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Fresno, California 93721

Telephone: (559) 233-4148 • Fax: (559) 233-9645
Website Address: www.fresnocog.org

COUNCIL OF FRESNO COUNTY GOVERNMENTS AGENDA

Date: Thursday, September 24, 2009
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Place: COG Sequoia Conference Room
2035 Tulare St., Suite 201, Fresno, CA

Hardcopies of Website Enclosures will be available to Committee Members at the meeting.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodations

The Fresno COG offices and restrooms are ADA accessible. Representatives or individuals with disabilities should contact Fresno COG at (559) 233-4148, at least 3 days in advance, to request auxiliary aids and/or translation services necessary to participate in the public meeting / public hearing. If Fresno COG is unable to accommodate an auxiliary aid or translation request for a public hearing, after receiving proper notice, the hearing will be continued on a specified date when accommodations are available.

Mayor's City Selection Committee

- ✓ Approval of June 25, 2009 Minutes
- ✓ Appointments:
 - Measure C Citizen Oversight CommitteeSeven 2-year terms expired 6/30/09 and members need to be appointed for new 4-year terms. In addition, one 4-year term needs to be filled with a replacement member. A selection matrix of applicants, listed by required category, is included in the package along with an explanation of what positions must be filled.
- ✓ Public Presentations

The COG Policy Board meeting will begin upon conclusion of Fresno County's Mayor City Selection Committee

Item	Description	Enclosure	Action*
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I. PRESENTATIONS

A. Public Presentations

This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the COG on items within its jurisdiction but not on this agenda. **Note: Prior to action by the COG on any item on this agenda, the public may comment on that item. Unscheduled comments may be limited to 3 minutes.**

B. Fresno International Airport Update – Russ Widmar, Director of Aviation, City of Fresno (Enclosure)

C. Presentation – Sheriff Margaret Mims, Health Care for Underserved Women

D. In Pursuit of Educational Excellence for Underserved Children – Javler Guzman (Enclosure)

E. Recognition of 30th Anniversary of The Fresno County Rural Transit Agency

Fresno COG Sitting As the Transportation Policy Committee

II. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

All items on the consent agenda are considered to be routine and non-controversial by COG staff and will be approved by one motion if no member of the Committee or public wishes to comment or ask questions. If comment or discussion is desired by anyone, the item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered in the listed sequence with an opportunity for any member of the public to address the Committee concerning the item before action is taken.

- A. 2009-10 Transportation Funding Claims – Resolutions 2009-30-Fowler, Yes Approve

Member Agencies: The cities of Clovis, Coalinga, Firebaugh, Fowler, Fresno, Huron, Kerman, Kingsburg, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, San Joaquin, Sanger, Selma & Fresno County

2009-31-Huron, 2009-32-Kerman, 2009-33-Kingsburg, 2009-34-Mendota, 2009-35-Orange Cove, 2009-36-Parlier, 2009-37-Reedley, 2009-38-San Joaquin, 2009-39-Selma
[BESHEARS]

- | | | | |
|----|--|-----------------|-------------|
| B. | Redetermination of Conformity for the 2009 FTIP Amendment #3 and 2007 RTP Amendment #2 Resolution 2009-28 [DAWSON] | Yes/
Website | Approve |
| C. | Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 Grading Results [SOBRADO] | Yes | Accept |
| D. | Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5316/5317 Call for Projects [SOBRADO] | Yes | Information |

III. TRANSPORTATION ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

- | | | | |
|----|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| A. | ARRA Implementation and Redistribution Policies [DEVERE-OKI] | Yes | Approve |
| B. | Regional Transportation Plan | | |
| | 1. Public Outreach Plan [LAUCHNER] | Yes | Info/Discussion |
| | 2. Notice of Preparation – 2011 RTP EIR [THOMPSON] | Yes | Info/Discussion |
| | 3. RTP Project Nominations [THOMPSON] | No | Approve |
| C. | Blueprint Update [STECK] | | |
| | 1. SJV Blueprint Memorandum of Understanding with Valley COGs for 4 th Year | Yes | Approve |
| | 2. SJV Contract with Regents of University of California, UC Merced and Great Valley Center | Yes | Approve |
| | 3. SJV Blueprint Award Recipients | Yes | Info/Discussion |
| D. | Measure "C" Update: | | |
| | 1. Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee (RTMF) Joint Powers Agency Agreement [BOREN] | No | Info/Discussion |
| E. | 2009 Call for Projects – Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds [DAWSON/DEVERE-OKI] | Yes/
Website | Approve |
| F. | High Speed Rail Update – Formation of Fresno COG High Speed Rail Task Force [THOMPSON] | Yes | Approve |
| G. | Caltrans Monthly Report [CALTRANS] | No | Information |

Fresno COG Sitting As the Council of Fresno County Governments Policy Board

IV. REAFFIRM ALL ACTIONS TAKEN WHILE SITTING AS THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

V. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

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|----|--|-----|-------------|
| A. | Executive Minutes of July 30, 2009 | Yes | Approve |
| B. | Airport Land Use Commission – Memorandum of Understanding Extension [TWEBSTER] | No | Approve |
| C. | 2009/10 Overall Work Program Amendment #2 [BESHEARS] | No | Approve |
| D. | Proclamation Recognizing "Fresno Celebrates Mexico" of 2009 through 2010 – the Consulate of Mexico [BOREN] | Yes | Approve |
| E. | Farmland Conservation Model Program Update [SOBRADO] | No | Information |
| F. | Monthly Legislative Update [FAWCETT] | Yes | Information |
| G. | SB 716, SB 375 and Proposition 84 Update [FAWCETT] | No | Information |
| H. | California Transportation Commission Appointment [BOREN] | Yes | Information |
| I. | Regional Clearinghouse [SOBRADO] | Yes | Information |

	Project	Applicant
1.	RHS 514 Loan – Off Site Farm Labor Housing	Corporation for Better Housing –
2.	One Time Program Improvement 2009 Head Start-Preschool and Early Head Start	Fresno County EOC

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

- | | | | |
|----|---|-----|---------------------------|
| A. | Strategy Research Institute, Inc. (Dr. Gary Manross) Contract Renewal [BOREN] | Yes | Approve |
| B. | Response to Inquiry to Add Non-Voting Member to COG Policy Board [BESHEARS] | Yes | Information/
Direction |
| C. | 2010 "One Voice" Call for Projects [STECK] | Yes | Information |
| D. | San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies' Fall Policy Conference – October 1 and 2 [STECK] | Yes | Information |
| E. | Status Report on Sacramento Lobbying Activities— Steve Samuelian, California Consulting LLC [SAMUELIAN] | Yes | Information |

Fresno COG Sitting As the Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Authority

VII. ABANDONED VEHICLE ABATEMENT

- | | | | |
|----|--|-----|--------|
| A. | FY 2008-09 Quarterly Summary Report [THOMPSON] | Yes | Accept |
|----|--|-----|--------|

Fresno COG Sitting As the Council of Fresno County Governments Policy Board

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Items from Staff
- B. Items from Members

***Items listed as information still leave the option for guidance/direction actions by the Committee.**

****All enclosures are available on our website at www.fresnocog.org – Committees and Agendas**



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ANNOTATED AGENDA

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C. Health Care for Underserved Women - Sheriff Margaret Mims

D. In Pursuit of Educational Excellence for Underserved Children – Javier Guzman

E. Recognition of 30th Anniversary of The Fresno County Rural Transit Agency

Fresno COG Sitting As the Transportation Policy Committee

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Member Agencies: The cities of Clovis, Coalinga, Firebaugh, Fowler, Fresno, Huron, Kerman, Kingsburg, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, San Joaquin, Sanger, Selma & Fresno County

A. 2009-10 Transportation Funding Claims [BESHEARS]

Summary: 2009/10 Transportation Development Act Claims. The amounts claimed for Local Transportation Funds (LTF) funds are:

Jurisdiction:	LTF Fund:
City of Fowler	\$158,741
City of Huron	231,459
City of Kerman	415,894
City of Kingsburg	317,321
City of Mendota	291,940
City of Orange Cove	393,199
City of Parlier	400,767
City of Reedley	760,962
City of San Joaquin	120,815
City of Selma	689,472

Staff has reviewed the claims and finds the amounts consistent with apportionments previously approved by the Board.

Action: TTC, PAC and Staff recommend approval of the funding claims by adopting Resolutions 2009-30, 2009-31, 2009-32, 2009-33, 2009-34, 2009-35, 2009-36, 2009-37, 2009-38, 2009-39.

B. Redetermination of Conformity for the 2009 FTIP Amendment #3 and 2007 RTP Amendment #2 Resolution 2009-28 [DAWSON]

Summary: The 2009 FTIP Amendment #3, 2007 RTP Amendment #2, and the associated Conformity Analysis were adopted by the Fresno COG Policy Board on January 29, 2009. Because the San Joaquin Valley is a PM2.5 multi-jurisdictional area which includes 8 counties, and since there are no PM2.5 conformity budgets available for use at this time, conformity analyses need to be coordinated over the entire 8 county region. The Kern Council of Governments (KernCOG) has revised a portion of their PM2.5 conformity analysis. Consequently the other seven MPOs must redetermine their existing conformity analysis. Since no other transportation planning changes are being made, Fresno COG's conformity analysis remains unchanged. The redetermination of the conformity document is done to comply with EPA PM2.5 requirements. Enclosed in your packet is Resolution No. 2009-28. The entire documentation for the redetermination of conformity including KernCOG's Project List, Financial Table, and RTP amendment is available at www.fresnocog.org.

Action: TTC, PAC and Staff recommend the approval of the redetermination of conformity for the 2009 FTIP Amendment #3, and 2007 RTP Amendment #2 by the adoption of Resolution No. 2009-28.

C. Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 Grading Results [SOBRADO]

Summary: For the 2009 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 grant cycle, Fresno COG received three applications from the following organizations:

- Fresno County Employment Opportunities Commission
- Westcare California, Inc.
- ArcFresno

Fresno COG and FAX staff reviewed the applications and provided suggestions to applicants on ways to increase their scores. A grading committee made up of volunteers from the Fresno County SSTAC (Social Services Transportation Advisory Committee) convened in early August to review the grant applications for the 2008 Section 5310. Suggested scores were forwarded to Caltrans for final grading. The results from the Fresno County SSTAC grading process are included in this packet. [SOBRADO]

Action: TTC, PAC and Staff recommend that the Policy Board accept the results of the 2009 Section 5310 grading process.

D. Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5316/5317 Call for Projects [SOBRADO]

Summary: Call for Projects FTA Sections 5316 Jobs Access Reverse Commute Program, Small Urban Areas and Section 5317 New Freedom Grant Programs for FY 2007, 2008, and 2009.

The Fresno COG is pleased to announce the Calls for Projects for the following Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant programs for fiscal years 2008 and 2009. FY 2010 apportionments have not yet been issued by the Federal Transit Administration. When they are, a revised Call for Projects will be issued incorporating FY 2010 funding amounts and any new information received.

Section 5316 – Job Access and Reverse Commute Program

The JARC program provides funding to support projects designed to transport welfare recipients and eligible low-income individuals to and from employment activities and employment activities, particularly to suburban and rural job locations.

Section 5317 – New Freedom Program

The New Freedom program provides funding to assist transit operators and public agencies provide “new” transportation services for individuals with disabilities above and beyond the minimum currently required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101, et seq.).

Apportionments available are as follows:

	Section 5316 JARC Grant Program	Section 5317 New Freedom Grant Program
FY 2008	\$405,941	\$96,975
FY 2009	\$643,057	\$227,545

Fact sheets are contained in the agenda packet. Please contact Todd Sobrado at Fresno COG with questions or to request additional information.

Action: Information item only. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Policy Board.

III. TRANSPORTATION ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. ARRA Implementation and Redistribution Policies [DEVERE-OKI]

Summary: On August 12, 2009 Caltrans issued final guidance on how the state will insure that 100% of the available California ARRA funds will be obligated by March 2, 2010. The guidelines set up several different milestones which allow the state time to both process paperwork and redistribute available funds within the state. The state has identified when draft and final Requests for Authorization (RFA) must be submitted to Caltrans Local Assistance and when we as the MPO must submit an obligation plan to Caltrans demonstrating our regions ability to meet these deadlines.

