

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 18, 2007

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 9, 2007

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2007—08 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 590**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Solorio**  
**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Coto and ~~Dymally~~, *Dymally*, and**  
***Eng*)**

(Coauthor: Senator Romero)

February 21, 2007

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An act to add *and repeal* Article 5 (commencing with Section 51150) ~~to~~ of Chapter 1.5 of Part 28 of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Education Code, relating to parental involvement.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 590, as amended, Solorio. Parental involvement: limited-English-proficient parent involvement grant program.

Existing law provides that, with certain exceptions, parents and guardians of pupils enrolled in public schools have the right and should have the opportunity, as mutually supportive and respectful partners in the education of their children within the public schools, to be informed by the school, and to participate in the education of their children. Existing law establishes the Nell Soto Parent/Teacher Involvement Program, pursuant to which the Superintendent of Public Instruction allocates grants to schools in accordance with prescribed criteria, for the purpose of strengthening communication between schools and parents.

This bill would require the Superintendent to establish and implement a pilot grant program for the purpose of providing matching grant awards

to eligible local educational agencies to improve communication with, and involvement of, limited-English-proficient parents in their children’s education as a means of improving pupil academic achievement. The bill would require the Superintendent to allocate funds under the program through a competitive grant application process and to develop review criteria for selecting successful applicants, would prescribe requirements relating to the program, would specify the allowable uses of the funds, and would require the Superintendent to conduct an evaluation of the program. *The grant program would be repealed on January 1, 2012.*

This bill would provide that the grant program shall be implemented upon an appropriation for the program through the annual Budget Act or any other statute.

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. The Legislature hereby finds and declares all of
- 2 the following:
- 3 (a) Studies illustrate the importance of parental involvement on
- 4 pupil academic achievement. Pupils with involved parents are
- 5 more likely to earn higher grades and test scores, attend school
- 6 regularly, have better social skills, and graduate to go on to
- 7 postsecondary education.
- 8 (b) All parents, including those whose primary language is not
- 9 English, shall have the opportunity to work in partnership with
- 10 schools, and to help their children succeed in school.
- 11 (c) In California, 2.7 million, or 43 percent, of the state’s public
- 12 school pupils speak a primary language other than English at home.
- 13 (d) School districts and schools, in providing oral interpretation
- 14 services to communicate with limited-English-proficient parents,
- 15 will enhance pupil achievement through improved parental
- 16 involvement.
- 17 SEC. 2. Article 5 (commencing with Section 51150) is added
- 18 to Chapter 1.5 of Part 28 of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Education
- 19 Code, to read:

1 Article 5. Limited-English-Proficient Parent Involvement Grant  
2 Program  
3

4 51150. (a) The Superintendent shall establish and implement  
5 a pilot grant program for the purpose of providing matching grant  
6 awards to local educational agencies to improve communication  
7 with, and involvement of, limited-English-proficient parents in  
8 their children's education as a means of improving pupil academic  
9 achievement.

10 (b) Local educational agencies shall utilize these matching funds  
11 to address the oral interpretation needs of limited-English-proficient  
12 parents to meaningfully access important educational events at the  
13 school and district levels, such as the following:

- 14 (1) Parent-teacher conferences and meetings.
- 15 (2) Special education meetings involving parents.
- 16 (3) Emergency health situations involving communication  
17 between the school and parents regarding their children.
- 18 (4) Disciplinary meetings and conversations.
- 19 (5) Suspension and expulsion hearings.
- 20 (6) School counselor sessions involving parents.
- 21 (7) English Learner Advisory Committee meetings.
- 22 (8) District English Learner Advisory Committee meetings.
- 23 (9) Schoolsite council meetings.
- 24 (10) Community Advisory Council on Special Education  
25 meetings.
- 26 (11) School board meetings.
- 27 (12) Parent advisory committee meetings.
- 28 (13) Parent workshops and trainings.
- 29 (14) Pupil enrollment services.
- 30 (15) Other school or district communication with parents.

