

BEFORE THE
COMMISSION ON STATE MANDATES
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN RE PARAMETERS AND GUIDELINES ON:

Education Code Section 76300; Statutes 1984xx, Chapter 1; Statutes 1984, Chapters 274 and 1401; Statutes 1985, Chapters 920 and 1454; Statutes 1986, Chapters 46 and 394; Statutes 1987, Chapter 1118; Statutes 1989, Chapter 136; Statutes 1991, Chapter 114; Statutes 1992, Chapter 703; Statutes 1993, Chapters 8, 66, 67, and 1124; Statutes 1994, Chapters 153 and 422; Statutes 1995, Chapter 308; Statutes 1996, Chapter 63; and Statutes 1999, Chapter 72; California Code of Regulations, Title 5, Sections 58501 – 58503.

Filed on June 28, 2000,

By Los Rios Community College District, Claimant
and

Education Code Section 76300; Statutes 1984xx, Chapter 1; Statutes 1984, Chapters 274 and 1401; Statutes 1985, Chapters 920 and 1454; Statutes 1986, Chapters 46 and 394; Statutes 1987, Chapter 1118; Statutes 1989, Chapter 136; Statutes 1993, Chapters 8, 66, 67, and 1124; Statutes 1994, Chapters 153 and 422; Statutes 1995, Chapter 308; Statutes 1996, Chapter 63; and Statutes 1999, Chapter 72; California Code of Regulations, Title 5, Sections 58611 – 58613, 58620, 58630;

Filed on June 4, 2001,

By Glendale Community College District, Claimant.

No. 99-TC-13 and 00-TC-15


Enrollment Fee Collection and Waivers

ADOPTION OF PARAMETERS AND
GUIDELINES PURSUANT TO
GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION
17557 AND TITLE 2, CALIFORNIA
CODE OF REGULATIONS, SECTION
1183.14

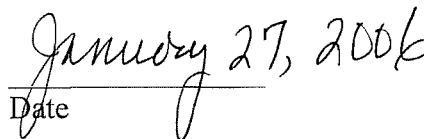
(Adopted on January 26, 2006)

PARAMETERS AND GUIDELINES

On January 26, 2006, the Commission on State Mandates adopted the attached Parameters and Guidelines.



e Director



Date

MAILED: Mail List FAXED: _____
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PROPOSED PARAMETERS AND GUIDELINES, AS MODIFIED BY STAFF

Education Code Section 76300

California Code of Regulations, Title 5, Sections 58501- 58503;
58611- 58613, 58620, 58630

Enrollment Fee Collection and Waivers (99-TC-13 and 00-TC-15)

Los Rios and Glendale Community College Districts, Claimants

I. SUMMARY OF THE MANDATE

Claimant Los Rios Community College District (LRCCD), submitted the *Enrollment Fee Collection* test claim (99-TC-13) in June 2000 alleging a reimbursable state mandate for community college districts by requiring specific new activities and costs related to collecting enrollment fees. Claimant Glendale Community College District (GCCD) submitted the *Enrollment Fee Waivers* (00-TC-15) test claim in June 2001 alleging a reimbursable state mandate for community college districts by requiring specific new activities and costs related to granting fee waivers, Board of Governor's (BOG) Grants and financial assistance to students. In August 2002, the *Enrollment Fee Collection* and *Enrollment Fee Waiver* test claims were consolidated.

On April 24, 2003, the Commission on State Mandates (Commission) adopted the Statement of Decision for the *Enrollment Fee Collection and Waivers* program. The Commission found that the test claim legislation constitutes a new program or higher level of service and imposes a reimbursable state-mandated program on community college districts within the meaning of article XIII B, section 6 of the California Constitution and Government Code section 17514. Accordingly, the Commission approved this test claim for the following reimbursable activities:

- Calculating and collecting the student enrollment fee for each student enrolled except for nonresidents, and except for special part-time students cited in section 76300, subdivision (f). (Ed. Code, § 76300, subs. (a) & (b); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, §§ 58501, 58502 & 58503.)
- Waiving student fees in accordance with the groups listed in Education Code section 76300, subdivisions (g) and (h).
- Waiving fees for students who apply for and are eligible for BOG fee waivers. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, §§ 58612, 58613 & 58620.)
- Reporting to the Community Colleges Chancellor (CCC) the number of and amounts provided for BOG fee waivers. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 58611.)
- Adopting procedures that will document all financial assistance provided on behalf of students pursuant to chapter 9 of title 5 of the California Code of Regulations; and including in the procedures the rules for retention of support documentation which will enable an independent determination regarding accuracy of the district's certification of need for financial assistance. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 58630, subd. (b).)