It is important to note that the milestones on the attached enclosure highlight deadlines that Fresno must meet in order to insure that we: 1.) Spend all of our available ARRA funds, 2.) Position ourselves to receive any available ARRA redistribution, and 3.) Do not loose funds designated to our region. It is for these three reasons staff is proposing the following policy recommendation.

Proposed Fresno COG ARRA Redistribution Policy:

By October 15, 2009, any project that has not been certified and can meet the December 1, 2009 Caltrans deadline for a Draft RFA submittal, must submit their 1511 Certification request to Fresno COG staff. The 1511 certification states to COG, Caltrans, and FHWA that the agency intends to deliver this project in the time allotted by law.

On October 15, 2009 the City Manager/CAO for each agency, with ARRA money left to obligate, must submit for each individual remaining project a statement of intention to finish that project along with a detailed outline of the projects milestones up to the December 1, 2009 RFA deadline.

Project sponsors who cannot meet the Caltrans deadline, or cannot provide COG staff with adequate documentation of being able to meet the Caltrans deadline; will have their ARRA funds placed back into the regional pot in order to allow Fresno COG staff to redistribute the funds to other projects within Fresno County that can meet the deadlines.

For an agency to receive additional ARRA funds during the Fresno COG internal redistribution of ARRA funds, this agency must:

1. Have already obligated all of their available ARRA funds
2. Have an eligible project/listing in the current FTIP
3. Provide COG staff with documentation that the project can meet Caltrans deadlines
4. Staff will prioritize projects based on available funds and timing for obligating funds.

Action: TTC, PAC and Staff recommend that the Policy Board adopt the proposed ARRA Redistribution policy as presented to the SAFETEA-LU/MAP 21 Subcommittee.

B. Regional Transportation Plan

1. Public Outreach Plan [LAUCHNER]

Summary: In accordance with Federal guidance emphasized during Fresno COG's latest Federal Certification Review, the RTP Planning Process must foster involvement through a proactive public participation process with the all interested parties. We must also seek participation and consultation during the RTP development process with a number of private sector representatives and public agencies.

As Fresno COG undertakes the update of the 2011 RTP, a major goal of the public involvement effort is to reach out to nontraditional as well as traditional audiences to include them in the transportation planning process. This program will help ensure that environmental justice issues are addressed and that interested members of the public have ample opportunity to understand and provide meaningful input while the RTP is in its early stages and throughout the planning process.

A copy of the RTP Draft Public Outreach Plan is included in the package for review and comment at any time during the RTP Outreach process. Staff will review key elements of the plan and budget with the Board members.

Action: Information item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Policy Board.

2. Notice of Preparation – 2011 RTP EIR [THOMPSON]

Summary: A Notice of Preparation of a Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for the Proposed 2011 Revision of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) has been issued, a copy of which is enclosed. Fresno COG is requesting input regarding the scope and content of the environmental information to be included and evaluated in the SEIR. Any response to this Notice of Preparation you or your agency may wish to provide is requested at the earliest possible date, but not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice.

Fresno COG understands that 2011 RTP improvement projects have changed or the timing of those projects has changed since certification of the previous RTP EIR in May 2007. As a result of these changes, rather than prepare a complete new EIR, Fresno COG desires to use the previous EIR and update/change sections to address RTP project changes, as well as greenhouse gas/global warming (Climate Change) issues.

Action: Information item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Policy Board.

3. RTP Project Nominations [THOMPSON]

Summary: This is early notification of an action the Fresno COG Policy Board is expected to take at its September 24, 2009 meeting to issue a "call for project nominations" for the 2011 Regional Transportation Plan. Member agencies will have until November 19, 2009 to submit their project nominations. Project nominations will be submitted under two categories: non-exempt projects and exempt projects. Non-exempt projects are capacity increasing projects. As such, they must be included in the COG Transportation Model and subjected to a conformity analysis. Exempt projects are typically safety and maintenance projects and are not subject to a conformity analysis. Both non-exempt and exempt projects are subject to evaluation under the Congestion Management Process and both are also subject to financial constraint, in that project funds must be reasonably available within the time period of the RTP.

New with the 2011 RTP is that project nominations must be submitted by electronic application form, currently under development. The application will include information such as total project cost, year open to traffic, project location and limits, and other information consistent with the requirements of FresnoTrak (our new project monitoring software), the Congestion Management Process, and the RTP prioritization process.

Action: TTC, PAC and Staff recommend the Policy Board issue a "call for project nominations" for the 2011 Regional Transportation Plan.

C. Blueprint Update [STECK]

1. SJV Blueprint Memorandum of Understanding with Valley COGs for 4th Year

Summary: Fresno COG has assumed the lead agency role from Merced COG on all Valleywide Blueprint activities. In order to formalize this relationship, it is necessary to modify the MOU that we have been operating under, identifying Fresno COG as lead agency. The revised MOU also includes an updated work plan. These documents are included in your agenda packet.

Action: TTC, PAC and Staff recommend that the COG Policy Board authorize the Executive Director to enter into the revised Valleywide Blueprint MOU with the eight Valley COGs.

2. SJV Contract with the Regents of the University of California / UC Merced and the Great Valley Center

Summary: One of the tasks included in the Valley COGs' fourth year SJV Blueprint's grant application to Caltrans was continuing our work with the Great Valley Center on the Valleywide Blueprint Website and orchestrating an additional Valleywide Executive Forum for elected officials. Because of the transfer of lead agency mentioned above, we will need to enter into a new contract with the Regents of the University of California / UC Merced and the Great Valley Center. The Great Valley Center has been involved with the SJV Blueprint since its inception and has done an excellent job on the website at www.valleyblueprint.org as well as orchestrating large Valleywide events for us. Their proposal is included in your agenda packet. The budget for both tasks is \$50,000 which is consistent with past costs on these line items.

Action: TTC, PAC and Staff recommend that the COG Policy Board authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract for \$50,000 (on behalf of the eight Valley COGs) with the Regents of the University of California and their affiliates: The Great Valley Center and UC Merced for the purpose of Blueprint related education and outreach.

3. SJV Blueprint Awards Program – Announcing 2009 Award Recipients

Summary: The purpose of the San Joaquin Valley Regional Blueprint Awards Program is to encourage quality in planning and development and to increase the public's awareness of the SJV Blueprint planning process by recognizing outstanding achievements and practices. This year's awards program is intended to be the first of an annual event that will recognize and celebrate plans, policies, programs and projects that reflect the Blueprint Principles. A call for nominations was distributed throughout the Valley in July. The award judges met in early September to review the

nominations and determine this year's recipients. The list of award recipients is included in your agenda package. The awards will be presented at the Fall Policy Conference Awards Luncheon on October 2nd at the Holiday Inn downtown Fresno.

Action: Information item only. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Policy Board.

D. Measure "C" Update

1. Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee (RTMF) Joint Powers Agency Agreement [BOREN/BESHEARS]

Summary: The first meeting of the Fresno Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee Joint Powers Agency will be on September 24, 2009, immediately following the COG Board meeting. The JPA Board will adopt bylaws, elect a chairman and vice chairman, appoint counsel and officers, discuss the administrative cost structure, and convene a public hearing on the Nexus Study scheduled for adoption by Resolution October 29, 2009. There is a 60 day waiting period before the fee goes into effect on January 1, 2010.

Action: Information item only. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Policy Board

E. 2009 Call for Projects – Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds [DAWSON/DEVERE-OKI]

Summary: On August 24th, the SAFETEA-LU/ MAP 21 Programming Subcommittee met to discuss policies and issues related to the programming of advanced funding for the next Federal Transportation Funding Act- MAP 21. The 2011 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) will program funding from 2010/11 through 2013/14; the FTIP will contain four years of funding from the next Federal Transportation Funding Act- MAP 21.

To insure that no funds are lost to the region Fresno COG must develop a full program of projects for 2010/11 and additional "easy to deliver" projects in the later years of the FTIP that can be advanced in order to meet funding obligation requirements. As part of identifying these "easy to deliver" projects, staff recommended that the current "lifeline" concept be continued, as established in Call #1. The "lifeline" concept allows 60% of RSTP funds and 30% of CMAQ funds to be set aside for use by member agencies for projects of their choosing, as long as the planned projects qualify for the identified funding source and relate to priorities set by the Policy Board.

The SAFETEA-LU Programming Subcommittee reached consensus on the following:

- Program two years worth of funding (Second Call for Projects) from the next Federal Transportation Funding Act, acknowledging that it is possible that currently available fund sources within SAFETEA-LU may not be a part of the next Act.
- For RSTP, the Subcommittee agreed to have combination "lifeline" and "regional bid" Call for Projects. Approximately \$19,100,600 of the apportionments for FFY 2011/12 and 2012/13 will be available. Over the length of the next Federal Transportation Funding Act the split between "lifeline" and "regional bid" funds will remain at a 60/40 split (6 years). The split for this call (2 years) will be \$7,982,400 "lifeline" and \$11,118,200 "regional bid".
- For CMAQ, the Subcommittee agreed to have combination "lifeline" and "regional bid" Call for Projects. Approximately \$23,060,800 of the apportionments for FFY 2011/12 and 2012/13 will be available. Over the length of the next Federal Transportation Funding Act, the split between "lifeline" and "regional bid" funds will remain at a 30/70 split (6 years). The split for this call (2 years) will be \$9,636,000 "lifeline" and \$13,424,800 "regional bid".
- Within the CMAQ "regional bid" pot, \$13,424,800, \$4,612,200 or 20% of the available pot will be solely dedicated to projects meeting a minimum cost effectiveness (\$30 per pound) threshold per adopted Fresno COG policy. Over the life of next Act (6 years) a minimum of 20% of available funding must be applied to projects meeting this minimum cost effectiveness threshold.

The SAFETEA-LU/ MAP 21 Programming Subcommittee recommended retaining the long standing scoring committee representation for both CMAQ and RSTP (see enclosure). At the TTC meeting Fresno Area Express (FAX) expressed interest in having a "Transit" representative added to the scoring committee for 2009 and this recommendation was then passed on to the PAC. At the PAC, it was then recommended that this representative come from City of Clovis staff and that this individual have an

understanding/capability to score of both transit and other RSTP eligible projects (non transit). The current representation of the committee is jurisdictional with one representative from the urban area (rotating between Fresno and Clovis), one from the eastside cities, one from the Westside cities, one from Caltrans staff, one from Fresno COG staff, and one from the County of Fresno. With this requested change in composition for the 2009 call, there will be two representatives from the urban area (both Fresno and Clovis with Clovis representing transit), one from the eastside cities, one from the Westside cities, one from Caltrans staff, one from Fresno COG staff, and one from the County of Fresno.

Action: TTC, PAC and Staff recommend that the Policy Board issue a formal "Call for Projects" per the SAFETEA-LU/MAP 21 Subcommittee recommendations.

TTC, PAC, and Staff recommend that the Policy Board consider the addition of an RSTP Scoring Committee member that will represent Transit from the City of Clovis.

F. High Speed Rail Update – Formation of Fresno COG High Speed Rail Task Force [THOMPSON]

Summary: With the passage of Proposition 1A in November 2008, Californians approved \$9 billion for a high-speed train system that will provide a fast, safe, reliable and environmentally friendly transportation alternative. In addition, the State anticipates receiving a share of funding from the \$8 billion of rail stimulus available nationwide, from annual \$1 billion federal appropriations over the next five years, and from an estimated \$50 billion from MAP-21, the next federal Surface Transportation Act. To date, the California High-Speed Rail Authority has completed "Program-Level" environmental studies to determine preferred route and station general locations.

The Authority is now engaged in ongoing outreach with local governments and transportation planning agencies to integrate/coordinate the statewide high-speed train with local and regional transportation systems, land use planning and economic development efforts. Underway and expected to be completed in early 2012 are "Project-Specific" environmental studies that will be used to determine where tracks will be laid, how they will be configured, and where support facilities are needed. Construction will begin shortly thereafter, with testing of prototype trainsets expected to begin in 2015. The Authority's current phasing plan envisions a "high-speed" test section between Merced and Bakersfield. The San Francisco to Los Angeles/Anaheim backbone of the statewide system will commence operation in the 2018 – 2020 timeframe.

