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**OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Community Schools, Thriving Students

BOARD OF EDUCATION 2017

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May 24, 2017

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Ad Hoc Legislative Committee
Nina Senn, Vice President
Jody London, Director, District 1

SUBJ: Board of Education - Position on Newly Named State Legislative Bills - As of May 24, 2017

ACTION REQUESTED:

Adoption by the Board of Education of Resolution No. 1617-0165B Board of Education – Position on (Newly) Named State Legislative Bills – As of May 12, 2017.

BACKGROUND:

The Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) has engaged School Services of California to represent the District in Sacramento, particularly, but not exclusively, before the Legislature and the California Department of Education. The pace of daily engagement required to be effective before these entities makes it important to have respected, effective, reliable representatives who can advocate the District's interests.

On April 12, 2017, the Board approved Resolution No. 1617-0615, taking positions on several bills presented for consideration by its State Lobbyist, School Services of California. On April 26, 2017, by Resolution No. 1617-0615A, the Board took positions on additional bills presented by its State Lobbyist.

As of May 12, 2017, four additional Bills¹ (highlighted in yellow in attached Report) - AB 716 (O'Donnell) - Magnet Schools; AB 254 (Thurmond) – Local Education Agency Pilot for Overall Needs; AB 1360 (Bonta) – Charter Schools: Pupil Admissions, Suspension and Expulsions; and AB 1478 (Jones-Sawyer) – Charter Schools, of interest to the District, are moving rapidly through the Legislature.

It is the Ad Hoc Legislative Committee's recommendation that the Board take the position stated in Resolution No. 1617-0165B on each of the four newly named Bills as of May 12, 2017, with the caveat that the Board reserves the right to change its position on the legislation should conditions warrant.

¹ Each Bill is summarized in the attached School Services of California, Inc., Legislative Report Prepared for: Oakland Unified School District, Status as of: May 12, 2017.

The Ad Hoc Committee recommends that the Board:

Watch

- AB 716 (O'Donnell) - Magnet Schools;

Support

- AB 254 (Thurmond) – Local Education Agency Pilot for Overall Needs;
- AB 1360 (Bonta) – Charter Schools: Pupil Admissions, Suspension and Expulsions; and
- AB 1478 (Jones-Sawyer) – Charter Schools

RECOMMENDATION:

Adoption by the Board of Education of Resolution No. 1617-0165B Board of Education – Position on (Newly) Named State Legislative Bills – As of May 12, 2017.

Attachment: Resolution No. 1617-0165B

School Services of California, Inc., Legislative Report Prepared for: Oakland Unified School District, Status as of: May 12, 2017

**RESOLUTION
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF THE
OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Resolution No. 1617-0165A

Board of Education - Position on (Newly) Named State Legislative Bills - As of April 20, 2017

WHEREAS, the Board of Education, on April 12, 2017, adopted Resolution No. 1617-0165, upon the recommendation of its Ad Hoc Legislative Committee, taking the position stated below on the below listed Bills pending in the State Legislature:

Support

AB 60 (Santiago)	Subsidized Child Care and Development Services: Eligibility Periods
AB 169 (O'Donnell)	Teaching Credential: Teacher Recruitment: Golden State Teacher Grant Program
AB 234 (Steinorth)	Student Financial Aid: Assumption Program of Loans for Education
AB 463 (Salas)	Student Financial Aid: Assumption Program of Loans for Education
AB 1506 (Bloom)	Residential Rent Control: Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act
AB 424 (McCarty)	Possession of A Firearm In A School Zone
SB 138 (McGuire)	School Meal Programs: Free and Reduced-Price Meals: Universal Free Meal Service
SB 557 (Hernandez)	Food Donations: Schools
AB 17 (Holden)	Transit Pass Program: Free or Reduced-Fare Transit Passes; and takes

No Position (Neutral) (pending further developments/details) on:

