

**Assembly Bill No. 1261**

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Passed the Assembly September 7, 2005

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*Chief Clerk of the Assembly*

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Passed the Senate September 6, 2005

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*Secretary of the Senate*

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This bill was received by the Governor this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 2005, at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_M.

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*Private Secretary of the Governor*

## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

An act to amend Sections 48853, 48853.5, 48859, 49069.5, 52052, 56034, 56366.1, and 56366.2 of the Education Code, and to amend Sections 319, 361, and 391 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to foster children.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1261, Leno. Foster children: education.

Existing law requires a pupil placed in a licensed children's institution or foster family home to attend programs operated by the local educational agency, unless one of certain specified circumstances applies.

This bill would revise the applicable circumstances.

The bill would also define "local educational agency" for these purposes.

Existing law provides that, if a school placement dispute arises, a foster child has the right to remain in his or her school of origin pending resolution of the dispute.

This bill would provide that the dispute shall be resolved in accordance with the existing dispute resolution process available to any pupil served by the local educational agency.

Existing law provides that "school of origin" means the school that the foster child attended when permanently housed or the school in which the foster child was last enrolled. Existing law requires the educational liaison for foster children to determine, as provided, the school that shall be deemed the school of origin for a foster child if, among other things, there is some other school that the foster child attended with which the foster child is connected.

This bill would additionally require that the foster child have attended that connected school in the past 15 months.

Existing law provides that the proper and timely transfer between schools of pupils in foster care is the responsibility of both the local educational agency and the county placing agency and imposes various requirements relating to the transfer of those pupils between schools.

This bill would define "pupil in foster care" for these purposes.

Existing law establishes the Public Schools Accountability Act of 1999 and requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to develop an Academic Performance Index (API), which consists, in part, of the results of the tests administered pursuant to the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program, to measure the performance of schools, to demonstrate comparable improvement in academic achievement by all numerically significant ethnic and socioeconomically disadvantaged subgroups within schools, and to rank schools based on the value of the API. Existing law requires the Superintendent to develop an alternative accountability system for specified schools.

This bill would add nonpublic, nonsectarian schools, as specified, to the list of schools for which development of an alternative accountability system is required. This bill would also delete obsolete provisions.

Existing law defines the term “nonpublic, nonsectarian school” for purposes of special education programs.

This bill would revise that definition.

Existing law requires a nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency that seeks certification to provide special education and related services to file an application with the Superintendent, as specified. Existing law requires an applicant for certification to provide the special education local plan area in which the applicant is located with written notification of its intent to seek certification or renewal of its certification. Existing law provides that if the applicant has not received a response from the local educational agency 30 days from the date of the return receipt for the notification, the applicant may file the application with the Superintendent. Existing law requires the Superintendent, prior to certification, to conduct an onsite review of the facility and program for which the applicant seeks certification. Existing law requires the Superintendent to conduct an additional onsite review of the facility and program within 4 years of the effective date of the certification, unless a specified exception applies.

This bill would provide that if the applicant has not received a response from the local educational agency 60 calendar days from the date of the return receipt for initial applications or 30 calendar days from the date of the return receipt for renewal applications, the applicant may file the application with the

Superintendent. The bill would instead require an additional onsite review within 3 years of the effective date of certification.

Existing law sets forth the circumstances under which a minor may be adjudged a dependent child of the juvenile court, and establishes procedures to determine temporary placement of a dependent child.

This bill would authorize the court, at the initial hearing or anytime thereafter up until the time that the minor is adjudged a dependent child of the court or a finding is made dismissing the petition, to temporarily limit the right of the parent or guardian to make educational decisions for the child and to temporarily appoint a responsible adult to make educational decisions for the child if all of the specified conditions are found. The bill would also authorize the court to make educational decisions for the child under specified circumstances.

Existing law authorizes a juvenile court to limit the right of a parent or guardian to make educational decisions for his or her child that is adjudged a dependent child of the court and requires the court at the same time to appoint a responsible adult to make educational decisions for the child until one of specified circumstances occurs.

This bill would authorize the court to make educational decisions for the child if the court cannot identify a responsible adult to make educational decisions for the child, the appointment of a surrogate parent is not warranted, and there is no foster parent to exercise the appropriate authority. The bill would require the court, if it makes educational decisions for the child, to issue appropriate orders to ensure that every effort is made to identify a responsible adult to make future educational decisions for the child.

Existing law requires the county welfare department, at any hearing to terminate jurisdiction over a dependent child who has reached the age of majority, to, among other things, submit a report verifying that specified documents, where applicable, have been provided to the child.

This bill would impose a state-mandated local program by requiring a county welfare department to verify that a health and education summary has been provided to the child.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by

the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 48853 of the Education Code is amended to read:

48853. (a) A pupil placed in a licensed children's institution or foster family home shall attend programs operated by the local educational agency, unless one of the following applies:

(1) The pupil is entitled to remain in his or her school of origin pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 48853.5.

(2) The pupil has an individualized education program requiring placement in a nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency, or in another local educational agency.

(3) The parent or guardian, or other person holding the right to make educational decisions for the pupil pursuant to Section 361 or 727 of the Welfare and Institutions Code or Section 56055, determines that it is in the best interests of the pupil to be placed in another educational program.

(b) Before any decision is made to place a pupil in a juvenile court school as defined by Section 48645.1, a community school as described in Sections 1981 and 48660, or other alternative educational setting, the parent or guardian, or person holding the right to make educational decisions for the pupil pursuant to Section 361 or 726 of the Welfare and Institutions Code or Section 56055, shall first consider placement in the regular public school.