Fresno COG's 2009-10 Overall Work Program has set aside \$100,000 for conducting High Speed Rail planning activities and, last June, the Policy Board approved an initial expenditure of \$10,000 to retain a consultant to analyze heavy maintenance station location criteria established by the Authority, identify sites within Fresno County that satisfy those criteria, and related issues. As Fresno COG is the state designated Regional Transportation Agency for Fresno County and the logical public entity to head the High Speed Rail process, staff is now recommending formation of an inclusive High-Speed Rail Task Force, comprised of elected and appointed officials and others within Fresno County, that will focus on the high-speed train issues of importance to our County. In addition to the heavy maintenance station, these issues include alignment and station location issues, among others. Recommended composition of the Task Force includes representatives from Fresno, the County, the cities of Fowler/Selma/Kingsburg, other interested cities, Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Corporation, Workforce Investment Board, and interested individuals. Staff is seeking your suggestions for additional participation. Upon approval of the formation of the Task Force by the Fresno COG Board, staff will issue the Request for Proposals for consultant services.

Action: TTC, PAC and Staff recommend approval of the formation of the High-Speed Rail Task Force. Staff also seeks suggestions for additional participation on the Task Force.

G. Caltrans Monthly Report [CALTRANS]

Summary: Caltrans staff will provide an update on Caltrans activities

Action: Information/discussion item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Committee.

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A. Executive Minutes of July 30, 2009

B. Airport Land Use Commission – Memorandum of Understanding Extension [TWEBSTER]

Summary: In October 2008, Fresno COG entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the County of Fresno to assume the duties and of the staffing and running the Fresno County Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC). The MOU specified a one year trial period during which either party (The County of Fresno or the Council of Fresno County Governments) could withdraw from the arrangement, given proper notice. The one year trial period is coming to close October 2009.

At this time, Fresno COG is prepared to assume the responsibilities permanently, henceforth.

Action: PAC and Staff recommend the approval of the Council of Fresno County Governments permanently retaining the duties of the Fresno County ALUC. The County of Fresno concurs. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Policy Board.

C. 2009/10 Overall Work Program Amendment #2 [BESHEARS]

Summary:

WE 123 Public Transportation Infrastructure (PTIS)

The current project scope includes \$50,000 for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) study. FAX wishes to increase the BRT element to \$250,000 and will provide \$200,000 in FTA 5307 Planning funds to cover the increased scope. This amendment is consistent with board action in July increasing the Kimley Horn PTIS contract.

WE 172 Regional Transportation Plan

We are doing a major update to our RTP this year. Staff budgeted \$45,000 for an environmental update for the RTP and the board authorized the contract with VRPA in July. Staff has determined that it is appropriate to update the RTP Project Priority Lists and recommends adding \$14,240 to the scope of the VRPA contract to accomplish this. In addition, per Federal recommendations stemming from our recent Certification review, we are designating an RTP Public Participation Budget of \$11,200. The total \$25,440 increase will be funded with Federal Planning funds and local match.

WE 213 High Speed Rail

We are carrying over \$260,000 in Measure "C" funding which was appropriated last year for a joint high speed rail/rail consolidation study in conjunction with the High Speed Rail Authority. The Authority will provide \$500,000 for this \$750,000 study. Our share of the study is \$250,000. In addition, \$10,000 is programmed for staffing.

WE 912 Transportation Development Act

Per PUC 99246 we are required to do a triennial performance on ourselves and Transit Operators receiving Transportation Development Act funding for the years 2006/07, 2007/08, and 2009/10. The budget for this year's triennial performance audit is \$40,000 consistent with previous performance audit budgets.

Action: PAC and Staff recommend authorization of 2009/10 OWP Amendment #2 increasing the budget \$514,240.

D. Proclamation Recognizing "Fresno Celebrates Mexico" of 2009 through 2010 – the Consulate of Mexico [BOREN]

Summary: At the request of Fresno County Supervisor Henry Perea, included as an attachment is a Proclamation stating that the Council of Fresno County Governments recognizes "Fresno Celebrates Mexico" of 2009 and throughout 2010 as a prominent cultural and civic endeavor in the San Joaquin

Valley. The endeavor is sponsored by the Mexican government through the Consulate of Mexico in Fresno, in partnership with local governments and communities.

Action: Staff recommends the Policy Board authorize Chairman Rodriguez to sign the attached Proclamation supporting "Fresno Celebrates Mexico" of 2009 and throughout 2010.

E. Farmland Conservation Model Program Update [SOBRADO]

Summary: On July 15, 2009, representatives from the Farmland Conservation Model Program Steering Committee met with Fresno County agricultural stakeholders to discuss key points made by the draft Farmland Conservation Model Program released in January 2009 for public review and comment. A key outcome of this meeting is that key stakeholders meet with Dr. Gary Manross, one-on-one to find 'points of agreement' that would form the basis for additional recommendations to be included in the draft Farmland Conservation Model Program for Fresno County. Dr. Manross is in the process of contacting and meeting with key stakeholders. Additional information will be forthcoming as soon as it known.

Action: This is an informational item. Please contact Todd Sobrado at Fresno COG for more information. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Policy Board.

F. Monthly Legislative Update [FAWCETT]

Summary: A report is included in your agenda package that includes current bills in the 2009 legislative session that are relevant to the COG.

- To locate current and past year **state bill information** go to the Official California Legislative Information webpage at: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/>
- To locate current and past year **federal bill information** go to THOMAS, The Library of Congress's bill information website (in the spirit of Thomas Jefferson) at: <http://thomas.loc.gov/>

Please contact staff person, Laural Fawcett, if you have any questions.

Action: Information item only. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Policy Board.

G. SB 716, SB 375 and Proposition 84 Update [FAWCETT]

Summary: September 2009 – Significant Legislation Activity

Senate Bill 716: The concerted negotiation with Senator Lois Wolk and her staff by Fresno COG, as well as San Joaquin, Tulare and Kern COG's through recent lobbying efforts have resulted in the following compromise; after July 1, 2014, TDA funding will exclude all urban communities over the population threshold of 100,000 from using these funds for street and road maintenance. Currently the only cities affected by this amendment in Fresno County will be Fresno and Clovis. All eight San Joaquin Valley counties have taken a neutral position with regard to the amendment.

Senate Bill 375: The following new legislation further defines strategies for implementing transportation planning requirements to meet the mandates of SB 375.

Proposition 84 – The 2009 Budget Bill, AB 1 assigned \$12 million dollars of proposition 84 planning incentive funds to the Strategic Growth Council to be allocated by October 1, 2009. The express purpose of these funds is to support data gathering and the development of modeling capacity necessary to implement the requirements of SB 375.

The San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies' Directors' Committee is requesting \$2.5 million for upgrades and improvements to the eight San Joaquin Valley MPO models. These funds are expected to be awarded on October 14, 2009.

Action: Information item only. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Policy Board.

H. California Transportation Commission Appointment [BOREN]

Summary: As a follow-up to the item on the July agenda supporting candidates for the California Transportation Commission. The following appointments were made by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger on September 3rd.

Darius Assemi, of Fresno, and Patrick Mason, of San Francisco, were appointed to the California Transportation Commission. A copy of the announcement is included in the meeting package.

Action: Information item only. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Policy Board.

I. Regional Clearinghouse [SOBRADO]

Summary: Your agenda package includes this month's Clearinghouse Calendar containing "Project Notification and Review Reports" for grant proposal.

1. *Rural Housing Services, USDA, RHS 514 Loan – Off Site Farm Labor Housing Corporation for Better Living – RHA 514 Loan for Valley View Village Development in Selma, CA - \$3,000,000 – Federal, 418,357 – Applicant, \$1,000,000 – State, \$12,581,817 - Local for a total of \$17,000,174*
2. *Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission – One Time Program Improvement 2009 Head Start-Preschool and Early Head Start \$1,159,412 – Federal*

Action: Per Board procedure, unless an item is pulled from the Consent Calendar, tacit authorization is given for staff to forward any comment(s) received, or any Committee/Board comment(s) generated as a result of this informational item, to the appropriate agency. It is understood that if in the event this item should be pulled from the consent calendar, discussion and comment by the Committee members and the public will be taken.

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Strategy Research Institute, Inc. (Dr. Gary Manross) Contract Renewal [BOREN]

Summary: Strategy Research Institute (SRI) provides a variety of services to Fresno COG, all of which are detailed in a memo included as an attachment within your Board packet. In general, over the past year SRI Inc. has been participating in a number of significant projects that COG is involved with, these include: Consensus building efforts related to the Measure "C" RTMF, Consensus building as it relates to the Transit Consolidation effort identified in Measure "C", relationship building between Native American tribes and Fresno COG as required by environmental justice regulations, consensus building efforts related to adoption of the Farmland Model Conservation Program, and providing a human resource function for Fresno COG as it relates to developing evaluation criteria for personnel evaluation. Staff is also working with SRI on identifying ways that SRI can provide assistance in the areas of public affairs and public relations, as well as enhancing our lobbying efforts at both the state and federal levels. One additional benefit that goes with the COG monthly retainer fee of \$6,000 a month is that it allows the COG or member agencies to contract for additional SRI's services at a discounted price.

At their June 2009 meeting, the Policy Advisory Committee voted their support (10 yes/1 abstention) for extending California Consulting Inc.'s contract based on the terms identified. At the June COG Policy Board meeting, the item was tabled at the request of Mayor Swearengin. The request was based on a desire by the City of Fresno to see a more detailed Scope of Work for SRI's services, and a set of work product deliverables.

After working with Fresno COG and City of Fresno staff to refine SRI's Work Plan, at the July 2009 Policy Board meeting, the Policy Board took an action to extend SRI Inc.'s contract for two months in order to allow SRI staff to develop a more comprehensive approach to the issue of "Transit Consolidation" focusing specifically on the "deliverables" that would come out of the Transit Consolidation process and developing a timeline for delivery of those work products. Over the last two months SRI's staff has been working with COG staff, the City of Fresno's Transit Planning Manager, the City of Fresno's Transportation Director and the City of Fresno's Assistant City Manager in an effort to develop a Transit

Consolidation Study Process (attached) that would meet the City of Fresno's request. Specific emphasis has been placed on developing a Gantt Flow Chart (Appendix A) that addresses both the deliverables and an approximate timeline for completing the Transit Consolidation Process.

Action: Staff recommends extending Strategy Research Institute Inc.'s contract for the period October 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 in the amount of \$60,000.

B. Response to Inquiry to Add Non-Voting Member to COG Policy Board [SOBRADO]

Summary: On July 30, 2009 at the Fresno COG July Policy Board meeting, Fresno County Supervisor Henry Perea inquired as to what would be involved in opening up an ex-officio seat on the Fresno COG Policy Board for a representative of the Table Mountain Rancheria Tribe of Fresno County.

This matter was previously discussed at length at the Fresno COG Policy Board meeting on July 18, 2002 when the Policy Board adopted a MOU between the COG and Big Sandy Rancheria to establish and maintain government to government relationships.

On March 25, 2002, Wilbur Beecher, Tribal Chairman of the Big Sandy Rancheria sent a letter to Fresno COG to request consultation and coordination. Included in this letter was a request for Policy Board membership. During the April TTC/PAC meeting cycle, the issue was discussed and recommendation was made to forward the matter to the Fresno County Board of Supervisors since the lands making up the Big Sandy Rancheria is within the jurisdiction of Fresno County.

The Fresno County Board of Supervisors heard this item at their June 18, 2002 meeting. They encouraged Fresno COG to consult with the tribe on COG's transportation plans and programs and also recommended the Tribe send a representative to participate in COG's Transportation Technical Committee if the Policy Board membership was not approved. The Board referred the request for Policy Board membership back to COG with no recommendation as they felt the COG itself was the appropriate arena for this request.

An opinion from county counsel stated in the absence of special legislation a tribe may not join COG's JPA in the same capacity as existing members, however, the Board could extend a non voting, non dues paying "Cooperating Membership". The Board and the tribe could also enter into a MOU similar to the agreement that allows Caltrans to sit on the Transportation Policy committee without voting status at the Policy level.

As the issue came back through the TTC/PAC a consensus developed that any consideration extended to Big Sandy Rancheria should be extended to the other two tribes, Table Mountain Rancheria, and the Cold Springs Rancheria. Upon hearing the recommendation, the Policy Board passed a motion to invite the three tribes to join the TTC. A letter from the Policy Board to this effect was sent. The PAC further recommended to deny Policy Board membership request at that time, direct staff to explore either a cooperative membership or a membership on the Transportation Policy committee. The motion included a single membership to represent the approximately 300 combined resident tribal population, with the tribes selecting their representative from among themselves and revisit the issue request for Board affiliation at a future date. However Big Sandy Tribal Chairman Wilbur Beecher expressed opposition to the recommendation, mentioning that each tribe had different needs and a collective vote was not acceptable to the Big Sandy Rancheria to participate in the COG at any level.

