ITEM ATTACHMENT

DATE: September 5, 2012

TO: MEMBERS, State Board of Education

FROM: SUSAN K. BURR, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Item 3 – Adoption of the English Language Development Standards for California Public Schools, Kindergarten through Grade Twelve.

Summary of Key Issues

Pursuant to Assembly Bill 124 (Statutes of 2011), the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SSPI) submitted draft English language development (ELD) standards to the State Board of Education (SBE) on August 31, 2012 through the posting of Item 3 on the September 13, 2012 SBE agenda. The draft ELD standards are aligned to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in English language arts, Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects (ELA) for kindergarten through grade 12. The law requires the SBE to adopt, reject, or revise the ELD standards by September 30, 2012. Accordingly, the SBE staff has reviewed the proposed standards and recommends the revisions as noted on Attachment 1 for consideration by the SBE. If the SBE adopts these recommendations, the SSPI will present revised ELD standards for final adoption at the November 7-8, 2012 SBE meeting.

Recommendation

SBE staff suggests that the SBE designate SBE liaisons and staff to work with CDE staff on any revisions necessary, including the finalizing of the Introduction or any appendices to bring back to the SBE in November 2012 for final adoption.

Attachment(s)

Attachment 1: State Board of Education Staff Recommendations to Draft English Language Development Standards – September 5, 2012 (1 Page)
State Board of Education  
Staff Recommendations to Draft English Language Development Standards  
September 5, 2012

Proposed Shifts in Instruction for English Learner (EL) Students. The proposed standards are intended to amplify the language knowledge, skills and abilities of Common Core State Standards (CCSS) that are critical for ELs to be successful in school while they are becoming proficient in English. We agree with this approach but suggest that the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SSPI) explicitly explain the shifts that the proposed English language development (ELD) standards assume regarding instruction and how educators will be expected to change their instruction in order for ELs to successfully access the CCSS while developing English language proficiency.

Implementation Plans. While we understand that there are a number of implementation questions for educators, these questions will be addressed through ongoing CCSS implementation strategies such as the adoption of the English language arts, Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects (ELA)/ELD Framework, Professional Learning Modules for ELD, and other teacher education and professional learning opportunities that the CCSS will require for all students, including ELs, to achieve college- and career-readiness.

In light of the above, the State Board of Education (SBE) recognizes the current state of development and adoption of new standards, frameworks, instructional materials and the subsequent alignment of new statewide assessments and a corresponding accountability system. Given the evolving nature of these activities over the next several years, the SBE recommends that the draft appendices that help explain the draft ELD standards be revised as appropriate to remain responsive to and consistent with these processes.

Pending Legislation. The SBE also notes that there is pending legislation regarding CCSS and instructional materials adoption issues (i.e., Senate Bill 1200, Assembly Bill 1246, and Assembly Bill 1719) that may affect the implementation of the draft ELD standards. We recommend that CDE staff monitor final action on these measures, which must occur by September 30, 2012, and incorporate revisions, if needed, to the appendices prior to final adoption of the standards in November 2012.

Technical and Formatting Changes. Finally, the SBE has identified minor formatting and technical changes to the draft ELD standards, and therefore, suggests that the SBE designate SBE liaisons and staff to work with CDE staff on any necessary revisions, including the finalizing of the Introduction or any appendices, to bring back to the SBE in November 2012 for final adoption.