

March 18, 2014

Governor's 2014-15 Assessment Proposals

LEGISLATIVE ANALYST'S OFFICE

Presented to:
Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2 on Education Finance
Hon. Al Muratsuchi, Chair





Increases Total Assessment Funding by \$52 Million

Budget for Student Assessments					
<i>(In Millions)</i>					
	2010-11 Enacted	2011-12 Enacted	2012-13 Enacted	2013-14 Enacted	2014-15 Proposed
Expenditures					
State-level contract costs	\$88.0	\$91.4	\$94.4	\$74.1	\$125.9
District apportionments ^a	28.6	28.1	34.1	23.7	23.5
Totals	\$116.7	\$119.5	\$128.5	\$97.8	\$149.4
Funding					
State Proposition 98 General Fund	\$88.7	\$90.4	\$104.0	\$72.7	\$128.8
Federal Title VI	28.0	29.1	24.5	25.1	20.6
Totals	\$116.7	\$119.5	\$128.5	\$97.8	\$149.4

^a Provides per-student funding to cover district administration costs. Rates vary by test, ranging from \$2.52 to \$5 per student.

- Provides \$149 Million Total Funding for Assessments**
- Most Funding From State**
- Major Augmentations Associated With Administering New Assessments Aligned to Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and Developing New Assessments in Other Areas**



Funding for New Assessments Aligned to CCSS



Provides \$77 Million for New English Language Arts (ELA) and Math Assessments

- Assumes total cost of \$24 per student for ELA and math assessments, based on Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) estimates.
- Includes \$67.5 million to cover contract costs of administering, scoring, and reporting new assessments.
- Also includes \$9.6 million to pay for SBAC-managed services, including adding additional test items and conducting additional research.



Funding Contingent on Department of Finance Review of Contract Materials



Funds Development of Three New Assessments

- New Assessment Aligned to English Language Development Standards (\$7.6 Million)**
 - Assessment will include a short initial screener for placing incoming students and a longer summative assessment to determine proficiency at the end of the year.

- Next Generation Science Standards (\$4 Million)**
 - First year of multiyear development plan.
 - Specific grades tested and assessment type yet to be determined.

- ELA Exams in Primary Languages Other Than English (\$2 Million)**



Provides Four Additional Positions to Department of Education



Two, Two-Year Limited Term Positions in Technology Services (\$250,000)

- For additional workload associated with creating an automated process and user interface integrating student-level data from the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System and the new testing system.



Two Consultants in Assessments Division (\$232,000)

- To be experts in the use of technology for student assessments.



Funding Contingent Upon Additional Information

- All four positions contingent upon the submission of a Feasibility Study Report (FSR) to Department of Finance (DOF).
- Funding for consultants also contingent upon DOF approval of an expenditure plan with corresponding documentation justifying the need for the two positions.



Assessment and Recommendations

- Higher Costs Appear Reasonable, as New Tests More Expensive to Grade**
 - Written responses on performance tasks will be more expensive to grade.
 - Costs ultimately will be determined by testing contract.

- Higher Costs Also Linked to Interim and Formative Assessments**
 - State will purchase interim assessment software and formative tools from SBAC and will be available for use by school districts. Though these tools increase state assessment costs, purchasing at the state level likely will be a more cost-effective approach than districts purchasing these tools individually.

- Recommend Additional Oversight of Contract**
 - Adopt Governor's provisional language making funding contingent upon review of contract materials.
 - Adopt additional language requiring vendors of state's SBAC contract to meet with legislative staff and DOF on an annual basis to review components and costs of contract.

- Additional Review Needed Before Adopting New Positions**
 - FSR currently under review by California Department of Technology.