

STATEWIDE COST ESTIMATE

\$802,888

Education Code Sections 49069.3, 49069.5, 49076.5, 76234

Statutes 1989, Chapter 593

Statutes 1993, Chapter 561

Statutes 1998, Chapter 311

Statutes 2000, Chapter 67;

Student Records

02-TC-34

Test Claim Filed: June 23, 2003

Reimbursement Period for this Estimate: July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2009

Eligible Claimants: Any School District, including Community College Districts

STAFF ANALYSIS

Background and Summary of the Mandate

This program addresses various areas of pupil and student record management for kindergarten through 12th grade (K-12) school districts and community college districts including access to and the privacy of pupil and student records.

The Commission on State Mandates (Commission) adopted a statement of decision concluding that Education Code sections 49069.3, 49069.5, and 49076.5 for K-12 school districts and Education Code 76234 for community college districts constitute a reimbursable state-mandated program within the meaning of article XIII B, section 6 of the California Constitution and Government Code section 17514.

The test claim was filed on June 23, 2003. The Commission adopted the statement of decision on May 29, 2009, and the parameters and guidelines on July 29, 2010. Eligible claimants were required to file initial reimbursement claims with the State Controller's Office (SCO) by January 31, 2011, and late claims by January 31, 2012.

Eligible Claimants and Period of Reimbursement

Any "school district" as defined in Government Code section 17519, including community colleges, which incurs increased costs as a result of this mandate, is eligible to claim reimbursement. The reimbursement period for this new mandate began on July 1, 2001.

Reimbursable Activities

The Commission approved the following activities for reimbursement:

A. K-12 School Districts

1. Provide access to records of grades and transcripts, and any individualized education plans of a current or former pupil under the jurisdiction of a foster family agency to the foster family agency. (Ed. Code, § 49069.3 (Stats. 2000, ch. 67).)

2. Cooperate with the county social service or probation department to ensure that a pupil's education record is transferred to the receiving local education agency in a timely manner after the K-12 school district has been informed of the pupil's next educational placement and upon the request of a county social service or probation department, a regional center for the developmentally disabled, or other placing agency. (Ed. Code, § 49069.5, subd. (b) (Stats. 1998, ch. 311.) (Period of reimbursement July 1, 2001-Dec. 31, 2003).)
3. Cooperate with the county social service or probation department to ensure that educational background information for a pupil's health and educational record is transferred to the receiving local educational agency in a timely manner after the K-12 school district has been informed of the pupil's next educational placement.
 Educational background information transferred pursuant to Education Code section 49069.5, subdivision (c), includes but is not limited to: (1) a health and education summary as described in Welfare and Institutions Code section 16010 (Stats. 2001, ch. 353); (2) the location of the pupil's records; (3) the last school and teacher of the pupil; (4) the pupil's current grade level; and (5) any information deemed necessary to enable enrollment at the receiving school, to the extent allowable under state and federal law. (Ed. Code, § 49069.5, subds. (c) and (d) (Stats. 1998., ch. 311.) (Period of reimbursement July 1, 2001-Dec. 31, 2003).)
4. Transfer the educational and health record of a pupil in foster care to the pupil's new local educational agency within five working days of receipt of information regarding the new educational placement of the pupil. (Ed. Code, § 49069.5, subd. (e) (Stats. 1998, ch. 311).)
5. Release any information it has specific to a particular pupil's identity and location that relates to the transfer of that pupil's records to another school district within this state or any other state or to a private school in this state to a designated peace officer, upon his or her request, when a proper police purpose exists for the use of that information. (Ed. Code, § 49076.5, subd. (a) (Stats. 1993, ch. 561).)

B. Community College Districts

1. Inform the alleged victim of sexual assault or physical abuse (as defined by Ed. Code, § 76234), within three days of the results of any disciplinary action by the community college and the results of any appeal, whenever there is included in any student record information concerning any disciplinary action taken by a community college concerning the alleged sexual assault or physical abuse. (Ed. Code, § 76234 (Stats. 1989, ch. 593).)

