

BEFORE THE
COMMISSION ON STATE MANDATES
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN RE TEST CLAIM ON:

Education Code Sections 48911(b) and (e), Statutes 1977, Chapter 965; Statutes 1978, Chapter 668; Statutes 1980, Chapter 73; Statutes 1983, Chapter 498; Statutes 1985, Chapter 856; Statutes 1987, Chapter 134

TEST CLAIM ON:

Education Code Sections 48915(a) and (b), 48915.1, 48915.2, 48916, and 48918, Statutes 1975, Chapter 1253; Statutes 1977, Chapter 965; Statutes 1978, Chapter 668; Statutes 1982, Chapter 318; Statutes 1983, Chapter 498; Statutes 1984, Chapter 622; Statutes 1987, Chapter 942; Statutes 1990, Chapter 1231; Statutes 1992, Chapter 152; Statutes 1993, Chapters 1255, 1256, 1257; and, Statutes 1994, Chapter 146

TEST CLAIM ON:

Education Code Sections 48919, and 48921-48924, Statutes 1975, Chapter 1253; Statutes 1977, Chapter 965; Statutes 1978, Chapter 668; and Statutes 1983, Chapter 498

By the San Diego Unified School District,
Claimant

Case No. CSM-4456

Pupil Suspensions From School

Case No. CSM-4455

Pupil Expulsions from School

Case No. CSM-4463

Pupil Expulsion Appeals

PARAMETERS AND GUIDELINES AND
DECISION PURSUANT TO
GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 1700
ET SEQ.; TITLE 2, CALIFORNIA CODE
OF REGULATIONS, DIVISION 2,
CHAPTER 2.5, ARTICLE 7.

(Adopted on October 27, 2011)

PARAMETERS AND GUIDELINES

On October 27, 2011, the Commission on State Mandates adopted the staff analysis as its decision and the attached parameters and guidelines for the above-named matter.



Nancy Patton, Acting Executive Director

Dated: March 21, 2012

AMENDED CONSOLIDATED PARAMETERS AND GUIDELINES

PUPIL SUSPENSIONS, EXPULSIONS, AND EXPULSION APPEALS

Pupil Suspensions from School - CSM-4456

Education Code section 48911, subdivisions (b) and (e)
Statutes 1977, Chapter 965; Statutes 1978, Chapter 668
Statutes 1980, Chapter 73; Statutes 1983, Chapter 498
Statutes 1985, Chapter 856; Statutes 1987, Chapter 134

Pupil Expulsions from School -CSM-4455

Education Code Sections 48915, subdivisions (a) and (b),
48915.1, 48915.2, 48916 and 48918
Statutes 1975, Chapter 1253; Statutes 1977, Chapter 965;
Statutes 1978, Chapter 668; Statutes 1982, Chapter 318;
Statutes 1983, Chapter 498; Statutes 1984, Chapter 622;
Statutes 1987, Chapter 942; Statutes 1990, Chapter 1231;
Statutes 1992, Chapter 152; Statutes 1993, Chapters 1255, 1256, 1257; and,
Statutes 1994, Chapter 146

Pupil Expulsion Appeals - CSM-4463

Education Code Sections 48919, 48921-48924
Statutes 1975, Chapter 1253; Statutes 1977, Chapter 965;
Statutes 1978, Chapter 668; and Statutes 1983, Chapter 498

These parameters and guidelines are effective until June 30, 2012. Beginning July 1, 2012, claims for these programs should be filed under the parameters and guidelines for *Consolidated Suspensions, Expulsions and Expulsion Appeals*.¹

I. Summary of the Mandates

These consolidated parameters and guidelines address the following three test claim decisions:

A. Pupil Suspensions from School

On December 19, 1996, the Commission on State Mandates adopted its Statement of Decision determining that certain provisions of Education Code section 48911, subdivisions (b) and (e) impose a new program or higher level of service within the meaning of section 6, article XIII B of the California Constitution and costs mandated by the state pursuant to Government Code section 17514. The mandate is limited to the following reimbursable activities for suspensions based upon (1) possession of a firearm (October 11, 1993 to present), and (2) possession of a knife or explosive October 11, 1993 to December 31, 1993).

