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School District Local Control Accountability Plan Deadline Extended by Governor's Executive Order

Governor Gavin Newsom has given school districts and county offices of education until December 15, 2020 to adopt their Local Control Accountability Plans (LCAP's), provided that they adopt a report, at the same meeting in which they adopt their 2020-2021 annual budget, explaining program changes, and impact on pupils and families, as a result of COVID-19 related school closures.

The Governor's Order, signed April 22, 2020, extends the usual July 1st deadline for school districts and other Local Educational Agencies (LEA's) to adopt their LCAP's by nearly six months. However, the report that LEA's must adopt at the same time as their annual budget, by July 1, 2020, must explain "the changes to program offerings ... made in response to school closures" as well as "the major impacts of such closures on students and families," including, at a minimum, how the LEA is meeting the needs of unduplicated pupils. LEA's must specifically describe the steps taken to continue delivering high-quality distance learning opportunities; provide school meals in non-congregated settings; and arrange for supervision of students during ordinary school hours. School districts must submit the report to their county superintendents, and county boards must submit their report to the Superintendent of Public Instruction, in conjunction with their adopted annual budget, and must post the reports on their website, if they have one. The Executive Order directs the California Department of Education to develop a form for LEA's to use.

The Governor's Executive Order also changed the deadline for a county superintendent or the SPI to approve the LCAP to January 14, 2021.

The Executive Order also waives a number of requirements related to the LCAP and adopted budget, including the requirements that school boards adopt an LCAP prior to a budget; that the budget includes the expenditures identified in the LCAP, and that the county superintendent disapproves the budget by September 15, 2020 if the budget fails to do so; and that the county superintendent not approve a school district's budget before its LCAP is approved. Similar requirements applicable to county office of education LCAP's and actions by the SPI are waived.

Separately, the Executive Order also waived statutory instructional minutes in Physical Education for Grades 1-12, and the physical fitness performance test for Grades 5, 7, and 9.