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14	D.J. by Guardian Ad Litem E.A.; E.A.; S.M. by	CASE NO. BS142775
15	Guardian Ad Litem M.R.; A.M. by Guardian Ad Litem M.R.; M.R.; WALT DUNLOP,	
16	Petitioner/Plaintiff,	VERIFIED AMENDED PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDATE AND
17	v.	COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTIVE AND DECLARATORY RELIEF
18	STATE OF CALIFORNIA; CALIFORNIA	AND DECLARATORT RELIEF
19	DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION; TOM TORLAKSON, STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF	
20	PUBLIC INSTRUCTION, in his official capacity; STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION; DOES 1-20,	
21	INCLUSIVE,	
22	Respondents/Defendants.	
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PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDATE

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PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDATE

### <u>INTRODUCTION</u>

- 1. This petition is for mandamus under section 1085 of the Code of Civil Procedure, for discrimination on the basis of race and national origin, Gov. Code, § 11135, and for illegal expenditure of public funds. Civ. Proc. Code, § 526a. Respondents have abrogated their responsibility to provide English learner education for students lacking oral and written proficiency in English, as mandated by the 1998 Proposition 227 (Educ. Code, §§ 300 et al.), the federal Equal Education Opportunities Act of 1974 (20 U.S.C. § 1700, et seq.), and California constitutional authority. Butt v. State of California (1992) 4 Cal.4th 668, 680 (education for children "must be made available to all on an equal basis").
- 2. The Respondents are the State of California, the California Department of Education, the State Board of Education, and Tom Torlakson (the State Superintendent for Public Instruction).
- 3. This action seeks to compel Respondents to comply with their non-discretionary duties to ensure the delivery of English language education for English learners.
- 4. Public education in California occurs in English. Our State's diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds enrich and define us, but unless California children master English, they cannot participate meaningfully in the public education system, which serves a "distinctive and priceless function . . . in our society." *Serrano v. Priest* (1971) 5 Cal.3d 584, 608-09. English acquisition is thus the baseline for accessing educational opportunity.
- 5. Students in California who lack oral and written English fluency cannot comprehend what happens in the classroom, let alone master the core curriculum that the State of California has mandated for all students in its K-12 public school system. As the United States Supreme Court held, "[T]here is no equality of treatment merely by providing students with the same facilities, textbooks, teachers, and curriculum; for students who do not understand English are effectively foreclosed from any meaningful education." *Lau v. Nichols* (1974) 414 U.S. 563, 566. Students who lack fluency in English cannot realistically hope to obtain a higher education, pursue and succeed at desired career opportunities, and participate in the sorts of civic engagement that define citizenship at state and national levels. In short, children with no or limited English proficiency are denied the opportunity to achieve their full potential, which is a tragedy for not only them, but also for their communities and our society as a whole.

- 6. In California, one out of every four students has been identified as an English Language Learner ("EL") student who requires specialized language instructional services to effectively learn and participate in our state's K-12 public school system. With effective delivery of these services, even children with no initial familiarity with English can rapidly and successfully learn English, become fully engaged in their school community, and compete on equal status to their non-EL classmates.
- 7. State and federal law accordingly mandate that all children identified and designated as ELs receive English language instructional services designed to help them successfully achieve oral and written fluency in English. Education Code section 300, subdivision (c) states that "[t]he government and public schools of California have a moral obligation and a constitutional duty to provide all of California's children, regardless of their ethnicity or national origins, with the skill necessary to become productive members of our society, and of these skills, literacy in the English language is among the most important." Education Code section 300, subdivision (f) accordingly mandates that "all children in California public schools shall be taught English as rapidly and effectively as possible."
- 8. The California Constitution requires that all children, including ELs, receive access to educational opportunity. Education is a fundamental right under the California Constitution. *Serrano v. Priest* (1976) 18 Cal.3d 728, 761, 767-68. Where the state's failure to act creates a real and appreciable impairment of the right to education that falls substantially below prevailing statewide standards, and the state does not have a compelling reason for failing to intervene, the state has denied basic educational opportunity to students. *Butt v. California, supra*, 4 Cal.4th at p. 692. Language instructional services are prerequisite for ELs to gain access to their education. The prevailing statewide standard, set by state law and practices, is that all EL students are entitled to EL services until they no longer are designated as ELs in need of those services.
- 9. To a similar end, Congress enacted the Equal Educational Opportunities Act ("EEOA") in 1974 to require that every state take action to address the language barriers confronted by ELs. Specifically, section 1703(f) defines "the failure by an educational agency to take appropriate action to overcome language barriers that impede equal participation by its students in its instructional programs" as a denial of equal educational opportunity. 20 U.S.C. § 1703(f).
  - 10. Although the state is the ultimate guarantor of the fundamental right to a public education

under California's Constitution, neither the State of California, nor any of its entities charged with responsibilities for the operation of its K-12 public education system, including the State Board of Education and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, have taken meaningful steps to address reports that not all children in need of and entitled to English language instructional services are receiving such services. The State has never had a system to verify district reports that they were failing to provide language instructional services to ELs, and the State has no plan to redress the statewide breakdown in the delivery of EL services.

- 11. Notwithstanding clear and unequivocal mandates from the California Constitution, Education Code, and from Congress, the State of California publicly admits that more than 20,000 children in the K-12 public school system in California who are entitled to English language instructional services do not receive them. According to data issued by the California Department of Education ("CDE"), these children are enrolled in more than a quarter of the State's school districts.
- 12. These data are published by the CDE in Dataquest, an online database that publicly reports information collected annually by the CDE from school districts across California. The data category labeled "ELs Not Receiving Any EL Instructional Services" reflects the number of EL students who do not receive language instructional services for ELs.
- behalf of Petitioners in this action sent a seven page letter to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson and President Mike Kirst of the State Board of Education demanding that the State take appropriate steps to ensure that no EL student be denied English language instructional services. In response to this letter, the CDE issued a press release acknowledging that not all children requiring English language instructional services actually receive such services and denying any responsibility to ensure otherwise. It stated that "[s]chool districts - which are responsible for providing instruction to students and appropriate services to English learners - currently report that more than 98% of the State's 1.4 million English learners are receiving services." Press Release, California Department of Education (Jan. 23, 2013), available at <a href="http://www.cde.ca.gov/nr/ne/yr13/yr13rel14.asp">http://www.cde.ca.gov/nr/ne/yr13/yr13rel14.asp</a> (last visited April 18, 2013).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> A copy of this letter is attached as Exhibit 1 to this Petition.

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English language instructional services to which they are entitled, are both urban and rural, and enroll both large and small EL student populations. There are five districts in which more than 1,000 EL students receive no services, seven districts in which more than 500 EL students receive no services, and 26 districts in which a majority of EL students receive no services. In one district, Los Angeles Unified School District, more than 4,000 EL students receive no services. Moreover, there exists compelling evidence that the data reported on the CDE website is conservative, underreporting the actual number of EL students denied appropriate services.

The State disburses money dedicated for EL services to districts that report denying 15. English language instructional services to EL students. Economic Impact Aid ("EIA") is a State funding program designed to support compensatory education for EL students and economically disadvantaged students. See Educ. Code, § 54001, et seq. Section 54025, subdivision (a) states that "[a] school district shall expend economic impact aid funds to serve and assist English learners and economically disadvantaged pupils...," and subsection (b) states that "[a] school shall use funds received ... to support programs and activities designed to assist English learners achieve proficiency in the English language as rapidly as practicable...." Title III is a federal funding program designed to support language instruction for ELs and immigrant children. 20 U.S.C. § 6801, et seq. Section 6825 states that "[a] State educational agency may make a subgrant" to a school district only if it "agrees to expend the funds to improve the education of limited English proficient children, by assisting the children to learn English and meet challenging State academic content and student academic achievement standards." 20 U.S.C. § 6825(a); Educ. Code, § 3115. Yet each year, the State distributes EIA and Title III funds for EL services to districts that report that they are not providing the language instructional services required by law to all EL students.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> It is well known to districts that there is no meaningful accountability system in place to monitor actual provision of services. For example, although Centinela Valley Union High School District reported "0" ELs not receiving services, in 2011 the Office of Civil Rights found that a majority of ELs were not receiving services. Mary Beth McLeod, United States Department of Education Letter to CVUHSD Superintendent Fernandez, June 23, 2012. Additionally, although San Juan Unified School District (SJUSD) reported denying services to 42 students in three schools in 2010-11, the State's 2011 review of SJUSD's application for funding revealed that at least five entire schools failed to provide EL students with the appropriate English Language Development instruction and exposure to academic language. A copy of this finding is attached as Exhibit 3 to this Petition.