The Commission found that all other test claim statutes and regulations not cited above do not impose reimbursable state-mandated activities within the meaning of article XIII B, section 6 and Government Code section 17514.

II. ELIGIBLE CLAIMANTS

Any community college district that incurs increased costs as a direct result of this reimbursable state mandated program is eligible to claim reimbursement of those costs.

III. PERIOD OF REIMBURSEMENT

Government Code section 17557 states that a test claim must be submitted on or before June 30 following a given fiscal year to establish eligibility for reimbursement for that fiscal year. The test claim for *Enrollment Fee Collection* (99-TC-13) was filed in June 2000, and the test claim for *Enrollment Fee Waivers* (00-TC-15) was filed in June 2001. Thus, costs incurred for compliance with *Enrollment Fee Collection* are reimbursable on or after July 1, 1998, and costs incurred for compliance with *Enrollment Fee Waivers* are reimbursable on or after July 1, 1999.

Actual costs for one fiscal year shall be included in each claim. Estimated costs for the subsequent year may be included on the same claim, if applicable. Pursuant to Government Code section 17561, subdivision (d)(1)(A), all claims for reimbursement of initial fiscal year costs shall be submitted to the State Controller within 120 days of the issuance date for the claiming instructions.

If the total costs for a given year do not exceed \$1,000, no reimbursement shall be allowed, except as otherwise allowed by Government Code section 17564.

IV. REIMBURSABLE ACTIVITIES

To be eligible for mandated cost reimbursement for any fiscal year, only actual costs may be claimed. Actual costs are those costs actually incurred to implement the mandated activities. Actual costs must be traceable and supported by source documents that show the validity of such costs, when they were incurred, and their relationship to the reimbursable activities. A source document is a document created at or near the same time the actual cost was incurred for the event or activity in question. Source documents may include, but are not limited to, employee time records or time logs, sign-in sheets, invoices, and receipts.

Evidence corroborating the source documents may include, but is not limited to, worksheets, cost allocation reports (system generated), purchase orders, contracts, agendas, and declarations. Declarations must include a certification or declaration stating, "I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct," and must further comply with the requirements of Code of Civil Procedure section 2015.5. Evidence corroborating the source documents may include data relevant to the reimbursable activities otherwise in compliance with local, state, and federal government requirements. However, corroborating documents cannot be substituted for source documents.

The claimant is only allowed to claim and be reimbursed for increased costs for reimbursable activities identified below. Increased cost is limited to the cost of an activity that the claimant is required to incur as a result of the mandate.

For each eligible claimant, the following activities are reimbursable:

A. Enrollment Fee Collection (*Reimbursement Period begins July 1, 1998*)

1. One-Time Activities

a. Policies and Procedures

Prepare district policies and procedures for the collection of enrollment fees.

b. Staff Training (One-time per employee)

Training district staff that implement the program on the procedures for the collection of enrollment fees.

2. Ongoing Activities

- a. Calculating and collecting the student enrollment fee for each student enrolled, except for nonresidents, and except for special part-time students cited in section 76300, subdivision (f). (Ed. Code, §76300, subs. (a) & (b); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, §§ 58501, 58502 & 58503). This includes:
- i. Referencing student accounts and records to determine course workload, status of payments, and eligibility for fee waiver. Printing a list of enrolled courses.
 - ii. Calculating the total enrollment fee to be collected. Identifying method of payment. Collecting cash and making change as necessary. Processing credit card and other non-cash payment transactions (however, any fees that may be charged to a community college district by a credit card company or bank are not reimbursable). Preparing a receipt for payment received.
 - iii. Answering student's questions regarding enrollment fee collection or referring them to the appropriate person for an answer.
 - iv. Updating written and computer records for the enrollment fee information and providing a copy to the student. Copying and filing enrollment fee documentation.
 - v. Collecting delinquent enrollment fees, including written or telephonic collection notices to students, turning accounts over to collection agencies, or small claims court action.
 - vi. For students who establish fee waiver eligibility after the enrollment fee has been collected, providing a refund or enrollment fees paid and updating student and district records as required. (Refund process for change in program is not reimbursable).

