

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 5, 2010

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 1357**

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**Introduced by Senators Steinberg and Alquist**

February 19, 2010

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An act to amend Section 48070.6 of, and to add Section 60901 to, the Education Code, relating to pupil data.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1357, as amended, Steinberg. California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System.

Existing law establishes the California Education Information System, which consists of the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS) and the California Longitudinal Teacher Integrated Data Education System. Existing law requires the State Department of Education under CALPADS to contract for the development of proposals that will provide for the retention and analysis of longitudinal pupil achievement data. Existing law requires local educational agencies to retain individual pupil records for each test taker, including other data elements deemed necessary by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, with approval of the State Board of Education, to comply with federal reporting requirements delineated in the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

This bill would require the department, contingent on federal funding for this purpose, to prepare CALPADS to include data on pupil absences ~~in CALPADS and~~. *The bill would require that CALPADS be capable of issuing periodic reports to local educational agencies on the rates of absence for each pupil and reports on chronic absences, as defined. The bill would state the intent of the Legislature to support the*

development of early warning systems to identify and support individual pupils who are at risk of academic failure or of dropping out of school.

*Existing law requires the Superintendent annually to submit to the Governor, the Legislature, and the State Board of Education a report on dropouts using the data produced by CALPADS.*

*This bill would require the report to include chronic absence rates when that data is available.*

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. (a) *The Legislature finds and declares all of the*  
2 *following:*

3     (1) *The number of pupils dropping out of California middle and*  
4 *high schools is unacceptably high and has negative consequences*  
5 *for those dropouts, their communities, and the health of the*  
6 *California economy.*

7     (2) *Research suggests that before they abandon school many*  
8 *pupils who drop out display clear early warning signs years,*  
9 *including chronic absenteeism, failing grades, and behavior*  
10 *problems.*

11     (3) *States and school districts across the country employ early*  
12 *warning systems to accurately identify pupils who are at risk of*  
13 *dropping out and provide timely dropout prevention.*

14     (4) *Chronic absence, defined as missing 10 percent or more of*  
15 *school days for any reason over the course of the academic year,*  
16 *even in the earliest of grades, is one of the best indicators of*  
17 *dropout risk and is a critical element in any early warning system.*

18     (5) *California is one of only seven states that do not collect*  
19 *pupil level data on attendance according to the Data Quality*  
20 *Campaign, a national, collaborative effort to encourage and*  
21 *support state policymakers to improve the availability and use of*  
22 *high-quality education data to improve pupil achievement.*

23     (6) *Existing state law clearly recognizes the importance of*  
24 *attendance for pupils by making education compulsory for children*  
25 *between 6 and 18 years of age, with few exceptions. State law also*  
26 *encourages local educational agencies to adopt pupil attendance*  
27 *policies, to notify parents when pupils are absent, to establish*

1 *alternative programs for pupils in special circumstances, and to*  
2 *work with law enforcement agencies to address truancy.*

3 *(7) Existing state law also requires 8th and 9th grade dropout*  
4 *rates and cohort graduation rates to be included as factors in the*  
5 *Academic Performance Index (API), the state’s accountability*  
6 *measure for public schools. As these factors are incorporated into*  
7 *the API, and as local educational agencies attend more closely to*  
8 *them, the state’s education data system must be improved to*  
9 *support schools and districts to identify pupils at risk of dropping*  
10 *out and prevent that outcome.*

11 *(b) (1) It is therefore the intent of the Legislature to improve*  
12 *the state’s ability to support local educational agencies in their*  
13 *efforts to increase academic achievement and prevent dropouts*  
14 *by making the state’s education data system capable of collecting*  
15 *pupil level data on chronic absenteeism.*

16 *(2) It is further the intent of the Legislature to support the*  
17 *development of early warning systems that will better enable*  
18 *schools and communities to identify pupils who signal clearly that*  
19 *they are at risk of dropping out and to develop interventions to*  
20 *improve pupil attendance, retention, and achievement.*

21 *SEC. 2. Section 48070.6 of the Education Code is amended to*  
22 *read:*

23 48070.6. (a) On or before August 1, 2011, and annually  
24 thereafter, utilizing data produced by the California Longitudinal  
25 Pupil Achievement Data System pursuant to Section 60900 and  
26 other available data, the Superintendent shall submit to the  
27 Governor, the Legislature, and the state board, a report that shall  
28 be called the Annual Report on Dropouts in California. The report  
29 shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following:

30 (1) One-year dropout rates for each of grades 7 to 12, inclusive.

