

State Board of Education Meeting

January 16, 2014

John McGinnis

President, Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education

Good morning President Kirst, Superintendent Torlakson and State Board members. My name is John McGinnis and I'm president of the Board of Long Beach Unified School District. In addition to my four years on our board, I've enjoyed a 40 year career in public education as a teacher and administrator.

Our district, the third largest in California, supports the LCAP template and regulations because they ensure strict accountability while allowing local control.

As a member our LCAP committee, I can attest that we have quickly engaged diverse stakeholders in the development of our LCAP.

Our hope is that California will allow sufficient time for LCFF to work. LCFF replaces a system that's been in place for decades. Such change requires steadfast support from our State Board.

Long Beach has earned international recognition for closing achievement gaps, but we have more work to do. We must accelerate gains in achievement for all students if California is to remain competitive. The template and regulations provide a path to success. We strongly support approval.