments to 2004-05 Program to Accommodate Budget Shortfall. INFORMATION ACTION
(PDF; 43KB;)

2pp.)

ITEM 3 PUBLIC COMMENT.

INFORMATION

Public Comment is invited on any matter not included on the printed agenda. Depending on the number of individuals wishing to address the State Board, the presiding officer may establish specific time limits on presentations.

Adjournment

For more information concerning this agenda, please contact Deborah Franklin, Education Policy Consultant, at 1430 N Street, Suite 5111, Sacramento, CA 95814; telephone 916-319-0827; fax 916-319-0175. To be added to the speaker's list, please fax or mail your written request to the above-referenced address/fax number. This agenda is posted on the State Board of Education's website: www.cde.ca.gov/be.

Pursuant to **Government Code** section 11123(b) the meeting will be held by teleconference at the following teleconference locations that are accessible to the public:

920 Garden Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

999 South Fairmont Avenue, Suite 230
Lodi, CA 95240

970 University Avenue
Los Gatos, CA 95032

2 Folsom Street, 15 th Floor
North Conference Room
San Francisco, CA 94105

2708 Curtis Way
Sacramento, CA 95818

ALL TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE AND ARE PROVIDED FOR CONVENIENCE ONLY
ALL ITEMS MAY BE RE-ORDERED TO BE HEARD ON ANY DAY OF THE NOTICED MEETING
THE ORDER OF BUSINESS MAY BE CHANGED WITHOUT NOTICE

Persons wishing to address the State Board of Education on a subject to be considered at this meeting, including any matter that may be designated for public hearing, are asked to notify the State Board of Education Office (see telephone/fax numbers below) by noon of the third working day before the scheduled meeting/hearing, stating the subject they wish to address, the organization they represent (if any), and the nature of their testimony. Time is set aside for individuals so desiring to speak on any topic NOT otherwise on the agenda (please see the detailed agenda for the Public Session). In all cases, the presiding officer reserves the right to impose time limits on presentations as may be necessary to ensure that the agenda is completed.

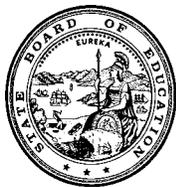
REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY

Pursuant to the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973* and the *Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990*, any individual with a disability who requires reasonable accommodation to attend or participate in a meeting or function of the California State Board of Education (SBE), may request assistance by contacting the SBE Office, 1430 N Street, Suite 5111, Sacramento, CA, 95814; telephone, 916-319-0827; fax, 916-319-0175.

Questions: State Board of Education | 916-319-0827

Last Reviewed: Wednesday, August 03, 2011

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CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

SEPTEMBER 2004 SPECIAL SESSION AGENDA

SUBJECT	
Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program: Approve Extension of the Educational Testing Service (ETS) Contract to December 31, 2006	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information <input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing

RECOMMENDATION

Approve extending the Educational Testing Service (ETS) contract for developing the California Standards Tests (CSTs) and administering the CSTs and California Achievement Tests, Sixth Edition Survey (CAT/6 Survey)

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCUSSION AND ACTION

- At its April 2002 meeting, the State Board designated ETS as the STAR contractor for three years (2002-03, 2003-04, and 2004-05) and stated that it would consider up to a two-year contract extension if the Program were authorized beyond 2005.
- At its June 2002 meeting, the Board approved the ETS contract and scope of work.

SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

- The Governor signed SB 1448 that reauthorizes the STAR Program to January 1, 2011, on August 16, 2004.
- The reauthorization makes the following changes in the Program
 - Changes the requirement of administering a national norm-referenced test from grades two through eleven to grades three and seven.
 - Allows school districts and schools to use materials provided by the California Department of Education to prepare students for the California Standards Tests.
 - Requires the Department to develop and adopt primary language tests aligned with the California Content Standards to replace the designated primary language test.
- Contractors for the STAR Program are selected through a Request for Submission

SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

(RFS) process. Approximately 20 months are required for developing tests from the time the Department distributes a Request for Submission (RFS) until test booklets are ready for printing. To have a new contractor for the 2005-06 test administration, a RFS would have needed to be distributed during February 2004, six months before the reauthorization legislation was signed.