AB 1506 (Bloom)	Residential Rent Control: Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act;
SB 808 (Mendoza)	Charter Schools: Chartering Authorities and Approvals
SB 765 (Wiener)	Superintendent of Public Instruction: Powers and Duties
AB 1220 (Weber)	Certificated School Employees: Permanent Status
AB 418 (Chau)	Elementary and Secondary Education: Computer Science Education Grant Pilot Program; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education, on April 16, 2017, adopted Resolution No. 1617-0165A, upon the recommendation of its Ad Hoc Legislative Committee, taking the position stated below on the below listed Bills pending in the State Legislature:

Support

AB 45 (Thurmond)	California School Employees Housing Assistance Grant Program
AB 17 (Holden)	Transit Pass Program: Free or Reduced-Fare Transit Passes

and

No Position (Neutral) (pending further developments/details):

SB 807 (Stern)	Personal Income Taxes: Credit: Exclusion: Teacher Recruitment and Retention Act of 2017;
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WHEREAS, the Ad Hoc Legislative Committee received an updated Report from the District's state lobbyist in Sacramento, School Services of California, on or about May 12, 2017, recommending that the District take a position - support, opposition, watch or other position - on four additional Bills¹ (highlighted in yellow in the attached Report):

- AB 716 (O'Donnell) - Magnet Schools;
- AB 254 (Thurmond) – Local Education Agency Pilot for Overall Needs;
- AB 1360 (Bonta) – Charter Schools: Pupil Admissions, Suspension and Expulsions; and
- AB 1478 (Jones-Sawyer) – Charter Schools,

of interest to the District, that are moving rapidly through the State Legislature;

and,

WHEREAS, the Ad Hoc Legislative Committee has reviewed said Report and hereby recommends, the Board take a position on the four named Bills, as of May 12, 2017, as stated in the first Resolve Clause herein,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation from its Ad Hoc Legislative Committee, the Board of Education hereby takes the position on the four newly named Bills, pending in the State Legislature, as of May 12, 2017, as stated herein:

Watch

- AB 716 (O'Donnell) - Magnet Schools;

Support

- AB 254 (Thurmond) – Local Education Agency Pilot for Overall Needs;
- AB 1360 (Bonta) – Charter Schools: Pupil Admissions, Suspension and Expulsions; and
- AB 1478 (Jones-Sawyer) – Charter Schools,

and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board reserves the right to alter its position on any of the afore-stated legislation, as conditions may warrant, at any time.

¹ Each Bill is summarized in the attached School Services of California, Inc., Legislative Report Prepared for: Oakland Unified School District, Status as of: May 12, 2017.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Governing Board of Education of the Oakland Unified School District, this 24th day of May, 2017, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAINED:

ABSENT:

CERTIFICATION

We, James Harris and Devin Dillon, President and Interim Secretary of the Governing Board of the Oakland Unified School District, respectively, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly approved and adopted by the Board of Education of said District at its Regular Meeting held on the 24th day of May, 2017, with a copy of the Resolution being on file in the Office of the Board of Education of the District.

By: _____
James Harris, President
Board of Education

By: _____
Devin Dillon, Interim Secretary
Board of Education

SCHOOL SERVICES OF CALIFORNIA, INC.

Legislative Report Prepared for:
Oakland Unified School District
Status as of: May 12, 2017

Early Childhood Education

AB 60 (Santiago)

Title: Subsidized Child Care and Development Services: Eligibility Periods

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee

Position: Support

Summary:

Existing law, the Child Care and Development Services Act, requires the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SSPI) to administer child care and development programs that offer a full range of services for eligible children from infancy to 13 years of age. Existing law requires the SSPI to adopt rules and regulations on eligibility, enrollment, and priority of services needed to implement the act. The act, and regulations adopted pursuant to the act, set forth eligibility requirements for families to receive federal and state subsidized child development services and impose various time limits for receipt of services and recertification for continued services.

This bill would require that a family, upon establishing initial eligibility or ongoing eligibility for services under the act, be considered to meet all eligibility requirements for those services for not fewer than 12 months, receive those services for not fewer than 12 months before having its eligibility redetermined, and not be required to report changes to income or other changes for at least 12 months, except as provided. The bill would revise the definition of "income eligible" and provide that the definition applies for purposes of establishing initial income eligibility for services under the act, and would add a definition of "ongoing income eligible" for purposes of establishing ongoing income eligibility for services under the act. This bill contains other related provisions.

