



## Modernizing California's Education Governance System

### The Challenge

- In 100 years of California's education governance, experts have identified the central problem: two entities responsible for education with no bright line to accountability.
- A nationally recognized expert on education governance described California's system as "a remarkably crazy quilt of interacting authorities that are not aligned, for purpose of accountability or action,"<sup>1</sup> and the 2007 Governor's Committee on Education Excellence Technical Report assessed it as "a highly irrational model of governance."
- Students, teachers, administrators and care providers need coherent and effective state funding and support systems.

### Proposed Solution

- Amend the California Education Code to generally implement the recommendation of the 2002 Master Plan for Education to move authority over the operations of California's PreK-12 public education system at large, and ultimate responsibility for the delivery of education to California's PreK-12 public education students within the Office of the Governor, under the State Board of Education (SBE).
- Empower the State Superintendent to play an essential role as the linchpin between all core PreK-16 governing bodies to seek greater coherence in education policy development and implementation.

### What Changes

- Consistent with the State Board's K-12 policymaking authority, this proposal would provide the Executive Director of the SBE, appointed by the Governor, with direct authority over, and responsibility for, the administration of the State Department of Education.
- Executive Director of the SBE would become a position subject to senate confirmation.
- Both Assembly and Senate would gain the ability to appoint at least one member. Currently, all members are appointed by the Governor.
- The State Superintendent (SPI) would gain a voting role on the State Board and a voting seat on the CA Community Colleges Board of Governors.

### Impact

- Creates efficiency and accountability throughout K-12 governance at the state level, responding to nearly a century of calls for such reform.
- Cuts down on state level bureaucracy, consistent with Governor Brown's elimination of the Secretary of Education office at the beginning of his term.
- Paves the way for the Right Start Commission's recommendation that "we must centralize and simplify the wide array of early childhood services. This includes a comprehensive reorganization and coordination of the government programs that provide and promote early learning and care."
- Parents and schools can hold their districts accountable.

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<sup>1</sup> Brewer and Smith, Evaluating the "Crazy Quilt": Educational Governance in California (Dec. 2006), part of the "Getting Down to Facts" Research Project requested by the Legislature, Governor and SPI.