



CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

TOM TORLAKSON

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

February 16, 2011

Dear Select District Superintendents and Charter School Administrators:

INFORMATION REGARDING THE QUALITY EDUCATION INVESTMENT ACT

The Quality Education Investment Act (QEIA) is in its third year of full implementation. We take this opportunity to recognize the progress made thus far in improving the learning progress for students in QEIA schools, and to remind schools of the significance of fully meeting all program requirements in 2010–11. We thank the local educational agency (LEA) and school personnel responsible for improvements achieved over the last two years. It is only through your dedication and efforts that the program is having a positive impact on student academic achievement as was intended.

While many state-funded school programs have been significantly affected by recent budget reductions, QEIA funding and program requirements have not changed, so it is important that QEIA LEAs and schools continue to implement program requirements as initially defined. County Superintendents of Schools and staff will be conducting third-year (2010–11) QEIA program monitoring activities at the end of the school year, and participating schools must be able to demonstrate that they have implemented the program's requirements such as reducing class sizes, addressing counselor-to-student ratios, and meeting teacher experience requirements. Schools not meeting program requirements face termination from the program and loss of future QEIA funding, so it is critical that program requirements be fully implemented this year. Please note that in the monitoring process, there is no rating of *substantially met* as was allowed during the interim years. All requirements will be rated as *fully met* or *not met*.

QEIA schools that do not meet all monitored program requirements for school year 2010–11 will have their funding terminated effective July 1, 2012. The QEIA statute requires the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to "provide the district with funds sufficient to cover the staff and other cost adjustments" incurred in discontinuing program participation. To meet this requirement, schools will receive their annual allocation for 2011–12. This and any prior year QEIA funds may be expended through June 30, 2012. All expenditures of these funds are subject to QEIA expenditure rules, and the LEA will be required to submit to the California Department of Education a 2011–12 QEIA expenditure report.

We recognize that LEAs and schools are faced with continuing fiscal challenges, but we should note that use of QEIA funding is restricted in some important ways. QEIA funding

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may only be used to implement specific QEIA requirements and to address other school improvement efforts that are established in each school's Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA). It is critical that each QEIA-funded school has revised its SPSA to address all school improvement efforts that are supported by QEIA funding, and that changes to the SPSA are formally approved as required by law. Specifically, revisions to the SPSA are to be developed and approved by the school site council and formally approved by the LEA's governing board.

If you have any questions regarding this subject, please contact Bob Storelli, Education Programs Consultant, Regional Coordination and Support Office, by phone at 916-319-0482 or by e-mail at bstorelli@cde.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Christine Swenson, Director
District and School Improvement Division

CS:bs

cc: Selected County Superintendents of Schools