¹ *Pupil Expulsions II* (96-358-03, 03A, 98-TC-22, 01-TC-18) *Pupil Suspensions II* (98-TC-23) and *Educational Services Plan For Expelled Pupils* (97-TC-09).

- The attendance of the referring school employee in the pre-suspension conference between the principal (or designee or superintendent) and the pupil, whenever practicable. (Ed. Code, § 48911, subd. (b).)
- A report of the cause of each school suspension to the district board (Ed. Code, § 48911, subdivision (e).)

B. Pupil Expulsions from School

On May 26, 1997, the Commission on State Mandates adopted its Statement of Decision, and on May 26, 2005, adopted its Amended Statement of Decision pursuant to the Supreme Court decision in *San Diego Unified School District. v. Commission on State Mandates* (2004) 33 Cal.4th 859. finding that certain provisions of the following Education Code sections impose a new program or higher level of service for school districts within the meaning of section 6, article XIII B of the California Constitution and costs mandated by the state pursuant to Government Code section 17514.

- Education Code section 48915, subdivision (a), as added by Statutes 1983, chapter 498 and amended by Statutes 1993, chapters 1255 and 1256.;
- Education Code section 48915, subdivision (b), as amended by Statutes 1993, chapter 1255 and 1256;
- Education Code section 48918 (opening paragraph and subds. (a), (b), (f), (g), (h), (i) & (j)), as added by Statutes 1975, chapter 1253 and amended by Statutes 1977, chapter 965, Statutes 1978, chapter 668, Statutes 1982, chapter 318, Statutes 1983, chapter 498, Statutes 1990, chapter 1231, and Statutes 1994, chapter 146;
- Education Code section 48916, as added by Statutes 1983, chapter 498 and amended by Statutes 1992, chapter 152;
- Education Code section 48915.1, as added by Statutes 1987, chapter 943 and amended by Statutes 1990, chapter 1231 and Statutes 1993, chapter 1257;
- Education Code section 48915.2, as added by Statutes 1993, chapter 1257.

The Commission further determined that certain of the foregoing sections imposed a new program or higher level of service only with respect to expulsion procedures instituted for certain specified offenses.

C. Expulsion Appeals

On March 27, 1997, the Commission on State Mandates adopted its Statement of Decision finding that certain provisions of Education Code sections 48919 and 48921 through 48924 impose a new program or higher level of service within the meaning of section 6, article XIII B of the California Constitution for school districts and county boards of education to hear and decide pupil expulsion appeals.

The Commission determined that the following provisions applicable to all student expulsion appeals establish costs mandated by the state pursuant to Government Code section 17514 for county boards of education to:

- Adopt rules and regulations establishing procedures for expulsion appeals.
- Notify persons appealing a school district expulsion of the procedures for the conduct of the appeal, as part of the county board’s notice to the pupil regarding the appeal.
- Review the appeal and the record of the expulsion hearing conducted by the governing board (including the written transcript of the hearing and supporting documents).
- Conduct the initial hearing on the appeal, if the county board of education decides in such hearing to grant a hearing de novo.
- By either personal service or certified mail, notify the pupil and the school district of the final and binding order of the county board of education,
- Preserve the record of appeal.