After lengthy discussion at the Policy Board a motion was made to deny membership at the Board level, offer participation at the Transportation Technical Committee level (TTC), and revisit the request for Policy Board membership in one year. The motion failed with only eight yes votes.

The minutes from the COG Policy Board meeting where this issue was discussed on July 18, 2002 as well as the legal opinion regarding tribal membership on the Policy Board are included in this packet.

Staff is willing to meet and confer with the Tribal nations to foster government to government relations. The offer for Tribal participation at the TTC remains open, however, at this point, none of the Tribes have taken up the offer. The board membership issue has not been discussed with the Tribes recently. Board comment and direction is invited.

Action: Information item only. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Policy Board.

C. 2010 "One Voice" Call for Projects [STECK]

Summary: It is again time to begin the process of planning for our annual "One Voice" trip back to Washington DC where we will present a list of priorities for our region. Our trips over the past seven years have been quite fruitful as noted in the Fresno COG "One Voice" 2009 Summary and 2010 Recommendations on our website at www.fresnocog.org.

The 2010 "One Voice" trip will take place February 6-11, 2010. In preparation, we have been in communication with our D.C. lobbyist, Simon & Company, to discuss their recommendations. As noted in their memo dated April 9, 2009:

As with past years, the joint congressional briefing worked well and as you will recall, the congressional staff were thoroughly engaged in the discussion of projects, which continued among them subsequent to the "One Voice" visit. However, with two out of the four "One Voice" House members not accepting earmark requests, it is important they we continue to balance our time with them to include important policy issues as well as earmark requests.

As suggested, we need to solicit information on policy issues that our member agencies and community partners may be concerned with so that we can raise those issues with our Washington delegation and their staff. The timeline for the 2010 project selection process is as follows:

- Kick-off Meeting – Wednesday, September 9, 2009 @ 3:00 PM at COG
- Mail/Email Call for Projects – Monday, September 21, 2009
- Deadline for project submittal – Friday, October 9, 2009
- Project Selection Committee Meeting – Wednesday, October 21, 2009
- COG Policy Board Approval of Project List – Thursday, November 19, 2009

Action: Information/discussion item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Policy Board.

D. San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies Fall Policy Conference – October 1 and 2 [STECK]

Summary: The San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies' Policy Council was established in 2006. The Council is comprised of two elected officials (and one alternate) appointed from each of the regional planning agency's policy boards. The Council meets at least twice each year to provide guidance on common interregional policy issues. The Policy Council also represents the San Joaquin Valley at public forums, including before the California Transportation Commission, the Governor and his/her administration, and before State and Federal legislative bodies that require a common voice. The Policy Council also provides direction and guidance to the Regional Planning Agencies Executive Directors Committee.

Three years ago, the Policy Council initiated an annual Fall Policy Conference, which allows the eight Regional Planning Agencies in the Valley to convene with other agencies and stakeholders to discuss issues that affect the entire region. While the primary focus is on transportation planning, the Council recognizes that other regional issues must be considered as well. The ultimate goal is to implement policies that will result in an improved quality of life for all who live here. The agenda for this year's program is available on the COG website at www.fresnocog.org.

Action: Information item only. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Policy Board.

E. Status Report on Sacramento Lobbying Activities— Steve Samuelian, California Consulting LLC [SAMUELIAN]

Summary: Steve Samuelian of California Consulting Inc will provide a verbal report to the Policy Board this month on his consulting activities for the COG during the month.

Action: Information item only. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Policy Board.

Fresno COG Sitting As the Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Authority

VII. ABANDONED VEHICLE ABATEMENT

A. Abandoned Vehicle Abatement FY 2008-09 Third Quarter Summary Report [THOMPSON]

Summary: As stated in the 2003 Fresno County Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Service Authority Plan, the Fresno COG, as administrator of the AVA Program, shall submit a quarterly status report to the Fresno County Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Service Authority. The Service Authority has directed the quarterly status report first be presented to the Policy Advisory Committee for review and recommendation. Status reports are submitted quarterly to ensure proper distribution of funding to the member agencies. This status report contains the following information:

- The gross amount of money received by the Authority from the Abandoned Vehicle Trust Fund during the quarter.
- An itemized statement of the Abandoned Vehicle Trust Fund monies expended by the Authority during the quarter.
- An accounting of money expended for major purchases, if any.
- An accounting of unexpended revenues from the Abandoned Vehicle Trust Fund.
- An accounting of the total number of vehicles and parts thereof abated by the Authority during the quarter.

The enclosure for this item indicates the level of activity and distribution of funding to the member agencies. For the third quarter of FY 2008-09, a total of \$164,733.72 in current AVA revenues was received and available for distribution to member agencies and to the Fresno COG for program administration. During the quarter, member agencies expended \$163,818.84 conducting AVA activities and the Fresno COG claimed \$2,375.00 for program administration (total expenses = \$166,193.84). Expenses exceeded revenue during the quarter by \$1,460.12, thereby reducing the program's accumulated surplus. A total of 865 vehicles were abated this quarter, compared to 1,171 vehicles abated during the same quarter of the previous fiscal year. This decrease is mostly attributable to fewer abatements during the quarter by the City of Fresno and, to a lesser extent, the County of Fresno.

Action: PAC and Staff recommend acceptance of the Abandoned Vehicle Abatement FY 2008-09 Third Quarter Summary Report as presented.

Fresno COG Sitting As the Council of Fresno County Governments Policy Board

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Items from Staff
- B. Items from Members

*Items listed as information still leave the option for guidance/direction actions by the Committee.

**All enclosures are available on our website at www.fresnocog.org – Committees and Agendas

THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
PUBLISHED WEEKLY
CHICAGO, ILL., MAY 1, 1935

Subscription price, Five Dollars Per Annum in Advance

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FRESNO YOSEMITE
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

August 28, 2009

Russell C. Widmar, AAE, Director of Aviation
City of Fresno Airports Department

Juliette Kayyem, Assistant Secretary
Office of Intergovernmental Programs
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Lane, SW
Washington D.C. 20528

Re: Fresno Yosemite International Airport (FYI)
Non-reimbursable Port of Entry Status

Dear Assistant Secretary Kayyem:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Council of Fresno County Governments (COG) to thank you for your response to their letter which was jointly signed and submitted to Secretary Napolitano regarding non-reimbursable Port of Entry status for Fresno Yosemite International Airport (FYI).

The COG, which is comprised of mayors and representatives from each of the **fifteen** incorporated cities within Fresno County and the Chairman of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors, has been very supportive of our efforts, and it was helpful and informative for them to receive the information you shared regarding U.S. Customs and Border Protection's recent review of FYI's status. We are extremely grateful for the efforts that your office and CBP managers, in particular, Director Richard Vigna, have made in reviewing our account and identifying errors. I know I speak for the entire City of Fresno management team, as well as everyone in the region who benefits from the services our airport provides, when I say how much we appreciate your attention and consideration.

We continue to believe that the workload at FYI has exceeded, and will continue to exceed, the CBP-established workload standards for Ports of Entry, and we therefore believe that FYI should be converted to non-reimbursable status. We will continue to press for this recognition and look forward to continuing our discussions with you regarding cost-sharing arrangements as we work toward our goal of full non-reimbursement status.

Thanks again for your timely and helpful letter. We certainly appreciate the professionalism and priorities with which the Department of Homeland Security is tasked, and we look forward to working with you and assisting your staff in any way we can.

Very truly yours,

Russell C. Widmar, AAE
Director of Aviation

cc: Thomas S. Winkowski, **Assistant Commissioner, Field Operations, US Customs and Border Protection**
Richard Vigna, **Director, Field Operations, US Customs and Border Protection**
Trinidad Rodriguez, **Chairman, Council of Fresno County Governments**



Homeland Security

August 4, 2009

Mr. Trinidad Rodriquez
Chairman
Council of Fresno County Governments
2035 Tulare Street
Fresno, California 93721

Dear Mr. Rodriquez:

Thank you for your June 25, 2009 letter requesting the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grant the Fresno Yosemite International (FYI) Airport non-reimbursable port of entry status. DHS's U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has reviewed the circumstances surrounding the User Fee Airport status of FYI and understands the importance of this issue to the City of Fresno business community.

Over the past three years, CBP has received several similar requests by, or on behalf of, FYI regarding FYI's User Fee Airport status, staffing levels, and workload. To fully evaluate the situation, CBP held several internal meetings and also engaged representatives of FYI to discuss possible modifications to an existing Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). If adopted, the recommendation to reduce the number of billable staff at FYI from 10 full-time equivalent positions to five billable positions would serve to reduce the financial burden on the airport while maintaining the number of CBP staff currently assigned. Though not a cost-sharing solution, FYI will benefit from some financial relief. Due to the agriculture screening requirements at FYI, the agriculture specialist positions will be funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture user fee process.

While DHS supports the proposed change to the MOA, the Department is currently not able to support a change of FYI's status from a User Fee Airport to that of permanent port of entry. Given the limited workload associated with only one international flight per day at FYI, as well as the absence of another nearby port, it is neither fiscally prudent, nor in the best interest of the U.S. Government, to incur port of entry costs at FYI. DHS will reconsider non-reimbursable status in the future if there is any significant growth in the workload at FYI.

Thank you again for your letter. The co-signers of your letter will receive separate, identical responses. DHS hopes to continue to foster a close working relationship with you on this and other homeland security matters. Should you need additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 282-3910.

Sincerely,

Juliette Kayyem
Assistant Secretary

RECEIVED

AUG 11 2009

BY: _____
FRESNO COG

Dropout rate remains the state's biggest crisis: Actual figure near 33 percent

California has a budget crisis as bad as any state's and it has a water crisis that's nearly unique. But no California crisis can match the dropout crisis.

For most of the last 10 years, this column and a very few other news outlets reported that the high school dropout rate in California was about one-third, even while school districts reported much smaller rates. That is, of every nine students who enrolled in middle school in any given fall, about three would disappear before their purported high school graduation day rolled around.

It turns out this grotesque dropout rate is very real. The actual rate today is likely very close to 33 percent, three out of nine. That includes students who drop out before they reach high school. It also includes those who make brief pit stops in continuation schools and then disappear.

This disgrace is one reason so many California companies import skilled labor from other countries, leaving large numbers of native-born Californians in low-paid, unskilled jobs. It's one reason for a recent forecast that this state's companies will need to bring in millions of foreign workers by 2020 just to keep current industries running, let alone new businesses.

(lower in article):

This year's rates still don't include junior high and middle school dropouts, but State Schools Supt. Jack O'Connell promises that will begin next fall. Official state dropout figures then should come much closer to reflecting what is really happening.

<http://www.gilroydispatch.com/opinion/258468-dropout-rate-remains-the-states-biggest-crisis-actual-figure-near-33-percent>

Safeway Launches 5th Annual Back to Schools Program

Safeway Inc. this week launched its 5th Annual 10% Back to Schools program, a special in-store initiative that unites 100 food manufacturers in support of education and students throughout the U.S.

Through the 10% Back to Schools program, which runs through September 15, 2009, Safeway is partnering with food manufacturers to donate 10 percent of the sale price of more than 2,000 selected products to local schools designated by customers. The initiative launches as many public school systems are facing unprecedented budget cuts. Some public schools are eliminating courses and increasing class size. Parents are often being asked to shoulder a greater share of the financial burden through fees and assessments for extracurricular programs that were previously free.

"These are extraordinarily difficult times for our schools, and, now more than ever, we need partnerships between business and schools to help close the gap on a range of important school programs that face reduction or outright elimination," said California State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell. "I commend Safeway for this innovative program and for all they do for public education, and I encourage other businesses to find ways to support schools within their communities."

<http://newsticker.welt.de/?module=smarthouse&id=929822>

STATE

Governor seeks final SFSF dollars, would also revise MOE calculation

By Tom Chorneau

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is set to submit an application as soon as next week for release of most of the remaining federal funds available to California from the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund – estimated at \$600 million for K-12.

State officials familiar with the plan said Thursday that the new application to the U.S. Department of Education is also likely to utilize an alternative method for calculating the 'maintenance of effort' clause mandated by Congress to ensure that states sustain their support for schools to 2006 levels.