(c) If any dispute arises as to the school placement of a pupil subject to this section, the pupil has the right to remain in his or her school of origin, as defined in subdivision (e) of Section 48853.5, pending resolution of the dispute. The dispute shall be resolved in accordance with the existing dispute resolution process available to any pupil served by the local educational agency.

(d) This section does not supersede other laws that govern pupil expulsion.

(e) This section does not supersede any other law governing the educational placement in a juvenile court school, as defined by Section 48645.1, of a pupil detained in a county juvenile hall, or committed to a county juvenile ranch, camp, forestry camp, or regional facility.

(f) Foster children living in emergency shelters, as referenced in the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 11301 et seq.), may receive educational services at the emergency shelter as necessary for short periods of time for either of the following reasons:

(1) For health and safety emergencies.

(2) To provide temporary, special, and supplementary services to meet the child's unique needs if a decision regarding whether it is in the child's best interests to attend the school of origin cannot be made promptly, it is not practical to transport the child to the school of origin, and the child would otherwise not receive educational services.

The educational services may be provided at the shelter pending a determination by the person holding the right regarding the educational placement of the child.

(g) All educational and school placement decisions shall be made to ensure that the child is placed in the least restrictive educational programs and has access to academic resources, services, and extracurricular and enrichment activities that are available to all pupils. In all instances, educational and school placement decisions shall be based on the best interests of the child.

SEC. 2. Section 48853.5 of the Education Code is amended to read:

48853.5. (a) This section applies to any foster child who has been removed from his or her home pursuant to Section 309 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, is the subject of a petition filed under Section 300 or 602 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, or has been removed from his or her home and is the subject of a petition filed under Section 300 or 602 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

(b) Each local educational agency shall designate a staff person as the educational liaison for foster children. In a school

district that operates a foster children services program pursuant to Chapter 11.3 (commencing with Section 42920) of Part 24, the educational liaison shall be affiliated with the local foster children services program. The liaison shall do all of the following:

(1) Ensure and facilitate the proper educational placement, enrollment in school, and checkout from school of foster children.

(2) Assist foster children when transferring from one school to another or from one school district to another in ensuring proper transfer of credits, records, and grades.

(c) This section does not grant authority to the educational liaison that supersedes the authority granted under state and federal law to a parent or guardian retaining educational rights, a responsible adult appointed by the court to represent the child pursuant to Section 361 or 726 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, a surrogate parent, or a foster parent exercising the authority granted under Section 56055. The role of the educational liaison is advisory with respect to placement decisions and determination of school of origin.

(d) (1) At the initial detention or placement, or any subsequent change in placement of a foster child, the local educational agency serving the foster child shall allow the foster child to continue his or her education in the school of origin for the duration of the academic school year.

(2) The liaison, in consultation with and the agreement of the foster child and the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the foster child may, in accordance with the foster child's best interests, recommend that the foster child's right to attend the school of origin be waived and the foster child be enrolled in any public school that pupils living in the attendance area in which the foster child resides are eligible to attend.

(3) Prior to making any recommendation to move a foster child from his or her school of origin, the liaison shall provide the foster child and the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the foster child with a written explanation stating the basis for the recommendation and how this recommendation serves the foster child's best interest.

(4) (A) If the liaison in consultation with the foster child and the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the

foster child agree that the best interests of the foster child would best be served by his or her transfer to a school other than the school of origin, the foster child shall immediately be enrolled in the new school.

(B) The new school shall immediately enroll the foster child even if the foster child has outstanding fees, fines, textbooks, or other items or moneys due to the school last attended or is unable to produce records or clothing normally required for enrollment, such as previous academic records, medical records, proof of residency, other documentation, or school uniforms.

(C) The liaison for the new school shall, within two business days of the foster child's request for enrollment, contact the school last attended by the foster child to obtain all academic and other records. All required records shall be provided to the new school regardless of any outstanding fees, fines, textbooks, or other items or moneys owed to the school last attended. The school liaison for the school last attended shall provide all records to the new school within two business days of receiving the request.

(5) If any dispute arises regarding the request of a foster child to remain in the school of origin, the foster child has the right to remain in the school of origin pending resolution of the dispute. The dispute shall be resolved in accordance with the existing dispute resolution process available to any pupil served by the local educational agency.

(6) The local educational agency and the county placing agency are encouraged to collaborate to ensure maximum utilization of available federal moneys, explore public-private partnerships, and access any other funding sources to promote the well-being of foster children through educational stability.

(e) For purposes of this section, "school of origin" means the school that the foster child attended when permanently housed or the school in which the foster child was last enrolled. If the school the foster child attended when permanently housed is different from the school in which the foster child was last enrolled, or if there is some other school that the foster child attended with which the foster child is connected and which the foster child attended within the immediately preceding 15 months, the liaison, in consultation with and the agreement of the foster child and the person holding the right to make educational

decisions for the foster child, shall determine, in the best interests of the foster child, the school that shall be deemed the school of origin.

(f) This section does not supersede other law governing the educational placements in juvenile court schools, as defined by Section 48645.1, by the juvenile court under Section 602 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

SEC. 3. Section 48859 of the Education Code is amended to read:

48859. For purposes of this chapter, the following terms have the following meanings:

(a) “County placing agency” means the county social services department or county probation department.

(b) “Educational authority” means an entity designated to represent the interests of a child for educational and related services.

