

## Minutes of the Education Audit Appeals Panel

Monday, October 27, 2025  
915 L Street, Cedar Room  
Sacramento

### Call to Order and Roll Call

Elizabeth Dearstyne called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

Panel members present: Elizabeth Dearstyne, designee of the Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team, Cheryl McCormick, designee of the Director of the Department of Finance and Abel Guillen, designee of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

### Approval of Minutes

**Action:** The minutes of the September 22, 2025, meeting were approved.

Item 1	Report of the Executive Officer	Information
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Rebecca Lee reported that since the last meeting, there were three formal appeals filed. Two were denied summary reviews, Siskiyou Union High School District and Highlands Community Charter School, which covered multiple years related to attendance. The third was for Ojai Unified School District, which went straight to formal appeal. Since the release of the meeting materials packet on October 10, 2025, Palmdale School District received county office approval of exemption for its classroom teacher salaries finding, and EAAP is awaiting a formal notice of withdrawal of their formal appeal. Four pending settlements will be heard in Closed Session.

Since the last meeting, sixteen new summary reviews were filed, nearly half related to the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELO-P). There were nine determinations made on summary reviews. Five summary reviews were fully granted, three were partially granted, one case was withdrawn and one was denied. The summary review for Cuyama Joint Unified School District was denied but not identified on the meeting materials spreadsheet. Of the twenty-two pending cases, only four are from the prior fiscal year and ten of the sixteen new cases were received during the first week of October 2025. Since release of the meeting materials packet on October 10, 2025, the summary review request for Mission Union Elementary School District was withdrawn due to revision of their audit finding.

Ms. Lee discussed updates to the EAAP website, including adding new and removing outdated information. EAAP plans to continue updating the website to streamline how information is presented. The goal is to make the website more user-friendly and have the most crucial information, such as the audit guide and appeal procedures, right at the forefront of our homepage. EAAP welcomes feedback from the Panel and the public as it continues this longer-term project.

The first meeting of the K-12 Audit Guide Working Group occurred on October 16, 2025. Ms. Lee reported deletions to a couple programs from the audit guide and anticipates additional audit guide changes due to changes in law.

Item 2	Public Participation	Information
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No comments were received from the public.

Item 3	Legislation Report Discussion and action as appropriate regarding any legislation that may affect EAAP	Information
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Ms. Lee provided an update on two bills: Senate Bill (SB) 414 and SB 147.

SB 414, related to charter schools, was vetoed on October 13, 2025. The Governor’s veto message speaks to all interested parties to work together in the coming months to find swift resolution on remaining unresolved issues. Further developments are expected next year.

SB 147, an education trailer bill, was primarily technical cleanup.

Item 4	Next Meeting November 17, 2025 Tentative EAAP meeting calendar for 2026	Information
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The Panel reviewed the Tentative EAAP meeting calendar for 2026. No issues were reported.

**Adjournment**

Ms. Dearstyne adjourned the meeting at 1:43 p.m.

**Closed Session Report:**

In closed session, the Panel unanimously approved the Stipulated Agreement of the parties in the matter of:

- Item 1: Bonsall Unified School District, EAAP Case 24-57
- Item 2: Calexico Unified School District, EAAP Case 25-40
- Item 3: Rancho Santa Fe School District, EAAP Case 25-07

The Panel unanimously rejected the Proposed Stipulated Agreement of the parties in the matter of Item 4: Feather River Charter School, EAAP Case 24-05.