Under federal rules, states can establish compliance with the MOE mandate using either aggregated spending totals or per-student spending.

The new application that is expected to be sent off next week will likely be based on a per-student basis.

California's May 15 application for the first round of funding from the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund was approved based on the aggregate spending.

It is uncertain whether the proposed change in calculating the MOE would result in a higher or lower benchmark level of support that the state would need to reach, sources said.

But the question is critical because the threat of mid-year cuts to schools – even after the billions that have been slashed over the last year – is very real.

The July budget agreement, for instance, is based on revenue projections that some economists believe are optimistic. Moreover, there's nearly \$5 billion in budget solutions included that are already under attack either in the court or before federal officials.

The proposed change in calculating the state's MOE for schools on a per-student basis could result in new latitude for lawmakers and the governor to impose mid-year cuts if needed, without jeopardizing continued federal support from the stimulus package.

That said, there are some around the capital who believe the current state budget already exceeds federal stimulus limits on cuts to schools. If so, the state would need to use the per-student calculation to remain just above the federal support limit and would, therefore, have little room to impose additional cuts.

The nonpartisan Legislative Analyst has estimated that California's MOE would hover between \$250 million and \$200 million above the federal limit if per-pupil spending calculation is used – although LAO sources said they may not have complete details about the MOE.

This article from *The Cabinet Report*, a subscribers-only daily news source published by School Innovations & Advocacy, is complete.

California could lose federal education grants

James Rufus Koren, Staff Writer

Posted: 08/13/2009 10:04:09 PM PDT

Although California isn't eligible for billions in federal grants because of a law that prohibits the state from using student test scores to judge teacher performance, some school districts might circumvent the state and apply for the grants on their own.

The Los Angeles Unified School District has expressed an interest in applying directly, which is legal, and officials in one local district did not rule out the possibility of following suit, though teachers unions would likely oppose such a move if it required districts to start evaluating teachers using students' test scores.

"I don't know if we would ever blindly follow another district," said Syeda Jafri, spokeswoman for the Rialto Unified School District. "But we're aware of it, and we're looking at all avenues to see how we can secure some funding for our district."

She added, "Nothing ventured, nothing gained."

A San Bernardino City Unified School District spokeswoman said the district is "hopeful the state of

California can apply," but that the district has no plans to attempt its own application.

State Sen. Bob Huff, R-Walnut, and vice chairman of the Senate Education Committee, said most school districts, unlike Los Angeles Unified, don't have the resources to pursue the federal "Race to the Top" grants on their own. He said the state should simply "strip out" its prohibition on using test scores to evaluate teachers.

http://www.sbsun.com/news/ci_13066365?source=rss

California board votes to drop healthcare coverage for 60,000 children

As a result of state budget cuts, the Healthy Families program will have to begin terminating coverage for more than 60,000 children on Oct. 1. Nearly 670,000 children could be dropped by June 30.

By Patrick McGreevy and Evan Halper

Reporting from Sacramento

The announcement by state officials that California has enough cash to stop paying bills with IOUs did little to take the sting out of other budget news Thursday: Tens of thousands of poor children are about to lose their healthcare coverage.

A state board voted Thursday to begin terminating health insurance for more than 60,000 children Oct. 1 as a result of the budget amendments signed into law recently by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Those children would be up for an annual review of their coverage next month, but instead they may be dropped from the California Healthy Families program under the action by the state Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board.

The board is scrambling to secure funding from other sources, including money set aside by voters for early childhood education, but so far it has come up short.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-california-budget14-2009aug14,0,6580131.story>

Uncertain fiscal crisis awaits next governor

Candidates have offered few clues about solutions

By John Marelius

Union-Tribune Staff Writer

The next governor of California will face a financial crisis of undetermined magnitude, but most of the candidates for the job have offered scant clues as to what they would do about it.

Candidates have a lot to say about boosting state tax revenues by creating jobs or saving money by streamlining government, but not much about how they would wrestle with what seems certain to be another multibillion-dollar deficit when the next governor takes office in January 2011.

"Most of them have avoided budget talk like it was the plague. It's kind of disappointing," said Larry Gerston, a political science professor at San Jose State University. "I'm not sure any of them right now has passed the test of leadership."

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and the Legislature last month closed a \$26 billion budget deficit with a combination of cuts and accounting maneuvers. It was out of balance the minute it was signed.

State Finance Director Mike Genest has projected a deficit of between \$7 billion and \$8 billion for the next budget cycle.

Plus, federal stimulus money, \$5 billion of which was used to backfill education cuts this year, may not be available. And about the time the next governor takes office, \$16 billion in temporary tax increases that were included in a February budget deal will expire.

<http://www3.signonsandiego.com/stories/2009/aug/13/uncertain-fiscal-crisis-awaits-next-governor/>

NATIONAL

Evolution Coverage Improves, Review Finds

By Mary Ann Zehr

State science standards tend to cover evolution more extensively and better than they did nearly a decade ago, but at the same time, "creationist language" has become more common in them, concludes a review of the standards in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The findings of the review by the Oakland, Calif.-based National Center for Science Education are intended to update a similar evaluation of coverage of evolution in science standards in 2000 commissioned by the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation. The latest review was published this month in the journal *Evolution: Education and Outreach*.

“Coverage of evolution is better nationwide,” said Anton Mates, a public-information project director for the science education center, whose mission is to keep evolution in the science classroom, and a co-author of the recent review. The study examines science standards approved as of this past May.

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2009/08/12/01science.h29.html?tkn=QOYF5Y4rI9JPWgA1tEmD4Kq3aLMJOnSzwLcQ>

Heavy Lifting Ahead for 'Race to Top' Applications

By Michele McNeil

As states scramble to spend and report on millions of dollars of education stimulus funds already flowing their way, they face another daunting task if they want a shot at even more money: navigating the complex application process for \$4 billion from the Race to the Top Fund.

Merely filling out the award application will take each state 642 hours, according to the U.S. Department of Education, which included that estimate in its 35-page draft guidelines for the Race to the Top competition, published late last month in the Federal Register.

That's a lot of staff time for state education departments, which have been stung by staffing woes and budget cuts caused largely by a national recession, declining tax revenues, and big state budget deficits. ("Belt-Tightening Puts State Chiefs on Spot," Dec. 3, 2008.)

“This issue of capacity faces rural states with smaller departments, but also some big states that have seen their departments decimated,” said Brenda Welburn, the executive director of the Arlington, Va.-based National Association of State Boards of Education. “There's a lot of concern in this competitive environment on how we put together a meaningful application and then realistically deliver on it.”

Still, states remain determined to compete.

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2009/08/13/01stimcapacity.h29.html?tkn=VMYF2%2BVV2AIUnSk9qgtRCyK7BALKYtcvQ3SR>

Studies Weigh NCLB's Broad Impact

By Dakarai I. Aarons

Washington

8/17/2009

State-level implementation of the federal No Child Left Behind Act has changed how education is delivered and to whom, researchers have found. Still, they say, it's difficult in some cases to measure which changes can be attributed solely to the law.

The researchers presented their findings at a conference hosted yesterday by the Washington-based Urban Institute's National Center for Analysis of Longitudinal Data in Education Research. They studied state implementation of the landmark federal education law and its

impact on student achievement, teacher distribution and quality, and the teaching of subjects not covered in the law, among other topics.

With Congress likely to take up reauthorization of the law next year—an attempt in 2007 stalled on Capitol Hill—researchers and policymakers are looking for lessons learned. Diane Whitmore Schanzenbach, a University of Chicago economics professor, said lawmakers looking at the NCLB law should “mend it, not end it.”

“It’s working in that people are responding to the incentives under NCLB right now, but some of the incentives are bad.”

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2009/08/13/01urban.h29.html?tkn=WZZFpQcD6tPLn0652GkYCqFm1tlmldQHnCcs>

Sharpton, Gingrich Push Obama's School Reforms

By The Associated Press

Washington

Education Secretary Arne Duncan is joining forces with two unlikely allies, the Rev. Al Sharpton and Republican former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, to push cities to fix failing schools.

The trio will visit Philadelphia, New Orleans and Baltimore later this year. They plan to add more stops as their tour progresses.

"These are cities that have real challenges but also tremendous hope and opportunity," Duncan told reporters on a conference call Thursday.

See Also

Watch video of Rev. Al Sharpton and Newt Gingrich discussing their education initiative Friday morning on NBC's "Today" Show.

The idea came from a meeting they had with President Barack Obama in May at the White House.

Education is high on Obama's priority list. He is seeking to boost achievement, keep kids from dropping out of high school and push every student to pursue some form of higher education.

The president has vowed to make the United States the world leader in the number of people who graduate from college. He argues that students who do better in school will help themselves in a work force that increasingly depends on high-skilled jobs, and that the country will benefit as well.

[http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2009/08/14/293126usobamaeducation_ap.html?tkn=\[LFwEFkSqDbI4qND8XDzU3Zam9lD2A0mU4p](http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2009/08/14/293126usobamaeducation_ap.html?tkn=[LFwEFkSqDbI4qND8XDzU3Zam9lD2A0mU4p)

DOE Sees Increased Role for E-Learning

By Lauren Barack

Online classes coupled with classroom instruction may be more effective than traditional face-to-face teaching alone, according to an analysis of 46 studies of student performance recently released by the U.S. Department of Education (DOE).

The results were most stark at the college level, but DOE officials are looking at how to apply the findings in K-12 classrooms, potentially emphasizing e-learning over teacher-led classes.

"A computer can do as well as a professor and [is] a heck of a lot cheaper and a heck of a lot more reliable," says Marshall Smith, senior counselor to Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. "At the post-secondary level this is a pretty powerful thing."

But in the K-12 space, the DOE still wants more answers. Because few of the 46 studies used to create this meta analysis came from that age group, the Education Department is financing a three-year study to examine whether a so-called blended education—online courses with teacher input—is as effective at the high school level, starting this fall.

http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/index.asp?layout=talkbackCommentsFull&talk_back_header_id=6608756&articleid=CA6668924

N.Va. Students Improve, But Schools Fall Short

By Nick Anderson and Emma Brown
Washington Post Staff Writers
Friday, August 14, 2009

Roughly nine of every 10 public school students in Northern Virginia passed the state's reading and math tests in the spring, with achievement gaps narrowing and passing rates edging upward or holding steady across the region.

Yet data released Thursday show that more schools in the region and statewide are falling short of academic targets that rise steadily each year. Many educators are wondering how much more improvement is possible under a federal rating system that essentially demands perfect performance in the next five years.

"I'm definitely worried about that," said Patricia I. Wright, state superintendent of public instruction. "That's a question being raised all over the country, in terms of whether or not 100 percent proficiency by 2014 is a realistic statistical goal. All of us agree that's an educational goal that we want to stand by."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/08/13/AR2009081301498.html>

OPINION / OP-ED / COLUMNISTS / BLOGS

Is it time for public education to use digital textbooks?

Texas public schools spent \$1,200,000,000 per year on hard-bound textbooks per year. This cost is share between the State of Texas and school districts. The cost of textbook have risen approximately 6% per year since 1986 (inflation rate has been about 3% per year). These textbooks are inflexible and are normally out of date by the end of the purchase year. So what is the alternative?

Digital textbooks are available now from non-profit organization such as CK-12 Foundation (www.ck12.org).

CK-12 Foundation is a non-profit organization with a mission to reduce the cost of textbook materials for the K-12 market both in the U.S. and worldwide. Using an open-content, web-based collaborative model termed the "FlexBook," CK-12 intends to pioneer the generation and distribution of high quality educational content that will serve both as core text as well as provide an adaptive environment for learning.

California Governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger, released a report (Gov. Schwarzenegger Releases Free

Digital Textbook Initiative Phase 1 Report) for digital textbooks on August 11, 2009. In the report, he summarize the advantages of using digital textbooks to reduce the cost to states and school districts.

<http://www.examiner.com/x-18682-Austin-Education-Improvement-Examiner~y2009m8d12-Is-it-time-for-public-education-to-use-digital-textbooks>

American higher education is sliding lower and lower

By Steve Salerno

You may have heard about Trina Thompson. Unable to find work, she's suing her alma mater, Monroe College, to recover \$70,000 in tuition. The Thompson case may not turn out to be the precedent-setter that some theorize, because Monroe makes unusually bold promises to students about post-college success.