16. Petitioners in this action are EL students attending schools where they have not received and/or do not receive services necessary to achieve proficiency in English, their parents, and California taxpayers. Petitioners bring this action under the California Constitution, Education Code section 300, et seq. and the Equal Education Opportunities Act of 1974 (20 U.S.C. § 1700, et seq.) as parties beneficially interested in compelling Respondents State of California, the California Department of Education, the State Board of Education and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to comply with their clear and certain legal duty to ensure that all EL students who require English language instructional services have access to such services in order that they may achieve oral and written fluency in English. Each of the districts in which petitioner students are enrolled has been identified on the CDE website as failing to provide currently or in prior school years English language instructional services to its EL students.

#### **PARTIES**

### **Petitioners**

- 17. Petitioner S.M. is a nine-year old public school student who resides in Los Angeles County. S.M. is in the fourth grade and attends a school within the CUSD. CUSD has designated S.M. as an EL student continuously, beginning with his enrollment in CUSD in kindergarten. When S.M. was in the third grade, he received no English language instructional services for half of the school year. His English reading, writing and listening scores dropped by an entire proficiency level during that year, approximately the equivalent of a year of EL education. S.M. is not currently receiving any English language instructional services.
- 18. Petitioner A.M. is a ten-year old public school student who resides in Los Angeles County. A.M. is in the fifth grade and attends a school within CUSD. CUSD has designated A.M. as an EL student continuously, beginning with her enrollment in CUSD in kindergarten. When A.M. was in fourth grade, she received no language instructional services.
- 19. Petitioner M.R. is the mother of S.M. and A.M. She is filing concurrently with this petition an Application and Order for Appointment of Guardian Ad Litem on behalf of S.M. and A.M. for purposes of this litigation. Petitioner M.R. is also a resident and taxpayer of Los Angeles County

within the meaning of Code of Civil Procedure section 526a, and she brings this action in this capacity as well.

- 20. Petitioner D.J. is a ten-year old public school student who resides in Los Angeles County. D.J. is in the fifth grade and attends a school within CUSD. CUSD has designated D.J. as an EL student continuously, beginning with her enrollment in CUSD in kindergarten. When D.J. was in the first grade, she received no language instructional services. D.J. is not currently receiving any English language instructional services.
- 21. Petitioner E.A. is the mother of D.J. She is filing concurrently with this petition an Application and Order for Appointment of Guardian Ad Litem on behalf of D.J. for purposes of this litigation. Petitioner E.A. is also a resident and taxpayer of Los Angeles County within the meaning of Code of Civil Procedure section 526a, and she brings this action in this capacity as well.
- 22. Petitioner Walt Dunlop is a citizen resident and taxpayer of the State of California within the meaning of Code of Civil Procedure section 526a. He has lived within the State's boundaries and paid income taxes and property taxes within one year of the date of this action. He has an interest in preventing the illegal and wasteful expenditure of funds in connection with districts that fail to provide services to EL students. Petitioner Dunlop has been a public school teacher in Oxnard Union High School District ("OUHSD") since 1985, and he has had EL students in his classroom. Petitioner Dunlop assisted with the drafting of OUHSD's 2009 Master Plan for English Learners. Petitioner Dunlop was the Director of Compensatory Education for OUHSD from 2002-2012. The Director of Compensatory Education supports interventions for struggling students, including ELs. Petitioner Dunlop has complained to OUHSD on multiple occasions about the systematic denial of services for ELs, the failure to implement the Master Plan for English Learners, the absence of administrator accountability and the lack of State oversight, including in 2010, 2011, and 2012.

### Respondents

23. Respondent State is the legal and political entity with ultimate authority and responsibility for educating all California public school children, including the responsibility to establish and maintain the system of free common schools under the California Constitution, article IX, section 5, and to assure that all public school children receive their fundamental right to a free and equal education,

under the equal protection clauses of the California Constitution, art. I § 7; art. IV § 16, subd. (a).<sup>3</sup> Respondent State is a State government and "grantee" within the meaning of 34 C.F.R. § 80.3. State receives federal grants from the United States Department of Education to provide specialized education services to California children and youth, including EL students, on terms mandated by provisions of federal law and in accord with the express provisions of those grant agreements.

- 24. Respondent California Department of Education ("CDE") is the department of the State government responsible for administering and enforcing all laws related to K-12 public education. Educ. Code, § 33308. CDE is charged with cooperating with federal and State agencies in prescribing and carrying out rules, regulations and directives relating to K-12 public education as required by those agencies.
- 25. Respondent Tom Torlakson is the State Superintendent of Public Instruction ("SPI") for the State of California. The SPI is a constitutional officer and is charged with the supervision of all California schools and school districts. Educ. Code, § 33112. As such, the SPI is obligated to take all necessary actions to ensure that public school districts comply with all State and federal legal requirements concerning K-12 public educational programs and services. The SPI is also the Director of Education for the State of California, in whom all executive and administrative functions of the CDE are vested, and is the Executive Officer for the State Board of Education. Educ. Code, §§ 33111, 33301-33303. SPI Torlakson is sued in his official capacity only.
- 26. Respondent State Board of Education ("SBE") is an agency of the State of California charged with determining policies that govern K-12 public schools in California and with adopting and promulgating rules and regulations for the supervision and administration of all local school districts.

  SBE must ensure that local school districts comply with State and federal law requirements concerning the delivery of K-12 public educational services. Educ. Code, §§ 33030-33032.
- 27. Does 1 through 20, inclusive are, on the basis of information and belief, agents for the named defendants. The identities of said DOES are currently unknown, and when they become known, the Petition will be amended to add them.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Article IX, Section One says "A general diffusion of knowledge and intelligence being essential to the preservation of the rights and liberties of the people, the Legislature shall encourage by all suitable means the promotion of intellectual, scientific, moral, and agricultural improvement."

#### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- 28. Los Angeles County is a proper venue for this action pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 401, which provides that an action against the State or its departments, boards or officers that may be brought in Sacramento County may alternatively be brought in any county of California in which the State Attorney General has an office. Gov. Code, § 450.
  - 29. The State Attorney General has an office in Los Angeles County.

### FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

### California's English Language Learner Students

- 30. As defined by Education Code section 306(a), an "English Learner' means a child who does not speak English or whose native language is not English and who is not currently able to perform ordinary classroom work in English, also known as a Limited English Proficiency or LEP child."
- 31. The English Learner designation encompasses newcomer English Learners, students of any age who have recently arrived in this country, as well as long term English Learners, students in grades six through 12 who have been in schools in the United States for six or more years, Educ. Code, § 313.1. Where children have a home language other than English, they have fewer opportunities to learn English. Where English Learners who were born in the United States or who have been in schools in the United States for six years or more remain English Learners, it is because they have not developed the English language proficiency levels required for reclassification.
- 32. For EL students to overcome language barriers and attain the target English language proficiency, EL students need English Learner language instructional services. To understand the teacher's presentations, the explanations and instructions contained in their textbooks, and to engage in the classroom, ELs cannot be mainstreamed in a classroom without any EL services, where their teachers do not know they have ELs in their classes.
- 33. As stated in "IMPROVING EDUCATION FOR ENGLISH LEARNERS: Research-Based Approaches," a 2010 publication of the California Department of Education at page 1, "[w]ith one of every four students being an English learner, no state has a greater stake in the education of these

*Id.* at p. 2.

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27 28 students than California." Moreover, as also recognized by CDE,

[i]n school, English learners face a formidable challenge. Not only must they acquire English to levels comparable to that of native speakers of English of the same age and grade level, but they must also meet the same challenging grade-level standards and graduation requirements.

