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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 29, 2005 – No. 12

California School Boards Association reacts to governor’s appointment of Alan Bersin as secretary for education

(**Sacramento**) – The following statement was released by California School Boards Association President Dr. Kerry Clegg and Executive Director Scott P. Plotkin in response to Gov. Schwarzenegger’s appointment today of Alan Bersin as his secretary for education.

“Alan Bersin is the kind of leader who can make a real difference, as his track record clearly shows,” said Clegg. “When Bersin served on CSBA’s Urban School Districts Council, we saw firsthand his commitment to our students and his willingness to embrace bold new ideas. We’re hopeful that his appointment will help foster the kind of working relationship between the governor’s office and the education community that is so vital to helping us close the achievement gap in our schools.”

Plotkin called Bersin “a dynamic, take-charge leader who is not afraid to occasionally ruffle some feathers. When you’re advising the governor of a state that is ranked 44th in the nation in per-pupil funding but has the highest academic standards in the country, you need a leader who is innovative and decisive and willing to be a collaborator. Ensuring that each and every child has equal access to a quality education is the primary goal of every school board member in this state and we know from working with him that Bersin shares this ideal. We are pleased with the governor’s appointment and we look forward to working with his new secretary for education.”

For more information, or to schedule an interview, contact CSBA Media Relations Specialist Matt Nichols at (916) 669-3243 or (916) 799-4663 or CSBA Assistant Executive Director, Communications Mina Fasulo at (916) 669-3240 or (916) 425-0109.

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