The Commission determined that, limited to those expulsions which were based upon Education Code section 48915, subdivision (b) (as amended by Stats. 1993, ch. 1255 and 1256), the following provisions establish costs mandated by the state pursuant to Government Code section 17514 for school districts to:

- Provide copies of supporting documents and records from the district’s expulsion hearing (other than the transcript) to a pupil or the pupil’s parent or guardian, as follows:
 1. If the requesting party is a pupil less than 18 years of age or the parent or guardian of a pupil who is 18 years of age or older, all documents; or
 2. If the requesting party is the parent or guardian of a pupil under the age of 18, only those documents which are not “education records” as defined in 20 U.S.C. section 1232g(a)(4).²
 3. Participate in the initial appeal hearing at the county board of education, if the county board decides in such hearing to grant a trial de novo.
 4. If the county board of education remands the matter to the school district, send notice of hearing, conduct the hearing and render a decision in the remand hearing.
 5. If ordered by the county board of education, expunge the district’s and the pupil’s records of the expulsion.

II. ELIGIBLE CLAIMANTS

Any “school district”, as defined in Government Code section 17519, except for community colleges, which incurs increased costs as a result of this mandate is eligible to claim reimbursement. Charter schools are not eligible claimants.

²The Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (“FERPA”) defines “education records” as those records, files, documents and other materials which (i) contain information directly related to a student, and (ii) are maintained by the school district or a person acting for the school district. 20 U.S.C. Section 1232g(a)(4)(B)) provides certain exceptions to the general definition (for example, records maintained by a law enforcement unit of a school district that were created by that law enforcement unit for the purpose of law enforcement).

III. PERIOD OF REIMBURSEMENT

These parameters and guidelines are effective until June 30, 2012. Beginning July 1, 2012, claims for these programs should be filed under the parameters and guidelines for *Consolidated Suspensions, Expulsions and Expulsion Appeals*.

These consolidated parameters and guidelines are operative for reimbursement claims filed for increased costs beginning July 1, 2006. Pursuant to Government Code section 17560, reimbursement for state-mandated costs may be claimed as follows:

1. A school district may file an estimated reimbursement claim by January 15 of the fiscal year in which costs are to be incurred, and, by January 15 following that fiscal year shall file an annual reimbursement claim that details the costs actually incurred for that fiscal year; or it may comply with the provisions of subdivision (b).
2. A school district may, by January 15 following the fiscal year in which costs are incurred, file an annual reimbursement claim that details the costs actually incurred for that fiscal year.
3. In the event revised claiming instructions are issued by the Controller pursuant to subdivision (c) of section 17558 between October 15 and January 15, a school district filing an annual reimbursement claim shall have 120 days following the issuance date of the revised claiming instructions to file a claim.

Reimbursable 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 (d)(1), all claims for reimbursement of initial years' costs shall be submitted within 120 days of the issuance of the State Controller's claiming instructions. If the total costs for a given fiscal year do not exceed \$1,000, no reimbursement shall be allowed, except as otherwise allowed by Government Code section 17564.

Costs for *Pupil Suspensions, Expulsions, and Expulsion Appeals* (CSM-4456, 4455, 4463) that have been claimed for fiscal years 1993-1994 through 2005-2006 pursuant to the State Controller's claiming instructions for Program 176 may not be claimed and are not reimbursable under these parameters and guidelines.

However, costs for *Pupil Suspensions, Expulsions, and Expulsion Appeals* beginning with fiscal years 2006-2007 may be claimed for activities specified in section IV. of these parameters and guidelines.

IV. REIMBURSABLE ACTIVITIES

To be eligible for mandated cost reimbursement for any fiscal year, only actual costs may be claimed except as specified in Section VII of these parameters and guidelines.

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, training packets, 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 may claim and be reimbursed for increased costs for reimbursable activities identified below by either the actual cost method or by the reasonable reimbursement methodology for additional hearing costs. Increased cost is limited to the cost of an activity that the claimant is required to incur as a result of the mandate. Only increased costs for reimbursable activities identified below are reimbursable.

For each eligible claimant, the following activities are reimbursable:

A. ADOPTION AND REVISION OF RULES AND PROCEDURES

1. County Boards of Education

- (a) Adopting rules and procedures for expulsion appeal hearings and revising those rules and procedures to conform to amendments of the statutory hearing requirements.
- (b) Printing and disseminating rules and procedures to each school district in the county.