But the sad truth is this: Practically all colleges are failing their students nowadays, and in most cases at far greater expense than Monroe failed Thompson.

Historically, criticism of education in America has targeted grade-school and secondary education. Indeed, perhaps the best thing about the K-12 is that in these polarized times, it is the great uniter: Maligned by liberals and conservatives, Christians and Jews, Red Sox fans and Yankee fans, and just about everyone else in the grand American cultural stew.

http://www.nydailynews.com/opinions/2009/08/13/2009-08-13_american_higher_education_is_sliding_lower_and_lower.html

Editorial: School year starting with new challenges

THE HERALD'S VIEW

The Monterey County Herald

At back to school time in the shaky state of California, the public school system reminds us of those old movies where the hero escapes one crisis only to be confronted with a worse one and then another until the situation looks hopeless.

It may be melodramatic to compare running a classroom to being tied to the train tracks, but the public has come to expect amazing feats from educators with fewer and fewer resources to help them prevent calamity.

In years past, teachers and administrators said goodbye to many of their classroom aides, to enrichment

programs, to large chunks of their budgets for supplies and equipment. They stood up to those fiscal challenges courageously, even managing in many districts to increase student test scores.

So how have we rewarded them? By letting the governor and Legislature pull back even more money to the point that many classrooms this fall will have more children than ever before.

http://www.montereyherald.com/opinion/ci_13051599

Blowback

For public schools, one reform matters above all else

All teachers are different, but we must still identify the link between what they do in the classroom and their students' performance.

By Randy Ross

In her Aug. 11 Op-Ed article, "Charter and private schools might not make the grade either," Diane Ravitch argues persuasively that a Los Angeles Board of Education proposal to extend choice will not work because charter schools and private management of schools have not yielded a robust net gain in student achievement. Instead, Ravitch suggests strategies the Los Angeles Unified School District could use to promote improvement.

Every one of Ravitch's proposed solutions possesses huge symbolic stock in L.A. Unified. Well-rounded curriculum? Absolutely! All students are expected to pursue a college-prep curriculum. Fair and firm disciplinary policy? It's a constant pursuit; discipline policy is periodically tweaked, with a relatively new policy being rolled out now. Well-maintained school buildings? Yes. For this we must acknowledge the largesse of Los Angeles voters who have regularly approved billions of dollars in bonds for maintaining existing schools and building many new ones.

Three of the Ravitch's ideas relate to teachers.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/opinionla/la-oev-ross14-2009aug14,0,3104471.story>

Have school officials closed the door to community input on 50 new schools?

Locking opponents out of a meeting to discuss how to manage the schools suggests an innovative education proposal is falling victim to the same old politics.

Billed as a town hall meeting, the gathering of selected parents in Boyle Heights this week more closely resembled a mayoral pep rally to promote the idea of opening 50 new Los Angeles-area schools to outside management.

We heartily support the proposal too, as one of the most visionary ideas to come along in the Los Angeles Unified School District. The resolution by school board Vice President Yolie Flores Aguilar, which the board will vote on this month, would allow organizations as varied as charter operators, parent groups and teachers unions to submit proposals to run any of the 50 schools scheduled to open in the next few years. With its emphasis on engaging parents in decisions about how their children's schools should be run, the measure could augur a new era of community involvement as well as pioneer novel educational ideas.

We're also delighted to see Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa visibly involved in schools again, and spending time and political capital on student-centered reforms.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-ed-schools14-2009aug14,0,3471148.story>

Missed opportunities

California policies cost schools \$4.4 billion in federal funding.

Call it the dirty little secrets of K-12 funding, or more appropriately, nonfunding.

The state was called out in May by President Obama's Secretary of Education Arne Duncan for passing a law in 2006 that bars using student achievement data to evaluate pay and promotion of teachers. Duncan called the prohibition "mind-boggling" and said it ultimately would cost California \$4.4 billion in federal "Race to the Top" funding grants.

As irresponsible as this sounds in a time of cutbacks and teacher pink slips, this is not the first time the deficit-laden state has refused federal dollars. There is a pattern of arrogance and hypocrisy exhibited by a Democratic-controlled Legislature operating under the spell of one of its main campaign contributors, the teachers union. A Legislature that decries recent cuts to education forced by the recession but refuses to make the policy changes that can restore funding is hypocritical.

But that is exactly what has been happening.

For several years running, the Legislature has refused Title V federal dollars because it will not allow abstinence education as part of health and sex-ed curricula in public junior high and high schools. It is the only state in the union with such a prohibition and it has cost K-12 schools millions of dollars over several years.

http://www.presstelegram.com/opinions/ci_13062810

PD Editorial: Skills gap

By 2025, a new study says, more than 40 percent of the jobs in California will require at least a bachelor's degree. But if current trends continue, the researchers say, barely a third of adults will have college diplomas, a shortfall of about a million people.

At the same time, the number of high school graduates will outnumber jobs for people with that level of education.

Worse yet, the report by the Public Policy Institute of California was completed before it was clear just how much was going to be cut from higher education in the state budget.

Sonoma State University President Ruben Armijo put the cuts in stark terms. "Next year, the system will have 40,000 students less than it has today," he recently told Staff Writer Kerry Benefield. "Forty thousand is about six Sonoma States."

<http://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/20090814/OPINION/908139918?Title=PD-Editorial-Skills-gap>

'Housed' teacher system needs to be overhauled

By K. Lloyd Billingsley

THE Los Angeles Unified School District has been given permission to fire Matthew Kim, a disabled special education teacher who has not worked for seven years while drawing his full salary and benefits. Kim's case shows the need for district reform, but it's hardly alone in that regard.

Kim was one of approximately 160 "housed" teachers in the LAUSD - those deemed inappropriate for the classroom for reasons ranging from simple inefficiency to suspicion of criminal activity - but who continue to get paid. They cost the LAUSD a reported \$10 million a year.

Kim alone cost the district \$2 million during his absence from the classroom, during which time he was still paid his annual salary of \$68,000. If the district actually fires him, it would be a rare occasion - and not just for the LAUSD.

Between 1990 and 1999 statewide in California, only 227 similar housed teacher cases reached the final stage of the dismissal process, according to "Unsatisfactory Performance: How California's K-12 Education System Protects Mediocrity, and How Teacher Quality Can Be Improved," a Pacific Research Institute study released in 2000.

http://www.dailynews.com/opinions/ci_13057089

A high-stakes quandary for schools

The Bakersfield Californian

In the coming days, thousands of Kern County primary and secondary teachers will return to their campuses to attend annual pre-school meetings. These meetings usually serve as a natural plateau for reflection (and teacher socialization) -- a time to pause and thoughtfully digest the successes and failures of the past year while simultaneously considering the possibilities of the next.

Unfortunately for Kern County educators and students, many of us sitting in these meetings will walk away with the disturbing impression that we are collectively heading in the wrong direction. Underneath the raw and demoralized sensation that there is something radically amiss in our schools, there is a sinister synthesis taking place in our state that is the true cause of our despair.

This synthesis is the convergence of two undeniable realities: at the exact moment in history when the world is changing in ways that require innovation and dynamism in the classroom, California's budgetary woes and testing tyranny render such innovation utterly impossible.

<http://www.bakersfield.com/opinion/community/x538994199/A-high-stakes-quandary-for-schools>

LOCAL

Four Sacramento-area school kitchens closed in 29-month span

By Diana Lambert

A cockroach infestation, storage of food at unsafe temperatures and improper sanitization of equipment qualified the cafeteria at Foothill High School as the worst in Sacramento County, according to a Bee analysis of Sacramento County Health Department reports over a 29-month period.

A health inspector closed the school's kitchen last October after finding cockroaches under a sink. The inspector also found utensils stored in cardboard boxes and gaps in walls that needed to be sealed. The kitchen reopened the next day after a reinspection showed the problems had been corrected.

During the 29 months from January 2007 to June 2009 analyzed by The Bee, kitchens at four schools – Foothill High School, Luther Burbank High, Lichen Elementary and Fern Bacon Junior High – were closed by health inspectors. Luther Burbank had mice, Fern Bacon had cockroaches and Lichen Elementary's water wasn't hot enough to meet standards.

Alicia Enriquez, deputy chief of Sacramento County's Environmental Health Division, said it is unusual to close a school cafeteria for a health violation. County health inspectors visit school kitchens twice a year and, like restaurants, give them either a green card for passing, a yellow card for a conditional pass requiring a reinspection, or a red card to signify their closure.

<http://www.sacbee.com/education/story/2108426.html>

Fresno Unified students raise test scores

By Tracy Correa / The Fresno Bee

Students in Fresno Unified School District posted significant gains in the California Standards Test this past school year, the fourth straight year of improved student achievement, district officials said Thursday.

Superintendent Michael Hanson said minority students, who traditionally lag behind whites in testing, also improved throughout the district. "We are narrowing the achievement gap," he said.

Hanson said test results show a pattern of academic growth. He called it "a defining moment" for the district.

The superintendent discussed the district's performance Thursday in advance of Tuesday's scheduled release of statewide test results. Hanson said he did not know how the district's results would compare to the rest of the state.

<http://www.fresnobee.com/1100/story/1596882.html>

Substitute teachers face crunch in Sacramento County

By Melody Gutierrez

The market for substitute teachers is flooded with laid-off educators and retirees needing to supplement their incomes.

At least two local school districts have stopped accepting applications for substitute teachers after their waiting list grew too large. And school administrators say the high number of credentialed teachers looking to substitute will mean a more qualified pool of applicants.

"I used to know people that this is what they did – they just subbed and they got enough jobs to make it through," said Lori Blankenship, a credentialed teacher looking for full-time work. "Now, it seems like there are a lot of people doing it out of necessity."

<http://www.sacbee.com/education/story/2108427.html>

Sacramento-area schools brace for possible swine flu wave

By Diana Lambert

Three days into the new school year, it's clear the H1N1 virus could become a big problem for local schools.

Folsom Cordova Unified began its school year Monday with the announcement that one of its students had been diagnosed with the virus a few days before. The ninth-grade girl is expected to recover and return to school next week.

Tuesday there were four confirmed cases of swine flu at Granite Bay High School, which also started classes Monday. By Wednesday that number had risen to seven. Seventeen other Granite Bay students are home with flu-like symptoms, although the H1N1 virus had been ruled out in some of the cases, said Principal Michael McGuire.

<http://www.sacbee.com/education/story/2105258.html>

District Braces for Swine Flu at Start of School Year

By Riya Bhattacharjee

With school starting in less than three weeks, the Berkeley Unified School District is closely watching the federal government's new guidelines on how to prevent swine flu from spreading and how to handle sudden breakouts.

At an Aug. 7 news conference, federal public health and education officials cautioned children with flulike symptoms to remain isolated from their classmates and stay at home for 24 hours after their fever had reduced, instead of a total of seven days as recommended when the H1N1 influenza virus first broke in the spring.

They outlined President Barack Obama's four pillars of "National Framework for Response," as surveillance, community mitigation, vaccination, and communication.

Officials also announced that they were expecting a new vaccine for H1N1 to be ready by mid-October, and asked schools and colleges to prepare to hold vaccination clinics.

<http://www.berkeleydailyplanet.com/issue/2009-08-13/article/33511?headline=District-Braces-for-Swine-Flu-at-Start-of-School-Year>

Superintendents confer with public health officials

ESCONDIDO: Schools prepare for swine flu trouble

MORGAN COOK

As classes resume this fall, school administrators will be watching for sneezy, feverish students and staffers.

Being alert to signs of illness and paying more attention to school absences are just two precautions county health agency officials suggested to superintendents in a conference call Wednesday on swine flu, also known as the H1N1 virus.

With three swine flu deaths reported in San Diego County this week ---- at hospitals in Poway, Chula Vista and San Diego ---- school and health officials said they want to make sure administrators are prepared to identify and mitigate an outbreak using strategies ranging from class dismissals to moving desks farther apart, depending on the severity of the outbreak and strain of flu.

http://www.nctimes.com/news/local/escondido/article_18d5b8f3-2d06-5263-addd-9f190ab1c76b.html

8 swine flu cases reported at GBHS

By Nathan Donato-Weinstein

After eight of their classmates came down with confirmed cases of the H1N1 virus, students at Granite Bay High were taking swine-flu fears in stride this week – but with plenty of precaution mixed in for good measure.

