



DEPARTMENT OF  
**FINANCE**

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June 19, 2015  
**Commission on  
State Mandates**

EDMUND G. BROWN JR. ■ GOVERNOR

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June 19, 2015

Ms. Heather Halsey  
Executive Director  
Commission on State Mandates  
980 Ninth Street, Suite 300  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Halsey:

The Department of Finance respectfully requests an extension of time for the submittal of written comments in response to the Draft Proposed Decision related to Test Claim No. 14-TC-01 (California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress) for the following reasons:

- The primary staff person responsible for the research and analysis of this test claim and for producing Finance's written comments is out on extended maternity leave and will not return until November of this year. Her replacement assumed the responsibility for this test claim as of June 15 of this year and, therefore, has not had a reasonable opportunity to prepare written comments or prepare for the hearing.
- This test claim includes complex statutes related to California Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) and California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP). Additionally, the draft proposed decision includes 22 different issues that include statutory references and staff recommendations, requiring a significant amount of further research and analysis to complete a thorough review of this important issue.
- Our work since the draft proposed decision was released on June 1, 2015 has included, but has not been limited to, testifying before the budget conference committee, negotiating with legislative staff, drafting legislation, and preparing final budget documents. While our work associated with the budget is not new, much of the workload associated with legislative negotiations is unforeseen and unique each year. Further, the timing of the release of the draft proposed decision was unforeseen.

Therefore, we request a 30-day extension of time in order to complete our review and provide comments. In addition, we request that the hearing for this test claim, currently set for July 24, 2015, be postponed until the next Commission hearing on September 25, 2015.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ian Johnson, Principal Program Budget Analyst, at (916) 445-0328.

Sincerely,

THOMAS TODD  
Assistant Program Budget Manager

ICC: TODD, JOHNSON, HANSON, QUASEBARTH, IDE

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