34. As also pointed out in the CDE publication IMPROVING EDUCATION FOR ENGLISH LEARNERS (p. 2), "the majority of English learners are racial and ethnic minorities." For California EL students, 82.7% have a home language of Spanish. CDE, DataQuest, available at <a href="http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/LEPbyLang1.asp?cChoice=LepbyLang1&cYear=2010-">http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/LEPbyLang1.asp?cChoice=LepbyLang1&cYear=2010-</a> 11&cLevel=State&cTopic=LC&myTimeFrame=S&submit1=Submit> (last visited April 18, 2013). Approximately 100,000 have a home language of Vietnamese, Mandarin (Putonghua), Cantonese, Filipino (Pilipino or Tagalog) or Korean. *Id*.

### California's Program for Delivering EL Services

- 35. The State SPI directs all school districts to administer a Home Language Survey when a child first enrolls in a public school in California. Education Code section 52164. 1. The survey typically asks what language the child learned when he or she began to speak, what language the parent or guardian uses when speaking with the child, what language the child uses most frequently at home, and what language is most often spoken by the adults at home. CDE, Home Language Survey, available at <www.cde.ca.gov/ta/cr/documents/hlsform.doc> (last visited April 18, 2013). If the answer to any of these questions is a language other than English, then schools designate the child as a potential EL student. Educ. Code, § 52164; CDE 2012-2013 CELDT Information Guide at 1, available at <a href="http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/el/documents/celdtinfoguide1213.pdf">http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/el/documents/celdtinfoguide1213.pdf</a> (last visited April 18, 2013).
- 36. Every school district must "assess the English language development of each pupil in order to determine the level of proficiency...." Educ. Code, § 313(a). The California English Language Development Test ("CELDT") is the test utilized by the State of California to determine English language proficiency of students who have a primary language other than English. Education Code section 11510. If a student does not pass the CELDT, he or she is then designated as an EL student.

Educ. Code, § 313, subd. (c). The student must thereafter continue to take the CELDT until he or she passes the test and satisfies other indicia of English language proficiency determined by the SPI so as to be "re-designated as English proficient." *Id.* 

- 37. State law specifies some of the services that districts must provide to EL students. For example, "[c]hildren who are English learners shall be educated through sheltered English immersion during a temporary transition period not normally intended to exceed one year." Educ. Code, § 305. Thereafter, "[o]nce English learners have acquired a good working knowledge of English, they shall be transferred to English language mainstream classrooms." *Id*; *see also* Cal. Code Regs. tit. 5 § 11301(a).
- 38. CDE describes the "English Language Mainstream (ELM)" placement, as a setting where "in addition to [English Language Development] instruction, English learners continue to receive additional and appropriate educational services in order to recoup any academic deficits that may have been incurred in other areas of the core curriculum as a result of language barriers." CDE, Facts about English Learners in California, *available at* <a href="http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sd/cb/cefelfacts.asp">http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sd/cb/cefelfacts.asp</a> (last visited April 18, 2013). In the 2011 language census instructions, CDE stated that "EL mainstream settings are designed for ELs who have achieved a level of *reasonable fluency* in English, but still require additional EL services as appropriate." CDE 2011 Language Census Instructions, *available at* <a href="https://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/dc/lc/documents/lcinstruc11.doc">https://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/dc/lc/documents/lcinstruc11.doc</a> (last visited April 18, 2013).
- 39. State law provides no circumstance under which it is appropriate to deny language instructional services to EL students. A parent can request to have his or her child moved to an alternative or bilingual program, but the school must provide "a full description of the educational materials to be used in the different educational program choices and all the educational opportunities available to the child." Education Code section 310. As Attorney General Bill Lockyer stated in 2000, this description must be substantive in nature. 99-802 Op. Att'y Gen. 4 (Feb. 25, 2000) ("We do not believe that a 'full description of the educational materials to be used' may consist of a blank page.").
- 40. Indeed, under both federal and State law, school districts must "provide instructional services" to EL students "in conformity with" federal requirements "designed to ensure that all pupils have reasonable access to educational opportunities that are necessary in order for the pupils to achieve at high levels in English and in the other core curriculum areas of instruction." 20 U.S.C. § 6801; Educ.

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27 28 Code, § 440, subd. (a).

- 41. Thus, as explained in greater detail in paragraphs 46-49 below, it is illegal under both State and federal law for districts to operate a program for EL students in which students who are designated as EL students are altogether denied English language instruction services.
- 42. Several dedicated sources of funding require the creation of programs to deliver appropriate instructional services to EL students. The State legislature appropriates funds for EL students to "assure a quality level of education for all pupils" because it recognizes that factors such as "homes where a primary language other than English have a direct impact on a child's success in school and personal development." Educ. Code, § 54025. The State distributes Economic Impact Aid ("EIA") to districts based on the number of low-income and EL students in that district. Education Code section 54023. Under State law, the State distributes these funds for compensatory services to EL students. Educ. Code, § 54025(a) ("A school district shall expend economic impact aid funds to serve and assist English learners and economically disadvantaged pupils and may not expend those funds at schoolsites that do not have English learners or economically disadvantaged pupils."). Schools must use these funds "to support programs and activities designed to assist English learners achieve proficiency in the English language as rapidly as practicable and support programs and activities designed to improve the academic achievement of English learners and economically disadvantaged pupils." Educ. Code, § 54025(b).
- The State of California also receives hundreds of millions of dollars under Title III of the 43. Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Title III is a federal program designed to promote and support English language acquisition and academic achievement of EL students. 20 U.S.C. § 6812(1) (the purpose of the program is "to help ensure that children who are limited English proficient, including immigrant children and youth, attain English proficiency, develop high levels of academic attainment in English, and meet the same challenging State academic content and student academic achievement as all children are expected to meet..."); 20 U.S.C. § 6812(9) (purpose of the program is "to provide State educational agencies and local educational agencies with the flexibility to implement language instruction education programs, based on scientifically based research on teaching limited English proficient children, that the agencies believe to be the most effective for teaching English."). Receipt of

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these funds is conditioned upon assurances to the federal government that such monies will be expended to deliver English language instruction to EL students, and the State distributes the funds to school districts that enroll EL students.

- 44. As a necessary condition for receipt of Title III funds, the State must submit a plan to the federal government describing how its districts will teach EL students "using a language instruction curriculum that is tied to scientifically based research on teaching limited English proficient children and that has been demonstrated to be effective." 20 U.S.C. § 6823(b)(6).
- 45. The State of California then may provide Title III funds to a school district "only if [it] agrees to expend the funds to improve the education of limited English proficient children, by assisting the children to learn English and meet challenging State academic content and student academic achievement standards." 20 U.S.C. § 6825(a). To receive Title III funds from the State, a school district must submit a plan to the State "[d]escrib[ing] how language instruction education programs carried out under the subgrant will ensure that limited-English-proficient pupils being served by the programs develop English proficiency." Educ. Code, § 443, subd. (b)(6).

## The State's Acknowledgement that the Denial of EL Services to EL Students Is Commonplace in California Public Schools

46. The CDE publishes educational data and statistics on its website, to "identify trends and educational needs and to measure performance." *See* CDE, Data & Statistics, *available at* <a href="http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/">http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/</a> (last visited April 18, 2012). As part of these data and statistics, the CDE requires school districts to report the language instructional services provided to EL students. Districts may categorize students as receiving any of the following types of services for purposes of this reporting:

ELs Receiving English Language Development (ELD) Services

ELs Receiving ELD and Specifically Designed Academic Instruction in English (SDAIE)

ELs Receiving ELD and SDAIE with Primary Language (L1) Support

ELs Receiving ELD and Academic Subjects through the Primary Language (L1)

ELs Receiving Other EL Instructional Services

ELs not Receiving any EL Instructional Services

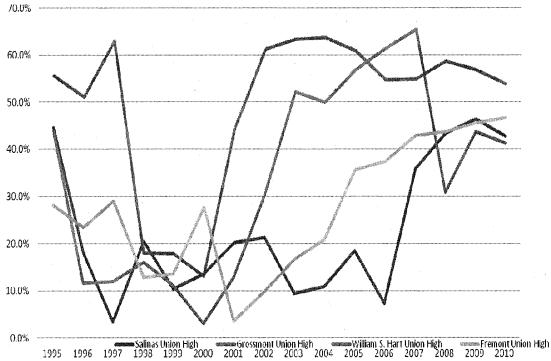
CDE, DataQuest, available at <a href="http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/EIP2\_State.asp?RptYear=2010-">http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/EIP2\_State.asp?RptYear=2010-</a>

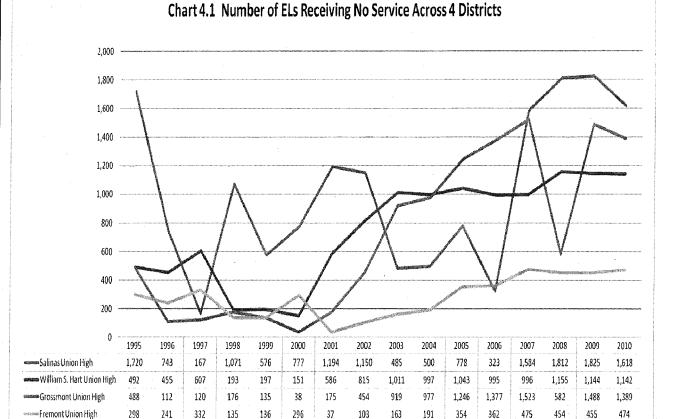
11&RptType=ELPart2 1a> (last visited April 18, 2013) (emphasis added).