- The Department is currently preparing a RFS to distribute during February 2005. This will allow the Board to designate a new contractor at its September 2005 meeting for the purpose of preparation for the spring 2007 STAR administration.
- Extending the current contract to December 31, 2006, provides time for the current contractor to complete all reporting requirements for the spring 2006 test administration, including providing the final corrected data files that will be used to post final Internet reports during early December 2006.

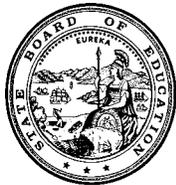
FISCAL ANALYSIS (AS APPROPRIATE)

The current 2004-05 contract is budgeted at \$55.5 million. The cost for an additional administration is to be approved by the Department of Finance (DOF). The Department does not expect a one-year contract extension to exceed \$55.5 million.

ATTACHMENT(S)

None.

Last Minute Memorandum will be submitted.



CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

SEPTEMBER 2004 SPECIAL SESSION AGENDA

SUBJECT Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program: Approve Contract Amendments for 2004-05 Program to Accommodate Budget Shortfall	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information <input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing
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RECOMMENDATION

Approve the following contract amendments for the 2004-05 STAR Program:

- Remove the designated achievement test for all grades except 3 and 7.
- Suspend the statewide mandatory administration and scoring of grade 4 and 7 standards-based writing tests for one year.
- Add staff development activities and strategies specific to the writing assessments.
- Add scope of work activities to retool the writing assessment for an operational administration in 2006.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCUSSION AND ACTION

- During 2000, the Board authorized the Department to develop writing test components for the California English-Language Arts Standards Tests (CST ELA).
- The writing tests were administered for the first time during spring 2001.
- Following the 2001 writing test administration, the Board had the Department and the contractor reconvene Performance Level Setting committees to incorporate the writing test into the total CST ELA scores.
- At its August 2001 meeting, the Board adopted using a weight of 8 points for the writing tests. Each paper is read independently by two readers with each assigning a score between 4 (high) and 1 (low). The Board also determined that the writing test results would be incorporated into the overall ELA CST score and not be reported separately.
- At its April 2002 meeting, the Board designated the *California Achievement Tests, Sixth Edition* as the national norm-referenced test to be administered to students in grades two through eleven.

SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

- There is currently a budget shortfall of approximately \$4.9 million for the 2004-05 contract.
- The budget shortfall is due to lower than expected savings for reducing the norm-referenced test administration from ten grades to two grades and unanticipated increases in variable costs due to increasing numbers of students participating in the Program.
- California *Education Code* Section 60605 (c)(1) states that a direct writing assessment shall be used if resources are made available for this. No other part of the STAR Program includes this permissive language.
- The writing test appears to be insensitive to changes that teachers are making in expanding standards-based writing instruction.
- Suspending the writing tests for a year will allow the Department to (1) produce professional development materials and strategies to enable teachers to help their students better prepare for the writing exercises and (2) retool the writing assessment for its reentry into STAR in 2006.
- For spring 2005, schools will receive grade 4 and 7 writing materials along with directions and materials for locally scoring the tests.
- A three-year contract was processed and approved for ETS. The contract includes administering the norm-referenced test in grades two through eleven. SB 1448 reduced the norm-referenced testing to grades three and seven, and this change needs to be reflected in a contract amendment.

FISCAL ANALYSIS (AS APPROPRIATE)

Distributing the grade 4 and 7 writing tests for local administration and scoring, as well as providing professional development materials for local scoring, rather than administering and scoring the tests as statewide tests is expected to generate a savings of approximately \$7.4 million. The expected savings will cover the budget shortfall. The residual of \$2.5 million will be used in the development of professional development activities/strategies for 2005 as well as the activities required to retool the exam for an operational administration in 2006.

ATTACHMENT(S)

None.

Last Minute Memorandum providing additional information regarding writing assessment staff development and revision will be submitted.