31 (2) Four-year cohort dropout rates for grades 9 to 12, inclusive.

32 (3) Two- or three-year cohort dropout rates, as appropriate, for  
33 middle schools.

34 (4) Grade 9 to grade 10 promotion rates.

35 (5) Percentage of high school pupils for each of grades 9 to 12,  
36 inclusive, who are on track to earn sufficient credits to graduate.

37 (6) The average number of nonpromotional school moves that  
38 pupils make between grades 6 to 12, inclusive.

39 (7) “Full-year” dropout rates for alternative schools, including  
40 dropout recovery high schools, calculated using a methodology

1 developed by the Superintendent to appropriately reflect dropout  
2 rates in each type of alternative school.

3 (8) An explanation of the methodology or methodologies used  
4 to calculate “full-year” dropout rates for alternative schools  
5 pursuant to paragraph (7).

6 (9) California High School Exit Examination—(CAHSEE)  
7 passage rates.

8 (10) Other available data relating to dropout or graduation rates  
9 or pupil progress toward high school graduation.

10 (b) When cohort dropout rates can be calculated accurately  
11 using longitudinal data, the rates described in paragraph (3) of  
12 subdivision (a) shall be replaced by dropout rates for cohorts of  
13 pupils entering middle school.

14 (c) When data is available, the report shall also include all of  
15 the following:

16 (1) Rates at which pupils graduate in four, five, and six years,  
17 pursuant to subparagraph (A) of paragraph (4) of subdivision (a)  
18 of Section 52052.

19 (2) Percentage of high school graduates and dropouts who  
20 completed courses that are certified by the University of California  
21 as meeting admission requirement criteria for the University of  
22 California and California State University systems.

23 (3) Percentage of high school graduates and dropouts who  
24 completed two or more classes in career technical education.

25 (4) Percentage of high school graduates and dropouts who  
26 completed both course sequences described in paragraphs (2) and  
27 (3).

28 (5) Behavioral data by school and district, including suspensions  
29 and expulsions.

30 (6) Truancy rates.

31 (7) GED earning rates.

32 (8) *Chronic absence rates, as defined in Section 60901.*

33 (d) If possible, the data listed in subdivisions (a) and (b) shall  
34 be presented in the report, organized as follows:

35 (1) By state.

36 (2) By county.

37 (3) By district both including and excluding charter schools.

38 (4) By school.

39 (e) The report shall include data from alternative middle and  
40 high schools, including continuation high schools, community day

1 schools, juvenile court schools, special schools, opportunity  
2 schools, and schools attended by wards of the Department of  
3 Corrections and Rehabilitation, Division of Juvenile Justice.

4 (f) The report may include relevant data on school climate and  
5 pupil engagement from the California Healthy Kids Survey.

6 (g) If possible, the data listed in subdivisions (a) and (b) shall  
7 be presented for the following subgroups, if the subgroup consists  
8 of at least 50 pupils, and the subgroup constitutes at least 15 percent  
9 of the total population of pupils at a school:

10 (1) Grade level.

11 (2) Ethnicity.

12 (3) Gender.

13 (4) Low socioeconomic status.

14 (5) English learners.

15 (6) Special education status.

16 (h) The first Annual Report on Dropouts in California shall  
17 include data from the most recent year. Subsequent annual reports  
18 shall include data from the most recent year and, at a minimum,  
19 the two prior years, so that comparisons can be made easily.

20 (i) The Superintendent or his or her designee shall make an oral  
21 presentation of the contents of the report to the state board at a  
22 regularly scheduled meeting of the board.

23 (j) The Superintendent shall make the contents of the report  
24 available on the department's Internet Web site in a format that is  
25 easy for the public to access and understand.

26 (k) If inclusion of school-level data would render the written  
27 report unwieldy, the data may be omitted from the written report  
28 and posted on the department's Internet Web site.

29 (l) It is the intent of the Legislature that the report prepared by  
30 the Superintendent be usable by schools, districts, policymakers,  
31 researchers, parents, and the public, for purposes of identifying  
32 and understanding trends, causal relations, early warning indicators,  
33 and potential points of intervention to address the high rate of  
34 dropouts in California.