31 (c) The matching funds received pursuant to this article shall  
32 be used to design an approach for meeting the oral interpretation  
33 needs of limited-English-proficient parents so that they may be  
34 involved in their children's education. The funds may be used to  
35 hire or contract with bilingual staff to serve as interpreters, create  
36 regional interpreter pools, hire bilingual home school liaisons,  
37 invest in interpretation equipment, or other strategies designed to  
38 meet the oral interpretation needs to improve parental involvement.  
39 As part of parental involvement efforts, the local educational

1 agency also shall distribute information regarding available  
2 resources for parents to attain proficiency in English.

3 51151. A local education agency that maintains kindergarten  
4 or any of grades 1 to 12, inclusive, may apply for a matching grant  
5 as long as the local educational agency has devoted its allocation  
6 under Title I of the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (20  
7 U.S.C. Sec. 6301 et seq.) for parental involvement activities on  
8 such activities, and if it can demonstrate that the matching grant  
9 funds will not supplant current resources dedicated to  
10 communication with and involvement of limited-English-proficient  
11 parents. *If a local educational agency receives an allocation from*  
12 *Title I of the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (20 U.S.C.*  
13 *Sec. 6301 et seq.), it is eligible for a matching grant only if it has*  
14 *developed parental involvement activities pursuant to the act.*

15 51152. (a) The Superintendent shall allocate funds to local  
16 educational agencies through a competitive grant application  
17 process. Local educational agencies shall be eligible to receive a  
18 matching grant up to a maximum of one hundred fifty thousand  
19 dollars (\$150,000) to be spent over three years.

20 (b) The Superintendent shall develop review criteria for selecting  
21 successful applicants. The criteria shall assess the ability of the  
22 local educational agency to effectively describe the manner in  
23 which the proposed approach for funding will improve programs  
24 and fill gaps, including the following:

25 (1) The significant language or languages, based on existing  
26 data, to be targeted.

27 (2) The manner in which the proposed approach will expand the  
28 ability of the local educational agency to provide communication  
29 with limited-English-proficient parents.

30 (3) The educational events specified in subdivision (b) of Section  
31 51150 where language assistance communication will be provided.

32 (4) The roles and responsibilities of staff and interpreters in  
33 providing the services of the grant program.

34 (5) The manner in which the proposed approach will reach  
35 previously uninvolved limited-English-proficient parents.

36 (6) The manner in which the proposed approach creates an  
37 infrastructure for the local educational agency to address  
38 interpretation needs.

39 (7) The manner in which interpretation will be integrated as a  
40 component of parental involvement activities.

1 (8) The manner in which the grant plans will be incorporated  
2 into the overall school plan of the local educational agency.

3 (c) The Superintendent shall prioritize the allocation of funding  
4 to local educational agencies with high concentrations of English  
5 learners, with multiple language needs or language groups whose  
6 needs have been unmet, or with numerous low-performing schools.

7 (d) The Superintendent shall also prioritize the allocation of  
8 funding to projects that demonstrate innovation in achieving  
9 improved involvement of limited-English-proficient parents.

10 (e) The Superintendent shall strive to select local educational  
11 agencies that as a whole reflect the geographic and language  
12 diversity of the state.

13 (f) The Superintendent shall inform applicants of the outcome  
14 of the competitive grant application process by June 1, 2008, so  
15 that successful applicants can begin implementation for the  
16 2008–09 school year.

17 51153. The Superintendent shall evaluate the program  
18 established pursuant to this article regarding its impact on  
19 improving the involvement of limited-English-proficient parents  
20 in their children’s education. The effectiveness of strategies used  
21 by the local educational agencies shall be assessed, and the  
22 evaluation report shall include information on the numbers of  
23 limited-English-proficient parents reached, the amount of usage  
24 of interpreters, and the impact on participation by  
25 limited-English-proficient parents in educational events. The  
26 Superintendent shall also gather best practices created by the local  
27 educational agencies. The evaluation shall be completed on or  
28 before January 1, 2012.

29 *51154. This article shall remain in effect only until January 1,*  
30 *2012, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute,*  
31 *that is enacted before January 1, 2012, deletes or extends that*  
32 *date.*

33 SEC. 3. Article 5 (commencing with Section 51150) of Chapter  
34 1.5 of Part 28 of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Education Code shall  
35 be implemented upon an appropriation for the program through  
36 the annual Budget Act or any other statute.

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