

DIVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION
UPDATES for CAC Meeting – December 9, 2015

- **ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act) Reauthorization** ~~is expected to~~ did pass in the Senate ~~next week~~ and will now move to President Obama for approval before the end of the year. A bipartisan group of conferees agreed on a framework for reauthorization of the (ESEA). The framework, dubbed the “**Every Student Succeeds Act**,” The compromise framework gives **States significantly more freedom to set standards, design and implement interventions, and overall to tailor federal education programs to their needs**. The federal government will maintain “strong federal guardrails” – a phrase used multiple times by Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) in the discussion – to ensure accountability for all students.
- **TESTING**
Under the proposed framework, **States would still have to test students in English and math in grades 3-8 and once in high school and disaggregate scores by student subgroup (EL, SPED, Racial minorities, poverty). States would be required to identify and intervene in the bottom 5% of schools, those with the biggest achievement gaps, and those with high school graduation rates lower than 67%. The Adequate Yearly Progress requirement would be eliminated, and instead States would be responsible for designing their own accountability and intervention systems within those parameters.** While the separate School Improvement Grant program and requirements for Supplemental Education Services would reportedly be eliminated, States would be able to set aside up to 7% of Title I funds to help with interventions.

***CAASPP – CA Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (ELA and Math: Grades 3rd -8th and 11th)**

1. **CAA** – CA Alternate Assessment (2015-16 is the transition year)
2. **SBAC** – Smarter-Balanced Assessment Consortium
3. **ELPAC** – English Language Proficiency Assessment for CA and **CELDT**
 - a. Will be field tested in 16-17 (no scores reported!)
 - b. In 17-18 parts will be summative (combined). - will count initial field tested
 - c. In 18-19 there will be no more CELDT!

**New model for testing: consisting of:*

- Universal Tools – Resources for ANY student (scratch paper, oral clarification of test directions, etc.)
- Designated Supports - Resources a student normally uses in his/her classroom (***This need must be identified by teacher prior to testing***) (color overlay, change of seating, etc.)
- Accommodations – Items specified in an IEP or 504 Plan (large print version, supervised breaks, responses dictated to scribe, etc.)

• **AB1369 – Dyslexia Bill has been approved**

- Requires CDE to develop guidelines
- Schools are required to add “phonological processing” as a specific learning disability (SLD)
- State Department of Education will have a stakeholder group meeting in the future

- **Fred Balcom** is no longer in charge of the Special Education Division for CA Dept. of Education. They are currently seeking a replacement.
 - New Speaker Elect – **Anthony Rendon** has Early Ed background, so this is a good thing for all school districts
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Division Updates

- **Dr. Lisa Test, Coordinator for Occupational and Physical Therapy** was recently honored with a lifetime achievement award from the Occupational Therapy Association of CA
- **Jose Soto** is the new Service Center Administrator for local district South
- Five parents that volunteered for the LP Revision Committee at the Nov. CAC meeting have been approved and will receive additional information in the near future regarding our first meeting. The **parents selected are**: Mattie Walker, CAC Member; Geo Cable, CAC Secretary; Ofelia Perez, CAC Member, Sharnell Blevins, CAC Member; and Reginald Green., CAC Member

The CAC Chair, Kathy Kantor, is automatically selected for the committee

- Due to the lack of parent participation, the number of parent workshops being offered will be cut down for the spring semester and for the next year workshops will be offered sporadically throughout the District. Workshops will also be videotaped and available online.

On behalf of the Division of Special Education we want to wish you all a safe and Happy Holiday Season!