SSC Comment: We believe Assembly Bill 60 is consistent with the District's priority to achieve a coherent, high quality pre-kindergarten system, with minimal application complexities and stable, meaningful funding.

Employees

AB 45 (Thurmond)

Amended: 4/6/2017

Title: California School Employee Housing Assistance Grant Program

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee—Suspense File

Position: Support

Summary:

As amended on April 6, 2017, this bill would require the California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA) to administer the California School Employee Housing Assistance Program, a predevelopment grant and loan program, to fund the creation of affordable housing for school districts in high-cost, high-need communities. Funds for the program are not deemed as satisfying the Proposition 98 guarantee.

SSC Comment: A support position is consistent with the support position taken by the District last year on Assembly Bill 2200 (Thurmond).

[AB 234 \(Steinorth\)](#)

Title: Student Financial Aid: Assumption Program of Loans for Education

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee—Suspense File

Position: Support

Summary:

The bill would require the California Student Aid Commission to award 7,200 new warrants for the Assumption Program of Loans for Education (APLE) program in the 2017-18 fiscal year. The bill would appropriate \$5,000,000 to the Commission for the funding of warrants for the assumption of loans under the program for the 2017-18 fiscal year.

SSC Comment: We believe Assembly Bill 234 is consistent with the District's priority to support policies that promote the recruitment and development of a talented workforce trained to meet the needs of California's increasingly diverse student body. Additionally, funding for the program would come from outside Proposition 98.

[AB 463 \(Salas\)](#)

Title: Student Financial Aid: Assumption Program of Loans for Education

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee—Suspense File

Position: Support

Summary:

This bill would require the Student Aid Commission to issue 7,200 new warrants for the assumption of loans under the Assumption Program of Loans for Education (APLE) program commencing with the 2017-18 fiscal year.

SSC Comment: We believe Assembly Bill 463 is consistent with the District's priority to support policies that promote the recruitment and development of a talented workforce trained to meet the needs of California's increasingly diverse student body. Additionally, funding for the program would come from outside Proposition 98.

[AB 1220 \(Weber\)](#)

Amended: 4/18/2017

Title: Certificated School Employees: Permanent Status

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee

Recommended Position: Board Discussion

Summary:

AB 1220 creates the Teacher and Student Success Act, which would:

- Extend the current minimum time to tenure from two years to three years.
- Provide an optional fourth and fifth years with additional mentoring and other professional development resources for teachers who need extra support as a probationary employee.
- Require districts to give priority in allocating professional development funds for probationary employees in the fourth or fifth year of employment.

If the bill conflicts with existing collective bargaining agreements (CBAs), the provisions will not take effect until the expiration or renewal of the CBA.

SSC Comment: This is a controversial topic, and prior attempts at changing the length of tenure have been opposed by the California Teachers Association. A support position could be in line with the District's priority to support new teachers during the critically important first few years in the classroom and tenure policies that promote continuous improvement in teaching practices.

The bill is sponsored by Educators for Excellence and Teach Plus and supported by the Association of California School Administrators.

SB 807 (Stern)

Amended: 5/3/2017

Title: Personal Income Taxes: Credit: Exclusion: Teacher Recruitment and Retention Act of 2017

Status: Senate Appropriations Committee

Recommended Position: Support

Summary:

This bill would provide a tax credit for beginning teachers to offset the cost of clearing their credentials for up to 50% of the cost to do so and would provide a tax exemption to specific teachers, of up to 50% of their taxable income, if they teach in high-poverty schools.

Senate Bill (SB) 807 also clarifies intent that there be no effect on the Proposition 98 minimum funding guarantee from enactment of the measure to ensure this investment in addressing the teacher shortage does not affect regular funding provided by the state to support K-12 schools and community colleges.

SSC Comment: SB 807 is sponsored by EdVoice. We believe this bill is consistent with the District's priority to support the recruitment and development of a talented workforce trained to meet the needs of California's increasingly diverse student body and to support new teachers during the critically important first few years in the classroom.

