



# CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

## MAY 2004 AGENDA

<b>SUBJECT</b>  Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program: Designation of the Spanish Assessment of Basic Education, Second Edition (SABE/2) as the primary language test for the 2004-2005 school year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Action</b>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Information</b>
	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Public Hearing</b>

### RECOMMENDATION

Designate the Spanish Assessment of Basic Education, Second Edition (SABE/2) as the primary language test for the 2004-2005 STAR program pending reauthorization.

### SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCUSSION AND ACTION

The State Board of Education (SBE) designated the Spanish Assessment of Basic Education, Second Edition (SABE/2) as the primary language test for Spanish-speaking English learners for four years beginning with the 1998-1999 school year. At subsequent SBE meetings the SABE/2 designation was extended for the 2002-2003 and the 2003-2004 school years. The spring 2004 test administration was the sixth administration of the test.

### SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

- California *Education Code* Section 60640(g) requires testing pupils of limited English proficiency who are enrolled in California public schools fewer than 12 months in their primary language if such a test is available.
- National achievement tests are currently available only in Spanish. This means that assessments in the state's other languages are not available.
- During spring 2003, 103,424 Spanish-speaking English learners were administered the SABE/2: 41,235 of these students had been in California public schools fewer than 12 months and were required to be tested and 62,189 of the students had been enrolled 12 months or more and were tested as a district option.

Continuing the administration of the SABE/2 for at least one additional year would provide time for the California Department of Education and the SBE to review the primary language-testing requirement, including requirements within California Legislation that has been introduced related to primary language testing and the STAR program reauthorization, and to determine the most appropriate way to comply with any legal requirements for administering primary language tests.

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**FISCAL ANALYSIS (AS APPROPRIATE)**

SABE/2 costs of approximately \$1.7 million (including the district apportionments for administering the test) are included in the STAR program budget. No additional funding is required.

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**ATTACHMENT**

None.