



County of Los Angeles  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

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September 4, 2009

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka  
Chief Executive Officer

**MOTION TO RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD SEND A FIVE-SIGNATURE LETTER IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION TO ALLOW CALIFORNIA TO QUALIFY FOR FEDERAL RACE TO THE TOP FUNDING AND TO INSTRUCT THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO WORK WITH THE CHIEF OF PROBATION AND THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS AND REPORT BACK WITHIN 14 DAYS AS TO HOW RACE TO THE TOP WOULD BENEFIT REFORMS IN THE JUVENILE EDUCATION SYSTEM (ITEM NO. 11 - AGENDA OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2009)**

Item No. 11 on the September 8, 2009 Agenda is a motion by Supervisor Knabe recommending that the Board of Supervisors send a five-signature letter to Governor Schwarzenegger, the Assembly Speaker, and the Senate President pro Tempore supporting legislation to allow California to qualify for Federal Race to the Top funding and instructing the Chief Executive Officer to work with the Chief of Probation and the Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools and report back to the Board in 14 days on how Race to the Top funding would benefit efforts to reform juvenile justice schools.

H.R. 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, provides \$4.35 billion in one-time funding for competitive grants to encourage and reward states that create conditions for educational innovation and reform; achieve significant improvement in student outcomes, and that implement a plan in four core educational reform areas:

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"*

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1. Adoption of internationally-benchmarked standards and assessments that prepare students for success in college and the workplace;
2. Recruitment, development, retention and rewards for effective teachers and principals;
3. Development of data systems that measure student success and inform teachers and principals how they can improve practices; and,
4. Improvement of lowest-performing schools.

The Legislative Analyst's Office estimates that California could qualify for \$500 million to \$1 billion in one-time Race to the Top funding depending on the number of states that apply and other qualifying factors. However, under current State law, California is not eligible to apply. Therefore, on August 20, 2009, Governor Schwarzenegger called the Legislature into a Special Session to make changes to ensure that California is eligible to compete for Federal Race to the Top funding. Legislation to enact the most of the needed reforms, **SBX5 1 (Romero, Huff, Alquist and Wyland)**, was introduced on August 27, 2009.

SBX5 1 would:

1. Repeal provisions in current law which prohibit data on the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System to be used for the purpose of pay, promotion, sanction or personnel evaluation of individual teachers;
2. Require that the strategic plan to link education data systems includes interagency agreements that facilitate the transfer of data and linkages to workforce data;
3. Repeal the limitation on the number of charter schools effective with the 2009-10 school year;
4. Enact the Open Enrollment Act to provide parental choice and options to pupil enrollment in schools throughout the State without regard to the residence of the parents;
5. Require the Superintendent of Public Instruction to make recommendations to the State School Board by February 1, 2010 regarding criteria and conditions for identifying the lowest performing public schools and to establish accountability measures improve student outcomes at these schools; and,
6. Require local educational agencies to retain data elements deemed necessary by the Superintendent of Public Instruction to comply with provisions of ARRA.

Each Supervisor  
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SBX5 1 has not been scheduled for a hearing. Currently, there is no registered support or opposition on the bill. However the California Teachers Association (CTA) has indicated that this legislation should be postponed until the final Federal regulations on Race to the Top are issued in October 2009. The CTA is concerned with provisions in the draft Federal regulations that would require the State to change standards and accountability systems; teacher credentialing, evaluation, compensation, and promotion; and charter schools.

Because there is no existing specific policy to support legislation to allow California to qualify for Federal Race to the Top funding, such as SBX51, **support for this proposal is a matter for Board determination.**

As instructed by your Board, this office will work with the Probation Department and the Superintendent of Schools and report back to your Board within 14 days on the how Race to the Top funding would benefit reforms in the juvenile education system, in particular the implementation of one dependent charter school for girls and one independent charter school for boys.

WTF:RA  
MR:VE:lm

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
Probation Department  
Los Angeles County Office of Education