

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 18

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 77

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 18—Relative to public schools.

[Filed with Secretary of State August 25, 2011.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 18, Liu. Public schools: pupil, teacher, and parent surveys.

This measure would state the intent of the Legislature to pursue every means necessary to ensure that the California School Climate, Health, and Learning Survey (CAL-SCHLS) remains viable and would urge the state to pursue federal funding, grants, or other sources to ensure that school districts receive the necessary funding to support the CAL-SCHLS.

WHEREAS, School climate and safety are an important priority and significantly contribute to, or detract from, the overall success of pupils, schools, and the general well-being of our children; and

WHEREAS, The California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) is an anonymous, comprehensive, confidential, and self-reported data collection system that addresses youth resiliency, school climate, health risks, and behaviors, and is administered to pupils in grades 5, 7, 9, and 11; and

WHEREAS, The California School Climate Survey (CSCS) is an online staff survey that provides a means to confidentially obtain staff perceptions about learning and teaching conditions for both general and special education, in order to regularly inform decisions about professional development, instruction, the implementation of learning supports, and school reform; and

WHEREAS, The California School Parent Survey (CSPS) assesses the perceptions of parents related to school climate, parent outreach, and pupil achievement, and is designed to provide teachers, administrators, and other school staff with information directly from parents that can be used to foster positive learning and teaching environments, parent involvement, and pupil achievement, health, and well-being; and

WHEREAS, Together, the CHKS, CSCS, and CSPS form the California School Climate, Health, and Learning Survey (CAL-SCHLS) comprised of three interrelated surveys that secure the critical information with respect to pupil, staff, and parental perceptions of the teaching and learning environments in California public schools; and

WHEREAS, These surveys provide all of the following: a critical lens into the environments and outcomes of our schools, an important tool for planning, addressing, and monitoring problematic conditions, a meaningful tool for transparency and accountability, and an important mechanism to support parental, civic, and community-based engagement efforts; and

WHEREAS, As a condition of receiving funding pursuant to the federal Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (20 U.S.C. Sec. 7101 et seq.), or for tobacco use prevention education pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section 104350) of Chapter 1 of Part 3 of Division 103 of the Health and Safety Code, school districts are required to conduct the CHKS and CSCS biennially; and

WHEREAS, Funding received pursuant to the federal Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act, or for tobacco use prevention education, has been curtailed, and absent reauthorization of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (20 U.S.C. Sec. 6301 et seq.), the collection of this critical information will no longer be required; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That it is the intent of the Legislature to pursue every means necessary to ensure that the CAL-SCHLS remains viable; and be it further

Resolved, That the state is urged to pursue federal funding, grants, or other sources to ensure that school districts receive the necessary funding to support the CAL-SCHLS, and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.