

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 333

**Introduced by Assembly Member Hancock
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Berg and Portantino)**

February 13, 2007

An act to add Chapter 2.5 (commencing with Section 18210) to Part 11 Division 1 of Title 1 of the Education Code, relating to school libraries.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 333, as introduced, Hancock. School libraries: online databases: subscriptions.

Existing law requires the governing board of a school district to provide school library services for the pupils and teachers of the district by establishing and maintaining school libraries or by contractual arrangements with another public agency.

This bill would require the Superintendent of Public Instruction, upon appropriation of funding in the annual Budget Act, to contract with a county office of education to convene an Online Database Advisory Committee consisting of school library professionals to prepare requests for purchase proposals and to assist in developing an online database selection process. The bill would also require the Superintendent to contract with a county office of education to purchase subscriptions to high quality online databases for use by the school libraries of public elementary and secondary schools, and to perform additional duties, as specified, regarding the implementation and review of those online databases.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

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

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 2.5 (commencing with Section 18210)
2 is added to Part 11 of Division 1 of Title 1 of the Education Code,
3 to read:

4
5 CHAPTER 2.5. CALIFORNIA SCHOOL LIBRARY EQUITABLE ACCESS
6 TO DIGITAL RESOURCES AND ONLINE SCHOOL DATABASE PROGRAM

7
8 18210. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

9 (a) It is critical that all pupils in the state have equitable access
10 to quality controlled digital resources throughout all of the
11 geographic areas of the state and across socioeconomic classes.
12 All pupils need equitable access to age and grade appropriate online
13 resources that span all state content standards. The current state
14 system of school library funding and materials purchasing does
15 not provide equitable access or opportunity.

16 (b) The best means of ensuring that all pupils in the state have
17 equitable access to online resources is for the state to purchase
18 subscriptions to a core of high quality online databases through
19 which every pupil, regardless of geography or economic status, is
20 able to access information on the Internet from the school library,
21 the classroom, or home. Research shows that the purchase by other
22 states of online database subscriptions has resulted in improved
23 pupil achievement in those states.

24 (c) In the 2003–04 school year, approximately 47 percent of
25 public schools in the state, including over two million pupils, did
26 not have access to online databases.

27 (d) Statewide subscriptions to online databases are cost effective.

28 (e) Subscription to an online database results in savings for
29 school districts as compared to purchasing information products
30 that can be used for additional school library resources.

31 (f) Subscription to an online database results in all of the
32 following:

33 (1) Equitable access to high quality information resources for
34 every pupil in the state.

35 (2) Enhanced Internet safety for pupils because use of online
36 databases is contained and available only to subscription users.

37 (3) Access to authoritative, current, accurate, and high quality
38 resources.

1 (4) Access for teachers and pupils to rich content that spans all
2 of the state academic content standards and enhances the content
3 of textbooks.

4 (5) The availability of resources in a variety of formats,
5 including audio, video, photographic, and primary source
6 documents, that allow for individual learning opportunities.

7 (6) Access to information in multiple languages.

8 (7) Preparation of pupils to use academic databases in higher
9 education and in the workplace.

10 (8) Responsiveness to access issues pursuant to the requirements
11 of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
12 Sec. 12101 and following).

13 18211. Upon appropriation of funding in the annual Budget
14 Act for purposes of this chapter, the Superintendent shall contract
15 with a county office of education to do all of the following:

16 (a) Convene an Online Database Advisory Committee consisting
17 of school library professionals and at least one current classroom
18 teacher to assist in developing an online database selection process.
19 The advisory committee shall do all of the following:

20 (1) Prepare requests for proposals for the purchase of
21 subscriptions to high quality online databases, including the
22 provision of vendor training for appropriate school district
23 employees on the use of the online databases.

24 (2) Develop selection criteria based on product descriptions and
25 the availability of training to use the products.

26 (3) Review the requests for proposals described in paragraph
27 (1) and make recommendations to the Superintendent regarding
28 the purchase of subscriptions to high quality online databases.

29 (4) Annually review the online databases for which subscriptions
30 are purchased pursuant to subdivision (b) and prepare and submit
31 to the Superintendent a report including recommendations for
32 future subscription purchases.

33 (b) Purchase subscriptions to high quality online databases, for
34 use by the school libraries of public elementary and secondary
35 schools, using the requests for proposals prepared pursuant to
36 subdivision (a).

37 (c) Inform school districts of the availability of the online
38 databases for which subscriptions are purchased pursuant to
39 subdivision (b).

- 1 (d) Assist with the implementation in school libraries of the
- 2 online databases for which subscriptions are purchased pursuant
- 3 to subdivision (b).
- 4 (e) Collect data for use in evaluating the online databases for
- 5 which subscriptions are purchased pursuant to subdivision (b).