



**CALIFORNIA
BUSINESS
for Education
EXCELLENCE**

CHAIRMAN
Greg Jones

VICE CHAIRMAN
R. William Hauck

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Kirk M. Clark

DIRECTORS

Lee Blicht

Pat Clarey

Ron Cohen

Cynthia Haan

Kevin Johnson

Daniel E. Kinney

Lenny Mendonca

Louis Meunier

Greg Stubblefield

For Immediate Release
August 20, 2009

Contact:

Kirk M. Clark
(916) 498-8980

CBEE Commends Governor Schwarzenegger's Call for a Special Session to Ensure California is Eligible to Compete for Billions in Recovery Funding for Education

Sacramento—CBEE commends the strong leadership showed by Governor Schwarzenegger today with the announcement of his plan to dramatically improve public education in California.

“In this competitive global economy, California’s students cannot afford to fall further behind. In these difficult economic times, state policymakers should maximize federal funds to replicate and expand what is working in our public schools,” said Kirk Clark, CBEE’s executive director. “Today’s proclamation will take us a giant step closer to doing that by having solid data necessary to inform decision-making in our public schools. All Californians will benefit from raising student achievement and closing the achievement gaps in our public schools.”

Specific reforms to ensure California is eligible to apply and be highly competitive for Race to the Top funding include:

Linking Student Achievement and Teacher Performance Data. Having linked data will increase transparency around how California’s students, teachers and schools are performing.

Measures to Turn-Around Struggling Schools. Turning around struggling schools increases the overall quality of our state’s education system.

Measures to Help California Recruit and Retain High-Quality Teachers and Principals. Reward teachers who are consistently doing the toughest jobs.

Improving Accountability for Schools. Modifying how the state uses data to measure performance will help more accurately track the progress of students, teachers and schools on an annual basis – so that California can make continuous improvement in our education system from year to year.

*California Business for Education Excellence is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to **raise student academic achievement and close the achievement gap** in California’s public schools. For more information please visit our website at www.cbee.org*