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                                                              VIA E-MAIL

TO: Chief Executive Officers
              Chief Instructional Officers
              Chief Student Services Officers
              Academic Senate for California Community Colleges

FROM: Debra Connick
              Vice Chancellor, Technology, Research, and Information Systems

              Pamela D. Walker, Ed.D.
              Vice Chancellor, Educational Services

SUBJECT: COMMON ASSESSMENT INITIATIVE UPDATE

This communication is an update on the progress of the Common Assessment Initiative (CAI), specifically on the current status and future of the CCCAssess tests.

The Common Assessment Initiative is an ambitious project with the end goal of deploying a common assessment system for math, English, and English as a second language (ESL) that will benefit students. Once implemented, these tests will be used by California Community Colleges to enhance student access and success by providing state-of-the-art assessment to inform placement of students across the system.

Over the past four years, the CAI project team has completed a tremendous amount of work on the tests. Unfortunately, despite the team's significant efforts, issues related to holistic project planning and management, and psychometric challenges have slowed progress.

These challenges, among others, make it unlikely that the CAI project team will achieve its goal of producing a complete package of tests for Fall 2017.

In last month's update to Chief Executive Officers, Chancellor Oakley wrote that a technical review of the CCCAssess project was underway. That review is now complete and the Chancellor's Office has decided that the best course of action is to pause work on several areas of the CCCAssess project for 30-90 days to give time for an expert team to analyze the problematic parts of the project, augment the project team, and update the project timeline for tasks and deliverables.
Item level pilot data collection and technology platform development will continue during this timeframe. The Chancellor's Office is confident that following this action, we will be able to move forward in an efficient and thoughtful manner.

We will continue to update you on the status of the CCCAssess tests over the coming months. As you know, these tests have always been envisioned as components of a multiple measures approach to assessment. As such, we will also continue to inform you about training and technical assistance available for successful multiple measures approaches and provide information to colleges to explain how to access that training and technical assistance for upcoming assessments. For now, additional information and background resources for various aspects of multiple measures and their use can be found in August 2, 2016; September 30, 2016; and October 4, 2016 memos posted on the Chancellor's Office website Student Services Division [Assessment and Placement](#) webpage under the section "What is new."

We would like to thank the CAI project team and the colleges that have participated in pilot and field testing for their continued commitment to this important project. Further, we appreciate and value the difficult and challenging work that has been accomplished thus far. It is the Chancellor's Office expectation that by pausing to conduct a thorough review of the project status and make any necessary adjustments to the project will allow us to proceed to full and successful completion of this pioneering effort.