2. School Districts and County Boards of Education

- (a) Adopting rules and procedures pertaining to pupil expulsions and revising those rules and procedures to conform to amendments of the statutory requirements.
- (b) Adopting rules and regulations establishing the procedure for the filing and processing of requests for readmission pursuant to Education Code section 48916.
- (c) Printing and disseminating rules and procedures to each school site.

B. SUSPENSION CONFERENCE AND REPORT

If the suspension is for possession of a firearm, then the following activities are reimbursable:

1. Attendance at Informal Conference

The attendance of the teacher, supervisor or other school district employee who referred the pupil to the principal for suspension in the pre-suspension conference between the principal (or principal's designee) or superintendent and the pupil.

2. Reporting the Cause to the District Office

Reporting the cause of the suspension to the school district's superintendent or governing board in accordance with the regulations of the school district's governing board. Such report may be oral or written.

C. RECOMMENDATION OF EXPULSION

The preparation of a report to the school district governing board concerning the principal's or superintendent's recommendation to expel a pupil for the following offenses:

- causing serious physical injury to another person, except in self defense;³
- possession of any firearm,⁴ knife,⁵ explosive,⁶ or other dangerous object⁷ of no reasonable use to the pupil at school or at a school activity off school grounds;
- unlawful sale of any controlled substance listed in Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 11053) of Division 10 of Health and Safety Code,⁸ except for the first offense for the sale of not more than one avoirdupois ounce of marijuana, other than concentrated cannabis; or
- robbery or extortion.⁹

D. EXPULSION HEARING PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS

If the expulsion hearing is for one of the following offenses:

- causing serious physical injury to another person, except in self defense;¹⁰
- possession of any firearm,¹¹ knife,¹² explosive,¹³ or other dangerous object¹⁴ of no reasonable use to the pupil at school or at a school activity off school grounds;
- unlawful sale of any controlled substance listed in Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 1053) of Division 10 of Health and Safety Code,¹⁵ except for the first offense for the sale of not more than one avoirdupois ounce of marijuana, other than concentrated cannabis ;
or
- robbery or extortion.¹⁶

³ Education Code section 48915, subdivision (a)(1).

⁴ Education Code section 48915, subdivision (c)(1).

⁵ Education Code section 48915, subdivision (a)(2).

⁶ Education Code section 48915, subdivision (c)(5).

⁷ Education Code section 48915, subdivision (a)(2); the word "device" is replaced with "object" to conform with text of this section.

⁸ Education Code section 48915, subdivision (c)(3).

⁹ Education Code section 48915, subdivision (a)(4).

¹⁰ Education Code section 48915, subdivision (a)(1).

¹¹ Education Code section 48915, subdivision (c)(1).

¹² Education Code section 48915, subdivision (a)(2).

¹³ Education Code section 48915, subdivision (c)(5).

¹⁴ Education Code section 48915, subdivision (a)(2); the word "device" is replaced with "object" to conform with text of this section.

¹⁵ Education Code section 48915, subdivision (a)(2); the word "device" is replaced with "object" to conform with text of this section.

¹⁶ Education Code section 48915, subdivision (a)(4).

Then the following activities are reimbursable:

1. Including in the notice of hearing to the pupil:

- (a) a copy of the disciplinary rules of the district that relate to the alleged violation;
- (b) a notice of the parent's, guardian's or pupil's obligation, pursuant to Education Code section 48915.1, subdivision (b), to notify a new school district, upon enrollment, of the pupil's expulsion; and
- (c) notice of the opportunity for the pupil or the pupil's parent or guardian to inspect and obtain copies of all documents to be used at the hearing.

2. Allowing a pupil or pupil's parent or guardian to inspect and obtain copies of documents to be used at the expulsion hearing, as follows:

- (a) if the requesting party is a pupil less than 18 years of age or the parent or guardian of a pupil who is 18 years of age or older, all documents; or
- (b) if the requesting party is the parent or guardian of a pupil under the age of 18, only those documents which are not "education records" as defined in 20 U.S.C. section 1232g(a)(4).

