California Department of Education

Executive Office

SBE-002 (REV. 11/2017)

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# MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** February 7, 2020

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

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

**SUBJECT:** California Assessment System Feedback: Local Educational Agency Assessment Coordinators Survey Results and 2019 California Assessment Post-Conference Report.

## Summary of Key Issues

The California Department of Education (CDE) is committed to providing resources and professional development support to assist local educational agencies (LEAs) in the successful implementation of California’s system of assessments. Through an existing contract with the Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE), to gather feedback and recommendations from attendees at key meetings, trainings, structured feedback sessions, and surveys, the SCOE provides the CDE with reports that include an analysis of any feedback and recommendations based on the input and any other related information gathered. These reports provide key information and direction for the CDE to consider in determining future trainings and outreach efforts to meet the needs identified by LEAs and other stakeholders.

Two reports are available as attachments to this Information Memorandum include:

* *2019–20 Assessment Coordinators Survey Results Report,* January 2020
* *2019 California Assessment Conference Post-Conference Report,* January 2020.

The 2019–20 Assessment Coordinators Survey Results Report was the culmination of a large-scale campaign to identify helpful resources to address additional needs of LEA coordinators in successfully implementing the activities required to administer the CAASPP and ELPAC assessments. The SCOE surveyed coordinators and then provided a draft analysis of findings based on the information gathered to the CDE. This report provides key information and direction for the CDE to consider in determining future outreach efforts to meet the needs as a result of the survey of CAASPP and ELPAC LEA coordinators. Highlights of findings include the following:

* Resources⎯Increase efforts to highlight existing resources through regular articles in the *Assessment Spotlight* newsletter and through direct emails sent from CDE vendors to LEA coordinators and site administrators.
* Training opportunities⎯Consider conducting periodic webcasts to provide experienced LEA and site coordinators with additional role-specific and timely information, similar to what the CDE has done this year for coordinators who have been in their role for less that twelve months, and adopting a year-long training plan.
* Communications⎯Organize the weekly *Assessment Spotlight* newsletter into standing sections for greater ease of access for coordinators; for example, separate out information needed by ELPAC coordinators versus information needed by CAASPP coordinators.
* Social media presence⎯Focus on increasing followers for the Assessment Development and Administration Division Twitter account and as well as on adopting practices to increase user engagement.

The second report was based on the first California Assessment Conference (CAC) held in October 2019.The purpose of the CAC was to offer a single venue to replace the multiple training sessions that had been in held previous years, and to provide CAC participants the opportunity to learn about the various components of California’s system of assessments at the same time. More than 750 participants joined this two-and-a-half-day conference to learn how assessment tools and resources can be used to support teaching and learning in California classrooms. Feedback from participants was used to provide key information and direction for the CDE to consider in determining actions and practices for a second CAC, scheduled for October 16–18, 2020, at the Riverside Convention Center. Highlights of participant’s feedback include the following:

* Alternate conference locations between Northern California and Southern California.
* Hold the conference in October.
* Offer basic “101” sessions for educators who are unfamiliar with the California assessments.
* Recruit additional members with expertise in science for the conference training team.
* Offer more sessions featuring shared practices from LEA teams.
* Expand CDE “office hours” at the conference to allow more attendees an opportunity to connect with CDE representatives.
* Build out participation by California educational associations.

## Attachment(s)

* Attachment 1: *2019–20 Assessment Coordinators Survey Results Report,* January 2020 (53 Pages)
* Attachment 2: *2019 California Assessment Conference Post-Conference Report,* January 2020 (57 Pages)