

Assembly Bill No. 2560

CHAPTER 334

An act to add Article 10 (commencing with Section 124174) to Chapter 3 of Part 2 of Division 106 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to child health.

[Approved by Governor September 19, 2006. Filed with
Secretary of State September 19, 2006.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2560, Ridley-Thomas. Public School Health Center Support Program.

Existing law requires the State Department of Health Services to implement and administer various child health and disease prevention programs.

This bill would require the State Department of Health Services, in cooperation with the State Department of Education, to establish a Public School Health Center Support Program to perform specified functions relating to the establishment, retention, or expansion of school health centers in California, in collaboration with the State Department of Education. This bill would require the State Department of Health Services to establish standardized data collection procedures and collect specified data from school health centers on an ongoing basis. This bill would require the State Department of Education, in collaboration with the State Department of Health Services, to coordinate programs within the State Department of Education and programs within other specified departments to support public school health centers and to provide technical assistance to facilitate and encourage the establishment, retention, and expansion of public school health centers. The bill would require the program to provide a biennial update to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature containing specified information regarding public school health care centers, beginning on or before January 1, 2009.

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

SECTION 1. Article 10 (commencing with Section 124174) is added to Chapter 3 of Part 2 of Division 106 of the Health and Safety Code, to read:

Article 10. Public School Health Center Support Program

124174. The following definitions shall govern the construction of this article, unless the context requires otherwise:

(a) “Program” means a Public School Health Center Support Program.

(b) “School health center” means a center or program that provides age-appropriate health care services at the program site or through referrals, and may be located on at a local educational agency. A school health center may serve two or more nonadjacent schools or local educational agencies.

(c) For purposes of this section “local educational agency” shall be defined as a school, school district, charter school, or county office of education if the county office of education serves students in kindergarten, or any grades from 1 to 12, inclusive.

124174.2. (a) The department, in cooperation with the State Department of Education, shall establish a Public School Health Center Support Program.

(b) The program, in collaboration with the State Department of Education, shall perform the following program functions:

(1) Provide technical assistance to school health centers on effective outreach and enrollment strategies to identify children who are eligible for, but not enrolled in, the Medi-Cal program, the Healthy Families Program, or any other applicable program.

(2) Serve as a liaison between organizations within the department, including, but not limited to, the Medi-Cal program, prevention services, primary care, and family health.

(3) Serve as a liaison between other state entities, as appropriate, including, but not limited to, the State Department of Mental Health, the State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, the Department of Managed Health Care, the Office of Emergency Services, and the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board.

(4) Provide technical assistance to facilitate and encourage the establishment, retention, or expansion of, school health centers. For purposes of this paragraph, technical assistance may include, but is not limited to, identifying available public and private sources of funding, which may include federal Medicaid funds, funds from third-party reimbursements, and available federal or foundation grant moneys.

(c) The department shall consult with interested parties and appropriate stakeholders, including the California School Health Centers Association and representatives of youth and parents, in carrying out its responsibilities under this article.

124174.3. (a) The department shall establish standardized data collection procedures and collect data specified in subdivisions (c) and (d) from school health centers on an ongoing basis.

(b) The data collected pursuant to this section shall be submitted in a format determined by the department in accordance with applicable state

and federal requirements for confidentiality and protected health information.

(c) Data collected pursuant to this section shall include the following:

(1) The name of the primary contact person, telephone numbers, including facsimile physical address, and the e-mail address, if applicable, for each school health center.

(2) The annual number of schoolage children receiving health services or mental health services from the school health center.

(3) The type and volume of services provided by the school health centers.

(4) The funding mechanisms used by the school health centers.

(5) Information on other programs offered by school health centers with an emphasis on preventative health services that address health issues unique to schoolage children, including, but not limited to, childhood obesity, asthma, immunizations against communicable diseases, and child and adolescent mental health disorders.

(d) To the extent feasible, the department shall collect data on health services provided at a local educational agency outside a school health center.

(e) This section shall be implemented only to the extent funds are appropriated for this purpose in the Budget Act or pursuant to the enactment of legislation subsequent to the addition of this section.

124174.4. The State Department of Education, in collaboration with the department, shall perform the following functions:

(a) Coordination of programs within the State Department of Education that support school health centers and programs within the State Department of Mental Health and the State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, where appropriate.

(b) The provision of technical assistance to facilitate and encourage the establishment, retention, and expansion of school health centers in public schools. For purposes of this subdivision, “technical assistance” may include the provision of information to local educational agencies and other entities regarding the utilization of facilities, liability insurance, cooperative agreements with community-based providers, and other issues pertinent to school health centers.

124174.5. (a) The program, in collaboration with the State Department of Education, shall act as a liaison for school-based health centers.

(b) Beginning on or before January 1, 2009, the program shall provide a biennial update to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature that includes information on all of the following:

(1) The number and geographical distribution of school health centers.

(2) The number of schoolage children who were served by school health centers.

(3) The type and volume of health and mental health services provided by school health centers.

(4) A description of state funds used by school health centers.

(5) A description of any obstacles to the financial sustainability of school health centers and any necessary policy changes that would address those financial obstacles.

(c) The department shall post on its Web site any written materials provided to the Legislature as part of the updates required by this section.