March 10, 2016

State Superintendent of Public Instruction
California Department of Education
1430 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5901

Subject: CTA Letter of Request

Dear Superintendent Torlakson:

The California Teachers Association is requesting parents/guardians be notified in the IEP process of their right to have their child opt out of state/district mandated testing. The current Parent/Guardian Notification Letter template on the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress System Web page does not address a parent/guardian’s right to exempt their child from testing.

At the beginning of an IEP meeting, parent/guardians are informed of their rights. However, they are not informed of their ability to opt out their child from state/district mandated tests and assessments. Parent/guardians should be fully educated so they can make a decision that is in the best interests of their child.

This parent/guardian notification, with a list of applicable assessments, should be posted on the CDE Website. In addition, at an IEP meeting, parents should be informed of their right to opt out their child of state/district mandated testing.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Eric C. Heins, President
California Teachers Association

Joe Núñez, Executive Director
Karen Kyhn, Deputy Executive Director

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