

**DEPARTMENT OF  
FINANCE**

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, GOVERNOR

915 L STREET ■ SACRAMENTO CA ■ 95814-3706 ■ WWW.DOF.CA.GOV

March 18, 2004

Ms. Paula Higashi  
Executive Director  
Commission on State Mandates  
980 Ninth Street, Suite 300  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RECEIVED**

MAR 24 2004

**COMMISSION ON  
STATE MANDATES**

Dear Ms. Higashi:

As requested in your letters dated October 7, 2003, and February 19, 2004, the Department of Finance has reviewed the draft analysis of Test Claim Numbers CSM-00-TC-09, CSM-00-TC-13, and CSM-02-TC-32, submitted by the Empire Union Unified School District, Sweetwater Union High School District, and Bakersfield City School District (claimants), asking the Commission to determine whether specified costs incurred under various chaptered legislation are reimbursable State mandated costs.

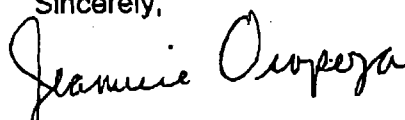
Finance previously stated in our letter dated September 24, 2003, regarding the test claims submitted by Empire Union School District (CSM-00-TC-13 School Accountability Report Card II), Sweetwater Union High School District, and Bakersfield City School District (CSM-02-TC-32 School Accountability Report Card III), that while some of the activities addressed in those claims are reimbursable, the incremental cost of including that information in an accountability report card should be minimal.

We revise our previous analysis and concur with the staff analysis for these claims, which finds that the proposed activities do not impose a new program or higher level of service than that imposed by the voters in the Constitution, and therefore does not impose reimbursable costs mandated by the State. The changes cited are so minimal in extent and cost that they do not rise to a "higher level of service."

As required by the Commission's regulations, we are including a "Proof of Service" indicating that the parties included on the mailing list which accompanied your February 19, 2004, letter have been provided with copies of this letter via either United States Mail or, in the case of other State agencies, Interagency Mail Service.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Michael Wilkening, Principal Program Budget Analyst at (916) 445-0328 or Keith Gmeinder, State mandates claims coordinator for the Department of Finance, at (916) 445-8913.

Sincerely,

  
Jeannie Oropeza  
Program Budget Manager

Attachment A

DECLARATION OF MICHAEL WILKENING  
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE  
CLAIM NO. CSM-02-TC-32

- 1. I am currently employed by the State of California, Department of Finance (Finance), am familiar with the duties of Finance, and am authorized to make this declaration on behalf of Finance.
- 2. We concur that the chaptered legislation sections relevant to this claim are accurately quoted in the test claim submitted by claimants and, therefore, we do not restate them in this declaration.

I certify under penalty of perjury that the facts set forth in the foregoing are true and correct of my own knowledge except as to the matters therein stated as information or belief and, as to those matters, I believe them to be true.

March 23, 2004  
at Sacramento, CA

Michael Wilkening  
Michael Wilkening

**PROOF OF SERVICE**

**Test Claim Name:** School Accountability Report Card III  
**Test Claim Number:** CSM-02-TC-32

I, the undersigned, declare as follows:

I am employed in the County of Sacramento, State of California, I am 18 years of age or older and not a party to the within entitled cause; my business address is 915 L Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814.

On March 12, 2004, I served the attached recommendation of the Department of Finance in said cause, by facsimile to the Commission on State Mandates and by placing a true copy thereof: (1) to claimants and nonstate agencies enclosed in a sealed envelope with postage thereon fully prepaid in the United States Mail at Sacramento, California; and (2) to State agencies in the normal pickup location at 915 L Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, for Interagency Mail Service, addressed as follows:

A-16  
Ms. Paula Higashi, Executive Director  
Commission on State Mandates  
980 Ninth Street, Suite 300  
Sacramento, CA 95814

B-8  
State Controller's Office  
Division of Accounting & Reporting  
Attention: Michael Havey  
3301 C Street, Room 500  
Sacramento, CA 95816

B-29  
Legislative Analyst's Office  
Attention Marianne O'Malley  
925 L Street, Suite 1000  
Sacramento, CA 95814

E-8  
Department of Education  
Fiscal and Administrative Services Division  
Attention: Gerry Shelton  
1430 N Street, Suite 2213  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Education Mandated Cost Network  
C/O School Services of California  
Attention: Dr. Carol Berg, PhD  
1121 L Street, Suite 1060  
Sacramento, CA 95814

San Diego Unified School District  
Attention: Arthur Palkowitz  
4100 Normal Street, Room 3159  
San Diego, CA 92103-2682

Mandate Resource Services  
Attention: Harmeet Barkschat  
5325 Elkhorn Blvd., Suite 307  
Sacramento, CA 95842

Reynolds Consulting Group, Inc.  
Attention: Sandy Reynolds, President  
P.O. Box 987  
Sun City, CA 92586

Shields Consulting Group, Inc.  
Attention: Steve Shields  
1536 36<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sacramento, CA 95816

Centration, Inc.  
Attention: Beth Hunter  
8316 Red Oak Street, Suite 101  
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730

Sweetwater Union High School District  
Attention: Lawrence L. Hendee  
1130 Fifth Avenue  
Chula Vista, CA 91911-2896

Steve Smith Enterprises, Inc.  
Attention: Steve Smith  
One Capitol Mall, Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Empire Union Unified School District  
Attention: Donald Kiger  
116 North McClure Road  
Modesto, CA 95357

Bakersfield City School District  
Attention: Michael D. Lingo  
1300 Baker Street  
Bakersfield, CA 93305

Sixten & Associates  
Attention: Keith Petersen  
5252 Balboa Avenue, Suite 807  
San Diego, CA 92117

Schools Mandate Group  
Attention: David E. Scribner  
One Capitol Mall, Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Centration, Inc.  
Attention: Jim Jaggars  
12150 Tributary Point Drive, Suite 140  
Gold River, CA 95670

MCS Education Services  
Attention: Todd Wherry  
11130 Sun Center Drive, Suite 100  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct, and that this declaration was executed on March 12, 2004, at Sacramento, California.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Nelson