

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Office of the Board of Education  
September 14, 2011

To: Board of Education  
From: Jody London, Vice President and Chair, Intergovernmental Relations Committee  
Subject: Endorsement of SB 753 - California English Language Development Test (CELDT) Date Change & Proficiency (Padilla)

**REQUEST**

Adoption by Board of Education of Resolution No. 1112-0058 – Endorsement of SB 753 - California English Language Development Test (CELDT) Date Change & Proficiency (Padilla).

**DISCUSSION**

As my colleagues may know current state law requires that the California English Learner Development Test (CELDT) be administered to all pupils grades 2 through 12, inclusive, whose first language is not English within thirty (30) calendar days of enrollment in a California public school. The purpose of CELDT is 1) to identify pupils who are limited English proficient, 2) to determine the level of English language proficiency, and 3) to annually assess student progress in acquiring the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing in English.

In Oakland Unified in school year 2010-2011 there were 12,500 pupils enrolled in District schools who were designated limited English proficient and of that number approximately eleven (11) percent were redesignated.

Current state law requires the annual CELDT assessment of pupils to be administered at the beginning of the school year – July 1 through October 31 - while all other states except California and Montana administer said test in the Spring: deems a student who fails any portion of the annual test to not be English Language proficient and requires said student to take the entire examination again the following year including the sections in which proficiency has been demonstrated; and based on other non-CELDT criteria, also requires a pupil who has proven proficient on all sections of the CELDT but not yet reclassified as Fluent English Proficient to also retake the entire CELDT annually.

By virtue of the foregoing ELL students are subjected to redundant test practices not required of students taking other state-assessment tests and, students who have passed all sections of CELDT but not yet declared Fluent English Proficient (FEP) are required to repeat the test following year and are unable to participate in courses which are required for admission to the state universities system.

Senator Alex Padilla has introduced SB 753, which among other things, will change the CELDLT Annual Testing period to the Spring and allow a student credit for any portion of the CELDT in which proficiency is demonstrated and not require a pupil to retake those portions in which proficiency is demonstrated.

The Intergovernmental Relations Committee is recommending that the Board endorse, in the interest of District CELDT students, the proposed changes stated herein contained in SB 753, subject to said revisions meeting the implementation requirements<sup>1</sup> contained therein.

RECOMMENDATION

Adoption by Board of Education of Resolution No. 1112-0058 – Endorsement of SB 753 - California English Language Development Test (CELDT) Date Change & Proficiency (Padilla)

**JL:ER:lf**

**Attachment: Resolution No. 1112-0058**

---

<sup>1</sup> Expiration of the current CELDT publisher's contract in effect on January 12, 2012, or until 2013-14 school year, or approval of revisions by the United States Department of Education, as may be applicable.

**RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD  
OF THE OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Resolution No. 1112-0058**

**Endorsement of SB 753 - California English Language Development Test (CELDT) Date Change & Proficiency (Padilla)**

**WHEREAS**, state law requires that the California English Learner Development Test (CELDT) be administered to all pupils grades 2 through 12, inclusive, whose first language is not English within thirty (30) calendar days of enrollment in a California public school; and,

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of CELDT is 1) to identify pupils who are limited English proficient, 2) to determine the level of English language proficiency, and 3) to annually assess student progress in acquiring the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing in English; and,

**WHEREAS**, in the Oakland Unified School District in school year 2010-2011 there were 12,500 pupils enrolled in District schools who were designated limited English proficient and of that number approximately eleven (11) percent were redesignated; and,

**WHEREAS**, current state law requires the annual CELDT assessment of pupils to be administered at the beginning of the school year – July 1 through October 31 - while all other states except California and Montana administer said test in the Spring; and,

**WHEREAS**, current state law also deems a student who fails any portion of the annual test to not be English Language proficient and requires said student to take the entire examination again the following year including the sections in which proficiency has been demonstrated; and,

**WHEREAS**, current state law, based on other non-CELDT criteria, also requires a pupil who has proven proficient on all sections of the CELDT but not yet reclassified as Fluent English Proficient to also retake the entire CELDT annually; and,

**WHEREAS**, by virtue of the foregoing ELL students are subjected to redundant test practices not required of students taking other state-assessment tests and, students who have passed all sections of CELDT but not yet declared Fluent English Proficient are required to repeat the test following year and are unable to participate in courses which are required for admission to the state universities systems; and

**WHEREAS**, Senator Alex Padilla, has introduced SB 753, which among other things, will change the CELDLT Annual Testing period to the Spring and allow a student credit for those portion of the CELDT in which proficiency is demonstrated and not require a pupil to retake those portions in which proficiency is demonstrated,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Governing Board of the Oakland Unified School District endorses, in the interest of District CELDT students, the proposed changes stated

herein contained in SB 753, subject to said revisions meeting the implementation requirements<sup>1</sup> contained therein.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the following vote:


AYES: **David Kakishiba, Christopher Dobbins, Noel Gallo,  
Alice Spearman, Gary Yee, Vice President Jumoke Hinton Hodge  
and President Jody London**

NAYS: **None**

ABSTENTIONS: **None**

ABSENCES: **None**

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Governing Board of the Oakland Unified School District at a publicly noticed Regular Meeting held on September 14, 2011.



---

Edgar Rakestraw, Jr.  
Secretary of the Governing Board  
Oakland Unified School District

---

<sup>1</sup> Expiration of the current CELDT publisher's contract in effect on January 12, 2012, or until 2013-14 school year, or approval of revisions by the United States Department of Education, as may be applicable.