47. In the 2011 Language Census instructions to school districts, the CDE advised districts how to use the categories provided. CDE, 2011 Language Census (R3-LC) Instructions, *available at* <a href="www.cde.ca.gov/ds/dc/lc/documents/lcinstruc11.doc">www.cde.ca.gov/ds/dc/lc/documents/lcinstruc11.doc</a> (last visited April 18, 2013). The CDE explained that EL students who do not receive some combination of ELD, SDAIE, or primary language support, "but who receive another type of instructional service specifically designed for ELs, such as an Individualized Education Program (IEP) developed for a special education EL" should fall into the "Other" category. *Id.* For the no services category, districts must "count all the remaining ELs who have not been counted previously" in the other categories. *Id.* "These ELs are not receiving any specialized instructional services . . . " *Id.* 

- 48. Pursuant to these instructions, 251 California school districts reported to CDE that they are not providing EL students who have been identified as requiring English language instructional services any such services at all. These school districts collectively reported to CDE that 20,318 EL students are not receiving English language instructional services. These students were enrolled in 251 districts which make up more than a quarter of all school districts that enroll ELs in California. These districts are rural and urban, with small and large EL populations, and spread across the State.
- 49. Below are a just a few representative examples of the consequences of Respondents' failure to ensure delivery of English instructional services for ELs in districts across the State of California.
- 50. Some of the largest and egregious examples are represented graphically below. These are just four of 251 districts that fail to serve EL students:

# Chart 4.2 Percentage of No-Service ELs Across 4 Districts





- 51. Petitioners B.S., F.S., S.M., A.M., and D.J. are currently enrolled in the Compton Unified School District and have each been enrolled there since kindergarten.
- 52. CUSD is a K-12 district located in Los Angeles County. CUSD currently enrolls 24,221 students at forty sites: 24 elementary schools, eight middle schools, three comprehensive high schools and five alternative schools.
- 53. In school year 2010-2011, CUSD enrolled 10,505 EL students. EL students comprise 44% of the student enrollment in the CUSD.
- 54. By ethnicity, CUSD enrolls 18,895 Hispanic students (78%), 139 Pacific Islander students (0.5%) and 4,011 African American students (16.5%).
- 55. For the 2010-2011 school year, CUSD reported to CDE that 1,697 out of 10,505 EL students received no English language instructional services. EL students in the CUSD who received no English language instructional services comprise about one of every six EL students in the district. William Jefferson Clinton Elementary School enrolled 166 EL students who received no English

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language instructional services. Dickison Elementary School enrolled 107 EL students who received no English language instructional services. Kelly Elementary School enrolled 106 EL students who received no English language instructional services. Roosevelt Elementary School enrolled 115 EL students who received no English language instructional services.

- 56. Pursuant to the State of California's Economic Impact Aid program to provide direct services for EL and economically disadvantaged students in 2010-11, CUSD received \$361.39 for every EL student enrolled in the district. For EL and economically disadvantaged students, CUSD received \$10,338,469 in EIA monies. CDE, Economic Impact Aid, *available at* <a href="http://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/aa/ca/eia.asp">http://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/aa/ca/eia.asp</a> (last visited April 18, 2013).
- 57. The CUSD used federal Title III funds that were intended for EL students instead to pay for clerks and a plant worker. (A copy of this finding is attached as Exhibit 2 to this Petition.) In 2011, the CUSD "charged the Federal program (Title III) for the salaries of two Clerk Typists III and a Plant worker in the district's school sites." CDE Categorical Program Monitoring, Notification of Findings, Generated by CAIS, 14 (Nov. 4, 2011). CDE stated that "These positions ... provide sole clerical support for an assigned function and grounds maintenance and custodial work. The services provided by these positions benefit all children in the schools, not just English learners, and thus would not be considered supplemental." Id. CDE also found that CUSD officials were not aware how and whether State EIA dollars were spent at school sites to service ELs. CDE found that "English learners at Whaley Middle School, Davis Middle School, and Compton High School are not provided with a consistently implemented program of instruction in English language development targeted to each student's proficiency level." Id. Yet in spite of these findings, the State developed no plan to ensure the delivery of language instructional services to ELs. CUSD continues to report to the State that it is denying language instructional services to EL students, and the experiences of Petitioner children confirms that CUSD continues to deny language instructional services to EL students. CUSD has denied an average of 1,697 EL students required language instructional services from 1995-2010, with an average denial rate of 11.5%. In nine of the 16 years reported, CUSD denied more than 1,000 EL students required language instructional services, and in 11 of the 16 years reported, CUSD denied more than 500 EL students required language instructional services.

- 58. The State of California, the California Department of Education, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Torlakson, and the State Board of Education know or reasonably should know that EL students in the Compton Unified School District do not receive English language instructional services, and have not received such services over each of the past 16 years. Nor has any Respondent taken any meaningful steps to identify, correct and ensure no future recurrence of such denials of these services to EL students within the CUSD.
  - 59. Petitioner Walt Dunlop is a former teacher in the Oxnard Union High School District.
- 60. OUHSD is a 9-12 grade district located in Ventura County. OUHSD currently enrolls 16,790 students at eight sites: seven high schools and an adult school.
- 61. In school year 2010-2011, OUHSD enrolled 3,433 EL students. EL students comprise about 20% of the enrollment in the OUHSD. 95% of the EL students are Spanish speakers.
- 62. By enrollment, OUHSD enrolls 12,152 Hispanic students (72.4%), 710 Filipino students (4.2%), 61 Pacific Islander students (.36%), 402 African American students (2.4%) and 2,823 Caucasian students (16.8%).
- 63. For the 2010-2011 school, OUHSD reported to CDE that 588 EL students received no English language instructional services. EL students in the OUHSD who receive no English language instructional services comprise more than one of every six EL students in the district. Adolfo Camarillo High School enrolled 98 EL students who received no English language instructional services, nearly half of its EL student enrollment. Frontier High School enrolled 70 EL students who received no English language instructional services, more than half of its EL student enrollment. Hueneme High School enrolled 211 EL students who received no English language instructional services, more than one third of its EL student enrollment. Oxnard High School enrolled 73 EL students who received no English language instructional services, nearly one fifth of its EL student enrollment.
- 64. Pursuant to the State of California's Economic Aid Program to provide direct services for EL and economically disadvantaged students, in 2010-11, OUHSD was designated \$317.91 for every EL student enrolled in the district. For EL and economically disadvantaged students, OUHSD received \$1,869,947 in EIA monies. CDE, Economic Impact Aid, *available at* <a href="http://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/aa/ca/eia.asp">http://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/aa/ca/eia.asp</a> (last visited April 18, 2013).

