California Department of Education

Executive Office

SBE-002 (REV. 11/2017)

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# **MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** June 13, 2025

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

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

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Goals and Priorities for the Next California Assessment System Procurement

## Summary of Key Issues

This memorandum provides an update on the proposed goals and priorities to be included in the procurement for the next assessment contractor with the capacity and expertise to develop, administer, score, analyze, and report assessments as well as implement a technology solution for the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) as defined in California *Education Code* (*EC*) sections 60605 through 60648.5 and English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) as defined in *EC* sections 313 and 60810.

### **Proposed Goals and Priorities for the Next California Assessment System Contract**

The California Department of Education (CDE) will issue an open Request for Submission (RFS) to competitively procure its next assessment contract for five administrations of the CAASPP and ELPAC, collectively known as the California Assessment System. This procurement process differs from the prior procurement, which was a four-stage request for qualifications. The first stage was qualifications. The second stage was demonstrations. The third stage was the RFS of a proposed scope of work, a draft proposed budget, and a transition plan. The fourth stage was contract negotiations with the selected contractor. The CDE found that the multi-stage process was necessary at that time, so the state could identify potential contractors with the capacity and expertise needed. The CDE is proposing that the upcoming procurement process proceed with a RFS and contract negotiations, a more streamlined process to identify an assessment contractor with the proven capacity and expertise to successfully implement the California Assessment System.

The CDE is informing the State Board of Education (SBE) that for the California Assessment System RFS, the CDE will request from the potential contractors a formal written submission that contains a proposed scope of work, a draft proposed budget, and a transition plan. This contract, contingent on the availability of an appropriation for this purpose, is projected to begin March 1, 2027, allowing for a ten-month overlap with the current contract for transition activities, and continues through December 31, 2032.

The CDE will seek feedback and approval from the SBE to include the following goals and priorities as part of the California Assessment System RFS:

1. Implement the California Assessment System during the 2027–32 school years with the development and administration of high-quality assessments that provide actionable results
2. Provide a robust assessment system that is:
3. Comprehensive and coherent
4. Flexible and accessible to support the needs of educators, students, and families while providing data that supports valid inferences
5. Designed with technology solutions that meet industry best practices and standards
6. Innovative to increase efficiency and value
7. Support California in complying with applicable state and federal laws

#### **Proposed Procurement Schedule**

The following schedule is tentative and subject to change.

| **Activity** | **Action Date** |
| --- | --- |
| SBE Information Memorandum on Procurement Goals and Priorities | June 2025 |
| SBE Item Includes Information on Procurement Goals and Priorities | July 2025 |
| SBE Information Memorandum on Procurement Goals and Priorities | August 2025 |
| SBE Item Includes Action on Procurement Goals and Priorities | September 2025 |
| Posting of RFS on the CDE Website | Fall 2025 |
| Contractor Webinar | Fall 2025 |
| Submission Due | Winter 2026 |
| Submission Evaluation | Winter/Spring 2026 |
| SBE Item Includes Action on Approval to Negotiate Contract | May 2026 |
| Contract Negotiation | Spring/Summer 2026 |
| SBE Item Includes Action on Approval of Contract | September 2026 |
| Contract Begins | March 2027 |

The staff at the CDE, the SBE, and the Department of Finance will negotiate the final scope of work and budget with the selected contractor. After negotiations with the selected contractor are completed, the resulting contract will be taken back to the SBE for final consideration and approval. Contract funding is contingent on appropriation in the annual budget act.

## Attachment(s)

None.