

January 13, 2017

Dr. Michael Kirst
President
State Board of Education

Tom Torlakson
Superintendent of Public Instruction
California Department of Education

**Sent via email: sbe.ca.gov
superintendent@cde.ca.gov**

Dear Board President, Dr. Kirst and Superintendent, Torlakson,

We are writing as a follow up from the January 11, 2017 State Board of Education meeting regarding Agenda Item number 2. While we appreciate the intent and work of the CDE staff and the board members, we were dismayed that the discussion and vote to determine the English Learner Academic Indicator was cut short. Several statements by board members left us wondering if you were informed about or understood exactly what we were requesting and why the adoption of the board item #2 without any additional language left unanswered questions about what the next steps might be and exactly how performance levels are going to be displayed.

Attending the meeting were superintendents and district representatives from 12 school districts. These districts included the largest district in the state (Los Angeles Unified School District), the largest high school district in the state (Anaheim Union High School District), the largest elementary school district in the state (Chula Vista Elementary School District) all the way down to a district with less than 400 English Learners (Charter Oaks School District). These districts teach over 259,000 English learners, almost 20% of the state EL student population.

We are committed to continue working with CDE staff and SBE members and staff on this issue but want to make sure there is a common understanding of what so many districts and organizations were proposing during public comment.

- Computation of performance levels of the following cohorts of ELs, RFEPs and ELs plus 4 years of RFEPs
- Reporting side by side in a top level display of the LCFF rubric indicators all three performance levels of the three EL cohorts