- 65. OUHSD has denied an average of 1,556 EL students required language instructional services from 1995 to 2010, with an average denial rate of 44.5%. For each of the 16 years, OUHSD denied more than 500 EL students required language instructional services, and in 14 of those 16 years, OUHSD denied more than 1,000 EL students required language instructional services. In all but three years, the percentages EL students not receiving any language instructional services for ELs were higher than 40%.
- 66. The State of California, the California Department of Education, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Torlakson and the State Board of Education know or reasonably should know that EL students in the Oxnard Union High School District do not receive English language instructional services, and have not received such services over each of the past sixteen years. Nor has any Respondent taken any meaningful steps to identify, correct and ensure no future recurrence of such denials of these services to EL students within the OUHSD.
- 67. Petitioner S.Z. is currently enrolled in the Grossmont Union High School District ("GUHSD") and has been enrolled there since ninth grade. S.Z. has received no English language instructional services since the second quarter of the eleventh grade. Without English language instructional services, Petitioner S.Z. has struggled with an electronic translator to understand his homework assignments.
- 68. GUHSD is a 9-12 district located in San Diego County. GUHSD currently enrolls 24,965 students at 19 sites: nine high schools, three charter schools, one continuation school, two alternative education sites and four special education facilities.
- 69. In school year 2010-2011, GUHSD enrolled 3,368 EL students. EL students comprise 13.9% of the student enrollment in the GUHSD.
- 70. By ethnicity, GUHSD enrolls 7,745 Hispanic students (32%), 431 Asian, Not Hispanic students (2%), 379 Filipino, Not Hispanic students (1.5%), and 1,832 African American students (7.6%).
- 71. For the 2010-2011 school year, GUHSD reported to CDE that 1,389 out of 3,368 EL students received no English language instructional services. EL students in the GUHSD who received no English language instructional services comprise nearly half of all EL students in the district. El Cajon Valley High School enrolled 1,049 EL students who received no English language instructional

services. Grossmont High School enrolled 409 EL students who received no English language instructional services. Monte Vista High School enrolled 425 EL students who received no English language instructional services. Mount Miguel High School enrolled 354 EL students who received no English language instructional services.

- 72. Pursuant to the State of California's Economic Impact Aid program to provide direct services for EL and economically disadvantaged students in 2010-11, GUHSD received \$313.79 for every EL student enrolled in the district. For EL and economically disadvantaged students, CUSD received \$2,007,628 in EIA monies. CDE, Economic Impact Aid, *available at* <a href="http://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/aa/ca/eia.asp">http://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/aa/ca/eia.asp</a> (last visited April 18, 2013).
- 73. The State of California, the California Department of Education, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Torlakson and the State Board of Education know or reasonably should know that EL students in the Grossmont Union High School District do not receive English language instructional services, and have not received such services over each of the past sixteen years. Nor has any Respondent taken any meaningful steps to identify, correct and ensure no future recurrence of such denials of these services to EL students within the GUHSD.

### Denial of English Language Instruction Services to EL Students Violates Federal Law

74. Under federal law, no state may decline to provide EL students a language program designed to deliver English language instruction designed to help them become proficient in English. In 1974, the United States Supreme Court addressed this issue conclusively when students of Chinese ancestry challenged the San Francisco Unified School District's failure to provide English language instructional services to students with language barriers. The Supreme Court held: "[T]here is no equality of treatment merely by providing students with the same facilities, textbooks, teachers, and curriculum; for students who do not understand English are effectively foreclosed from any meaningful education." *Lau v. Nichols* (1974) 414 U.S. 563, 566. "We know that those who do not understand English are certain to find their classroom experiences wholly incomprehensible and in no way meaningful." *Id.* The Supreme Court made clear the denial of language instructional services for ELs constitutes a denial of meaningful opportunity to participate in an educational program.

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- 75. After this decision, Congress enacted the Equal Educational Opportunities Act ("EEOA"), 20 U.S.C. §§ 1701 et seq., and thereby codified the core holding of Lau. See Castaneda v. Pickard (5th Cir. 1981) 648 F.2d 989, 1008.
- 76. Section 1703(f) of the EEOA provides that "[n]o State shall deny equal educational opportunity to an individual on account of his or her race, color, sex, or national origin by ... the failure of an educational agency to take appropriate action to overcome language barriers that impede equal participation by its students in its instructional programs." 20 U.S.C. 1703(f).
- 77. Under the EEOA, the term "educational agency" is defined as "a local educational agency or a 'State educational agency." 20 U.S.C. § 1720(a). "[T]he California State Board of Education and the California State Department of Education fall within the [EEOA]'s definition of 'state educational agency." Los Angeles Branch NAACP v. Los Angeles Unif. Sch. Dist. (9th Cir. 1983) 714 F.2d 946, 951. The EEOA "makes clear, through the definition of the term 'educational agency,' that the obligation to take 'appropriate action' falls on both the State and local educational agencies." See 20 U.S.C. § 1703(f); *Idaho Migrant Council v. Board of Educ.* (9th Cir. 1981) 647 F.2d 69, 71; *Gomez v.* Illinois, (7th Cir. 1987) 811 F.2d 1030, 1043 ("State agencies cannot, in the guise of deferring to local conditions, completely delegate in practice their obligations under the EEOA."). Under the EEOA, "schools are not free to ignore the need of limited English speaking children for language assistance to enable them to participate in the instructional program of the district." Castaneda, 648 F.2d at pp. 1009-10; 20 U.S.C. § 1703(f); Gomez, 811 F.2d at p. 1043 ("Although the meaning of 'appropriate action' may not be immediately apparent without reference to the facts of the individual case, it must mean something more than 'no action.'"). Thus, placing EL students in mainstream classes without regard to their English proficiency and without providing services to help them access the school curriculum in English contravenes the plain language of the EEOA and Congress's intent in its enactment. See Castaneda, supra, 648 F.2d at p. 1009.
- 78. Pursuant to the three-pronged test under *Castaneda*, the leading case interpreting the EEOA, the EEOA requires that (1) the state pursue a program informed by an educational theory recognized as sound by experts in the field, or that is deemed a legitimate experimental strategy; (2) the programs and practices actually used by the state are reasonably calculated to implement effectively the

educational theory adopted; and (3) the state's program must not continue to fail, given sufficient time for reasonable trial and error, to reduce the language barriers confronting EL students. *See Castaneda*, *supra*, at p. 1008.

- 79. The State has not pursued a plan, promulgated guidelines, attempted meaningful enforcement, or taken any appropriate action to address this systematic breakdown in the Statewide program for ensuring EL students receive legally mandated services. The State's failure to act in the face of evidence indicating a widespread, open and notorious violation of EL students' rights by a large portion of the State's public school districts, which denies students educational opportunity that is essential to their scholastic advancement, is a violation of its mandatory duty pursuant to prong one of the *Castaneda* test. The State's failure to ensure its agents take steps reasonably calculated to deliver language instructional services to all ELs in 16 years, and the State's failure to establish programs or practices to respond to the open and notorious failure to deliver instructional services to ELs, is a violation of its mandatory duty pursuant to prong two of the *Castaneda* test.
- 80. The State receives hundreds of millions of Title III dollars each year from the federal government, specifically to ensure that EL students in California receive the English language development services required by law. The State distributes those dollars to districts, including districts that have reported that they are denying services to EL students, without taking any steps to ensure that the districts in fact comply with the law as a condition of receiving the funds and that the funds are being used to provide requisite services to all EL students. Respondents' inaction is thus all the more offensive, because they are specifically receiving hundreds of millions of dollars with the understanding that they will be distributed to the State's school districts to provide EL services mandated by federal law, yet Respondents distribute such funds to districts while aware that nearly one out of four school districts is violating the rights of EL students.
- 81. Respondents are thus violating their mandatory duty under the EEOA to take meaningful action to address these widespread and open violations of EL students' rights.

### Denial of English Language Instruction Services to EL Students Violates the State Constitution

82. Education is a fundamental right under the California Constitution, and any action that

has a real and appreciable impact upon such right is subject to strict scrutiny. *Serrano v. Priest* (1976) 18 Cal.3d 728, 761, 767-68. Where the State's action or failure to act creates a real and appreciable impairment of the right to education that falls substantially below Statewide standards, and the State does not have a compelling reason for failing to address the specific needs of English learners, the State has denied basic educational opportunity to students. *Butt*, 4 Cal.4th at pp. 687, 692

- 83. The prevailing statewide standard within and among school districts in California is that students identified as ELs must receive English language instructional services so that they may become proficient in reading, writing, and comprehending English. This is essential so that these students have access to the core curriculum the State of California requires all public school students to study and master.
- 84. Under the California Constitution, the State is ultimately responsible for ensuring the delivery of educational services. Public education is "uniquely a fundamental concern of the State" and the Constitution "prohibits maintenance and operation of the common public school system in a way which denies basic educational equality to the students." *Butt*, 4 Cal.4th at p. 685. "[L]ocal districts are the state's agents for local operations of the common school system, and the State's ultimate responsibility for public education cannot be delegated to any other entity." *Id.* at p. 681. Accordingly, the State "is obligated to intervene when a local district's fiscal problems would otherwise deny its students basic educational equality, unless the State can demonstrate a compelling reason for failing to do so." *Id.*
- 85. The State of California and each of the Respondents in this action have a mandatory legal duty to ensure the prevailing Statewide standard of delivery of English language instructional services to all EL. The State's refusal to ensure the delivery of instruction to ELs is a real and appreciable impairment on ELs' ability to access a public school education. The State has not and cannot set forth any compelling reason for gathering information about the services provided to ELs, and then failing to act where there is a breakdown in the system for provision of EL services in a quarter of all districts with ELs.
- 86. Respondents thus have violated and are continuing to violate their mandatory duties under the State constitution to assure basic educational equality by failing to take meaningful steps to

ensure that school districts are providing legally mandated services to EL students.

