

**Assembly Bill No. 476**

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Passed the Assembly September 10, 2009

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*Chief Clerk of the Assembly*

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Passed the Senate September 4, 2009

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*Secretary of the Senate*

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This bill was received by the Governor this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 2009, at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_M.

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*Private Secretary of the Governor*

## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

An act to add Section 60649.1 to the Education Code, relating to the Standardized Testing and Reporting Program.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 476, Torlakson. Standardized Testing and Reporting Program.

Existing law establishes the Standardized Testing and Reporting Program (the STAR Program) pursuant to which school districts, charter schools, and county offices of education are required to administer achievement tests to each of their pupils in grades 2 to 11, inclusive.

This bill would require the Superintendent of Public Instruction, on or before April 1, 2010, to contract with an independent evaluator for evaluation of the STAR Program, as specified. The bill would require the independent evaluator to complete a report containing the findings of his or her evaluation. The Superintendent would be required to provide this evaluation to the Legislature, the Governor, and the State Board of Education on or before November 1, 2010. The bill would require an existing advisory committee to advise the Superintendent on the independent evaluation of the STAR Program, including making recommendations regarding the selection of the independent evaluator and the evaluation parameters. The bill would require the Superintendent to appoint 4 additional members to the advisory committee for these purposes. The bill would require the State Department of Education to use specified federal funds, not exceeding the amount of \$150,000, for the purpose of contracting for this evaluation.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 60649.1 is added to the Education Code, to read:

60649.1. (a) On or before April 1, 2010, the Superintendent shall contract with an independent evaluator, who shall report to him or her, for evaluation of the STAR Program. The evaluation

shall be a meta-analysis of existing information and data from the STAR Program based upon the following:

(1) Information gathered in field testing and annual administrations of the STAR assessments.

(2) Existing technical reports, peer reviews, and other studies, reports, and evaluations of the STAR Program conducted by or at the request of the department, the Legislature, or the state board.

(3) State and federal requirements.

(4) A review of research-based alternative assessment models.

(5) A review of existing and emerging practices in large-scale assessment from across the nation.

(b) The evaluation shall include, but shall not necessarily be limited to, all of the following:

(1) A report on the results of prior analyses regarding the alignment between the STAR assessments and the full range of the content standards and a determination of whether the STAR Program assesses pupil knowledge in the same manner and at the same level of complexity as expected in the content standards.

(2) An independent analysis of the grade level continuity and vertical articulation of the content standards.

(3) An independent analysis of the ability of the tests to produce scores for an individual pupil that can be validly compared from year to year.

(4) An independent analysis of the use of content standards in other core curriculum areas for testing items, as applicable.

(5) A report on the results of prior analyses regarding pupil performance, broken down by assessment, grade level, race or ethnicity, and end-of-course assessments, including any trends that become apparent over time.

(6) An independent analysis of the degree to which the STAR Program complies with professional testing standards and satisfies or exceeds state and federal requirements for assessments for each grade level.

(7) An independent analysis of the usefulness of the STAR Program in terms of state and local program evaluations.

(8) An independent analysis of the usefulness of the STAR Program in providing individual results and in terms of providing a diagnostic assessment for classroom use.

(9) An independent analysis of the feasibility and cost of the development and administration of a diagnostic alternative test in

grade levels and content standard areas that are not required to have an assessment under federal law.

(c) The report by the independent evaluator containing the findings of his or her evaluation shall include, but shall not necessarily be limited to, all of the following:

(1) Recommendations to improve the quality, fairness, validity, and reliability of the examinations.

(2) Recommendations for revisions in design, administration, scoring, processing, or use of the examinations to ensure compliance with state and federal requirements in an efficient manner.

(3) Recommendations for revisions of the examinations to improve grade level continuity and vertical alignment of standards-aligned test content and the ability of the tests to produce scores for an individual pupil that can be validly compared from year to year.

(4) Recommendations for revisions of the examination to improve integration of content standards in other core curriculum areas for testing items, as applicable.

(5) Recommendations to improve the usefulness of the test to the state, local educational agencies, schools, teachers, pupils, and parents.

(6) Recommendations regarding revisions that would allow the STAR Program to provide pupil-level diagnostic information and to provide a diagnostic assessment for classroom use.

(7) Recommendations regarding alternative diagnostic assessments that align with state academic content standards.

(8) Recommendations regarding alternatives to the current testing format to allow the greatest aggregate base for assessing districtwide performance on content standards.

(d) In order to provide the Legislature with adequate information to consider reauthorization of the STAR Program, the Superintendent shall provide the evaluation to the Legislature, the Governor, and the state board on or before November 1, 2010.

(e) The advisory committee established pursuant to Section 52052.5 shall advise the Superintendent on the independent evaluation by providing all of the following:

(1) Recommendations regarding the parameters of the evaluation.

(2) Recommendations regarding any request for proposals or request for applications used to solicit contract proposals.

(3) Recommendations regarding the selection of the contractor.

(4) A review of any reports submitted by the independent evaluator, including any midterm reports as well as the final evaluation.

(f) The Superintendent shall appoint four additional members, who shall be educators or individuals having expertise in large-scale assessment and who shall serve only for the purposes of subdivision (f), to the advisory committee established pursuant to Section 52052.5.

(g) The department shall use federal funds made available under Title VI (20 U.S.C. Sec. 7301 et seq.) pursuant to the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (20 U.S.C. Sec. 6301 et seq.), not to exceed one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000), for the purpose of contracting for this evaluation.





Approved \_\_\_\_\_, 2009

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*Governor*