“I have like, 12 of those little hand wipes in my backpack,” said Kevin Ranger, a junior.

All of the affected Granite Bay students had mild cases and were expected to make a full recovery, said Steve Williams, the district’s pupil personnel director. One other confirmed case was reported this week at Antelope High School, he said.

“Some of these kids have already begun to make their way back, but we’re keeping more or less a running tally,” Williams said.

It wasn’t clear whether the outbreak of the novel flu form was ramping up or on its way out. Officials say they think the first cases originated at a band camp before school started on Monday. It’s since spread to students who weren’t among the 130 at the event.

<http://rosevillept.com/detail/127178.html>

No time like the present

'Pandemic' dropout rates spark calls for less talk and more action

By André Coleman 08/13/2009

Calling the Pasadena Unified School District's 24 percent dropout rate a "pandemic," civil rights leader Joe Brown urged community and local church leaders to get together and take some sort of action to help kids stay in school.

Brown doesn't know exactly what the answer might be. In fact, few of the past and present school and civic leaders interviewed for this report seem to have any ready answers.

But Brown knows that "the young people belong to somebody's church, and, if they live [in Pasadena], they are in one of the council person's districts," he told the Weekly.

"If there is ever a time when the churches and the community need to come together, this is it," he said. "If we don't deal with this problem now, it will affect Pasadena's economy and crime rate. We need to come together."

The district's dropout rate among ninth through 12th graders rose by six points from 2006-07, when 18 percent of students quit school. In all, 427 of 6,365 students — 253 of them Latino teens — left the district in the 2007-08 school year, according to data released by the California Department of Education (CDE). That year, 164 African-American students also dropped out..

http://www.pasadenaweekly.com/cms/story/detail/no_time_like_the_present/7590/

Alpaugh parents mixed on 4-day-week plan

By Victor Garcia

ALPAUGH — Alpaugh Unified School District's plan to move to a four-day school week is drawing mixed reactions from parents.

Josephine Jennings has two sons who are students in the southwest Tulare County community. They both require extra tutoring, she said. Currently, the school has an eighth period to tutor students.

"I was very upset when they told me it would be discontinued," Jennings said. Jennings applauds the

school for having high scores on standardized tests, despite being in a rural community, she said. "Why change it if it's working well?" she said.

Superintendent Robert Hudson's reasoning for changing the current system is to attract more teachers. Money savings for the district would be minimal, he said.

<http://www.visaliatimesdelta.com/article/20090813/NEWS01/908130305>

First Test for Principals: Getting Judged on Test Scores

By EMILY ALPERT

San Diego Unified is crafting a new, more rigorous way of judging principals that would include whether student test scores, dropout rates and attendance had improved on their watch, a change that could prove controversial with their new union.

Superintendent Terry Grier said the new evaluation has "tremendous potential," and praised it for linking student success to the fates of the principals who lead their schools. The new evaluation also includes dozens of other criteria beyond testing and would happen more frequently than in the past.

It will be the first major issue for the nascent principals union to hash out in negotiations.

Tying test scores to the fates of employees is contentious among educators, some of whom fear that tests can be an incomplete and sometimes misleading measure of school progress, depending on how the data are crunched. The Obama Administration is now locked in a grueling debate with teachers unions over whether schools should evaluate and reward teachers based on test scores.

<http://www.voiceofsandiego.org/articles/2009/08/13/education/799principaleval081309.txt>

Pomona superintendent leaves for Washington after three years of change and success

Monica Rodriguez, Staff Writer

Related story: [Pomona board begins process of replacing superintendent](#)

POMONA - Bittersweet is how many people describe the departure of Thelma Melendez de Santa Ana.

For many, it's painful to see her leave her post as superintendent of the Pomona Unified School District. The reason for her departure, however, makes the loss bearable to many.

Pam Slater

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AGENDA

Select Committee on Lowering California's High School Dropout Rate Hearing #1: Defining the Problem

Friday, August 28, 2009

9:00 a.m.

State Capitol, Room 127

Welcome Remarks

Assemblymember Alyson Huber, Chair

Participants

Keric Ashley, Director of Data Management, California Department of Education

Russ Rumberger, Director, California Dropout Research Project

Sacramento City Police Chief Rick Braziel

Anthony Amato, Stockton Unified School District Superintendent

Public Comment

Audience members will be allowed to make brief comments (2 mins).

Closing

Senator Gloria Romero D-EAST LOS ANGELES

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SB 651 (Romero and Steinberg) Annual Report on School Dropouts in California As Amended July 15, 2009 FACT SHEET

Sponsor: Authors

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ISSUE

California is facing a high school dropout crisis. Fewer than 80% of our 9th graders statewide, and fewer than 60% in some districts, go on to graduate from high school. More than 120,000 students abandon school each year without a diploma. The California Dropout Research Project at UC Santa Barbara reports that each cohort of California dropouts costs the state \$46.4 billion over their lifetimes. The Public Policy Institute of California predicts that in 2025, there will be twice as many high school dropouts as there will be jobs to support them. If the situation is left unchecked, demographic trends indicate that it will only worsen.

SOLUTION

The California Dropout Research Project recommends a more comprehensive, annual public accounting for dropouts. California needs more than statistics on casualties – it needs timely information so that the state, districts and schools can be more strategic in their focus on dropout prevention.

SB 651 builds upon California's new longitudinal student information system called CALPADS, which collects significant data about student achievement and progress toward graduation. If reported annually in an accessible format, the data could assist educators in developing a higher level of public accountability and a stronger focus on dropout prevention.

SB 651 would make smarter use of existing student data to shine a spotlight on one of our most pressing education and economic challenges. The bill requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) to provide an annual written report on dropouts to the Governor, the Legislature, and the State Board of Education, using existing data, beginning August 1, 2010. Beyond the data the California Department of Education already highlights, the report would include:

- Early warning indicators of students at high risk of dropping out, such as ninth-grade promotion rates, middle school dropout rates, course credit earning rates, and CAHSEE passage rates;
- More accurate dropout rates for alternative schools with highly mobile populations; and
- When the data is available, the report would also include behavioral data about students, such as suspension and expulsions, truancy rates; and relevant data about student engagement and school climate from the Healthy Kids Survey and the California School Climate Survey.

The bill also directs the SPI to develop a methodology or methodologies to calculate "full-year" dropout rates in alternative schools, including dropout recovery high schools, and to provide an explanation of this methodology or methodologies in the annual report. Dropout rates would also be calculated for a district including (per current practice) and excluding charter schools in the district. The bill also deletes a conditional operative date in existing law related to adjustments of the API (Academic Performance Index) required by SB 219, Steinberg, of 2007, to allow its implementation to move forward.

SUPPORT

Aspiranet, Inc.

Association of California School Administrators

EdVoice

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids

PICO California

Public Advocates

United Teachers of Los Angeles

California Department of Education (<http://www.cde.ca.gov/nr/ne/yr09/yr09rel77.asp>)
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CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NEWS RELEASE

JACK O'CONNELL
State Superintendent
of Public Instruction

Release: #09-77
May 21, 2009

Contact: Pam Slater
E-mail: communications@cde.ca.gov
Phone: 916-319-0818

State Schools Chief Jack O'Connell Releases 2008 Base API Report, Includes Statewide and Similar Schools Comparisons

GLENDALE — State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell today released the 2008 Base Academic Performance Index (API) report, marking the beginning of California's annual reporting cycle of academic growth and achievement.

The 2008 Base API Report summarizes results from the spring 2008 testing season and becomes the baseline against which to compare the 2009 Growth API, which will be released in early September.

The 2008 Base API report includes public school rankings that enable parents to match the performance of their child's school with other California public schools. Based on a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being the highest), the rankings compare an individual school to all other California public schools of similar type (elementary, middle, and high) as well as to those with similar educational opportunities and challenges.

The 2008 Base API Report also provides information about the percentage of schools at or above the statewide API performance target of 800: The percentage of elementary schools at or above this mark is 39.9 percent, up 3.3 percentage points from 2007; middle schools is 30.1 percent, up 5.7 percentage points; and high schools is 17.1 percent, up 2.8 percentage points. (See [Table A](#).)

"I am pleased that once again California schools are meeting the high expectations set for them every year. I am especially proud of the spectacular progress made by our elementary schools since the inception of the API. This is momentum we need to sustain and celebrate," O'Connell said.

"This kind of progress happens only through the hard work and focus of dedicated school staff, parents, and students. However, I worry that these real gains in student achievement are in serious jeopardy because funding for our public school system is in serious danger," he said. "What kind of education will we be able to offer next year and the year after that with the kind of drastic and unprecedented cuts now under consideration?"

The annual rise in test scores over the last 10 years also has resulted in a similar rise in the API score associated with each rank. For example: In 1999, an elementary school with an API score of 680 had a statewide rank of 7. Today that same API score yields a statewide rank of 1. (See [Table B](#).)

The Base API Report also sets 2009 API growth targets for schools and student subgroups. The 2009 Growth API will be compared to the 2008 Base API in order to determine whether or not the schools and student subgroups met these targets. The 2009 Growth API is projected for release on September 2, 2009.

Finally, the report documents the achievement gap that continues to exist between white and Asian student subgroups on the one hand and Hispanic and African American student subgroups on the other hand. (See [Table C](#).)

"For the better part of the last two years, I have focused intently on a plan to close this gap and to lower the number of young people dropping out of school," O'Connell said. "The Base API report provides evidence yet again of why it is so critical that we focus on this challenge. We have implemented important reforms related to high-quality preschool, cultural and climatic dynamics in the classroom, and education data collection. We have a moral and economic imperative to prepare all students with an education that will help them succeed. But this critical work is also likely to be stymied if the massive budget cuts to our schools become a reality."

The 2008 Base API represents the annual calibration of the state's accountability system to accommodate new assessments or other changes. This enables the comparison of results from one year to the next to measure school improvement. For example, in 2009 the State did not administer the norm-referenced assessment (the California Achievement Test/Sixth Edition [CAT/6]) to students. This assessment was eliminated in the state budget. Therefore, the 2008 Base API does not include 2008 CAT/6 results.

The API reflects a school's composite academic achievement based on a variety of statewide assessments. The API incorporates test results from the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program and the California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE). Subject areas include English-language arts, mathematics, science, and history-social science.

The 2008 Base API reports, including school rankings and growth targets are posted on the API Web Page at [Academic Performance Index \(API\)](#).

Table A
Percentage of Schools with 1999 to 2008 Base APIs
At or Above the Statewide Performance Target of 800

Year	Elementary Schools	Middle Schools	High Schools
1999	13.1%	10.7%	4.9%
2000	19.9%	13.8%	5.5%
2001	20.9%	14.6%	5.3%
2002	20.1%	12.7%	4.0%
2003	26.3%	15.6%	7.4%
2004	26.4%	17.3%	7.0%
2005	31.8%	20.6%	11.9%
2006	34.6%	23.9%	13.6%
2007	36.6%	24.4%	14.3%
2008	39.9%	30.1%	17.1%

Note: Table A excludes schools in the Alternative Schools Accountability Model (ASAM), special education schools, and small schools. A "small school" is a school with fewer than 100 valid test scores.

Table B
Statewide Ranks for an Elementary School
with an API of 680 (1999 to 2008)

Year	Rank
1999	7
2000	6
2001	5
2002	5
2003	4
2004	4
2005	3
2006	2
2007	1
2008	1

Table C
Statewide 2008 Base APIs
Overall and for Student Subgroups

Type	Score
African American (Not of Hispanic Origin)	659
American Indian or Alaska Native	708
Asian	864
Filipino	824
Hispanic or Latino	683
Pacific Islander	734
White (Not of Hispanic Origin)	814
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	681
English Learners	663
Students with Disabilities	552

California Department of Education (<http://www.cde.ca.gov/nr/ne/yr09/yr09rel073.asp>)
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CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NEWS RELEASE

JACK O'CONNELL
 State Superintendent
 of Public Instruction

Release: #09-73
 May 12, 2009

Contact: Hilary McLean
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State Schools Chief Jack O'Connell Releases Annual Report on Dropouts and Graduates Using Individual Student Level Data

Use of Statewide Student Identifiers Improves Data Accuracy

FRESNO — State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell today released the annual report on dropout and graduation rates for the 2007-08 school year.

In 2007-08, 68.3* percent of public school students in California graduated, up from 67.7 percent last year. The adjusted four-year derived dropout rate for the same school year is 20.1 percent, down from 21.1 percent last year.