### The State of California Refuses to Acknowledge any Responsibility to Correct or Prevent Such Denials

- 87. The State and the other Respondents have for years received overwhelming evidence of widespread denial of English language instructional services to tens of thousands of EL students. Yet, the only responsibilities they have assumed are dispensing funds and receiving reports of failure.
- 88. The State and the other Respondents have washed their hands of ensuring district compliance, even though the students who have been denied service are disproportionately ethnic minorities and many from low income families lacking the resources and opportunities to otherwise become fluent in oral and written English.
- 89. The State and the other Respondents have adopted the policy that they will react only to complaints from parents before doing anything at all, even though the State and the other Respondents know that, while almost all of the EL students are U.S. citizens, their parents may not be. These parents are likely unable or unwilling to confront authorities about the denial of services to their children.
- 90. As one illustration of the indifference on the part of the State of California and the Respondents, the CDE has for some 16 years published on its website a listing of districts reporting the numbers of EL students who receive no English language instructional services, yet undertaken no meaningful steps to identify the causes of those denials, let alone correct or prevent their reoccurrence. In numerous instances, these denials have continued for over a decade in the same districts. Neither the State nor any of the Respondents in this action have established an accountability system that address this open, notorious, and widespread denial to EL children of any English language instructional services. There is no system currently in place to identify which districts acknowledge denying legally mandated services to their ELs, to determine the reason that the districts are reporting the denial of those services, and to remedy the denial of those services. The State has never had a system to verify district reports that they failed to provide language instructional services to ELs. By collecting district admissions about their failure to serve ELs, and by doing nothing more with this information other than facilitate its publication, the State has perpetuated the perception that districts may continue to deny English language instructional services to ELs without consequence.
  - 91. As another illustration of this indifference, in response to a letter sent on January 23,

2013, to State SPI Torlakson and SBE President Kirst, which pointed out that CDE publicly reported that "over 20,000 English Learner children are not receiving any language instructional services" and asked that "immediate corrective action" be taken, the CDE issued a press release that same day which admitted that 2% of all EL students do not receive any services and disavowing any legal duty to prevent or correct the denial of these services. The press release stated:

Despite the enormous financial strains of recent years, California has made dramatic progress in seeing that all English Learners receive appropriate instruction and services. School districts — which are responsible for providing instruction to students and appropriate services to English learners — currently report that more than 98 percent of the State's 1.4. million English learners are receiving services.

Press Release, California Department of Education (Jan. 23, 2013) available at <a href="http://www.cde.ca.gov/nr/ne/yr13/yr13rel14.asp">http://www.cde.ca.gov/nr/ne/yr13/yr13rel14.asp</a> (last visited April 18, 2013). Rather than taking steps to address this widespread breakdown in the statewide program for delivering EL services, then, CDE asserted that it deserved credit because only 2 percent of EL students are being denied legally mandated services.

- 92. The State of California and all Respondents in this action have made clear they have no intent of changing their practice. For at least 16 years, districts have openly reported to the State their failure to provide English language instructional services to EL children of California. The State publicly asserts that all responsibility for appropriate services rests with school districts, and the State's extraordinary stance is that it need not do anything to prevent hundreds of its public school districts from denying English language instructional services to EL students. The State has in fact publicly declared that the current failure to serve 20,318 EL students represents "dramatic progress."
- 93. In addition, there exists considerable evidence known to Respondents that, as a direct and proximate consequence of their refusal to establish and enforce a system to ensure that all EL students receive English language instructional services, districts underreport the numbers of EL students who do not receive such services. For example, although Centinela Valley Union High School District ("CVUHSD") reported "0" EL students as not receiving services, in 2011, the United States Office of

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Mary Beth McLeod, U.S. Department of Education letter to CVUHSD Superintendent Fernandez, June 23, 2012. The false reporting in the language census occurs, in large part, because district officials and other personnel recognize that there is no verification process, and there will be no adverse consequence from State education departments and officials for reporting the provision or denial to EL students of essential and legally mandated instructional services.

Civil Rights concluded that in fact a majority of EL students in the CVUHSD received no services.

94. To date, the State, Superintendent Torlakson, the SBE and the CDE have not issued any public response to the January 23 letter other than the quoted press release and have not committed to any meaningful steps to systematically address this fundamental breakdown within the statewide system for providing EL services. On February 27, 2013, CDE distributed a memorandum to all school districts encouraging them to reconsider reporting the number of ELs not receiving services. CDE stated: "A review of the initial data certified to date shows that many (districts) have certified 'no EL education services' for all or a large proportion of their EL students. This unexpected change or increase in the certified data suggests that some (districts) may not have reported this data accurately." In the memorandum, CDE extended the time for districts to report EL educational services to March 22, 2013. This memorandum is both suggestive and demonstrably false – there has been no "change or increase" and it is certainly not "unexpected" given past year's reports. Other than urging districts to reconsider how they report serving EL students, CDE has taken no steps to ensure the delivery of EL services, and CDE has no plan to redress the failure to provide EL services. Given this record, Petitioners have no other alternative to filing this petition in order to vindicate the clear and unequivocal statutory and constitutional rights.

### Respondents' Violation of Their Mandatory Duties Causes Irreparable Injury

- 95. The failure by Respondents State of California, the California Department of Education, Superintendent Torlakson and the State Board of Education to ensure that all EL students receive English language instructional services results in irreparable injury to petitioner children and to all EL students denied such services.
  - 96. The CDE has admitted that, "of course, all ELs must receive additional and appropriate

educational services until they are reclassified." CDE, English Learners in California, Frequently Asked Questions, August 21, 2006, available at <www.cde.ca.gov/sp/el/er/documents/elfaq.doc> (last visited April 18, 2013) (emphasis added.)). ELD "[s]hould continue at least until students test CELDT Early Advanced (level 4) . . . ELs require 4-6 years to achieve proficiency in English." (McCoy, Mike, CDE: Improving Education for English Learners: Research-Based Approaches, Slide 17). The State Legislature has specifically directed that the State encourage personal language tutoring of members of the community, "[i]n furtherance of its constitutional and legal requirement to offer special language assistance to children coming from backgrounds of limited English proficiency." Educ. Code, § 315.

- 97. CDE has unequivocally recognized the benefits of providing services to ELs. CDE has concluded: "[S]tudies that compare outcomes for English learners receiving some form of accommodation for limited English proficiency (ELD and/or primary language instruction) to outcomes for English learners simply placed in mainstream classes and receiving no accommodation for their limited English yield consistent results: the former is more beneficial than the latter." CDE, IMPROVING EDUCATION FOR ENGLISH LEARNERS: Research Based Approaches, at p. 30.
- 98. Research documents that English language instructional services are critical to enable EL students to participate in the instructional programs of their schools. Petitioner students will likely stagnate at an intermediate or lower level of English proficiency and find themselves unable to meet the proficiency expectations for students in their grade if the State continues to neglect its duty to ensure the delivery of English language instructional services. EL students that find themselves in schools that fail to provide them targeted services for their academic advancement never experience the benefits of a language program designed to meet their needs. See Menken, Kate and Kleyn, Tatyana, The Difficult Road for Long-Term English Learners, 66 Educational Leadership 7 (April 2009), available at <a href="http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational\_leadership/apr09/vol66/num07/The\_Difficult\_Road\_for\_Long-Term\_English\_Learners.aspx">Learners.aspx</a> (last visited April 18, 2013).
- 99. The denial of English language instructional services to EL students accordingly results in long-term academic failure. Laurie Olsen, Reparable Harm: Fulfilling the Unkept Promise of Educational Opportunity for California's Long Term English Learners 15 (Californians Together, 2010). "Research on the effectiveness of various English Learner settings and programs shows that placement

of English Learners into 'mainstream' classes without English Learner support produces (over time) the worst outcomes. Students who have been in these settings in elementary school are the lowest achievers in comparison to students in any specially designed English Learner program. By middle school and high school, EL students who have been in any form of specialized instruction are more likely to score at grade level and less likely to drop out of high school than those who were in mainstream settings." Laurie Olsen, Reparable Harm: Fulfilling the Unkept Promise of Educational Opportunity for California's Long Term English Learners 15 (Californians Together, 2010).