(c) “Local educational agency” means a school district, a county office of education, a charter school participating as a member of a special education local plan area, or a special education local plan area.

SEC. 4. Section 49069.5 of the Education Code is amended to read:

49069.5. (a) The Legislature finds and declares that the mobility of pupils in foster care often disrupts their educational experience. The Legislature also finds that efficient transfer procedures and transfer of pupil records is a critical factor in the swift placement of foster children in educational settings.

(b) The proper and timely transfer between schools of pupils in foster care is the responsibility of both the local educational agency and the county placing agency.

(c) As soon as the county placing agency becomes aware of the need to transfer a pupil in foster care out of his or her current school, the county placing agency shall contact the appropriate person at the local educational agency of the pupil. The county placing agency shall notify the local educational agency of the date that the pupil will be leaving the school and request that the pupil be transferred out.

(d) Upon receiving a transfer request from a county placing agency, the local educational agency shall, within two business days, transfer the pupil out of school and deliver the educational

information and records of the pupil to the next educational placement.

(e) As part of the transfer process described under subdivisions (c) and (d), the local educational agency shall compile the complete educational record of the pupil including a determination of seat time, full or partial credits earned, current classes and grades, immunization and other records, and, if applicable, a copy of the pupil's plan adopted pursuant to Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. Sec. 794 et seq.) or individualized education program adopted pursuant to the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. Sec. 1400 et seq.).

(f) The local educational agency shall assign the duties listed in this section to a person competent to handle the transfer procedure and aware of the specific educational recordkeeping needs of homeless, foster, and other transient children who transfer between schools.

(g) The local educational agency shall ensure that if the pupil in foster care is absent from school due to a decision to change the placement of a pupil made by a court or placing agency, the grades and credits of the pupil will be calculated as of the date the pupil left school, and no lowering of grades will occur as a result of the absence of the pupil under these circumstances.

(h) The local educational agency shall ensure that if the pupil in foster care is absent from school due to a verified court appearance or related court ordered activity, no lowering of his or her grades will occur as a result of the absence of the pupil under these circumstances.

(i) For the purposes of this section, "pupil in foster care" means any child who has been removed from his or her home pursuant to Section 309 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, is the subject of a petition filed under Section 300 or 602 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, or has been removed from his or her home and is the subject of a petition filed under Section 300 or 602 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

SEC. 5. Section 52052 of the Education Code is amended to read:

52052. (a) (1) The Superintendent, with approval of the State Board of Education, shall develop an Academic

Performance Index (API), to measure the performance of schools, especially the academic performance of pupils.

(2) A school shall demonstrate comparable improvement in academic achievement as measured by the API by all numerically significant pupil subgroups at the school, including:

- (A) Ethnic subgroups.
- (B) Socioeconomically disadvantaged pupils.
- (C) English language learners.
- (D) Pupils with disabilities.

(3) (A) For purposes of this section, a numerically significant pupil subgroup is one that meets both of the following criteria:

(i) The subgroup consists of at least 50 pupils each of whom has a valid test score.

(ii) The subgroup constitutes at least 15 percent of a school's total population of pupils who have valid test scores.

(B) If a subgroup does not constitute 15 percent of the school's total population of pupils with valid test scores, the subgroup may constitute a numerically significant pupil subgroup if it has at least 100 valid test scores.

(C) For a school with an API score that is based on no fewer than 11 and no more than 99 pupils with valid test scores, numerically significant subgroups shall be defined by the Superintendent, with approval by the State Board of Education.

(4) The API shall consist of a variety of indicators currently reported to the department, including, but not limited to, the results of the achievement test administered pursuant to Section 60640, attendance rates for pupils in elementary schools, middle schools, and secondary schools, and the graduation rates for pupils in secondary schools.

(A) The pupil data collected for the API that comes from the achievement test administered pursuant to Sections 60640 and 60644 and the high school exit examination administered pursuant to Section 60851, when fully implemented, shall be disaggregated by special education status, English language learners, socioeconomic status, gender and ethnic group. Only the test scores of pupils who were counted as part of the enrollment in the annual California Basic Education Data System's data collection for the current fiscal year and who were continuously enrolled during that year may be included in the test result reports in the school's API. Results of the achievement test

and other tests specified in subdivision (b) shall constitute at least 60 percent of the value of the index.

(B) Before including high school graduation rates and attendance rates in the index, the Superintendent shall determine the extent to which the data are currently reported to the state and the accuracy of the data.

(b) Pupil scores from the following tests, when available and when found to be valid and reliable for this purpose, shall be incorporated into the API:

(1) The assessment of the applied academic skills matrix test developed pursuant to Section 60604.

(2) The nationally normed test designated pursuant to Section 60642.

(3) The standards-based achievement tests provided for in Section 60642.5.

(4) The high school exit examination.

(c) Based on the API, the Superintendent shall develop, and the State Board of Education shall adopt, expected annual percentage growth targets for all schools based on their API baseline score from the previous year. Schools are expected to meet these growth targets through effective allocation of available resources. For schools below the statewide API performance target adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to subdivision (d), the minimum annual percentage growth target shall be 5 percent of the difference between a school's actual API score and the statewide API performance target, or one API point, whichever is greater. Schools at or above the statewide API performance target shall have, as their growth target, maintenance of their API score above the statewide API performance target. However, the State Board of Education may set differential growth targets based on grade level of instruction and may set higher growth targets for the lowest performing schools because they have the greatest room for improvement. To meet its growth target, a school shall demonstrate that the annual growth in its API is equal to or more than its schoolwide annual percentage growth target and that all numerically significant pupil subgroups, as defined in subdivision (a), are making comparable improvement.

