



March 8, 2019

Vice President Ilene Straus and Board Members  
California State Board of Education  
1430 N Street, Room #5111  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Agenda Item #17: Update on the Implementation of the Integrated Local, State, and Federal Accountability and Continuous Improvement System**

Dear Vice President Straus and Board Members:

We write to comment on agenda item #17, which recommends updates to the California School Dashboard. As the March State Board of Education meeting is the annual meeting where changes to the Dashboard are considered, we'd like to highlight our concerns and make recommendations.

As noted by fellow members of the Equity Coalition, we believe the Dashboard should include an indication of schools that have been identified under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) for support and improvement. That would include CSI, TSI and ATSI schools. This identification is necessary to align with both the stated goals of transparency and improvement under ESSA as well as under the Local Control Funding Formula. The California Department of Education's (CDE) quiet release of these schools, buried in a complicated spreadsheet on the CDE website, did not send a message of transparency nor improvement to local communities, the families of students attending those schools or the students themselves.

Additionally, we encourage the state's adoption of a growth model and its incorporation into the Dashboard. Under ESSA, 48 states and the District of Columbia all report and measure individual student growth. This data will provide families, students, communities and policymakers in those states valuable information about school quality and student academic achievement. California, along with Kansas, has chosen not to.

The current "change" component of the Dashboard does not provide sufficient information – and perhaps also incorrect or misleading information – regarding the effectiveness of a school. This component is one that was selected intentionally and purposefully. Truly, it's a subtraction in average scores from one year to the next and it completely fails to adjust for changes in school

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composition. The state should instead pursue a growth model that accurately captures, as closely as is feasible, the true causal effects of a school on the academic achievement of its students.

With new membership and new leadership, the Board has an opportunity to make serious, meaningful change and to act with a sense of urgency. We hope you'll seize it. California's 6.2 million public school students can afford nothing less.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Lucia".

Bill Lucia  
President & CEO

cc: Karen Stapf Walters, Executive Director, California State Board of Education  
Judy Cias, Chief Counsel, California State Board of Education