



State Superintendent Tony Thurmond Announces Statewide Literacy Campaign Co-Chairs



Tony Thurmond
State Superintendent
of Public Instruction



Linda Darling-Hammond
State Board of Education,
Learning Policy Institute



Dr. Francisco Escobedo
National Center for Urban
School Transformation



E. Toby Boyd
California Teachers
Association



Dr. Barbara Nemko,
Napa County
Superintendent



Dianna MacDonald
Past California PTA
President



Camille Maben
First 5 California



Dr. Barbara Flores
California Association
for Bilingual Education

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond Announces Bold Vision for Ensuring Every California Student Learns to Read by Third Grade

State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SSPI) Tony Thurmond has announced a bold vision for ensuring that every California student will learn to read by third grade by the year 2026. The effort will also include a biliteracy milestone for dual language learners. In order to advance this goal, the SSPI will convene a task force that brings together practitioners, advocates, researchers, foundation partners, thought leaders, students, parents, and other experts to identify key strategies for advancing this goal.

In addition to naming the task force, the SSPI will sponsor legislation that will help advance the goal of California students being able to read by third grade. Assemblymember Mia Bonta has agreed to be the principal author of this legislation and will work with the SSPI to develop it. The legislation will be informed by recommendations that come out of the task force and could include providing resources for advancing literacy and biliteracy goals through professional learning to teach reading, family engagement strategies, and methods for getting books in the hands of students and their families, just to name a few. The SSPI anticipates that the legislation will lay out a multifaceted strategy that considers issues of readiness, chronic absenteeism, needs of students with disabilities and multilingual learners, early education, and socio-economic factors that impact a student's ability to learn to read.

The legislation will be introduced in the 2022 legislative session. Leading up to the introduction of the legislation, the SSPI will convene occasional town halls to provide an opportunity for the task force and CDE staff to present ideas to the public and for members of the public to give feedback on many of the ideas being discussed by the task force. In the near term, a task force meeting schedule will be developed as well as a defined process for how task force recommendations may be used to inform policy and practice.

Individuals interested in participating in this new literacy effort or who wish to learn more should e-mail iramirez@cde.ca.gov.

Co-Chair(s) Working Groups

Communications & Campaign	Bright Spots & Professional Learning	Family & Community Literacy	Earliest Learners	Biliteracy & Multilingualism
Co-Chair Camille Maben	Co-Chairs E. Toby Boyd & Chery Cotton	Co-Chair Dianna MacDonald	Co-Chairs Barbara Nemko & Sara Neville- Morgan	Co-Chairs Barbara Flores & Francisco Escobedo

Thank you for your support, guidance, and leadership!

