

Feds Approve California's Waiver of ESEA Testing Requirement

Today we learned the US Department of Education formally approved the state's waiver of federal testing requirements. This waiver allows the state to move forward with implementation of the Smarter Balanced field test, which will begin in a matter of days.

State Board to Act on K-3 Grade Span Adjustment Regulations

Next Wednesday (March 12), the State Board of Education is meeting to discuss and act on a number of important items, including the emergency regulations for the K-3 Grade Span Adjustment (GSA) under the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). They will also begin the process of developing permanent regulations at the same meeting.

The emergency regulations are intended to clarify how the K-3 GSA is calculated and how school sites make progress each year towards 24:1 pupil/teacher ratios as the LCFF is implemented (the governor estimates full implementation in 2020-21).

For districts receiving K-3 GSA funds, these new rules will be important since non-compliance may lead to a loss of all K-3 GSA funds. Remember, loss of K-3 GSA funds would also lower the amount of supplemental and concentration grant funding that is received by that LEA. This occurs because the supplemental and concentration grant percentages are a function of the Base Grant + Grades K-3 GSA + Grades 9-12 GSA.

I have attached the following related documents for your review:

- 1) Draft of the emergency K-3 GSA regulations
- 2) Crosswalk of the objectives and the proposed regulations
- 3) Example of class size average and progress calculations for a school site

Legislative Update

We are beginning to see a number of "spot bills" being amended to reflect more substantive policy proposals. This week, two major pieces of legislation emerged:

[AB 2319 \(Bonilla\) School Finance: Innovation, training, and technology block grant](#)

While the bill still needs more substantive amendments, the author announced this week her intention to provide \$1.5 billion in additional one-time block grant funding for school districts for any costs related to the following:

- 1) Professional development
- 2) Technology, hardware, or software
- 3) Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)
- 4) Career Technical Education (CTE)

5) Instructional Materials

Another bill of interest emerges in response to recent reports of excessive compensation for a superintendent. According to the author's office, [AB 2710 \(Muratsuchi\)](#) will be amended in the coming days to provide "greater transparency and accountability to prevent excessive school administrator compensation packages such as that recently reported in the Centinela Valley Union School District."

Assembly Member Muratsuchi is the chair of the Budget Subcommittee on Education Finance and has been speaking out about his concerns over the reporting of the Centinela Valley UHSD superintendent's compensation.

According to the author's office, the AB 2710 will be amended to:

- 1) Require county offices of education to review local administrators' compensation on an annual basis
- 2) Require a school district to post their administrator's employment contract and information on school district finances on their web site
- 3) Require school board members to receive training on ethics and governance
- 4) Restrict school districts from providing low-interest home loans such as that provided by the Centinela Valley Union High School District to their superintendent as part of his compensation package

K-12 Education Budget

The Budget subcommittees were running at full steam this week as they continued to hold hearings on various portions of the Governor's budget proposal. All of the hearings continue to be informational and no action was taken.

At these hearings, the Legislative Analysts Office (LAO) provided a number of good informational resources. Following are links to those relevant materials.

- [The 2014-15 Budget: Child Care and Preschool Programs](#)
- [Overview of New Funding and Accountability System](#)