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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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School boards welcome new flexibility in NCLB regulations

(Washington, D.C.) – Representatives from the California School Boards Association, who are currently in the nation’s capital advocating for the state’s public schoolchildren, said they are encouraged by the federal government’s new approach to implementing the No Child Left Behind Act unveiled Thursday by Education Secretary Margaret Spellings.

CSBA Vice President Dr. Kathleen Kinley and Executive Director Scott P. Plotkin were at the historic George Washington Mt. Vernon estate to hear Spellings outline what she called the federal government’s “more workable, common sense approach” to enforcing NCLB’s sweeping mandates. Spellings said the new approach will include flexibility for states to test disabled students using appropriately modified assessments.

“We are encouraged that the federal government is moving in the right direction by providing the increased flexibility in NCLB that CSBA has long advocated for on behalf of our special needs students,” said Plotkin. “Not every child is the same and today’s announcement acknowledges and addresses that fact. We welcome Secretary Spellings’ efforts to focus on results and raising student achievement in a much more sensible way. We also welcome the administration’s efforts to address some of the serious problems we have raised in connection with this law.”

Spellings also promised to convene a new working group to study how so-called “growth models” that track improvements in academic achievement can be used to meet proficiency targets under NCLB. California’s state accountability system, which was in place before Congress passed NCLB, uses the growth model to measure progress.

Plotkin said CSBA will work to continue building a constructive relationship with federal education officials. “Secretary Spellings and her department are listening to those of us on the front lines in the campaign for accountability and raising student achievement,” he said. “There is no question that all of us want the same thing: to help all students perform at the highest levels possible.”

For more information, or to schedule an interview, contact CSBA Media Relations Specialist Matt Nichols at (916) 669-3243 or (916) 607-8449 or CSBA Assistant Executive Director, Communications Mina Fasulo at (916) 425-0109.

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The California School Boards Association is a collaborative group of nearly 1,000 school districts and county offices of education. CSBA is a member-driven association that brings together school governing boards and their districts and county offices on behalf of California’s children. The association develops, communicates



California School Boards Association

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and advocates the perspective of California school districts and county offices of education.