3. Expulsion hearing costs:

(a) Preparation for Expulsion Hearing

Preparing and reviewing documents to be used during the expulsion hearing. Arranging hearing dates and assigning panel members and translators as needed.

(b) Conducting Expulsion Hearing

The attendance of the review panel and other district employees required to attend the expulsion hearing.

(c) Hearing Officer or Panel's Expulsion Recommendation to the Governing Board

Preparation and submission of the hearing officer or panel's findings of fact based solely on the evidence adduced at the hearing to recommend the expulsion of a pupil to the governing board.

(d) Record of Hearing

Maintaining a record of the hearing by any means which would allow for a reasonably accurate and complete written transcript of the proceedings to be made.

E. POST-EXPULSION PROCEDURES

If the expulsion hearing is for possession of a firearm, then the following activities are reimbursable:

1. Sending written notice to the pupil or the pupil's parent or guardian of: (a) any decision by the governing board to expel or suspend the enforcement of an expulsion order during a period of probation; (b) the right to appeal the expulsion to the county board of education, and (c) the obligation of the pupil, parent or guardian under Education Code section 48915.1 to notify a new school district, upon enrollment, of the pupil's expulsion. Costs of postage for mailing the notice is reimbursable under this activity.

2. Maintaining a record of the expulsion, including the cause of the expulsion.
3. Recording the expulsion order and the cause of the expulsion in the pupil's mandatory interim record.
4. Forwarding the student's mandatory interim record to any school in which the pupil subsequently enrolls upon the request of such school.

F. READMISSION PROCEDURES

If the governing board expelled a pupil for possession of a firearm, then the following activities are reimbursable:

1. setting a date when the pupil may apply for readmission to a district school; and
2. providing a description of the procedure for readmission to the pupil and the pupil's parent or guardian.

G. APPLICATION BY EXPELLED PUPIL TO ATTEND NEW DISTRICT

If a pupil ("applicant") seeking application to a school district (the "receiving school district") has been expelled by another school district for any offense and the receiving school district does not have a voluntary interdistrict transfer agreement with the expelling district, then the following activities associated with the receiving district's hearing are reimbursable, as specified below:

1. Including in the notice of hearing to the applicant: (a) a copy of the hearing procedure rules of the receiving district; and (b) notice of the opportunity for the applicant or the applicant's parent or guardian to inspect and obtain copies of all documents to be used at the hearing.
2. Allowing an applicant or applicant's parent or guardian to inspect and obtain copies of documents to be used at the admission hearing, as follows:
 - (a) if the requesting party is an applicant less than 18 years of age, or the parent or guardian of an applicant who is 18 years of age or older, all documents; or
 - (b) if the requesting party is the parent or guardian of an applicant under the age of 18, only those documents which are not "education records" as defined in 20 U.S.C. section 1232g(a)(4).¹⁷
3. Determination by the governing board whether a pupil expelled by another school district would pose a danger to the pupils and employees of the receiving district and whether to admit, deny admission, or conditionally admit the pupil during or after the period of expulsion.
4. Maintaining a record of each admission denial, including the cause of the denial.
5. Notifying the applicant and the applicant's parent or guardian of the governing board's determination of whether the applicant poses a potential danger to the pupils or employees of the receiving district and whether to admit, deny admission, or conditionally admit the applicant during or after the period of expulsion.

¹⁷ See footnote 1.

H. RESPONDING TO REQUESTS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

If the governing board expelled a pupil for possession of a firearm and the expelled student applies for admission to another school district (the “receiving district”) then, unless the expelling district entered into a voluntary interdistrict transfer agreement with the receiving district, the activities of the expelling district in responding to the receiving district’s request for a recommendation regarding the admission of the applicant are reimbursable.

