

## Update on SCO's Request for Salary Compensation

As background, last February, the SCO made a request of LEAs to participate in the State's public compensation website, [publicpay.ca.gov](http://publicpay.ca.gov). Subsequent to this, a second request was addressed to board presidents. The SCO is now making phone calls in an attempt to urge LEAs to respond to their request for salary compensation. Some of these calls have come into board presidents and others have been made to superintendents. Because this original request came in as a request it did not meet the conditions of a public records act (PRA) request. Additionally, their request included very complex formatting requirements. This formatting requirement would require significant programming and staff time. If the SCO's request was a PRA request, the SCO's office would be responsible for paying the programming and staff costs. Several LEAs have attempted to submit their salary compensation data as a raw data report from our financial system, similar to how we responded to Transparent California. The SCO has rejected these submissions.

After several outreach attempts to work with the SCO regarding their request, representatives of BASC met in person with SCO staffers. In addition to the cost of responding to their request, BASC representatives expressed a concern for the fidelity of our data once reported through their format. This is primarily due to the particulars and complexities of their request. As one example, they are requesting "Box 5" of the W2's. This box contains taxable wages only and would under-report salaries for those employees who had tax-sheltered contributions. The SCO appeared to realize the complexity and problematic nature of their request and that because of this our data might not be accurately reported to the public. However, a follow up call ended with the SCO staff responding that since LEAs are self-reporting it would be the option of the LEA to determine how to accurately report our data within their formatting structure. In other words, they have not relented on their file format. They are now requesting submission no later than August 30<sup>th</sup>.

The MCOE response will be to continue to treat this as a voluntary request. As such, we are treating their formatting request as voluntary. We will, however, now be submitting our raw data, identical to the data we submitted in response to Transparent California's public records request.

[Data Submission Template Letter](#)