(d) Upon adoption of state performance standards by the State Board of Education, the Superintendent shall recommend, and

the State Board of Education shall adopt, a statewide API performance target that includes consideration of performance standards and represents the proficiency level required to meet the state performance target. When the API is fully developed, schools must, at a minimum, meet their annual API growth targets to be eligible for the Governor's Performance Award Program as set forth in Section 52057. The State Board of Education may establish additional criteria that schools must meet to be eligible for the Governor's Performance Award Program.

(e) The API shall be used for both of the following:

(1) Measuring the progress of schools selected for participation in the Immediate Intervention/Underperforming Schools Program pursuant to Section 52053.

(2) Ranking all public schools in the state for the purpose of the High Achieving/Improving Schools Program pursuant to Section 52056.

(f) (1) A school with 11 to 99 pupils with valid test scores shall receive an API score with an asterisk that indicates less statistical certainty than API scores based on 100 or more test scores.

(2) A school shall annually receive an API score, unless the Superintendent determines that an API score would be an invalid measure of the school's performance for one or more of the following reasons:

(A) Irregularities in testing procedures occurred.

(B) The data used to calculate the school's API score are not representative of the pupil population at the school.

(C) Significant demographic changes in the pupil population render year-to-year comparisons of pupil performance invalid.

(D) The department discovers or receives information indicating that the integrity of the API score has been compromised.

(E) Insufficient pupil participation in the assessments included in the API.

(3) If a school has less than 100 pupils with valid test scores, the calculation of the API or adequate yearly progress pursuant to the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (20 U.S.C. Sec. 6301 et seq.) and federal regulations may be calculated over more than one annual administration of the tests administered

pursuant to Sections 60640 and 60644 and the high school exit exam administered pursuant to Section 60851, consistent with regulations adopted by the State Board of Education.

(g) Only schools with 100 or more test scores contributing to the API may be included in the API rankings.

(h) The Superintendent, with the approval of the State Board of Education, shall develop an alternative accountability system for schools under the jurisdiction of a county board of education or a county superintendent of schools, community day schools, nonpublic, nonsectarian schools pursuant to Section 56366, and alternative schools serving high-risk pupils, including continuation high schools and opportunity schools. Schools in the alternative accountability system may receive an API score, but shall not be included in the API rankings.

SEC. 6. Section 56034 of the Education Code is amended to read:

56034. “Nonpublic, nonsectarian school” means a private, nonsectarian school that enrolls individuals with exceptional needs pursuant to an individualized education program and is certified by the department. It does not include an organization or agency that operates as a public agency or offers public service, including, but not limited to, a state or local agency, an affiliate of a state or local agency, including a private, nonprofit corporation established or operated by a state or local agency, or a public university or college. A nonpublic, nonsectarian school also shall meet standards as prescribed by the Superintendent and board.

SEC. 7. Section 56366.1 of the Education Code is amended to read:

56366.1. (a) A nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency that seeks certification shall file an application with the Superintendent on forms provided by the department and include the following information on the application:

(1) A description of the special education and designated instruction and services provided to individuals with exceptional needs if the application is for nonpublic, nonsectarian school certification.

(2) A description of the designated instruction and services provided to individuals with exceptional needs if the application is for nonpublic, nonsectarian agency certification.

(3) A list of appropriately qualified staff, a description of the credential, license, or registration that qualifies each staff member rendering special education or designated instruction and services to do so, and copies of their credentials, licenses, or certificates of registration with the appropriate state or national organization that has established standards for the service rendered.

(4) An annual operating budget.

(5) Affidavits and assurances necessary to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations which include criminal record summaries required of all nonpublic school or agency personnel having contact with minor children under Section 44237.

(b) (1) The applicant shall provide the special education local plan area in which the applicant is located with the written notification of its intent to seek certification or renewal of its certification. The applicant shall submit on a form, developed by the department, a signed verification by local educational agency representatives that they have been notified of the intent to certify or renew certification. The verification shall include a statement that representatives of the local educational agency for the area in which the applicant is located have had the opportunity to review the application at least 60 calendar days prior to submission of an initial application to the Superintendent, or at least 30 calendar days prior to submission of a renewal application to the Superintendent. The signed verification shall provide assurances that local educational agency representatives have had the opportunity to provide input on all required components of the application.

(2) If the applicant has not received a response from the local educational agency 60 calendar days from the date of the return receipt for initial applications or 30 calendar days from the date of the return receipt for renewal applications, the applicant may file the application with the Superintendent. A copy of the return receipt shall be included with the application as verification of notification efforts to the local educational agency.

(3) The department shall mail renewal application materials to certified nonpublic, nonsectarian schools and agencies at least 120 days prior to the date their current certification expires.

(c) If the applicant operates a facility or program on more than one site, each site shall be certified.

(d) If the applicant is part of a larger program or facility on the same site, the Superintendent shall consider the effect of the total program on the applicant. A copy of the policies and standards for the nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency and the larger program shall be available to the Superintendent.

(e) Prior to certification, the Superintendent shall conduct an onsite review of the facility and program for which the applicant seeks certification. The Superintendent may be assisted by representatives of the special education local plan area in which the applicant is located and a nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency representative who does not have a conflict of interest with the applicant. The Superintendent shall conduct an additional onsite review of the facility and program within three years of the effective date of the certification, unless the Superintendent conditionally certifies the school or agency or unless the Superintendent receives a formal complaint against the school or agency. In the latter two cases, the Superintendent shall conduct an onsite review at least annually.