I. EXPULSION APPEAL HEARINGS

1. County Boards of Education (applicable to all student expulsion appeals)

(a) Providing Notice to the Parties

(1) Notifying the pupil and the pupil’s parent(s) or guardian(s) of the procedures for the appeal.

(2) Notifying the school district and pupil in writing of the final order of the county board of education, either by personal service or certified mail.

(b) Review of Hearing Record

Reviewing the filed appeal and the transcript and record of the hearing conducted by the school district governing board.

(c) Conducting Hearings

Conducting the initial appeal hearing and rendering a decision. Reimbursement for this component is limited to appeals for which the county board of education decides to grant a hearing de novo.

(d) Preserving Records

Preserving the record of appeal.

2. School Districts

If the governing board expelled a pupil for possession of a firearm then the following activities are reimbursable

(a) Providing Copies of Documents

(1) Providing copies of supporting documents and records from the district’s expulsion hearing (other than the transcript) to a pupil who is less than 18 years of age.

(2) Providing copies of supporting documents and records from the district’s expulsion hearing (other than the transcript) to a pupil who is 18 years of age or older, or to the parent or guardian of a pupil who is less than 18 years of age, if the documents or records are not “education records” as defined in 20 U.S.C. section 1232g(a)(4).¹⁸

¹⁸ See footnote 1

(b) Participation In Hearings

Participation by a school district in the county board of education's hearing on appeal if the county board of education grants a hearing de novo,

(c) Remand Hearing

If the county board of education remanded the expulsion to the school district's governing board following an appeal, sending notice of the hearing, conducting a hearing on remand, and rendering a decision in the remand hearing.

(d) Expunging Records

Expunging the school district's and pupil's records concerning the expulsion, when ordered by the county board of education.

J. TRAINING

Training school district personnel about the mandated suspension, expulsion, and expulsion appeal activities. This reimbursable component includes the labor time of administrators and other school district personnel involved with preparation of training sessions and the labor time of administrators and other school district personnel who conduct or attend training sessions. Labor time for teachers is not reimbursable. The cost of materials and supplies used or distributed in training sessions is reimbursable under this component.

V. CLAIM PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION FOR ACTUAL COSTS

Each of the following cost elements must be identified for each reimbursable activity identified in Section V, Reimbursable Activities, of this document. Each claimed reimbursable cost must be supported by source documentation as described in Section V. 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 the 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 V 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 a common or joint purpose. These costs benefit more than one cost objective and cannot be readily identified with a particular final cost objective. 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.

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.

School districts must use the J-380 (or subsequent replacement) nonrestrictive indirect cost rate provisionally approved by the California Department of Education.

County offices of education must use the J-580 (or subsequent replacement) nonrestrictive indirect cost rate provisionally approved by the California Department of Education.

VI. CLAIM PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION: REASONABLE REIMBURSEMENT METHODOLOGY

The Commission is adopting a *reasonable reimbursement methodology* to reimburse school districts for all direct and indirect costs, as authorized by Government Code section 17557, subdivision (b), *in lieu of payment of total actual costs incurred for the reimbursable activities specified in Section IV.D. 3 above.*

A. Reasonable Reimbursement Methodology

The definition of reasonable reimbursement methodology is in Government Code section 17518.5, as follows:

Government Code Section 17518.5

- (a) *Reasonable reimbursement methodology* means a formula for reimbursing local agency and school district costs mandated by the state that meets the following conditions:
 - (1) the total amount to be reimbursed statewide is equivalent to total estimated local agency and school district costs to implement the mandate in a cost-efficient manner.
 - (2) for 50 percent or more of eligible local agency and school district claimants, the amount reimbursed is estimated to fully offset their projected costs to implement the mandate in a cost-efficient manner.
- (b) Whenever possible, a *reasonable reimbursement methodology* shall be based on general allocation formulas, uniform cost allowances, and other approximations of local costs mandated by the state rather than detailed documentation of actual local costs. In cases when local agencies and school districts are projected to incur costs to implement a mandate over a period of more than one fiscal year, the determination of a reasonable reimbursement methodology may consider local costs and state reimbursements over a period of greater than one fiscal year, but not exceeding 10 years.
- (c) A reasonable reimbursement methodology may be developed by any of the following:
 - (1) The Department of Finance.
 - (2) The Controller.
 - (3) An affected state agency.
 - (4) A claimant.
 - (5) An interested party,