B. Enrollment Fee Waiver (*Reimbursement Period begins July 1, 1999*)

1. One-Time Activities

a. Policies and Procedures

Prepare district policies and procedures for determining which students are eligible for waiver of the enrollment fees.

b. Staff Training (One-time per employee)

Training district staff that implement the program on the procedures for determining which students are eligible for waiver of the enrollment fee.

2. Ongoing Activities

- a. Adopting procedures that will document all financial assistance provided on behalf of students pursuant to chapter 9 of title 5 of the California Code of Regulations; and including in the procedures the rules for retention of support documentation that will enable an independent determination regarding accuracy of the district's certification of need for financial assistance. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 58630, subd. (b).)

Recording and maintaining records that document all of the financial assistance provided to students for the waiver of enrollment fees in a manner that will enable an independent determination of the district's certification of the need for financial assistance. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 58630, subd. (b).)

- b. Waiving student fees in accordance with groups listed in Education Code section 76300, subdivisions (g) and (h).) Waiving fees for students who apply for and are eligible for BOG fee waivers (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5 §§ 58612, 58613 & 58620). This includes:

- i. Answering student's questions regarding enrollment fee waivers or referring them to the appropriate person for an answer.
- ii. Receiving of waiver applications from students by mail, fax, computer online access, or in person, or in the form of eligibility information processed by the financial aid office.
- iii. Evaluating each application and verification documents (dependency status, household size and income, SSI and TANF/CalWorks, etc.) for compliance with eligibility standards utilizing information provided by the student, from the student financial aid records (e.g., Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)), and other records.
- iv. In the case of an incomplete application or incomplete documentation, notify the student of the additional required information and how to obtain that information. Hold student application and documentation in suspense file until all information is received.
- v. In the case of an approved application, copy all documentation and file the information for further review or audit. Entering the approved application information into district records and /or notifying other personnel performing other parts of the process (e.g., cashier's office). Providing the student with proof of eligibility or an award letter, and file paper documents in the annual file.
- vi. In the case of a denied application, reviewing and evaluating additional information and documentation provided by the student if the denial is appealed by the student. Provide written notification to the student of the results of the appeal or any change in eligibility status.

- c. Reporting to the CCC the number of and amounts provided for BOG fee waivers. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 58611.)

V. CLAIM PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION

Each of the following cost elements must be identified for each reimbursable activity identified in Section IV, Reimbursable Activities, of this document. Each claimed reimbursable cost must be supported by source documentation as described in Section IV. Additionally, each reimbursement claim must be filed in a timely manner.

A. Direct Cost Reporting

Direct costs are those costs incurred specifically for the reimbursable activities. The following direct costs are eligible for reimbursement.

1. Salaries and Benefits

Report each employee implementing the reimbursable activities by name, job classification, and productive hourly rate (total wages and related benefits divided by productive hours). Describe the specific reimbursable activities performed and the hours devoted to each reimbursable activity performed.

2. Materials and Supplies

Report the cost of materials and supplies that have been consumed or expended for the purpose of the reimbursable activities. Purchases shall be claimed at the actual price after deducting discounts, rebates, and allowances received by the claimant. Supplies that are withdrawn from inventory shall be charged on an appropriate and recognized method of costing, consistently applied.

3. Contracted Services

Report the name of the contractor and services performed to implement the reimbursable activities. Attach a copy of the contract to the claim. If the contractor bills for time and materials, report the number of hours spent on the activities and all costs charged. If the contract is a fixed price, report the dates when services were performed and itemize all costs for those services.

4. Fixed Assets and Equipment

Report the purchase price paid for fixed assets and equipment (including computers) necessary to implement the reimbursable activities. The purchase price includes taxes, delivery costs, and installation costs. If the fixed asset or equipment is also used for purposes other than the reimbursable activities, only the pro-rata portion of the purchase price used to implement the reimbursable activities can be claimed.