100. In contrast, EL students who have been given specialized instruction are more likely to score at their appropriate grade level and are less likely to drop out of high school than those who are placed into mainstream instructional courses without English language instructional services. *Id.* The years during which EL children should have been equipped with the skills to access the content of their education can never be returned to them. Each additional day an EL child goes without English language instructional services is another day that she is effectively foreclosed from a meaningful education.

101. This is confirmed by the experiences of the Petitioner EL school children in this action. In 2012, Petitioner C.L. asked her son F.S.'s teacher why he did not receive any grades for the English Language Development class during his third grade year, and the teacher said that F.S. did not receive a grade because the teacher did not provide the service. F.S.'s teacher noted that F.S. was at risk of retention, and needed improvement in reading and English. In September 2012, Petitioner C.L. learned that her son would have to repeat the third grade. Petitioner C.L. also received progress reports from her daughter B.S.'s teacher. The reports indicated "NA" for English Language Development," and a teacher note indicated that B.S. had difficulty reading. Months later, the same teacher determined that B.S. would have to repeat the first grade. Petitioner M.R. did not understand why her son S.M.'s report card had "NA" next to the class for English Language Development. When Petitioner M.R. asked a teacher why the English Language Development class had been marked with an "NA," the teacher informed M.R. that the "NA" meant they didn't teach the course during that time. By the end of the third grade, after S.M. was denied English language instructional services for half the school year, S.M.'s English reading, writing and listening scores dropped by a proficiency level.

102. Unless enjoined, Respondents will continue to violate the right to an education and the right to receive equal protection of the laws under the California Constitution, State law, and the EEOA, and Petitioner students, other English learner students, and the general public will suffer irreparable harm.

### **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

### (AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS)

# (Writ of Mandate (Civ. Proc. Code, § 1085) – Violation of the Equal Protection Clauses of the California Constitution, Article I, Section 7(a) & Article IV, Section 16(a))

- 103. Petitioners incorporate by reference the foregoing paragraphs of this Petition as though fully set forth herein.
- 104. Respondents have a clear and present State-mandated duty under Article I, Section 7(a) and Article IV, Section 16(a) of the California Constitution to ensure that EL students receive the equal protection of the laws. This requires Respondents to ensure the delivery of language instructional services to ELs so that no EL is effectively foreclosed from a meaningful education. Thus, Respondents have a duty to ensure that school districts do not discriminate against ELs by failing to address EL language barriers.
- 105. Respondents have knowingly violated and continue to violate the rights of Petitioners to receive equal protection of the laws, pursuant to Article I, Section 7(a) and Article IV, Section 16(a) of the California Constitution, by failing to respond to reports that ELs do not receive basic educational opportunities equal to those that other students in California receive. In the alternative, Respondents have abused their discretion in fulfilling their obligations under Article I, Section 7(a) and Article IV, Section 16(a) of the California Constitution, to ensure that they receive basic educational opportunities equal to those that other students in California receive. Respondents are on notice of the statewide serious noncompliance with the requirement that ELs receive language instructional services. Through its existing reporting mechanism and failure to act, the State is perpetuating the continued denial of services by its acceptance of no services reports without consequences. Respondents' failure to guarantee language instructional services for all students results in State-maintained discrimination that

works to the disadvantage of English language learner students. Respondents have always had the legal capacity to fulfill their obligations to Petitioners but have failed to do so.

- 106. Petitioners seek injunctive relief enjoining Respondents from permitting school districts to deny English language instruction to students identified as ELs.
- 107. Unless enjoined, Respondents will continue to violate the right to receive equal protection of the laws under the California Constitution, and Petitioner students will suffer irreparable harm.
- 108. Petitioners seek a writ of mandate to issue directing Respondents to perform ministerial acts required by law, namely to: (1) cease doing nothing in response to reports from districts indicating that nothing is being done to serve EL students; and (2) establish policies and procedures to effectively ensure that all EL students in California public schools receive required English language instructional services

### SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

### (AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS)

# (Writ of Mandate (Civ. Proc. Code, § 1085) – Violation of Article IX, Sections 1 and 5 of the <u>California Constitution</u>)

- 109. Petitioners incorporate by reference the foregoing paragraphs of this Petition as though fully set forth herein.
- 110. Respondents have a clear and present State-mandated duty under article IX, sections 1 and 5 of the California Constitution to ensure that ELs receive access to an education. This requires Respondents to ensure the delivery of language instructional services to ELs so that no EL is effectively foreclosed from a meaningful education.
- 111. Respondents have breached their clear and present State-mandated duty in violating the rights of Petitioners and those similarly situated, pursuant to Article IX, Sections 1 and 5 of the California Constitution, to learn in a "system of common schools" that are "kept up and supported" such that students may learn and receive the "diffusion of knowledge and intelligence essential to the preservation of the [ir] rights and liberties." In the alternative, Respondents have abused their discretion

in fulfilling their obligations under Article IX, Sections 1 and 5 of the California Constitution, to ensure that students can learn in a "system of common schools" that are "kept up and supported" such that students may learn and receive the "diffusion of knowledge and intelligence essential to the preservation of the [ir] rights and liberties." Through its existing reporting mechanism and failure to act, the State is perpetuating the continued denial of services by its acceptance of no services reports without consequences. Respondents are on notice of the statewide serious noncompliance with the requirement that ELs receive language instructional services.

- 112. Petitioners seek injunctive relief enjoining Respondents from permitting school districts to deny English language instruction to students identified as ELs.
- 113. Unless enjoined, Respondents will continue to violate the right to receive equal protection of the laws under the California Constitution, and Petitioner students will suffer irreparable harm.
- 114. Unless enjoined, Respondents will continue to violate the right to education under the laws under the California Constitution, and Petitioner students and the general public will suffer irreparable harm.
- 115. Petitioners seek a writ of mandate to issue directing Respondents to perform ministerial acts required by law, namely to: (1) cease doing nothing in response to reports from districts indicating that nothing is being done to serve EL students; and (2) establish policies and procedures to effectively ensure that all EL students in California public schools receive required English language instructional services

### **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

### (AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS)

# (Writ of Mandate (Civ. Proc. Code, § 1085) – Violation of the Equal Education Opportunities Act of 1974 (20 U.S.C. § 1700, et seq.)

- 116. Petitioners incorporate by reference the foregoing paragraphs of this Petition as though fully set forth herein.
  - 117. Respondents have a clear and present mandatory federal duty to ensure equal educational

 opportunity to any person. The law specially enjoins the State to take appropriate action to overcome language barriers that impede the equal participation by its students in its instructional programs. Thus, Respondents have a duty to ensure that school districts do not discriminate against ELs by failing to take any action to address EL language barriers.

- 118. Respondents have denied Petitioner students educational opportunity by Respondents' failure to guarantee that EL students receive some sort of language instructional services. In the alternative, Respondents have abused their discretion in failing to devise any appropriate action in response to widespread admissions by school districts that they are denying legally mandated services to EL students. Respondents' refusal to ensure the delivery of EL services is not based on any sound educational theory.
- 119. Respondents' practices are not reasonably calculated to effectively implement any sound educational theory to enable English language learner students to participate in the instructional program of the district. Respondents have failed to create and implement a constitutionally-permissible means to address the language barriers of EL students.
- 120. For more than a decade, the State has abdicated its responsibility to ensure that EL students are provided the English language instructional services required for English language learners. Ten years is far more than a sufficient period of time for anyone to unequivocally conclude that this practice fails to overcome the language barriers that EL students face, resulting in the creation of a dual system of learning in which the EL students unfortunate enough to attend certain districts will be placed in a permanent dead-end track. Through its existing reporting mechanism and failure to act, the State is perpetuating the continued denial of services by its acceptance of no services reports without consequences. Respondents are on notice of the statewide serious noncompliance with the requirement that ELs receive language instructional services.
- 121. Petitioners seek injunctive relief enjoining Respondents from permitting school districts to deny English language instruction to students identified as EL students.
- 122. Unless enjoined, Respondents will continue to violate the right to receive equal protection of the laws under the EEOA, and Petitioners, other EL students, and the general public will suffer irreparable harm.

