

SUMMARY November 6, 2009

State/Federal Funding Highlights

California previously received an allocation of the Federal Stabilization Fund (FSF) in June/July that was approximately 67% of the total amount or \$2.6 billion. The remaining amount for K-12 was supposed to be around \$1.1 billion. However, because of cuts to higher education, the administration decided to increase the funding to higher education and decrease the K-12 amount. K-12 education will now only receive around \$600 million. The administration applied to the federal government for 90% of the FSF and was approved for this "acceleration" of funding. Therefore, the state now has \$355 million to use to pay for QEIA. While the state can still apply for the remaining 10 percent of FSF, districts should not expect or budget for an additional FSF allocation. The administration has been clear that there is no guarantee that the state will receive another FSF appropriation.

In addition, the Governor signed several bills of particular interest to curriculum administrators:

-SB 19 (Simitian) eliminates the "firewall" between state student assessment data and teacher evaluation. It is unclear what impact the Governor's approval of SB 19 will have on "Race to the Top" federal funding. In addition to the so-called "firewall" challenge, there are other outside issues that need to be addressed such as open enrollment for students in Deciles 1-3 schools, interventions for historically low-performing schools, and eliminating the cap on charter schools. Refer to packet for details.

-SB 651 (Romero) has the effect of requiring implementation of legislation from 2007 that calls for 8th grade and 9th grade dropout rates to be included in the API, which in turn requires the scores of many students in educational options to be attributed back to their school of residence.

-SB 680 (Romero) restores and modifies the "District of Choice" program and allows its implementation statewide. Refer to packet for detail.

Finally, the Department has been mandated to make a \$17 million cut in the Accountability Division. The legislative mandates require that no element of the accountability program be eliminated. Consequently, the cuts will focus on service provider contracts, website information, coordinator trainings, and department staffing.

Accountability

In your packet is a 2009 Summary of CST Results. This document provides context for measuring your district's progress. Also included in your packet are two new STAR reports. The first is a CST Summary and the second is a CAPA Summary. Both are available on the internet (select "Test" dropdown).

Mathematics

The Numeracy Mathematic Project curriculum is now available through Scholastic. Developed by county offices of education, it is a curriculum targeting upper grade students in alternative education programs like continuation schools. This curriculum is a high interest approach to the teaching of mathematics. Professional development is available through the training-of-trainer model. The cost of this training is \$300 plus materials costs.

The state has put out a publication (included in the packet), which summarizes the alignment of the various high school math and science digital textbooks against the content standards.

English Learners

Title III Funds for CELDT - There has been a question regarding using Title III funds for hand-scoring the annual California English Language Development Test (CELDT). CDE communicated with the United States Department of Education (ED) requesting guidance. Based on this guidance it is acceptable to use Title III funds for hand-scoring the annual tests as a supplemental activity. However, please be advised that in order for the costs of supplemental hand-scoring to be allowable, the hand-scoring must be limited to the annual CELDT, not the initial assessment for identification, or screening of students. In addition, the District must maintain adequate and auditable documentation to support the costs in accordance with Office of Management and Budget, Circular A-87, Cost Principles for State and Local Governments (OMB Circular A-87).

Science

There is significant backing for the development and dissemination of environmental education curriculum. To address the growing interest and the environmental studies void in the science standards (currently environmental issues are not addressed in the science standards), the Education and Environment Initiative (EEI) was commissioned by the state to create 85 units of instruction. In September, the Curriculum Commission recommended approval to the SBE of 77 units. It is anticipated that in 2009-10 there will be opportunities for teachers to participate in professional development related to this initiative. Don Russell has reviewed the units and they appear to be of high quality and a real resource for teachers teaching environmental concepts. What is somewhat unique is that these units are integrated with History/Social Science and Reading/Language Arts.

Science Fair: The Science Fair is scheduled for February 24, 2010. There is no cost to participate, and since the students do the project, there should be little work for the teacher unless you hold your own school science fair. If you would like to participate, please submit the school e-registration form and check out the handbooks and other information at the SCOE web site: www.scoe.org (do a search for science fair.)

Science Olympiad: The 2010 Science Olympiad will be held on April 24, 2010. The first round of school registrations closes on Friday, November 6th. There is a second round of on-time registrations that closes January 15th.

A coaches' meeting will be scheduled later this month. Go to www.scoe.org and do a search for science olympiad for more information including forms and the handbook. Please email Mike Roa at mroa@scoe.org with questions.

Health

The new Health Education Standards include nutrition education. The Dairy Council has nutrition education lessons integrated into the Houghton Mifflin curriculum subject areas, including Power Play curriculum for 4-5th grades. If you think that you might be interested, contact Chris Bekins, Health Information Specialist for the Department of Health Services, at 565-6625.

Distinguished Schools

Seven elementary schools are eligible to apply as California Distinguished School. Karen Arter will be the lead for organizing and conducting the school visitations in the spring. After the holiday break, she will be asking for school and district administrators to be a part of the visitation committee. This is a good opportunity for local administrators to visit and see first hand the good work and accomplishments of local educators.

Career Technical Education (CTE)

CCSESA/CISC has completed a CTE Course of Study. The document is aligned to the eleven high quality elements in CTE with a fully interactive web-based document available sometime in the spring.

Early Childhood Education

The Child Care Planning Council of Sonoma County is pleased to announce the release of its Child Care Needs Assessment - 2009 Sonoma County. This report contains detailed data for Sonoma County as a whole and by 11 geographic planning areas on:

- Family and Child Demographic Trends
- Child Care Supply and Demand
- Services for Children from Special Populations
- Subsidies and Cost of Child Care
- Workforce and Education

The Council is mandated to conduct a Child Care Needs Assessment every five years for government planning bodies, program developers, educators, child care providers and advocates. We hope it proves useful in your endeavors for children and families. The full report, including Community Profiles, may be accessed at the Council website: <http://www.scoe.org/pub/htdocs/needs-assess.html>

Professional Development

The CCSESA/CISC Asilomar Conference has a leadership focus entitled "Dynamic Leadership for Sustainable Improvement: Building on our Assets". Cindy Pilar is our county contact person and will be handling the registration.

Resources

Sonoma County will once again participate in the *The Big Read*, a program sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts. Directed locally by KRCB Public Radio and Television, *The Big Read Sonoma County* will take place in April 2010, when every child, teen, and adult in the county will be encouraged to read Mark Twain's "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer." *The Big Read* will include not only a reading of the book, but also a wide range of activities through the Sonoma County Library, Sonoma County Regional Parks, and other nonprofits and schools.

A variety of resources are available for interested teachers:
-- Free teachers' guides, readers' guides, and audio guides
-- Low-cost copies of the book (probably less than \$3/book)
-- Mini-grants for special projects (applications due 1/15/10).

If you wish to learn more about *The Big Read*, Sonoma County, please email Melissa Kelley at mkelley@sonic.net or call (707) 537-8783.