



CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

**TOM TORLAKSON**

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

October 7, 2015

Dear County and District Superintendents and Charter School Administrators:

### **SUSPENSION OF THE CALIFORNIA HIGH SCHOOL EXIT EXAMINATION**

Senate Bill (SB) 172 (Liu) was signed by Governor Brown on October 7, 2015. This law suspends the administration of the California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE) and the requirement that students completing grade twelve successfully pass the high school exit examination as a condition of receiving a diploma of graduation from high school for the 2015–16, 2016–17, and 2017–18 school years. The law also requires local educational agencies (LEAs) to grant a diploma to any student who completed grade twelve in the 2003–04 school year, or a subsequent school year, and has met all applicable graduation requirements other than passage of the high school exit examination. The law will not take effect until January 1, 2016, at which time LEAs shall be permitted to issue diplomas to eligible students.

SB 725 (Hancock), which was enacted on August 26, 2015, allows for students who completed grade twelve in 2015, who have met all other high school graduation requirements, to receive a diploma of graduation from their high school without meeting the exit examination requirement. Because this was urgency legislation, the law took effect immediately upon being enacted, allowing LEAs to immediately issue diplomas to eligible students from the class of 2015.

With the signing of SB 172, there will be no administrations of the CAHSEE for the 2015–16, 2016–17, and 2017–18 school years. Students are encouraged to work with their local school district and adult education program to meet local and state graduation requirements.

SB 172 also requires the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SSPI) to convene an advisory panel to provide recommendations to the SSPI on the continuation of the high school exit examination and on alternative pathways to satisfy the high school graduation requirements pursuant to California *Education Code* sections 51224.5 and 51225.3.

Additional information is provided in the frequently asked questions that are posted to the CDE CAHSEE Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/hs/cahseesuspendfaq.asp>. If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact the High School and Physical Fitness Assessments Office by phone at 916-445-9449 or by e-mail at [CAHSEE@cde.ca.gov](mailto:CAHSEE@cde.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keric Ashley".

Keric Ashley, Deputy Superintendent  
District, School, and Innovation Branch

KA:mm

cc: CAHSEE District Coordinators