



CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

1430 N STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CA  
95814-5901

**JACK O'CONNELL**  
State Superintendent of  
Public Instruction  
PHONE: (916) 319-0800

April 28, 2006

Al Summers  
Director of Professional Development  
National Middle School Association  
4151 Executive Parkway, Suite 300  
Westerville, OH 43081

Dear Mr. Summers:

Thank you for the advanced sharing of the National Middle School Association's policy guide scheduled for release on May 2, 2006.

*Success in the Middle: A Policymaker's Guide to Achieving Quality Middle Level Education* is a succinct call for action that brings focus to middle level education and the need for strengthening this link in the educational continuum. If we want our students to do well in high school and beyond, a quality middle level education is a must, not an option. The goals are strong and unarguable.

From a California perspective, most of the state recommendations are workable and, in many cases, already implemented. Because of its own demographics, governance structure, challenges, and funding, each state may not be able to fully implement all of the recommendations but could certainly use them to guide its thinking as it develops middle level policy.

If you have questions regarding middle level education in California, please contact Rozlynn Worrall, Administrator, Middle and High School Improvement Office, at (916) 322-1892 or by e-mail at [rworrall@cde.ca.gov](mailto:rworrall@cde.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

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

JACK O'CONNELL

JO:rw