Miscellaneous

AB 1506 (Bloom)

Title: Residential Rent Control: Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act

Status: Two-Year Bill

Recommended Position: No Position at this Time

Summary:

The Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act prescribes statewide limits on the application of local rent control with regard to certain properties. This bill would repeal that act.

SSC Comment: While this topic does not directly affect education, and therefore is deserving of Board discussion regarding concentration of legislative efforts, a support position could potentially align with the District's priority to explore affordable housing options for its employees.

The author recently announced that the bill will not be pursued this year.

School Safety and Student Discipline

[AB 424 \(McCarty\)](#)

Amended: 5/11/2017

Title: Possession of A Firearm In A School Zone

Status: Assembly Floor—Third Reading

Recommended Position: Board Discussion

Summary:

This bill would delete the authority of a school district superintendent, his or her designee, or equivalent school authority to provide written permission for a person to possess a firearm within a school zone.

As recently amended, this bill would exempt from that crime the activities of a program involving shooting sports or activities that are sanctioned by a school or school district.

SSC Comment: Firearms are currently prohibited in school zones unless the superintendent makes an exception for circumstances like a domestic violence restraining order or some other threat to the safety of an individual on campus.

A support position on Assembly Bill 424 would be consistent with the district's priority to create a safe and supportive school. Alternatively, a local decision could be made to restrict the permission currently allowed under the Education Code.

State Budget, Education Finance, LCFF

[AB 418 \(Chau\)](#)

Title: Elementary and Secondary Education: Computer Science Education Grant Pilot Program

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee—Suspense File

Position: No Position

Summary:

This bill would establish the Computer Science Education Grant Pilot Program. Under the program, eligible local educational agencies could apply to receive grants, not to exceed two years, to establish and maintain computer science courses in underserved areas and among pupils from groups historically underrepresented in the field of computer science, and to provide professional development for teachers to teach computer science, either as a stand-alone course or as integrated into other courses.

SSC Comment: Because Proposition 98 is a zero-sum game and any dollars being used to fund pilot programs would be dollars unavailable for the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), we do not recommend a support position unless the Computer Science Education Grant Pilot Program is of enough importance to override the need for discretionary LCFF funding.

[AB 716 \(O'Donnell\)](#)

Title: Magnet Schools

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee

Position: Watch

Summary:

This bill would express legislative findings and declarations related to magnet schools. The bill would establish a magnet school grant program, to be administered by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, under which an applicant school district may apply to the superintendent for a grant, not to exceed \$575,000

per school district, for the one-time costs associated with the startup of a new magnet school, as defined, in accordance with specified conditions and requirements. The bill would specify that funding provided for purposes of the program in the annual Budget Act or other legislation shall be used to allocate grants.

Student Health and Nutrition

AB 254 (Thurmond)

Amended: 5/3/2017

Title: Local Educational Agency Pilot for Overall Needs

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee

Position: Recommend Support

Summary:

This bill would require the California Department of Health Care Services (CDHCS), upon appropriation of funds, to establish the Local Educational Agency Pilot for Overall Needs (program) for the purpose of improving the mental health outcomes of students through a whole person care approach that is accomplished by providing funding to an eligible participant for the provision of direct health services, as defined. The bill would require the CDHCS to encourage eligible participants to participate in the program, to provide technical assistance to eligible participants, to develop a request for proposals process to determine funding allocation, and to formulate any necessary Medi-Cal State Plan amendments.

SB 138 (McGuire)

Amended: 3/8/2017

Title: School Meal Programs: Free and Reduced-Price Meals: Universal Free Meal Service

Status: Senate Appropriations Committee—Suspense File

Position: Support

Summary:

This bill would, on or before September 1, 2018, require a school district that has a “very high poverty school” in its jurisdiction to apply to operate a universal meal service pursuant to specified federal law, and to begin providing breakfast and lunch free of charge through the universal meal service to all pupils at the very high poverty school upon state approval to operate that service. The bill would authorize a school district to stop providing the universal free meal service at a school if the school ceases to be a very high poverty school.

