



CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

TOM TORLAKSON
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

August 1, 2011

The Honorable Felipe Fuentes
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Senate Bill 740 (Hancock)
SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Fuentes:

As State Superintendent of Public Instruction, I have reviewed Senate Bill 740 (Hancock) and urge you to **"Support"** this important measure when it comes before you in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

SB 740 is a much-needed measure that would eliminate the Standardized Testing and Reporting Program for second grade, and requires the California Department of Education to identify existing assessments in language arts and mathematics that could be used as diagnostic examinations for second grade students.

Numerous early childhood organizations have expressed concern about the administration of standardized tests to students under the age of eight. Testing in second grade is beyond what is required by the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act and will not be part of the new assessment aligned to the Common Core State Standards being developed by the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium. I believe now is the right time to begin aligning California's assessment system with the federal requirements. In addition, eliminating the second grade assessment would result in a \$2 million annual savings.

For these reasons, I ask for your **"Aye"** vote on this measure. If you have any questions regarding this issue, please do not hesitate to contact me, or have your staff contact Jeanice Warden, Legislative Representative, Legislative Affairs and Fiscal Policy Division, by phone at 916-319-0821 or by e-mail at jwarden@cde.ca.gov

Sincerely,

Tom Torlakson

TT:jw

cc: Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Loni Hancock, California State Senate