(f) The Superintendent shall make a determination on an application within 120 days of receipt of the application and shall certify, conditionally certify, or deny certification to the applicant. If the Superintendent fails to take one of these actions within 120 days, the applicant is automatically granted conditional certification for a period terminating on August 31, of the current school year. If certification is denied, the Superintendent shall provide reasons for the denial. The Superintendent may certify the school or agency for a period of not longer than one year.

(g) Certification becomes effective on the date the nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency meets all the application requirements and is approved by the Superintendent. Certification may be retroactive if the school or agency met all the requirements of this section on the date the retroactive certification is effective. Certification expires on December 31 of the terminating year.

(h) The Superintendent shall annually review the certification of each nonpublic, nonsectarian school and agency. For this purpose, a certified school or agency shall annually update its

application between August 1 and October 31, unless the board grants a waiver pursuant to Section 56101. The Superintendent may conduct an onsite review as part of the annual review.

(i) (1) The Superintendent shall conduct an investigation of a nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency onsite at any time without prior notice if there is substantial reason to believe that there is an immediate danger to the health, safety, or welfare of a child. The Superintendent shall document the concern and submit it to the nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency at the time of the onsite investigation. The Superintendent shall require a written response to any noncompliance or deficiency found.

(2) With respect to a nonpublic, nonsectarian school, the Superintendent shall conduct an investigation, which may include an unannounced onsite visit, if the Superintendent receives evidence of a significant deficiency in the quality of educational services provided, a violation of Section 56366.9, or noncompliance with the policies expressed by subdivision (b) of Section 1501 of the Health and Safety Code by the nonpublic, nonsectarian school. The Superintendent shall document the complaint and the results of the investigation and shall provide copies of the documentation to the complainant, the nonpublic, nonsectarian school, and the contracting local educational agency.

(3) Violations or noncompliance documented pursuant to paragraph (1) or (2) shall be reflected in the status of the certification of the school, at the discretion of the Superintendent, pending an approved plan of correction by the nonpublic, nonsectarian school. The department shall retain for a period of 10 years, all violations pertaining to certification of the nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency.

(j) The Superintendent shall monitor the facilities, the educational environment, and the quality of the educational program, including the teaching staff, the credentials authorizing service, the standards-based core curriculum being employed, and the standard focused instructional materials used, of an existing certified nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency on a three-year cycle, as follows:

(1) The nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency shall complete a self-review in year one.

(2) The Superintendent shall conduct an onsite review of the nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency in year two.

(3) The Superintendent shall conduct a followup visit to the nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency in year three.

(k) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Superintendent may not certify a nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency that proposes to initiate or expand services to pupils currently educated in the immediate prior fiscal year in a juvenile court program, community school pursuant to Section 56150, or other nonspecial education program, including independent study or adult school, or both, unless the nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency notifies the county superintendent of schools and the special education local plan area in which the proposed new or expanded nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency is located of its intent to seek certification.

(2) The notification shall occur no later than the December 1 prior to the new fiscal year in which the proposed or expanding school or agency intends to initiate services. The notice shall include the following:

(A) The specific date upon which the proposed nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency is to be established.

(B) The location of the proposed program or facility.

(C) The number of pupils proposed for services, the number of pupils currently served in the juvenile court, community school, or other nonspecial education program, the current school services including special education and related services provided for these pupils, and the specific program of special education and related services to be provided under the proposed program.

(D) The reason for the proposed change in services.

(E) The number of staff that will provide special education and designated instruction and services and hold a current valid California credential or license in the service rendered or certificate of registration to provide occupational therapy.

(3) In addition to the requirements in subdivisions (a) to (f), inclusive, the Superintendent shall require and consider the following in determining whether to certify a nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency as described in this subdivision:

(A) A complete statement of the information required as part of the notice under paragraph (1).

(B) Documentation of the steps taken in preparation for the conversion to a nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency, including information related to changes in the population to be served and the services to be provided pursuant to each pupil's individualized education program.

(4) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the certification becomes effective no earlier than July 1 if the school or agency provided the notification required pursuant to paragraph (1).

(f) (1) Commencing July 1, 2006, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Superintendent may not certify or renew the certification of a nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency, unless all of the following conditions are met:

(A) The entity operating the nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency maintains separate financial records for each entity that it operates, with each nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency identified separately from any licensed children's institution that it operates.

(B) The entity submits an annual budget that identifies the projected costs and revenues for each entity and demonstrates that the rates to be charged are reasonable to support the operation of the entity.

(C) The entity submits an entity-wide annual audit that identifies its costs and revenues, by entity, in accordance with generally accepted accounting and auditing principles. The audit shall clearly document the amount of moneys received and expended on the education program provided by the nonpublic, nonsectarian school.

(D) The relationship between various entities operated by the same entity are documented, defining the responsibilities of the entities. The documentation shall clearly identify the services to be provided as part of each program, for example, the residential or medical program, the mental health program, or the educational program. The entity shall not seek funding from a public agency for a service, either separately or as part of a package of services, if the service is funded by another public agency, either separately or as part of a package of services.

(2) For purposes of this section, the term "licensed children's institution" has the same meaning as it is defined by Section 56155.5.

