California Department of Education

Executive Office

SBE-002 (REV. 11/2017)

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# **MEMORANDUM**

DATE: February 6, 2020

TO: MEMBERS, State Board of Education

FROM: TONY THURMOND, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: 2018–19 California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress English Language Arts/Literacy: Notification and Update on Grade Six Scoring and Reporting.

## Summary of Key Issues

This Information Memorandum provides notification of an error with the scoring and reporting of the grade six writing extended responses (WERs) for the 2018–19 California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) Smarter Balanced English language arts/literacy (ELA) test, and the California Department of Education’s (CDE’s) decision for remediation and communication plan.

### Background About the Writing Extended Response Items

Each student who takes the CAASPP Smarter Balanced ELA assessment receives one WER prompt as part of a performance task section of the test. The WER prompts are constructed-response items that are randomly assigned to students, and each is scored on three dimensions: 1) purpose/organization (POR); 2) evidence/elaboration (EEL) or development elaboration (DVE); and 3) conventions (COV).

### Issue Description

Educational Testing Service (ETS) recognized in early December 2019 that, within the pool of grade six WER items, six automated-scored WER prompts had low inter-rater reliability estimates for the COV dimension scores. In ETS’s review and analysis of all data transfer and scoring systems, a configuration issue was uncovered in the data transfer system related to these particular grade six WER prompts. There were six total in number, in which extra characters were erroneously added to student responses while they were being processed for scoring and reporting. Because characters include punctuation marks, and punctuation is part of the COV scoring, it was the COV dimension score that resulted in this negative impact.

### Remediation and Communication Plan

ETS has updated the configuration setting and reprocessed the grade six WER through the automated scoring engine. Psychometric and data analysis staff from ETS conducted parallel processing and analysis of the reprocessed grade six WER results to verify that the item statistics were similar to the 2017–18 item statistics. ETS then used the reprocessed grade six WER results to generate the revised scale scores for the impacted students, schools, and local educational agencies (LEAs).

The revised scale scores resulted in an overall increase of 3.7 points to the statewide average scale score for CAASPP Smarter Balanced ELA in grade six. Individually, ELA scale scores increased for 85,505 students, remained the same for 55,276 students, and decreased for 1,899 students. Of the students whose scale scores increased, 18,089 students changed levels, with 7,121 students rising from Standard Nearly Met (Level 2) to Standard Met (Level 3). The impacted students were tested in 1,509 LEAs throughout California.

The CDE has instructed ETS to report revised Smarter Balanced ELA scores for all students whose scale score increased due to rescoring. Consistent with past practice, students whose scale score decreased or remained the same will not be re-reported. LEAs have been notified and have been provided a communication to parents for distribution of revised Student Score Reports.

Furthermore, related reporting systems and summary reports, including the public web reporting site, the Online Reporting System, and the California Educators Reporting System will be updated with the revised scores. ETS also will reproduce and deliver the CAASPP summary reports, crosstab reports, Performance Trend Charts, English Learner Trend Charts, Data Roundtable Report, WER data, and other reports impacted by the scoring error, as needed. Revised data files will be provided to the Analysis, Measurement and Accountability Reporting Division for further analysis in order to determine whether there is an impact on the accountability and continuous improvement system.

## Attachment(s)

None.