

Senate Bill No. 1638

Passed the Senate August 7, 2008

Secretary of the Senate

Passed the Assembly July 14, 2008

Chief Clerk of the Assembly

This bill was received by the Governor this _____ day
of _____, 2008, at _____ o'clock ____M.

Private Secretary of the Governor

CHAPTER _____

An act to add Section 48646 to the Education Code, relating to juvenile court schools.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1638, Alquist. Juveniles: juvenile court schools.

Existing law requires a minor under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court as a consequence of delinquent conduct, in conformity with the interests of public safety and protection, to receive care, treatment, and guidance that is consistent with his or her best interest, that holds the minor accountable for his or her behavior, and that is appropriate for his or her circumstances.

Existing law provides for the establishment of public schools in juvenile halls, juvenile homes, day centers, juvenile ranches, juvenile camps, regional youth educational facilities, or Orange County youth correctional centers, as specified, to provide juvenile court school pupils with quality education and training. Existing law requires a county board of education to provide for the administration and operation of juvenile court schools in the county, either by the county superintendent of schools, as specified, or by contract with the respective governing boards of the elementary, high school, or unified school district in which the juvenile court school is located.

This bill would encourage each county superintendent of schools or governing board of a school district and each county chief probation officer to enter into a memorandum of understanding or an equivalent mutual agreement to support a collaborative process for meeting the needs of wards of the court who are receiving their education in juvenile court schools. The bill would specify various items that may be included in the memorandum of understanding or equivalent mutual agreement.

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

SECTION 1. Section 48646 is added to the Education Code, to read:

48646. (a) The Legislature encourages each county superintendent of schools or school district, as determined by the county board of education pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 48645.2, and county chief probation officer to enter into a memorandum of understanding or equivalent mutual agreement to support a collaborative process for meeting the needs of wards of the court who are receiving their education in juvenile court schools. The memorandum of understanding or equivalent mutual agreement may include, but is not limited to, a process for communication, decisionmaking, mutually established goals, and conflict resolution. The purpose of this memorandum of understanding or equivalent mutual agreement is to develop a collaborative model that will foster an educational and residential environment that nurtures the whole child and consistently supports services that will meet the educational needs of the pupils.

(b) A memorandum of understanding or equivalent mutual agreement on providing educational and related services for juvenile court school pupils developed in accordance with this section may include, but is not limited to, the following provisions:

(1) Mutually developed goals and objectives that are reviewed annually, including, but not limited to, the following:

(A) Building resiliency and strengthening life skills.

(B) Fostering prosocial attitudes and behaviors.

(C) Assigning pupils to appropriate classrooms based on their educational needs.

(D) Ensuring regular classroom attendance.

(E) Providing clean, safe, and appropriate educational facilities.

(F) Improving academic achievement and vocational preparation.

(2) Clear delineation of responsibilities among the educational and residential or custodial service providers.

(3) A process for communicating, collaborating, and resolving conflicts. Whenever possible, resolution of issues shall be reached by consensus through a collaborative process that would promote decisionmaking at the site where services are delivered. A working group charged with this responsibility may be appointed by the county superintendent of schools, or the superintendent of the school district with responsibility for providing juvenile court school services, and the county chief probation officer, or their designees. The working group is responsible for establishing and

maintaining open communication, collaboration, and resolution of issues that arise.

(4) A clearly identified mechanism for resolving conflicts.

(5) A joint process for performing an intake evaluation for each ward to determine educational needs and ability to participate in all educational settings once the ward enters the local juvenile facility. The process shall recognize the limitations on academic evaluation and planning that can result from short-term placements. The evaluation team shall include staff from the responsible educational agency and the county probation department, and may include other participants as appropriate, and as mutually agreed upon by the education and probation members of the team. The evaluation process specified in the memorandum of understanding or equivalent mutual agreement may:

(A) Include a timeline for evaluation once a ward is assigned to a local facility.

(B) Result in an educational plan for a ward while assigned to a local juvenile facility that is integrated with other rehabilitative and behavioral management programs, and that supports the educational needs of the pupil.

It is the intent that this shared information about each ward placed in a juvenile court school shall assist both the county superintendent of schools and the county chief probation officer in meeting the needs of wards in their care and promoting a system of comprehensive services.

(c) The memorandum of understanding or equivalent mutual agreement shall not cede responsibility or authority prescribed by statute or regulation from one party to another party unless mutually agreed upon by both parties.

Approved _____, 2008

Governor