B. Uniform Cost Allowances and Formula for Reimbursable Activities

The *reasonable reimbursement methodology* shall consist of uniform cost allowances to cover all direct and indirect costs of performing activities in D. 3, as described under Section IV, Reimbursable Activities, and applied to a formula for calculating claimable costs.

1. The uniform cost allowances for reimbursement of activities, IV. D. 3 are *as follows*:

Reimbursable Component	Uniform Cost Allowance Fiscal Year 2005-2006
IV. D.3 (a) Preparation for Expulsion Hearing	\$157.00
IV. D. 3 (b). Conducting Expulsion Hearing	\$196.16
IV. D 3 (c) Hearing Officer or Panel’s Expulsion Recommendation to the Governing Board	\$232.00

IV. D.3 (d) Record of Hearing	\$2.00
Total	\$587.16

The State Controller’s Office shall update these Uniform Cost Allowances by the Implicit Price Deflator referenced in Government Code section 17523 for fiscal year 2006-2007 and each subsequent fiscal year.

2. Formula

Reimbursement of Activities IV. D. 3. (a) – (d) is determined by multiplying the uniform cost allowance for the appropriate fiscal year by the number of mandatory recommendations for expulsion that resulted in expulsion hearings. If a hearing does not result, claimant may claim increased costs incurred for Section IV.D 3 (a), Preparation for Expulsion Hearing.

VII. RECORD RETENTION

A. Actual Costs

Pursuant to Government Code section 17558.5, subdivision (a), a reimbursement claim for actual costs filed by a school district pursuant to this chapter¹⁹ is subject to the initiation of an audit by the State 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 documentation used to support the reimbursable activities, as described in Section V, 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.

B. Reasonable Reimbursement Methodology

Pursuant to Government Code section 17558.5, subdivision (a), a reimbursement claim for actual costs based on this reasonable reimbursement methodology filed by a school district pursuant to this chapter²⁰ 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. 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.

School districts must retain documentation which supports the total number of mandatory expulsions initiated and hearings conducted during the period subject to audit.

¹⁹ This refers to Title 2, division 4, part 7, chapter 4 of the Government Code.

²⁰ This refers to Title 2, division 4, part 7, chapter 4 of the Government Code.

VIII. OFFSETTING REVENUES AND REIMBURSEMENTS

Any offsetting revenues 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.

IX. 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 no later than 60 days after receiving the adopted parameters and guidelines from the Commission, to assist school districts in claiming costs to be reimbursed. The claiming instructions shall be derived from the statute, regulations, or executive order creating the mandate and the parameters and guidelines adopted by the Commission.

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

X. REMEDIES BEFORE THE COMMISSION

Upon request of a 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 instruction 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.

XI. LEGAL AND FACTUAL BASIS FOR THE PARAMETERS AND GUIDELINES

The Statements of Decision on *Pupil Suspensions from School* and *Pupil Expulsion Appeals* are legally binding on all parties and provide 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 claims. The administrative records, including the Statements of Decision, are on file with the Commission.

The Statement of Decision on *Pupil Expulsions from School*, as modified pursuant to the Supreme Court decision in *San Diego Unified School District. v. Commission on State Mandates* (2004) 33 Cal.4th 859, and adopted on May 26, 2005, 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 and the Supreme Court decision. The administrative record, including the Statement of Decision, as modified, and the Supreme Court decision is on file with the Commission.