"I am heartened that the graduation rate is up slightly, but California's dropout rate is still unacceptably high," said O'Connell. "If we look deeper into the data, we see alarmingly high dropout rates among African American and Hispanic students. There are long-term economic repercussions from not graduating for the student, for their communities, and for our statewide economy. These data provide even more evidence of the challenge and the moral imperative of closing the achievement gap as well as increasing graduation rates among all students."

The California Dropout Research Project recently reaffirmed long-held knowledge that when students drop out of school, they face more challenges than their more well-educated peers. Compared to high school graduates, research shows that over a lifetime dropouts have increased dependence on public assistance, lower earnings, poorer health, and higher rates of unemployment, mortality, criminal behavior, and incarceration. According to the report, all these factors generate substantial economic losses to the nation, state, and local communities.

This is the second year of calculating student graduation and dropout rates by collecting student-level enrollment and exit data. When two more years of student exit data are collected, the California Department of Education (CDE) will have the four years of data necessary to produce more accurate student graduation and dropout rates at the school level. This year's graduation and four-year derived dropout rates may be compared to last year's rates because the method of collecting data is the same as the prior year. That was not possible last year because the data collection method was different the previous years.

The use of Statewide Student Identifiers (SSID) increases accountability for districts to find students who stop coming to school. It also helps districts identify students who were considered a dropout at a school they left but in fact were enrolled in a different district. The data also allow CDE to identify students reported by a school district as transferring to another California school district but cannot be found subsequently enrolled. These students are now properly counted as dropouts rather than transfers. In total, there are 28 different withdrawal codes used to categorize a student's status, including whether they graduated, dropped out, completed their education in other ways, moved to a different state, transferred to another school, or are continuing as a fifth-year senior.

SSIDs eventually will be tracked through the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System, or CALPADS, which will maintain longitudinal, individual student-level data including student demographics, program participation, grade level, enrollment, course enrollment and completion, discipline, state assessment, teacher assignment, and other data required to meet state and federal reporting requirements. CALPADS is scheduled to be implemented at all districts in the 2009-10 school year.

To view or download state, county, district, and school-level dropout data, please visit CDE's [DataQuest Web page](#). For more information on the California Dropout Research Project, please visit the [California Dropout Research Project Web site](#) (<http://www.lmri.ucsb.edu/dropouts/>) (Outside Source).

Important Background Information on Graduation and Dropout Data:

This is the initial release of graduation and dropout data. Districts have until July 3, 2009 to thoroughly review the data, verify student exit codes, and correct all data.

Traditional high school dropout rates will tend to be lower than the state rate and graduation rates will be higher because many at-risk students are placed in county-run dropout recovery or educational option programs, and if they drop out, the drop out will be attributed to the county-run or educational option program rather than the traditional high school.

There are significant numbers of students who drop out of school during the middle school years. While CDE collects and reports dropout counts for students in grades seven and eight, we do not currently produce dropout rates for these students. We are in the process of developing these rates, which will be available for the 2008-09 dropout data report.

The rates released today are still calculated using aggregate rate formulas since four years of student-level data are needed to transition to a four-year cohort rate. In two years CDE will have the four years of student-level data necessary to produce longitudinal graduation and dropout rates which will be much more accurate. This will occur starting with the graduating class of 2010.

The dropout and graduation rates that CDE currently posts using an aggregate formula provide a reasonable estimate in most cases. However, there are school-level configurations where these estimates do not work well. County-run schools, alternative schools, and dropout recovery high schools will often have inflated aggregate dropout rates because the dropout calculation is based on a single day of enrollment. It is important to note that these schools have very high mobility and may enroll many more students and almost always at-risk students. Therefore, dropout-rate calculations are not posted for schools that are operated by County Offices of Education because of constraints in interpreting these calculations with high-mobility schools. Caution must also be used when calculating or analyzing dropout rates for other schools with high mobility, including alternative schools, dropout recovery high schools, or schools eligible for participating in the Alternative Schools Accountability Model (ASAM).

It may also be inappropriate to compare dropout rates for alternative schools and dropout recovery high schools to local comprehensive high schools. In many cases, alternative schools serve only those students who are already at the greatest risk of dropping out of school because of their prior academic challenges.

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* Editor's Note: An adjustment has been made to the 2007-08 graduation rate so that it now stands at 68.3 percent, not 68.1 percent as reported earlier today. The adjustment was made after adding in late-arriving graduate counts from a mid-size district that were not included in the original release.

Attachments

Comparing Dropout Rates Chart

Type	2006-07	2007-08
African American	35.8%	34.7%
Asian	9.0%	8.4%
Latino	26.7%	25.5%
White	13.3%	12.2%

Tracking California Students Chart

Type	Percentage
Graduates	68.1%**
Dropouts	20.1%
Other***	11.8%
Total	100.0%

** See footnote above.

*** Includes GED, 5th year seniors, special education completers, etc.

###

Jack O'Connell — State Superintendent of Public Instruction
Communications Division, Room 5206, 916-319-0818, Fax 916-319-0100

Boosting High School Graduation Rates Cuts Crime

New research shows that increasing high school graduation rates cuts crime significantly.



www.fightcrime.org/ca • (510) 836-2050

A priority of FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS California, an anti-crime organization of over 400 sheriffs, police chiefs, district attorneys, and crime survivors, is to increase high school graduation rates by ensuring that students have access to interventions proven to keep kids in school and on the path to graduation.

120,000 California Youth Fail to Graduate High School Each Year

One in three California high school students does not graduate from high school on time and, of the half-million Californians who turn 20 each year, 120,000 do not have a high school diploma.¹

California's economy suffers, and so does public safety because these young people generally earn less, pay fewer taxes, and are more likely to both go on welfare and turn to crime.

For each year's worth of high school dropouts, California suffers an estimated \$46 billion in economic losses, including \$12 billion in crime costs alone.²

"A 10 percentage point increase in graduation rates in California . . . would result in approximately 500 fewer murders and over 20,000 fewer aggravated assaults each year."

High School Graduates Are Less Likely to Turn to Crime

Across the country, 68 percent of state prison inmates did not receive a high school diploma.³ UC Berkeley economist Enrico Moretti and Canadian economist Lance Lochner studied the relationship between graduation and crime and concluded that a 10 percentage point increase in graduation rates would reduce murder and assault rates by about 20 percent.⁴ Increasing graduation rates in California from 68 percent to 78 percent, therefore, would result in approximately 500 fewer murders and over 20,000 fewer aggravated assaults each year.⁵

Programs Proven to Improve Graduation and Dropout Rates

Researchers have identified several approaches with rigorous proof that they can improve graduation and dropout rates:

- **High School Small Learning Communities with Student and Family Advisors**

First Things First (FTF) consists of three major components: (1) small

learning communities (a "school within a school"); (2) family advocates paired with each student to monitor and assist in their progress; and (3) instructional improvement. Research shows FTF would yield 16 extra high school graduates for every 100 students provided the intervention.⁶

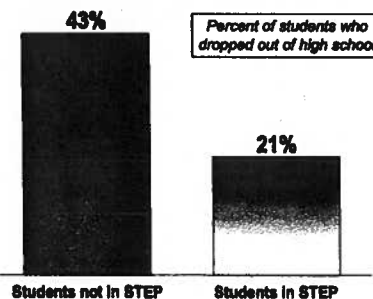
School Transitional Environment Project (STEP) is a classroom-based high school intervention of smaller learning communities within high schools, which

employs homeroom teachers as guidance counselors, administrative contacts, and liaisons to parents of the students. A long-term evaluation showed that participating in the program cut student dropout rates in half.⁷

"Those of us on the front lines fighting crime place a high priority on education. Far too often, today's dropouts are tomorrow's criminals."

Hon. Jan Scully,
Sacramento County District Attorney

STEP Small Learning Communities Cut Dropouts in Half



Felner & Adan, 1998



Assembly Select Committee on Lowering California's High School Dropout Rate

August 28, 2009

Keric Ashley, Director
Data Management Division

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Jack O'Connell, State Superintendent of Public Instruction



Overview of Data in CALPADS

- LEAs submit student data by **SSIDs**:
 - Demographic data
 - Program participation
 - Grade level
 - Course enrollment and completion data
 - Discipline data (suspensions, expulsions, truancies)
- LEAs submit educator data by **SEIDs**:
 - Demographic data
 - Assignment data
- Test Vendors submit assessment data by **SSIDs**:
 - CELDT, CAHSEE, and STAR



CALPADS Rollout in 2009-10

- August 24 – Training begins
- August 31 – LEA Administration Functionality begins
- October 5 – Phase I begins: SSIDs and enrollment status
- Nov/Dec – Phase II begins: student and teacher enrollment data
- Mar/Apr – Phase III begins: English learner data
- Jun/Sep – Phase IV begins: end-of-year course credits, discipline data, and program participation data

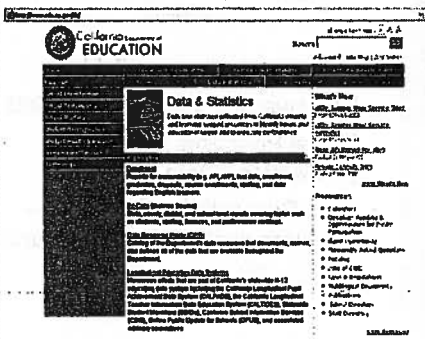


Withdrawal Codes

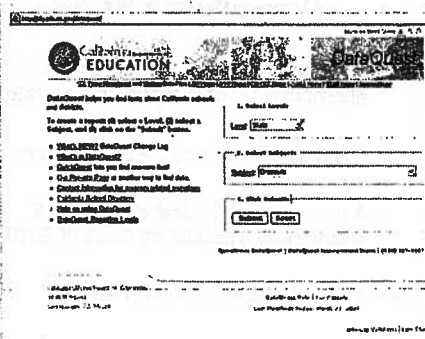
- Withdrawal Code Descriptions
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/td/lo/ewdcodes9.asp>
- Dropout Definitions & Guidelines
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sd/cb/ssidguide08.asp>



Dropout Data Located on DataQuest




Dropout Data Located on DataQuest



Dropout Data Located on DataQuest

Florida Department of Education
JACK P. McNEEL
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Florida Department of Education
DataQuest

Student Information
Dropout Data
Student Level Support

Select to Report
☐ Students by Grade
☐ Students by Ethnicity
☐ Students by School Group (with county code)
☐ Students by School (with county code)
☐ Number of Students by Exit Code

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 Comparing Dropout Rates 06-07 to 07-08		
• Am. Indian	28.1%	24.1%
• Asian	9.0%	7.9%
• Pacific Islander	24.8%	21.3%
• Filipino	10.6%	8.6%
• Hispanic	26.7%	23.8%
• African-American	35.8%	32.9%
• White	13.3%	11.7%
• All Students	21.1%	18.9%



Seal of the State of Tennessee
Great Seal of the State of Tennessee
1796

Dropout Rate Issues

- Dependent on 3,000 high schools and alternative schools reporting accurately
- Districts and schools need resources
- 4 years of longitudinal data still 1.5 years away (graduating class of 2010)
- Shared accountability is needed



Actions to Address the Dropout Crisis

- More public data available
- Early warning predictive models
- Model Programs for Dropout Prevention (State SARB)
- Zero Dropouts for California – research summary and resources

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/sg/eng/>



JACK O'CONNELL
State Superintendent
of Public Instruction

School Attendance Review Boards (SARBs)

- SARBs are local panels intended to develop new ways of coordinating district, community, and home interventions to reduce dropouts based on local data.
- CALPADs will provide SARBs with exit data to drive local decisions about strategic interventions.
- 2009 SARB Handbook:

[http://www.cde.ca.gov/ops/eng/sarb/2009sarbhandbook.pdf](#)



JACK O'CONNELL
State Superintendent
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Contacts

- Karl Scheff – Dropout Rates

[http://www.cde.ca.gov/ops/eng/sarb/2009sarbhandbook.pdf](#)

- Paula Mishima - CALPADS

[http://www.cde.ca.gov/ops/eng/sarb/2009sarbhandbook.pdf](#)

[http://www.cde.ca.gov/ops/eng/sarb/2009sarbhandbook.pdf](#)

CALPADS Web Page

[http://www.cde.ca.gov/ops/eng/sarb/2009sarbhandbook.pdf](#)