5. Travel

Report the name of the employee traveling for the purpose of the reimbursable activities. Include the date of travel, destination point, the specific reimbursable activity requiring travel, and related travel expenses reimbursed to the employee in compliance with the rules of the local jurisdiction. Report employee travel time according to the rules of cost element A.1, Salaries and Benefits, for each applicable reimbursable activity.

6. Training

Report the cost of training an employee to perform the reimbursable activities, as specified in Section IV of this document. Report the name and job classification of each employee preparing for, attending, and/or conducting training necessary to implement the reimbursable activities. Provide the title, subject, and purpose (related to the mandate of the training session), dates attended, and location. If the training encompasses subjects broader than the reimbursable activities, only the pro-rata portion can be claimed. Report employee training time for each applicable reimbursable activity according to the rules of cost element A.1, Salaries and Benefits, and A.2, Materials and Supplies. Report the cost of consultants who conduct the training according to the rules of cost element A.3, Contracted Services.

B. Indirect Cost Rates

Indirect costs are costs that have been incurred for common or joint purposes. These costs benefit more than one cost objective and cannot be readily identified with a particular final cost objective without effort disproportionate to the results achieved. After direct costs have been determined and assigned to other activities, as appropriate, indirect costs are those remaining to be allocated to benefited cost objectives. A cost may not be allocated as an indirect cost if any other cost incurred for the same purpose, in like circumstances, has been claimed as a direct cost.

Indirect costs include: (a) the indirect costs originating in each department or agency of the governmental unit carrying out state mandated programs, and (b) the costs of central governmental services distributed through the central service cost allocation plan and not otherwise treated as direct costs.

Community colleges have the option of using: (1) a federally approved rate, utilizing the cost accounting principles from the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-21, "Cost Principles of Educational Institutions"; (2) the rate calculated on State Controller's Form FAM-29C; or (3) a 7% indirect cost rate.

VI. RECORD RETENTION

Pursuant to Government Code section 17558.5, subdivision (a), a reimbursement claim for actual costs filed by a local agency or school district pursuant to this chapter¹ is subject to the initiation of an audit by the Controller no later than three years after the date that the actual reimbursement claim is filed or last amended, whichever is later. However, if no funds are appropriated or no payment is made to a claimant for the program for the fiscal year for which the claim is filed, the time for the Controller to initiate an audit shall commence to run from the date of initial payment of the claim. In any case, an audit shall be completed not later than two years after the date that the audit is commenced. All documents used to support the reimbursable activities, as described in Section IV, must be retained during the period subject to audit. If an audit has been initiated by the Controller during the period subject to audit, the retention period is extended until the ultimate resolution of any audit findings.

¹ This refers to Title 2, division 4, part 7, chapter 4 of the Government Code.

VII. OFFSETTING SAVINGS AND REIMBURSEMENTS

Any offsetting savings the claimant experiences in the same program as a result of the same statutes or executive orders found to contain the mandate shall be deducted from the costs claimed. In addition, reimbursement for this mandate from any source, including but not limited to, services fees collected, federal funds, and other state funds, shall be identified and deducted from this claim.

Enrollment Fee Collection Program:

The costs of the Enrollment Fee Collection program are subject to an offset of two percent (2%) of the revenue from enrollment fees (Ed. Code, § 76000, subd. (c)).

Enrollment Fee Waiver Program:

The costs of the Enrollment Fee Waiver program are subject to the following offsets:

July 1, 1999 to July 4, 2000:

- For low income students² or recipients of public assistance,³ or dependents or surviving spouses of National Guard soldiers killed in the line of duty,⁴ as defined:
 - an offset identified in Education Code section 76300, subdivision (m), that requires the Community College Board of Governors, from funds in the annual budget act, to allocate to community colleges two percent (2%) of the fees waived, under subdivisions (g) [low income students, as defined, or specified recipients of public assistance] and (h) [dependents or surviving spouses of California National Guard soldiers killed in the line of duty, as defined] of section 76300; and
- For determination of financial need and delivery of student financial aid services, on the basis of the number of low income students (as defined) or recipients of public assistance (as defined), or dependents or surviving spouses of National Guard soldiers killed in the line of duty, for whom fees are waived:

² “[A]ny student who demonstrates eligibility according to income standards established by the board of governors and contained in Section 58260 of Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations.” (Ed. Code, § 76300, subd. (g)(2).)