(m) The school or agency shall be charged a reasonable fee for certification. The Superintendent may adjust the fee annually commensurate with the statewide average percentage inflation adjustment computed for revenue limits of unified school districts with greater than 1,500 units of average daily attendance if the percentage increase is reflected in the district revenue limit for inflation purposes. For purposes of this section, the base fee shall be the following:

(1) 1-5 pupils .....	\$ 300
(2) 6-10 pupils .....	500
(3) 11-24 pupils .....	1,000
(4) 25-75 pupils .....	1,500
(5) 76 pupils and over .....	2,000

The school or agency shall pay this fee when it applies for certification and when it updates its application for annual review by the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall use these fees to conduct onsite reviews, which may include field experts. No fee shall be refunded if the application is withdrawn or is denied by the Superintendent.

(n) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, only those nonpublic, nonsectarian schools and agencies that provide special education and designated instruction and services utilizing staff who hold a certificate, permit, or other document equivalent to that which staff in a public school are required to hold in the service rendered are eligible to receive certification. Only those nonpublic, nonsectarian schools or agencies located outside of California that employ staff who hold a current valid credential or license to render special education and related services as required by that state shall be eligible to be certified.

(2) The board shall develop regulations to implement this subdivision.

(o) In addition to meeting the standards adopted by the board, a nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency shall provide written assurances that it meets all applicable standards relating to fire, health, sanitation, and building safety.

SEC. 8. Section 56366.2 of the Education Code is amended to read:

56366.2. (a) A district, special education local plan area, county office, nonpublic, nonsectarian school, or nonpublic, nonsectarian agency may petition the Superintendent to waive one or more of the requirements under Sections 56365, 56366, 56366.3, and 56366.6. The petition shall state the reasons for the waiver request, and shall include the following:

(1) Sufficient documentation to demonstrate that the waiver is necessary to the content and implementation of a specific pupil's individualized education program and the pupil's current placement.

(2) The period of time that the waiver will be effective during any one school year.

(3) Documentation and assurance that the waiver does not abrogate any right provided individuals with exceptional needs and their parents or guardians under state or federal law, and does not hinder the compliance of a district, special education local plan area, or county office with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. Sec. 1400 et seq.), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. Sec. 794), the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12101 et seq.), and federal regulations relating thereto.

(b) No waiver shall be granted for reimbursement of those costs prohibited under Article 4 (commencing with Section 56836.20) of Chapter 7.2 of Part 30 or for the certification requirements pursuant to Section 56366.1 unless approved by the board pursuant to Section 56101.

(c) In submitting the annual report on waivers granted under Section 56101 and this section to the board, the Superintendent shall specify information related to the provision of special education and related services to individuals with exceptional needs through contracts with nonpublic, nonsectarian schools and agencies located in the state, nonpublic, nonsectarian school and agency placements in facilities located out of state, and the specific section waived pursuant to this section.

SEC. 9. Section 319 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

319. (a) At the initial petition hearing, the court shall examine the child's parents, guardians, or other persons having relevant knowledge and hear the relevant evidence as the child, the child's parents or guardians, the petitioner, or their counsel

desires to present. The court may examine the child, as provided in Section 350.

(b) The social worker shall report to the court on the reasons why the child has been removed from the parent's physical custody; the need, if any, for continued detention; the available services and the referral methods to those services that could facilitate the return of the child to the custody of the child's parents or guardians; and whether there are any relatives who are able and willing to take temporary physical custody of the child. The court shall order the release of the child from custody unless a prima facie showing has been made that the child comes within Section 300, the court finds that continuance in the parent's or guardian's home is contrary to the child's welfare, and any of the following circumstances exist:

(1) There is a substantial danger to the physical health of the child or the child is suffering severe emotional damage, and there are no reasonable means by which the child's physical or emotional health may be protected without removing the child from the parent's or guardian's physical custody.

(2) There is substantial evidence that a parent, guardian, or custodian of the child is likely to flee the jurisdiction of the court.

(3) The child has left a placement in which he or she was placed by the juvenile court.

(4) The child indicates an unwillingness to return home, if the child has been physically or sexually abused by a person residing in the home.

(c) If the matter is continued pursuant to Section 322 or for any other reason, the court shall find that the continuance of the child in the parent's or guardian's home is contrary to the child's welfare at the initial petition hearing or order the release of the child from custody.

(d) (1) The court shall also make a determination on the record, referencing the social worker's report or other evidence relied upon, as to whether reasonable efforts were made to prevent or eliminate the need for removal of the child from his or her home, pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 306, and whether there are available services that would prevent the need for further detention. Services to be considered for purposes of making this determination are case management, counseling, emergency shelter care, emergency in-home caretakers,

out-of-home respite care, teaching and demonstrating homemakers, parenting training, transportation, and any other child welfare services authorized by the State Department of Social Services pursuant to Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 16500) of Part 4 of Division 9. The court shall also review whether the social worker has considered whether a referral to public assistance services pursuant to Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 11200) and Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 14000) of Part 3, Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 17000) of Part 5, and Chapter 10 (commencing with Section 18900) of Part 6 of Division 9 would have eliminated the need to take temporary custody of the child or would prevent the need for further detention.

(2) If the child can be returned to the custody of his or her parent or guardian through the provision of those services, the court shall place the child with his or her parent or guardian and order that the services shall be provided. If the child cannot be returned to the physical custody of his or her parent or guardian, the court shall determine if there is a relative who is able and willing to care for the child, and has been assessed pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 309.

