



California Council for the Social Studies
AN AFFILIATE OF NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL STUDIES

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May 16, 2011

The Honorable Julia Brownley
Chair, California State Assembly Education Committee
1020 N Street
Sacramento, CA 94249

RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR AB 250

Dear Assemblywoman Brownley:

Thank you for introducing Assembly Bill 250. It is imperative that we prepare all K-12 students in our state for college, career and responsible civic engagement in the 21st century. Assembly Bill 250 will enable us to achieve this goal by requiring the State Board of Education to revise curriculum frameworks, criteria for instructional materials, professional development and most importantly, formative and summative assessment strategies, with a focus on integrating 21st century skills including critical thinking, problem solving, communication, collaboration, creativity and innovation skills in all academic core content areas.

We heartily join the Association of California School Administrators, the California State PTA, the California Mathematics Council, the California Science Teachers Association, the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce and many others in supporting 21st century education for all six million of our public school children.

Current practice focused on assessment primarily of reading language arts and mathematics has narrowed the curriculum and provided limited access to a well-rounded education to a number of underperforming groups, thus creating a knowledge and skills gap. AB 250 addresses the need to meet the specific learning needs of African-American and Latino students, English Learners, particularly Long-Term English Learners, students with disabilities, and students of low-socioeconomic levels without sacrificing access to a broad educational program that strengthens academic language and literacy across the content areas.

We applaud your wisdom and leadership in supporting this effort. For more information, please contact our partners in this effort - the co-chairs the 21st Century Coalition for California - Michelle Herczog (Herczog_Michelle@yahoo.com) or Michael Matsuda (matsudax@yahoo.com).

Sincerely,

Greg Spielman
President
California Council for the Social Studies