“Very high poverty school” is defined as a school that enrolls pupils in kindergarten or in any of grades 1 to 12 and is eligible to receive federal reimbursement that covers 100% of school meals at the rate for free meals pursuant to the Community Eligibility Provision.

SSC Comment: A support position on Senate Bill 138 is consistent with the District’s health and wellness goals that support social, emotional, and physical health. Additionally, the District has been part of a successful pilot of 14 districts that this legislation seeks to expand.

SB 557 (Hernandez)**Amended:** 4/17/2017**Title:** Food Donations: Schools**Status:** Senate Floor—Consent**Position:** Support**Summary:**

Existing law generally prohibits food that is unused or returned by the consumer, after being served or sold and in the possession of a consumer, from being offered as food for human consumption.

This bill would exempt from this prohibition food that a public school cafeteria donates to a food bank or to any other nonprofit charitable organization, as defined, for distribution to persons free of charge that is any of the following:

- Prepackaged, nonpotentially hazardous food, including, but not limited, food with the packaging still in good condition
- Whole uncut produce
- Unopened bags of sliced fruit and unopened containers of milk that are immediately stored in a cooling bin maintained at 41 degrees Fahrenheit or below

SSC Comment: A support position on Senate Bill 557 is consistent with the District's health and wellness goals that support social, emotional, and physical health. Additionally, this bill has been crafted with input from the District's Nutrition Services division.

Transportation

AB 17 (Holden)**Title:** Transit Pass Program: Free or Reduced-Fare Transit Passes**Status:** Assembly Appropriations Committee—Suspense File**Position:** Support**Summary:**

This bill would create the Transit Pass Program to be administered by the Department of Transportation. Monies made available for the program, upon appropriation by the Legislature, would support transit pass programs that provide free or reduced-fare transit passes to specified pupils and students, including pupils attending public middle schools or high schools that are eligible for funding under Title I.

SSC Comment: A support position on Assembly Bill 17 is consistent with the District's desire to eliminate barriers to access, learning, and achievement for all students.

Charter Schools

AB 1360 (Bonta)

Amended: 3/30/2017

Title: Charter Schools: Pupil Admissions, Suspensions, and Expulsions

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee

Position:

Summary:

This bill would require the charter school's admission, suspension, and expulsion procedures to comply with specified minimum procedural requirements, including that the procedures comply with federal and state constitutional due process requirements. The bill would require a charter school's expulsion procedures to ensure that a pupil is entitled to a formal hearing and would authorize a pupil to appeal the expulsion to the county board of education.

The bill also would authorize a charter school to encourage parental involvement, but would require the charter school to notify the parents and guardians of applicant pupils and currently enrolled pupils that parental involvement is not a requirement for acceptance to, or continued enrollment at, the charter school.

The bill would also authorize a charter school to have preferential enrollment if: each type of preference is approved by the school at a public hearing; the preferences are consistent with federal law; if they do not require mandatory parental volunteer hours; and if it does not result in limiting enrollment access for pupils with disabilities, academically low-achieving pupils, English learners, neglected or delinquent pupils, homeless pupils, or pupils who are economically disadvantaged, as determined by eligibility for any free or reduced-price meal program.

SSC Comment: Assembly Bill (AB) 1360 is cosponsored by several labor organizations: the Alliance for Boys and Men of Color, Public Advocates, Public Counsel, and the ACLU. It is opposed by the California Charter Schools Association and the Charter Schools Development Center.

The District's legislative platform states: "We believe that California must take a careful and comprehensive look at charter school policies relating to the broad spectrum of authorization and renewal, governance, accountability, facilities, funding, and student service practices in an effort to retain charter innovations that benefit students while setting expectations regarding transparency and accountability required of all public school agencies."

We would recommend the Board have further discussion regarding a position on AB 1360 and whether the bill's provisions align with the Board's views on charter school student service practices, transparency, and governance.

