

# Sweetwater Education Association

*Protecting the Promise of Education for All*

July 26, 2016

Board of Trustees  
Sweetwater Union High School District  
1130 5th Ave.  
Chula Vista, Ca. 91910

Re: District audit of local assessments in accordance with the Every Student Succeeds Act Section 1202

Dear Board of Trustees:

The Sweetwater Education Association (SEA) represents nearly 1900 educators who do front-line work to ensure the success of students. The SEA asks the SUHSD Board of Trustees to begin an audit of the district's assessments as permitted under Section 1202 (e) of the Every Student Succeeds Act, as well as NCLB section 6111, Grants for State Assessments and Related Activities, and other NCLB sections as described in the Feb. 2, 2016, letter to Chief State School Officers from Acting Secretary John King. Find the letter at <http://www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/account/saa/16-0002signedcsso222016ltr.pdf>.

We are confident that the district will find, as we have, that assessments are duplicative and do not actually provide relevant and timely data to improve and differentiate instruction. The members of the SEA also believe that the audit will show that test preparation and administration are costing educators too much time and leaving little time for instruction. Likewise, the audit is likely to reveal that there remains a substantial gap in the distribution of technological resources and personnel necessary to administer assessments. Finally, we believe that a reduction in state and local assessments can save district resources that can instead be used to improve our students' learning environments and lead to greater student success.

In conducting an audit, the district should follow the intent of Congress and include feedback from stakeholders, including parents, students, and teachers. We believe that the audit will also provide valuable information to parents and families and offer an opportunity to engage our mutual partners in the process in a new and meaningful way that can lead to greater educational outcomes for our students.

We believe the audit should include, for each assessment, at a minimum:

- Test purpose
- How teachers, principals, school leaders, and administrators use the data to inform instruction
- The manner data is presented to stakeholders
- How that data is utilized to inform decision making that affects students (placement, support services, etc.)
- Goals for student support
- Time spent on each test
- District decision makers on testing
- Prep time
- Cost of testing (a thorough analysis of the direct and indirect costs of mandated assessments, including contracts with companies providing assessments, the costs of administering those assessments, and the cost of staff time and resources diverted from classroom instruction)

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- Names of specific companies profiting from testing in the state, and disclosure of all roles they play and all financial interests they have in our schools
- A school-by-school assessment of the technological resources and staff available to administer each assessment

The SEA is committed to working collaboratively with the district to develop an instrument to collect feedback from all educators, not just classroom teachers. Additionally, the SEA is prepared to provide input into educator training, preparation, and other issues related to the audit results.

We look forward to working together to improve our assessments and limit the amount of time spent on them, so that we have more time to teach and students have more time to learn. We also look forward to determining how our limited resources can be better spent for our students.

Sincerely,



Helen Farias

President, Sweetwater Education Association



Gene Chavira

Elizabeth Craighead

Kimberly Cox

Carly Smith

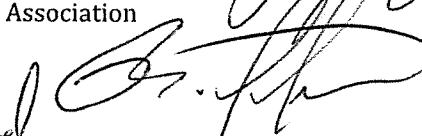
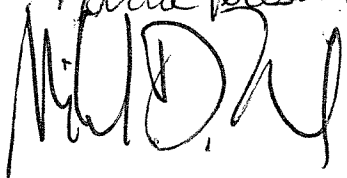


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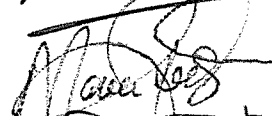
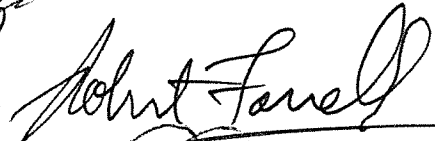
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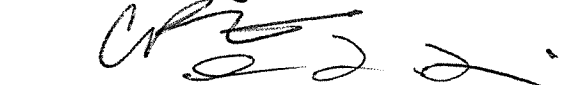
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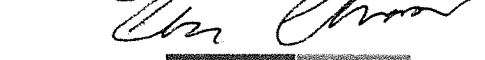
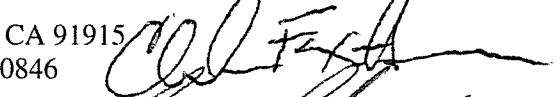
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