(e) Whenever a court orders a child detained, the court shall state the facts on which the decision is based, shall specify why the initial removal was necessary, shall reference the social worker's report or other evidence relied upon to make its determination whether continuance in the home of the parent or legal guardian in contrary to the child's welfare, shall order temporary placement and care of the child to be vested with the county child welfare department pending the hearing held pursuant to Section 355 or further order of the court, and shall order services to be provided as soon as possible to reunify the child and his or her family if appropriate.

(f) When the child is not released from custody, the court may order that the child shall be placed in the assessed home of a relative, in an emergency shelter or other suitable licensed place, in a place exempt from licensure designated by the juvenile court, or in the assessed home of a nonrelative extended family member as defined in Section 362.7 for a period not to exceed 15 judicial days.

As used in this section, “relative” means an adult who is related to the child by blood, adoption, or affinity within the fifth degree of kinship, including stepparents, stepsiblings, and all relatives whose status is preceded by the words “great,” “great-great,” or “grand,” or the spouse of any of these persons, even if the marriage was terminated by death or dissolution. However, only the following relatives shall be given preferential consideration for placement of the child: an adult who is a grandparent, aunt, uncle, or sibling of the child.

The court shall consider the recommendations of the social worker based on the assessment pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 309 of the relative’s home, including the results of a criminal records check and prior child abuse allegations, if any, prior to ordering that the child be placed with a relative. The court shall order the parent to disclose to the social worker the names, residences, and any known identifying information of any maternal or paternal relatives of the child. The social worker shall initiate the assessment pursuant to Section 361.3 of any relative to be considered for continuing placement.

(g) (1) At the initial hearing upon the petition filed in accordance with subdivision (c) of Rule 1406 of the California Rules of Court or anytime thereafter up until the time that the minor is adjudged a dependent child of the court or a finding is made dismissing the petition, the court may temporarily limit the right of the parent or guardian to make educational decisions for the child and temporarily appoint a responsible adult to make educational decisions for the child if all of the following conditions are found:

(A) The parent or guardian is unavailable, unable, or unwilling to exercise educational rights for the child.

(B) The county placing agency has made diligent efforts to locate and secure the participation of the parent or guardian in educational decisionmaking.

(C) The child’s educational needs cannot be met without the temporary appointment of a responsible adult.

(2) If the court cannot identify a responsible adult to make educational decisions for the child and the appointment of a surrogate parent as defined in subdivision (a) of Section 56050 of the Education Code is not warranted, the court may, with the input of any interested person, make educational decisions for the

child. If the court makes educational decisions for the child, the court shall also issue appropriate orders to ensure that every effort is made to identify a responsible adult to make future educational decisions for the child.

(3) Any temporary appointment of a responsible adult and temporary limitation on the right of the parent or guardian to make educational decisions for the child shall be specifically addressed in the court order. Any order made under this section shall expire at the conclusion of the hearing held pursuant to Section 361 or upon dismissal of the petition. Upon the entering of disposition orders any additional needed limitation on the parent's or guardian's educational rights shall be addressed pursuant to Section 361.

SEC. 10. Section 361 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

361. (a) In all cases in which a minor is adjudged a dependent child of the court on the ground that the minor is a person described by Section 300, the court may limit the control to be exercised over the dependent child by any parent or guardian and shall by its order clearly and specifically set forth all those limitations. Any limitation on the right of the parent or guardian to make educational decisions for the child shall be specifically addressed in the court order. The limitations may not exceed those necessary to protect the child. If the court specifically limits the right of the parent or guardian to make educational decisions for the child, the court shall at the same time appoint a responsible adult to make educational decisions for the child until one of the following occurs:

(1) The minor reaches 18 years of age, unless the child chooses not to make educational decisions for himself or herself, or is deemed by the court to be incompetent.

(2) Another responsible adult is appointed to make educational decisions for the minor pursuant to this section.

(3) The right of the parent or guardian to make educational decisions for the minor is fully restored.

(4) A successor guardian or conservator is appointed.

(5) The child is placed into a planned permanent living arrangement pursuant to paragraph (3) of subdivision (g) of Section 366.21, Section 366.22, or Section 366.26, at which time the foster parent, relative caretaker, or nonrelative extended

family member as defined in Section 362.7, has the right to represent the child in educational matters pursuant to Section 56055 of the Education Code.

An individual who would have a conflict of interest in representing the child may not be appointed to make educational decisions. For purposes of this section, “an individual who would have a conflict of interest,” means a person having any interests that might restrict or bias his or her ability to make educational decisions, including, but not limited to, those conflicts of interest prohibited by Section 1126 of the Government Code, and the receipt of compensation or attorneys’ fees for the provision of services pursuant to this section. A foster parent may not be deemed to have a conflict of interest solely because he or she receives compensation for the provision of services pursuant to this section.

If the court is unable to appoint a responsible adult to make educational decisions for the child and paragraphs (1) to (5), inclusive, do not apply, and the child has either been referred to the local educational agency for special education and related services, or has a valid individualized education program, the court shall refer the child to the local educational agency for appointment of a surrogate parent pursuant to Section 7579.5 of the Government Code.

If the court cannot identify a responsible adult to make educational decisions for the child, the appointment of a surrogate parent as defined in subdivision (a) of Section 56050 of the Education Code is not warranted, and there is no foster parent to exercise the authority granted by Section 56055 of the Education Code, the court may, with the input of any interested person, make educational decisions for the child.