AB 1478 (Jones-Sawyer)**Amended:** 5/1/2017**Title:** Charter Schools**Status:** Assembly Floor—Third Reading**Position:****Summary:**

This bill would require charter schools, and an entity managing a charter school, to comply with the same conflict of interest requirements as school districts, including:

- The Ralph M. Brown Act, unless a charter school is operated by an entity governed by the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, in which case it would be subject to that Act
- The California Public Records Act
- Government Code Section 1090 (which states that certain officers shall not be financially interested in any contract made by them in their official capacity, or by anybody or board of which they are members)
- The Political Reform Act of 1974 (PRA).

The measure would not prohibit an employee of a charter school from serving as a member of the governing body of that charter school, but specifies that such a member shall abstain from voting on all matters affecting his or her own employment.

SSC Comment: Assembly Bill (AB) 1478 is sponsored by CTA and supported by numerous labor organizations and CSBA. It is opposed by the California Charter Schools Association and EdVoice.

The District's legislative platform states: "We believe that California must take a careful and comprehensive look at charter school policies relating to the broad spectrum of authorization and renewal, governance, accountability, facilities, funding, and student service practices in an effort to retain charter innovations that benefit students while setting expectations regarding transparency and accountability required of all public school agencies."

We would recommend the Board have further discussion regarding a position on AB 1478 and whether the bill's provisions align with the Board's views on charter school accountability, transparency and governance.

SB 808 (Mendoza)**Amended:** 4/24/2017**Title:** Charter Schools: Chartering Authorities and Approvals**Status:** Two-Year Bill**Recommended Position:** Board Discussion**Summary:**

This bill would require all charter school petitions to be approved by the governing board of the school district in which the charter school is located, prohibit a charter school from locating outside of its authorizer's district boundaries, and limit the current charter appeal process to claims of procedural violations. The bill also would specify that charter schools previously approved by a county board or the state and charter schools operating outside of their authorizer's district boundaries may continue to operate until the charter is required to be renewed.

As amended on April 24, the bill would no longer authorize the governing board of a school district to deny a petition if it makes written factual findings in support of the fact that granting the petition would impose financial hardship on the school district.

SSC Comment: Testimony was taken on SB 808 on April 26 in the Senate Education Committee, but no vote was taken. The author plans to continue to work on the bill, but not bring it up for a vote in 2017. The bill is co-sponsored by CTA and CFT and opposed by California Charter Schools Association, EdVoice, and numerous charter schools.

SB 765 (Wiener)

Amended: 5/3/2017

Title: School Facilities: Surplus Real Property: Charter Schools

Status: Senate Appropriations Committee

Recommended Position: Board Discussion

Summary:

This bill would require the governing board of a school district seeking to sell or lease real property designed to provide direct instruction or instructional support that the governing board deems to be surplus property to first provide a written offer to sell or lease that property to any charter school that has submitted a written request to the school district to be notified of surplus real property offered by the school district for sale or lease.

Existing law, the Teacher Housing Act of 2016, authorizes a school district to establish and implement programs that address the housing needs of teachers and school district employees who face challenges in securing affordable housing.

This bill would exempt from the requirement to first provide a written offer to the above-specified charter schools the governing board of a school district seeking to sell or lease surplus property intended to be used in accordance with the Teacher Housing Act of 2016.

SSC Comment: Similar requirements were made through State Budget trailer bills, but expired on July 1, 2016. Districts generally did not favor this provision as the selling price would be below market value, and few districts declared property as surplus during this time.

We would recommend the Board have further discussion regarding a position on Senate Bill 765.



AB 254—Comprehensive Healthcare in Schools

IN BRIEF

Establish a pilot program that would maximize participation and federal reimbursement under the LEA Billing Program while increasing the comprehensive healthcare services provided in schools.

BACKGROUND

The Local Education Agency (LEA) Billing Program provides up to a 50% federal reimbursement for a specified direct health services provided to Medi-Cal-enrolled students. Reimbursement is limited to services that are already provided by a school district and cannot go to create a new service, nor replace funding levels for an existing program. Examples of reinvestments can include health care services (e.g. immunizations) and mental health services (e.g. primary prevention and crisis intervention, assessments, or training for teachers to recognize mental health problems).