³ “[A]ny student who, at the time of enrollment, is a recipient of benefits under the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program, the Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Program, or a general assistance program or has demonstrated financial need in accordance with the methodology set forth in federal law or regulation for determining the expected family contribution of students seeking financial aid.” (Ed. Code, § 76300, subd. (g)(1).)

⁴ “[A]ny student who, at the time of enrollment is a dependent, or surviving spouse who has not remarried, of any member of the California National Guard who, in the line of duty and while in the active service of the state, was killed, died of a disability resulting from an event that occurred while in the active service of the state, or is permanently disabled as a result of an event that occurred while in the active service of the state. “Active service of the state,” for the purposes of this subdivision, refers to a member of the California National Guard activated pursuant to Section 146 of the Military and Veterans Code.” (Ed. Code, § 76300, subd. (h).)

- from funds provided in the annual State Budget Act, the board of governors shall allocate to community college districts, pursuant to this subdivision, an amount equal to seven percent (7%) of the fee waivers provided pursuant to subdivisions (g) [low income students, as defined, or specified recipients of public assistance] and (h) [dependents or surviving spouses of California National Guard soldiers killed in the line of duty, as defined].⁵

Beginning July 5, 2000:

- For low income students (as defined, or recipients of public assistance (as defined) or dependents or surviving spouses of National Guard soldiers killed in the line of duty, for whom fees are waived (as defined):
 - an offset identified in Education Code section 76300, subdivision (m), that requires the Community College Board of Governors, from funds in the annual budget act, to allocate to community colleges two percent (2%) of the fees waived, under subdivisions (g) [low income students, as defined, or specified recipients of public assistance] and (h) [dependents of California National Guard soldiers killed in the line of duty as defined] of section 76300;
- For determination of financial need and delivery of student financial aid services, on the basis of the number of low income students (as defined) or recipients of public assistance (as defined) for whom fees are waived
 - requires the Board of Governors to allocate from funds in the annual State Budget Act ninety-one cents (\$0.91) per credit unit waived pursuant to subdivisions (g) [low income students, as defined, or specified recipients of public assistance] and (h) [dependents of California National Guard soldiers killed in the line of duty as defined]
- Any budget augmentation received under the Board Financial Assistance Program Administrative Allowance, or any other state budget augmentation received for administering the fee waiver program.

VIII. STATE CONTROLLER'S CLAIMING INSTRUCTIONS

Pursuant to Government Code section 17558, subdivision (b), the Controller shall issue claiming instructions for each mandate that requires state reimbursement not later than 60 days after receiving the adopted parameters and guidelines from the Commission, to assist local agencies and school districts in claiming costs to be reimbursed. The claiming instructions shall be derived from the test claim decision and the parameters and guidelines adopted by the Commission.

⁵ These waiver provisions were subsequently expanded to waive fees for children of law enforcement personnel or firefighters killed in the line of duty (Ed. Code, § 76300, subd. (i)), or dependents of victims of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks (Ed. Code, § 76300, subd. (j)), but these parameters and guidelines do not include those waiver recipients because they were added by Statutes 2002, chapter 450 and are outside the scope of the Statement of Decision.

Pursuant to Government Code section 17561, subdivision (d)(1), issuance of the claiming instructions shall constitute a notice of the right of the local agencies and school districts to file reimbursement claims, based upon parameters and guidelines adopted by the Commission.

IX. REMEDIES BEFORE THE COMMISSION

Upon request of a local agency or school district, the Commission shall review the claiming instructions issued by the State Controller or any other authorized state agency for reimbursement of mandated costs pursuant to Government Code section 17571. If the Commission determines that the claiming instructions do not conform to the parameters and guidelines, the Commission shall direct the Controller to modify the claiming instructions and the Controller shall modify the claiming instructions to conform to the parameters and guidelines as directed by the Commission.

In addition, requests may be made to amend parameters and guidelines pursuant to Government Code section 17557, subdivision (d), and California Code of Regulations, title 2, section 1183.2.

X. LEGAL AND FACTUAL BASIS FOR THE PARAMETERS AND GUIDELINES

The Statement of Decision is legally binding on all parties and provides the legal and factual basis for the parameters and guidelines. The support for the legal and factual findings is found in the administrative record for the test claim. The administrative record, including the Statement of Decision, is on file with the Commission.