123. Petitioners seek a writ of mandate to issue directing Respondents to perform ministerial acts required by law, namely to: (1) cease doing nothing in response to reports from districts indicating that nothing is being done to serve EL students; and (2) establish policies and procedures to effectively ensure that all EL students in California public schools receive required English language instructional services

### **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

### (AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS)

### Violation of Government Code, § 11135

- 124. Petitioners incorporate by reference the foregoing paragraphs of this Petition as though fully set forth herein.
  - 125. Respondents constitute State agencies that receive State funding.
- 126. Respondents have engaged in the outwardly facially neutral practice of failing to address the educational and language needs of English learners.
- 127. Section 11135 of the Government Code provides that "[n]o person in the State of California shall, on the basis of race, national origin, ethnic group identification, . . . color, genetic information . . . be denied full and equal access to the benefits of, or be unlawfully subjected to discrimination under, any program or activity that is conducted, operated, or administered by the state or by any state agency, is funded directly by the state, or receives financial assistance from the state." Further, the Legislature amended section 11139 of the Government Code to provide for a private right of action under section 11135.
- 128. The absence of services denies access to the benefits of a public education disproportionately to EL students, who are almost certainly to be students of color in all instances. Respondents' failure to guarantee language instructional services allows a method of administration of the English language learner program that has the effect of substantially impairing the accomplishment of the objectives of the State's system of common schools with respect to ELs. The denial of English language learner instructional services denies EL students the opportunity to obtain the education received by other students in the school system.

- 129. The provision of education is a program or activity conducted, operated, or administered by the State. Admin. Code tit. 22, § 98010.
- 130. Respondents have intentionally engaged in activity that has the effect of unlawfully discriminating on the basis of race and national origin in the administration of education, a State program.
- 131. Because the State of California has taken the position that it has no duty to act when districts report that they will decline to provide the language instructional services required for English learners, Petitioners have no administrative remedy available to them to resolve this matter.
  - 132. Petitioners are entitled to injunctive relief.

### FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

### (AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS)

### Violation of California Code of Civil Procedure § 526a

### (Illegal Expenditure of Taxpayer Funds)

- 133. Petitioners incorporate by reference the foregoing paragraphs of this Petition as though fully set forth herein.
- 134. Petitioners, and their members, have within the last year, each been assessed for, and are liable to pay, taxes in the counties in which they reside, and pay income taxes to the State of California and United States of America.
- 135. Respondents received State and federal funds which have been appropriated and allocated to the Respondents, California Department of Education and Defendant State Board of Education, for the purpose of complying with State and federal mandates regarding specialized education programs for all EL students, including monitoring and oversight mandates as alleged herein.
- 136. By failing to implement adequate monitoring and oversight of these programs and otherwise failing to take steps to ensure equal educational access for all EL students, as alleged herein, Respondents have unlawfully diverted money intended for monitoring and oversight to other uses in violation of State and federal law.
  - 137. Respondents, through the actions of their agents, have expended tax moneys and threaten

to continue and will continue to expend tax monies in an illegal manner in violation of State law as alleged in this Petition.

- 138. Petitioner taxpayers have suffered and continue to suffer irreparable injury and are without a plain, speedy, and adequate remedy in the ordinary course of the law to compel Respondents to enforce and comply with the legal requirements outlined in this Petition, thereby rendering a Writ of Mandate appropriate. There is no provision in law for a taxpayer to receive money damages for unlawful governmental conduct; money damages would be difficult to ascertain; and money damages would not adequately compensate taxpayers for unlawful governmental activity.
- 139. There is no provision in law for a taxpayer to receive money damages for unlawful governmental conduct; money damages would be difficult to ascertain; and money damages would not adequately compensate taxpayers for unlawful governmental activity.
- 140. Petitioners' success in this action will result in the enforcement of important rights affecting the public interest by conferring significant benefits on a large class of persons. Petitioners seek enforcement of rights not only for themselves, but for taxpayers and students enrolled in California public schools that seek access to or benefit from the programs and services provided through California's public school system.
- 141. Furthermore, private enforcement of these rights is necessary, as no other agency has pursued these rights.
- 142. Petitioners contend that Respondents' actions as described above violate the Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974 (20 U.S.C. § 1703(f)); the California Constitution, Article I, Section 7(a) and Article IV, Section 16(a); the California Constitution Article IX, Sections 1 and 5; Educ. Code, § 48985; Educ. Code, § 51101; Gov. Code, § 11135; Title 5, Cal. Code Regs. tit. 5 § 11302; constitute an abuse of discretion; and constitute an illegal expenditure of taxpayer funds.
- 143. Petitioners seek a judicial declaration that Respondents have violated these constitutional, statutory, and regulatory provisions.

#### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Petitioners pray for judgment as follows:

- 1. For a writ of mandate to issue directing Respondents to perform ministerial acts required by law or, in the alternative, to remedy their abuse of discretion, namely to: (1) cease doing nothing in response to reports from districts indicating that nothing is being done to serve EL students; and (2) establish policies and procedures to effectively ensure that all EL students in California public schools receive required English language instructional services;
- 2. For injunctive relief enjoining Respondents from permitting its agent school districts to deny English language instruction to students identified as ELs;
- 3. For declaratory relief that Defendant's conduct described in this Writ violates the following laws:
  - a. Equal Education Opportunities Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1703(f);
  - b. Article I, Section 7(a) and Article IV, Section 16(a) of the California Constitution;
  - c. Article IX, Sections 1 and 5 of the California Constitution;
  - d. Section 11135 of the California Government Code;
  - 4. For cost of this suit and reasonable attorney's fees;
  - 5. For such further equitable and legal relief as this Court deems just and appropriate.

Dated: 05/27/2014

Respectfully submitted,

By ture

**ACLU FOUNDATION OF SOUTHERN** 

CALIFORNIA

Attorney for Petitioners

#### **VERIFICATION**

I, Walt Dunlop, being first duly sworn, depose and say:

I am a Petitioner/Plaintiff in the above-entitled action. I have read the foregoing verified petition for writ of mandate and complaint for injunctive and declaratory relief and the facts alleged therein are within my knowledge and I know them to be true, except as to matters therein stated on information and belief, and as to facts alleged about other petitioners in paragraphs 17-25, 54, 70 and 97, and as to those matters, I believe them to be true.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated: 5/27/2014

Walt Dunlop

#### PROOF OF SERVICE

I am employed in the County of Los Angeles, State of California. I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to this action. My business address is Latham & Watkins LLP, 355 South Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90071-1560.

On May 28, 2014, I caused to be served the following documents described as:

### VERIFIED AMENDED PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDATE AND COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTIVE AND DECLARATORY RELIEF

by serving a true copy of the above-described document in the following manner:

### BY U.S. MAIL

I am familiar with the office practice of Latham & Watkins LLP for collecting and processing documents for mailing with the United States Postal Service. Under that practice, documents are deposited with the Latham & Watkins LLP personnel responsible for depositing documents with the United States Postal Service; such documents are delivered to the United States Postal Service on that same day in the ordinary course of business, with postage thereon fully prepaid. I deposited in Latham & Watkins LLP's interoffice mail a sealed envelope or package containing the above-described documents and addressed as set forth below in accordance with the office practice of Latham & Watkins LLP for collecting and processing documents for mailing with the United States Postal Service:

Tara L. Newman, Deputy Attorney General
Chara L. Crane, Deputy Attorney General
State of California Department of Justice
Office of the Attorney General
300 S. Spring Street, Suite 1702
Los Angeles, CA 90013

I declare that I am employed in the office of a member of the Bar of, or permitted to practice before, this Court at whose direction the service was made and declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on May 28, 2014, at Los Angeles, California.

Marie Bibal