



News from Sacramento

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Proposed Legislation

The last day for the legislative policy committees to hear and report on fiscal bills for referral to fiscal committees is April 27, 2007. The Legislature has been a flurry of activity in order to meet this deadline the past three weeks.

Proposed legislation sponsored by CAFE and the Californians Together Coalition passed their first hurdle! AB 280 (Coto) proposes to establish a State Seal on Biliteracy received a unanimous vote in the Assembly Education Committee, 10 yes votes and 0 no votes!! AB 1177 (Solorio) proposes to establish an "Accelerated English Acquisition & Literacy Program". The bill has two major components: 1) the development of reading/language arts instructional materials designed for English learners and aligned to the ELA & ELD standards and 2) establishment of a 5 year pilot program for 10 school districts with significant numbers of English learners who will use the instructional materials called for in the bill. AB 1177 (Solorio) received only 7 votes but a sufficient number to successfully pass out of Assembly Education Committee. SB 305 (Ducheny) proposes to align California's English learners assessment policy to the NOCLB requirements sits on the "suspense file" of the Senate Education Committee. Decisions regarding which bills will proceed to the Senate Assembly Appropriations Committee will be made on April 26, 2007. AB 280 (Coto) and AB 1177 (Solorio) have been referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee waiting a hearing date. A special "thank you" to those who forwarded letters of support on these bills to members of the Senate and Assembly Education Committees. Letters of support were recognized in the committees.

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Governor Schwarzenegger Appoints David Long Secretary of Education

Governor Schwarzenegger recently appointed David Long as secretary of education. The Office of the Secretary of Education is the primary education advisor to the Governor and is committed to creating, promoting, and supporting the Governor's policies that ensure access to quality education for all Californians. Long, 67, of Canyon Lake, earned a Doctorate degree in educational administration from Iowa State University, a Masters degree in physical education from Missouri State College and a Bachelor of Arts degree in physical education from the University of Northern Iowa. Long has more than 40 years of experience in the field of education and for 21 of those years taught in a classroom. He has served in the capacities of superintendent, assistant superintendent, principal and as an instructor. This position does not require Senate confirmation.

Appointments to the State Board of Education

The Governor appointed Ruth Bloom, 62, of Marina Del Rey to the State Board of Education. Ms. Bloom has served on the Board since 2004 and currently serves as the vice president. She was previously a grade school teacher for the

LAUSD and developed curriculum and teaching art at UX|CLA Extension and Museum of Contemporary Art. Ms. Bloom is a Democrat.

Johnathan Williams, 40, of Los Angeles, has been appointed to the State Board. He also has served on the Board since 2004 and is the founder and co-director of the Accelerated School, a charter school in South Central LA. Prior to founding the school, Williams taught in the LAUSD and served as an Advisor to the U.S. Department of Education and chairman of National Alliance for Public Charter Schools. Mr. Williams is a Democrat.

The governor also appointed Theodore Mitchell, 51, of Tustin, to the State Board. He has served as president and chief executive officer of the New Schools Venture Fund since 2005. Mitchell previously was president of Occidental College from 1999 to 2005 and vice chancellor of external affairs for the University of California. Mitchell also serves as chair of the Governor's Commission on Education excellence. Mr. Mitchell is a Democrat.

All three appointments require Senate confirmation.

The C A B E Spirit is Alive and Well!!

It is hard to believe that the annual C A B E conference gets better every year. C A B E 2007 was no exception. This was the best C A B E Conference ever!!

With C A B E 2007, we continued our legacy of providing world-class professional development and making a difference for California's English Learners and their parents. Our terrific planning committee and stellar staff under the leadership of Dr. Maria Quezada organized an incredible conference... we had outstanding and inspirational keynote and featured speakers, we offered top-notch institutes, special recognition ceremonies, the cyber café, a youth leadership symposium, networking opportunities and more.... Everyone was immersed in the C A B E spirit. There was a sense of family, of committed individuals working for the greater good.



This year's theme, "Educating Every Student: Investing in Tomorrow, TODAY," emphasized the critical role we have in shaping the future. This requires a grand vision of 21st century English Learner success and of a future where students must be prepared to thrive and compete as global citizens and serve as resources for our nation.

As we invest in tomorrow today, we are reminded that there are more than economic benefits of knowing more than one language. Bilingualism is a linguistic, educational, intellectual, cultural, family and personal resource. The wealth of being multilingual and multicultural expands in the global marketplace, the global village, and the global classroom.

C A B E will continue to invest in the education of California's English Language Learners so they may profit from a quality education, both today and tomorrow.



SAVE THE DATE

May 24, 2007

Para Educator/Parent Conference
San Bernardino/Riverside County

Riverside Convention Center