Offsetting Revenue Provisions

The Commission found that the fee authority to charge a fee that does not exceed the actual cost of furnishing copies of any pupil records, set forth in Education Code section 49065, is applicable to the state-mandated programs here. This fee authority does not extend to furnishing the first two transcripts of former pupils' records, or the first two verifications of various records of former pupils, or the search for or retrieval of any pupil record. Therefore, any revenue resulting from the fee authority set forth in Education Code section 49065 is offsetting revenue and shall be deducted from the costs claimed for furnishing pupil records.

Statewide Cost Estimate

Staff reviewed the claims data submitted by 22 school districts and compiled by the SCO. The actual claims data showed that 80 claims were filed for nine fiscal years for a total of \$802,888.¹ Based on this data, staff made the following assumptions and used the following methodology to develop a statewide cost estimate for this program.

Amendments to Education Code section 49069.5 in 2003 removed two of the five reimbursable activities for school districts. Reimbursement for those activities ended on December 31, 2003. Of the 50 claims that staff reviewed in detail, none of them contained costs for those two deleted activities after fiscal year 2003-2004.

Assumptions

- 1) *The amount claimed for reimbursement may increase if late or amended claims are filed.*

There are currently 1,047 school districts and 72 community college districts in California. Of those, only 22 school districts filed reimbursement claims for this program between 2001 and 2010. If other eligible claimants file late or amended claims, the amount of reimbursement claims may exceed the statewide cost estimate. Late claims for this program may be filed until January 31, 2012.

- 2) *The total costs of this program may also increase in future years if there is an increase in the number of requests to:*

K-12 School Districts

- provide access to records of current or former pupils to foster family agencies;
- transfer educational and health records to new educational agencies;
- release identity and location information to designated peace officers;

Community College Districts

- inform victims of sexual assault or physical abuse of any disciplinary action taken by the community college.

- 3) *There may be several reasons that non-claiming school districts did not file for reimbursement, including but not limited to:*

- The Commission approved only a small portion of this program as a mandate. Therefore, most school districts cannot reach the \$1,000 threshold for filing reimbursement claims.
- They did not have supporting documentation to file a reimbursement claim.

- 4) *The total amount of reimbursement for this program may be lower than the statewide cost estimate because the SCO may reduce any reimbursement claim for this program.*

The SCO may conduct audits on this program and reduce any claim it deems to be excessive or unreasonable.

Methodology

Fiscal Years 2001-2002, 2002-2003, 2003-2004, 2004-2005, 2005-2006, 2006-2007, 2007-2008, 2008-2009, and 2009-2010.

¹ Claims data reported as of March 18, 2011.

The proposed statewide cost estimate for the above-named fiscal years was developed by totaling the 80 reimbursement claims filed with the SCO for these years.

The proposed statewide cost estimate includes nine fiscal years for a total of \$802,888 for the *Student Records* program. This averages to \$89,210 annually in costs for the state for this nine-year period.

Following is a breakdown of estimated total costs per fiscal year:

Fiscal Year	Number of School District Claims Filed with SCO	Estimated Cost
2001-2002	5	\$32,464
2002-2003	6	\$38,314
2003-2004	6	\$46,467
2004-2005	6	\$70,554
2005-2006	7	\$65,714
2006-2007	8	\$78,325
2007-2008	10	\$119,826
2008-2009	10	\$131,350
2009-2010	22	\$219,874
TOTAL	80	\$802,888

Comments on the Draft Staff Analysis and Proposed Statewide Cost Estimate

On April 15, 2011, Commission staff issued the draft staff analysis and proposed statewide estimate for comment. No comments were submitted.

Conclusion

The Commission on State Mandates adopted a statewide cost estimate of **\$802,888** for costs incurred in complying with the *Student Records* program.