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September 28, 2022

Tony Thurmond  
State Superintendent of Public Instruction  
1430 N Street  
Sacramento, California, 95814

**RE: Release Date of 2022 “Smarter Balanced” Student Test Score Data**

Dear Superintendent Thurmond,

We write to you to respectfully request an immediate determination of an exact release date of the “Smarter Balanced” English language arts/literacy, mathematics, and science test score results of the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) and the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC). We also request an explanation for the delay in finalizing these scores to ensure that this incident is not repeated in future years. There should be immediacy in addressing the learning and mental health needs of students statewide. The decision to release this information at an uncertain date with the California School Dashboard appears irresponsible and runs contrary to the prior seven years of testing.

At a time when California public schools are facing the lowest levels of enrollment seen in decades, data on student performance needs to be prudently maintained and publicly available. The Department of Finance has projected a 9% decline in roughly 542,000 students in enrollment between 2021 and 2031. Last year, the number of students enrolled in public school dropped below six million for the first time since at least 2007. That is a loss of more than 110,000 students, the second largest one-year decrease in over a decade <sup>[1]</sup>. The success of our public school system is a priority of the Legislature, which is why there were numerous budget proposals that enjoyed bipartisan support in both the Assembly and Senate to recalculate how schools would be funded to make up for this loss.

Test score data is also critical to policymaking and transparency at the local level. This year’s unprecedented investment through the state education budget for K-12 honestly reflected the state’s commitment to improving student enrollment and success, but these additional funds need to be appropriated by Local Education Agencies expeditiously to have the desired

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[1] <https://dof.ca.gov/forecasting/demographics/public-k-12-graded-enrollment/>

outcomes. LEAs and school districts share empirical data like student testing with each other to make successful determinations.

Since the implementation of the Smarter Balanced tests in 2015, the California Department of Education has released these scores ranging from the last week of August through the first week of October. The CDE has also admitted that they are unsure of when the school Dashboard deploys, which will further delay any actions that parents and schools need to take on behalf of students. The undersigned members of the Assembly Republican Caucus emphasize the central role this data has in understanding the impact of pandemic related school closures on learning loss, the associated response by officials in the form of policymaking, and the importance of general transparency by the CDE.

We thank you for your attention to this matter and request your urgent response with an announcement date for the results to be released, and a detailed explanation for the initial delay.

Sincerely,



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**JAMES GALLAGHER**

Assembly Republican Leader, 3<sup>rd</sup> District



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Megan Dahle, AD 1



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Frank Bigelow, AD 5



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Kevin Kiley, AD 6



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Heath Flora, AD 12



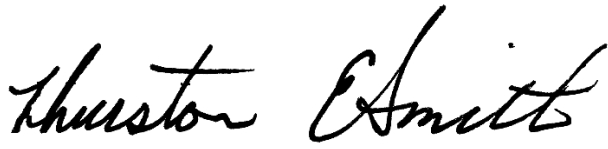
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Jim Patterson, AD 23

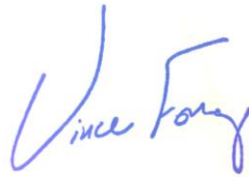


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Devon Mathis, AD26



Thurston Smith, AD 33



Vince Fong, AD 34



Jordan Cunningham, AD 35



Thomas Lackey, AD 36



Suzette Valladares, AD 38



Phillip Chen, AD 55



Kelly Seyarto, AD 67



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