On September 15, 2015, as allowed by the Federal government, California has joined other states in reversing the free care rule. The removal of this rule now permits reimbursement for Medi-Cal-covered services provided to Medi-Cal enrollees, regardless of whether the service is also provided at no cost to other non-Medi-Cal populations. The reversal frees up schools to seek reimbursement for services to all Medi-Cal students; enhance and expand the role of school districts in the broader health delivery system. In addition, the Department of Health Care Services is in on-going conversations with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to expand the reimbursable services, providers who can be reimbursed, and a change in the billing methodology that could reduce staff time required.

These potential changes to the LEA Billing Option program present an opportunity for the State of California to promote school-based health care services while attaining a return-on-investment from the federal government. In targeting school districts with students who could most benefit from this pilot program, this bill would improve educational outcomes through more wholesome school-based physical and mental healthcare services.

In recent years, there has been a concerted effort to move towards a collaborative model of care that is sensitive to the overall needs that encompass care—often called the Whole Person Care model. This model extends specifically to the unique needs of vulnerable populations facing significant barriers to access—specifically children and youth in Medi-Cal. These populations are more likely to experience a multitude of physical and behavioral health issues stemming from or amplified by psychosocial challenges such as food insecurity, abuse, or substance misuse in their household. These issues are particularly consequential to the children who exist within these vulnerable populations.

These children face challenges to access of care given their location or that they simply cannot make appointments. In such cases, schools provide the best setting to provide such wholesome care. In recognition of the critical role schools play in addressing the social and emotional needs of students, research indicates that providing physical and mental health services in schools can improve both academic and treatment outcomes. Given this, school-based, school-linked, and community health providers must ensure access to health and mental health services.

SOLUTION

Establish a four-year pilot program under the Department of Health Care Services targeting LEAs who: 1) do not participate in the LEA Billing Option Program, but have a high population of Medi-Cal eligible students 2) participate in the LEA Billing Option Program, but who receive low reimbursement in relation to their Medi-Cal eligible student population. Funds would be used to increase direct health services for their students, not already provided—contingent on their participation in the LEA Billing Option program. LEAs can provide services through direct employment of health care practitioners, such as school nurses, or by contracting with other health care practitioners or School Health Centers to establish or expand physical and mental health services.

SUPPORT

California State PTA
California Alliance of Child and Family Services
California School Nurses Association

California Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Rodolfo E. Rivera Aquino, Office of Asm. Tony Thurmond
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FACT SHEET

AB 716 (O'Donnell)

Magnet School Startup Grants

SUMMARY

AB 716 establishes a magnet school grant program to provide one-time funding to cover the costs of establishing magnet schools.

PROBLEM

The Civil Rights Project at the University of California, Los Angeles refers to magnet schools as "the forgotten choice." Magnet schools are schools that offer alternative instructional approaches and/or focus on specific academic areas, such as Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) courses or visual and performing arts programs. The presence of magnet schools in a school district expands school choice by giving students and parents alternatives to traditional schools.

Research shows that, on average, magnet schools outperform traditional schools on a variety of academic outcome measures, even after accounting for potential differences between students who chose to attend a magnet school and those that don't. The Century Foundation has determined that magnet schools constitute the most promising turnaround model for improving underperforming schools.

Magnet schools have also been shown to confer desirable social benefits. For example, students of color in magnet schools report closer relationships with white students and are more likely to have white friends. Similarly, white students in magnet report having closer relationships with students of color and are more likely to have friends who are students of color.

So magnet schools not only expand school choice; they also offer an option that has been shown to be academically and socially superior.

SOLUTION

Unfortunately, the costs of planning, preparing for, and starting up magnet schools can be prohibitive for many school districts. By providing one-time grant funding to help cover these costs, AB 716 can knock down the financial barriers and encourage more districts to establish magnet schools.

AB 716 provides a one-time grant of up to \$575,000 per school district to cover startup costs like supplies, instructional materials, professional development, curriculum development and acquisition, and site preparation. This is the same level of funding that is provided for charter school startup grants, and the funds may be used for the same purposes as charter school startup grants.

AB 716 states that the magnet school grant program is subject to an appropriation for this purpose in the Budget Act or other legislation.

STAFF CONTACT

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