September 16, 2015

Dear County Superintendents, District Superintendents, and Direct-Funded Charter School Administrators:

ACADEMIC CRITERION FOR RECLASSIFICATION

On December 3, 2013, the California Department of Education (CDE) provided guidance regarding the passage of Assembly Bill (AB) 484 (Bonilla) to address concerns regarding the academic criterion for reclassification in the 2013-14 school year. AB 484 suspended the California Standards Test and the California Modified Assessment in English language arts and mathematics.

On August 8, 2014, the CDE provided additional information with examples of the adjustments reported by local educational agencies (LEAs) to their reclassification criteria to ensure reclassification continued to be established in a way that allowed for the “effective and efficient conduct of the language reclassification process” in accordance with Title 5, Section 11303 of the California Code of Regulations (5 CCR).

For the 2015-16 school year, the reclassification criteria, pursuant to California Education Code Section 313, remain unchanged:

1. Assessment of English language proficiency, using an objective assessment instrument, including, but not limited to, the state test of English language development; and

2. Teacher evaluation, including, but not limited to, a review of the student’s curriculum mastery; and

3. Parent opinion and consultation; and

4. Comparison of student performance in basic skills against an empirically established range of performance in basic skills based on the performance of English proficient students of the same age.

LEAs are to use these four criteria to establish local reclassification policies. You may refer to the existing state guidance in the 2015-16 CELDT Information Guide (pages 17 to 21).