



CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

TOM TORLAKSON

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

March 17, 2015

Dear County and District Superintendents and Charter School Administrators:

INFORMATION ON 2014–15 STATE AND FEDERAL ACCOUNTABILITY

This letter is to inform you of decisions made at the March 2015 State Board of Education (SBE) meeting regarding the Academic Performance Index (API) and the letter from the U.S. Department of Education (ED) pertaining to this year's federal accountability reporting requirements.

API

Pursuant to California *Education Code* Section 52052 (as amended by Assembly Bill 484, Chapter 489, Statutes of 2013), the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SSPI), with the approval of the SBE, is authorized to suspend the API for the 2013–14 and 2014–15 school years. At the March 2015 SBE meeting, the SBE approved the recommendation by the SSPI, with the input of the Public Schools Accountability Act Advisory Committee, to suspend the API for the 2014–15 school year. To review the recommendation, please refer to Item 6 on the SBE March 2015 Meeting Agenda Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr15/agenda201503.asp>. Therefore, no API will be calculated and posted during the 2015–16 school year. For more information about the API and meeting legislative and/or programmatic requirements, please view the *Status of the API and the 3-Year Average Information Guide* posted on the California Department of Education (CDE) API Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ap/documents/infoguide14.pdf>.

In addition, the SBE and the CDE have been working on the development of a new state accountability system that compliments the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) state priorities and will focus on a broader set of outcomes than in the past. Given that the transition to the new state accountability system will be a long-term process, the earliest the CDE will be able to produce a new state accountability report is in the fall of 2016. We will continue to keep you informed as we move forward in the development of the new state accountability system.

2015 Federal Accountability Reporting Requirements

At the January 2015 SBE meeting, the CDE brought forth seven recommended changes to the federal accountability workbook, which were approved unanimously and will impact the 2015 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). For a complete list of these seven

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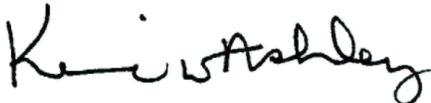
recommendations, please refer to Item 2 on the SBE January 2015 Meeting Agenda Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/aq/yr15/agenda201501.asp>.

In a February 25, 2015 letter sent to all states, the ED invited states to apply for a waiver that would allow Program Improvement (PI) schools to maintain their current PI status for the 2015–16 school year, under certain conditions. At the March 2015 SBE meeting, the SBE authorized the submission of a waiver but also affirmed that the waiver request be consistent with the January amendments to the federal accountability workbook. The waiver request, if approved, would allow schools and local educational agencies (LEAs) currently in PI to maintain their PI status for the 2015–16 school year **only if** they fail AYP by not meeting the 100 percent proficiency target.

We will notify you once we receive a response from the ED on our proposed amendments and waiver application.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact the Academic Accountability Unit by phone at 916-319-0863 or by e-mail at aauc@cde.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keric Ashley". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Keric Ashley, Interim Deputy Superintendent
District, School, and Innovation Branch

KA:bm

cc: Accountability Coordinators