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RE: *SSC's Sacramento Weekly Update*

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### **Legislative Calendar**

The Legislature officially went on its month-long Summer Recess after concluding business last Thursday, so it's been relatively quiet in and around the Capitol this week.

However, it will be a sprint toward the legislative finish line when the members return on Monday, August 12, 2019, as they will have only three weeks for bills to clear the Appropriations Committees. The majority of the bills going through the Appropriations Committees will be placed on the Suspense File, which serves as a legislative 'purgatory' where legislation that has a fiscal impact of a certain magnitude is placed until all the measures having an impact on the state's finances can be considered together. The Appropriations Committees will likely hold their Suspense File hearings on Thursday, August 29, which is one day before the deadline for the fiscal committees to send bills to the house floors.

After the Appropriations Committees dispense with their Suspense Files, the Legislature will have until Friday, September 13, to send bills to Governor Gavin Newsom for the first year of the 2019-20 legislative session. Governor Newsom will then have until Sunday, October 13, to either sign or veto the legislation sent to him by the Legislature.

It is important to note that the Legislature operates on a two-year cycle, meaning if a bill is held this year it can be revived in 2020. Some members will elect to hold their bill for the following year if they think there's a chance that the Governor will veto the measure. This gives the author and stakeholders more time to work with the Governor's Office to see if there are amendments that would get the Administration to support the bill.

It will also be interesting to see the actions that Governor Newsom takes on several bills that were vetoed by former Governor Jerry Brown, but reintroduced this year with the hopes that the new Administration would be supportive of the measures. Governor Brown had a tendency to veto education

proposals that he felt would be better handled at the local level, but it is unknown if Governor Newsom will analyze legislation through a similar local control prism.

### **SBE Adopts Five-Year Graduation Rate for the Graduation Rate Indicator**

At its July meeting, the State Board of Education (SBE) unanimously approved a new combined four- and five-year graduation rate for the Graduation Rate Indicator, which will be applied to the 2019 California School Dashboard (Dashboard).

Currently, the Dashboard captures the four-year cohort graduation rate and the one-year Dashboard Alternative Schools Status (DASS) graduation rate in the Graduation Rate Indicator. However, data related to a five-year graduation rate has been available on the Dashboard for informational purposes since April 2019. It's important to note that the five-year graduation rate will only apply to nonalternative schools, since the Graduation Rate Indicator for schools with DASS is calculated using the grade twelve one-year graduation rate.

To calculate the new combined graduation rate, the number of students who graduated in five years is added to the numerator and the denominator of the four-year cohort rate. The five-year graduation rate is intended to include the high school outcomes in year five of the students that did not graduate with their preceding four-year cohort. As a result, the combined graduation rate offers schools and districts additional time and incentive to work with and provide support to those students who did not graduate within four years.

While the vote to approve the new rate was unanimous, some of the board members expressed concern about how the new rate could affect schools that are currently receiving Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) funding under Every Student Succeeds Act. California Department of Education (CDE) staff noted that applying the combined graduation rate to the 2018 data would have lifted 27 CSI schools over the 67% graduation threshold, meaning that those schools would not have qualified for the CSI funds this year. To address this concern, SBE President Linda Darling-Hammond said that the SBE and CDE staff will reassess the threshold and status cutoffs in the fall in order to evaluate how this new rate will affect schools moving forward.

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