All educational and school placement decisions shall seek to ensure that the child is in the least restrictive educational programs and has access to the academic resources, services, and extracurricular and enrichment activities that are available to all pupils. In all instances, educational and school placement decisions shall be based on the best interests of the child.

(b) Subdivision (a) does not limit the ability of a parent to voluntarily relinquish his or her child to the State Department of Social Services or to a licensed county adoption agency at any

time while the child is a dependent child of the juvenile court, if the department or agency is willing to accept the relinquishment.

(c) A dependent child may not be taken from the physical custody of his or her parents or guardian or guardians with whom the child resides at the time the petition was initiated, unless the juvenile court finds clear and convincing evidence of any of the following:

(1) There is or would be a substantial danger to the physical health, safety, protection, or physical or emotional well-being of the minor if the minor were returned home, and there are no reasonable means by which the minor's physical health can be protected without removing the minor from the minor's parent's or guardian's physical custody. The fact that a minor has been adjudicated a dependent child of the court pursuant to subdivision (e) of Section 300 shall constitute prima facie evidence that the minor cannot be safely left in the physical custody of the parent or guardian with whom the minor resided at the time of injury. The court shall consider, as a reasonable means to protect the minor, the option of removing an offending parent or guardian from the home. The court shall also consider, as a reasonable means to protect the minor, allowing a nonoffending parent or guardian to retain physical custody as long as that parent or guardian presents a plan acceptable to the court demonstrating that he or she will be able to protect the child from future harm.

(2) The parent or guardian of the minor is unwilling to have physical custody of the minor, and the parent or guardian has been notified that if the minor remains out of their physical custody for the period specified in Section 366.26, the minor may be declared permanently free from their custody and control.

(3) The minor is suffering severe emotional damage, as indicated by extreme anxiety, depression, withdrawal, or untoward aggressive behavior toward himself or herself or others, and there are no reasonable means by which the minor's emotional health may be protected without removing the minor from the physical custody of his or her parent or guardian.

(4) The minor or a sibling of the minor has been sexually abused, or is deemed to be at substantial risk of being sexually abused, by a parent, guardian, or member of his or her household, or other person known to his or her parent, and there are no

reasonable means by which the minor can be protected from further sexual abuse or a substantial risk of sexual abuse without removing the minor from his or her parent or guardian, or the minor does not wish to return to his or her parent or guardian.

(5) The minor has been left without any provision for his or her support, or a parent who has been incarcerated or institutionalized cannot arrange for the care of the minor, or a relative or other adult custodian with whom the child has been left by the parent is unwilling or unable to provide care or support for the child and the whereabouts of the parent is unknown and reasonable efforts to locate him or her have been unsuccessful.

(d) The court shall make a determination as to whether reasonable efforts were made to prevent or to eliminate the need for removal of the minor from his or her home or, if the minor is removed for one of the reasons stated in paragraph (5) of subdivision (c), whether it was reasonable under the circumstances not to make any of those efforts. The court shall state the facts on which the decision to remove the minor is based.

(e) The court shall make all of the findings required by subdivision (a) of Section 366 in either of the following circumstances:

(1) The minor has been taken from the custody of his or her parent or guardian and has been living in an out-of-home placement pursuant to Section 319.

(2) The minor has been living in a voluntary out-of-home placement pursuant to Section 16507.4.

SEC. 11. Section 391 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

391. At any hearing to terminate jurisdiction over a dependent child who has reached the age of majority the county welfare department shall do both of the following:

(a) Ensure that the child is present in court, unless the child does not wish to appear in court, or document efforts by the county welfare department to locate the child when the child is not available.

(b) Submit a report verifying that the following information, documents, and services have been provided to the child:

(1) Written information concerning the child's dependency case, including his or her family history and placement history, the whereabouts of any siblings under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, unless the court determines that sibling contact would jeopardize the safety or welfare of the sibling, directions on how to access the documents the child is entitled to inspect under Section 827, and the date on which the jurisdiction of the juvenile court would be terminated.

(2) The following documents, where applicable: social security card, certified birth certificate, health and education summary as described in subdivision (a) of Section 16010, identification card, as described in Section 13000 of the Vehicle Code, death certificate of parent or parents, and proof of citizenship or residence.

(3) Assistance in completing an application for Medi-Cal or assistance in obtaining other health insurance; referral to transitional housing, if available, or assistance in securing other housing; and assistance in obtaining employment or other financial support.

(4) Assistance in applying for admission to college or to a vocational training program or other educational institution and in obtaining financial aid, where appropriate.

(5) Assistance in maintaining relationships with individuals who are important to a child who has been in out-of-home placement in a group home for six months or longer from the date the child entered foster care, based on the child's best interests.

(c) The court may continue jurisdiction if it finds that the county welfare department has not met the requirements of subdivision (b) and that termination of jurisdiction would be harmful to the best interests of the child. If the court determines that continued jurisdiction is warranted pursuant to this section, the continuation shall only be ordered for that period of time necessary for the county welfare department to meet the requirements of subdivision (b). This section shall not be construed to limit the discretion of the juvenile court to continue jurisdiction for other reasons. The court may terminate jurisdiction if the county welfare department has offered the required services, and the child either has refused the services or,

after reasonable efforts by the county welfare department, cannot be located.

(d) The Judicial Council shall develop and implement standards, and develop and adopt appropriate forms, necessary to implement this section.

SEC. 12. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.



Approved \_\_\_\_\_, 2005

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*Governor*