35 (m) *It is further the intent of the Legislature that the report be*  
36 *used to foster the development of effective supports and*  
37 *interventions that include health, dental, and mental health*  
38 *services, case management, social services, and after school*  
39 *programs to improve school attendance and prevent pupils from*  
40 *dropping out of school.*

1 ~~(m)~~

2 (n) For purposes of this section, dropouts shall be defined using  
3 the exit/withdrawal codes developed by the department.

4 ~~(n)~~

5 (o) For purposes of this section, “dropout recovery high school”  
6 has the same meaning as defined in subparagraph (C) of paragraph  
7 (4) of subdivision (a) of Section 52052.

8 *SEC. 3. Section 60901 is added to the Education Code, to read:*

9 *60901. (a) Contingent upon the receipt of federal funds for*  
10 *this purpose, the department shall prepare the California*  
11 *Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System established pursuant*  
12 *to Section 60900 to include data on pupil attendance. Preparation*  
13 *shall include all of the following:*

14 *(1) The addition of fields to facilitate the transfer of data.*

15 *(2) System development activities including any business rules*  
16 *and definitions that would be needed to improve the quality and*  
17 *consistency of the data.*

18 *(3) Processes for the transfer of data from local educational*  
19 *agencies.*

20 *(b) The system shall support local educational agencies in their*  
21 *efforts to identify and support pupils at risk of dropping out and*  
22 *shall be capable of issuing periodic reports to local educational*  
23 *agencies that include all of the following:*

24 *(1) District, school, class, and individual pupil reports on rates*  
25 *of absence.*

26 *(2) Chronic absence reports at the district, school, class, and*  
27 *individual pupil level.*

28 *(c) (1) For purposes of this section, “chronic absence” means*  
29 *that a pupil is absent on 10 percent of the schooldays in the school*  
30 *year when the total number of days a pupil is absent is divided by*  
31 *the total number of days the pupil is enrolled.*

32 *(2) Once available, chronic absence rates shall be incorporated*  
33 *into the annual report on dropouts required pursuant to Section*  
34 *48070.6.*

35 *(d) It is the intent of the Legislature to support the development*  
36 *of early warning systems to enable the identification and support*  
37 *of individual pupils who are at risk of academic failure or dropping*  
38 *out of school. The systems shall encompass the following*  
39 *characteristics:*

1 (1) *The utilization of highly predictive indicators, including*  
2 *attendance, course grades or completion, performance on*  
3 *assessments of pupil achievement, suspensions, and expulsions.*

4 (2) *A thorough validation process to ensure the predictive*  
5 *reliability of the systems.*

6 (3) *Periodic reports that inform principals, teachers, and parents*  
7 *in a manner that enables timely identification and support of*  
8 *individual pupils who are at risk of academic failure or dropping*  
9 *out.*

10 (e) *When the system established pursuant to Section 60900 is*  
11 *prepared to accept data on pupil attendance, a local educational*  
12 *agency may submit data on pupil attendance and other indicators*  
13 *as identified by the department. For purposes of local educational*  
14 *agencies receiving funding pursuant to Section 1003(g) of Title I*  
15 *of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (20 U.S.C. Sec.*  
16 *6301 et seq.), it is the intent of the Legislature that schools*  
17 *identified on the list of persistently lowest-achieving schools*  
18 *approved by the state board will fully utilize the early warning*  
19 *systems described in subdivision (d).*

20 (f) *A local educational agency that reports attendance data for*  
21 *pupils to the system established pursuant to Section 60900 may*  
22 *request, and the department shall provide, the early warning report*  
23 *described in subdivision (d) up to four times each school year.*

24 ~~SECTION 1.—Section 60901 is added to the Education Code,~~  
25 ~~to read:~~

26 ~~60901.—Contingent on the receipt of federal funding for this~~  
27 ~~purpose, the department shall include data on pupil absences in~~  
28 ~~the system established pursuant to Section 60900. It is the intent~~  
29 ~~of the Legislature to support the development of early warning~~  
30 ~~systems to identify and support individual pupils who are at risk~~  
31 ~~of academic failure or of dropping out of school.~~