



**ConnectEd**

The California Center for College and Career

Transforming today's education  
for tomorrow's economy

March 15, 2013

The Honorable Arne Duncan  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary Duncan:

*ConnectEd: The California Center for College and Career* urges the U.S. Department of Education to approve the Education and Secondary Education Act flexibly waiver submitted by districts participating in the California Office to Reform Education (CORE).

The overly rigid No Child Left Behind rules have forced California schools to aim for a bar that has been set too low for too long. We are pleased that the districts participating in the CORE Waiver have committed to reach a much higher goal: college and career readiness for all students with a consistent focus on success for English Learners and the elimination of disparity and disproportionality across all subjects.

The CORE Waiver recognizes that future success for all students is built on many factors and that a collective effort by the entire school, district, and larger community is required to prepare all students for college and career. The orientation towards a collaborative focus on student success is built on the right drivers to achieve results. The districts participating in the CORE Waiver are assuming unprecedented accountability for supporting students' academic, social and emotional development and growth. The focus on these important measures of student success is vital for developing successful citizens who will help communities and the economy thrive in California well into the future.

The CORE waiver is a sound plan for improving teaching and learning in nine California districts that collectively serve more than a million students. It is courageous, it will be challenging, but it is the right thing to do.

ConnectEd urges the U.S. Department of Education to favorably review the CORE Waiver application. ConnectEd looks forward to working with the districts participating in the CORE Waiver as they work to reorient their work around success for all students.

Sincerely,

E. Gareth Hoachlander  
President