



CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

JACK O'CONNELL
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

**ConnectEd: The California Center
for College and Career
Coalition for Multiple Pathways:
"From Practice to Policy"
Sacramento, CA
November 17, 2009**

Dear Coalition for Multiple Pathway Members:

Thank you for providing leadership in California as we work to transform today's public education to produce world-class graduates who will refuel our state's economic engine. Pathways bridge the gap between education and workforce preparation and provide the rigor, relevance, and relationships needed to make our high schools successful.

An engaged student population that is eager and prepared to transition out of high school and into two-year college, four-year college, additional training, or careers is vital for the long-term economic health of California. Your work in supporting quality pathways is important for engaging these students and reducing drop-out rates, increasing proficiency rates and closing achievement gaps, and preparing students to succeed in the full range of post-secondary choices.

As a member of the Coalition, the California Department of Education welcomes the opportunity to expand access to quality pathways through partnership academies, green academies, new energy academies, and other school models. As we prepare to release the final AB 2648 Multiple Pathway Feasibility Report, we trust that it will provide guidance to the Coalition and state for expanding pathway options. The state cannot settle for the fact that a limited number of California students currently have access to pathways.

I look forward to expanding the working relationship between my office and the Coalition as we move forward with implementing recommendations from the AB 2648 report. Thank you again for being a catalyst for change in improving our high schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jack O'Connell".

JACK O'CONNELL