

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY SEPTEMBER 11, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 80

Introduced by Assembly Member Dickinson

(Principal coauthor: Senator Steinberg)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Ammiano, Atkins, Bloom, Bocanegra, Bonilla, Bonta, Bradford, Brown, Buchanan, Campos, Chau, Chávez, Chesbro, Cooley, Daly, Eggman, Fong, Fox, Frazier, Garcia, Gatto, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gordon, Gorell, Hagman, Hall, Roger Hernández, Holden, Jones-Sawyer, Levine, Linder, Lowenthal, Medina, Mitchell, Mullin, Muratsuchi, Nestande, Pan, Patterson, Perea, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Quirk, Quirk-Silva, Rendon, Salas, Skinner, Stone, Ting, Weber, Wieckowski, Wilk, Williams, and Yamada)

August 27, 2013

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 80—Relative to Keeping Kids in School and Out of Court Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 80, as amended, Dickinson. Keeping Kids in School and Out of Court Day

This measure would designate December 4, 2013, as Keeping Kids in School and Out of Court Day.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, More than 700,000 suspensions involving over
- 2 365,000 students occur in California's public schools each year;
- 3 and

1 WHEREAS, More than 1.8 million students are truant in
2 California public schools each year; and
3 WHEREAS, African American students represent only 6.5
4 percent of the enrollment in California public schools but receive
5 19 percent of the total suspensions; and
6 WHEREAS, Students with disabilities face the highest risk of
7 suspension of any students in California; and
8 WHEREAS, Children in foster care are more likely to be
9 suspended and experience problems with chronic absenteeism;
10 and
11 WHEREAS, Suspension rates have been increasing since the
12 1970s, with racial disparities in suspension rates increasing at very
13 high rates; and
14 WHEREAS, Suspension and chronic absenteeism are linked to
15 academic failure, higher school dropout rates, and involvement in
16 the juvenile and criminal justice systems; and
17 WHEREAS, Almost one-half of all suspensions in California
18 are for disruption and defiance, rather than for acts of violence or
19 acts involving weapons or drugs; and
20 WHEREAS, Research shows that schools with high rates of
21 suspension do not have better attendance or academic performance
22 than demographically similar schools with much lower rates of
23 suspension; and
24 WHEREAS, Implementation of evidence-based and promising
25 practices to respond to disruptive student behavior and improve
26 school climate, such as Schoolwide Positive Behavioral
27 Interventions and Supports and Restorative Justice, have allowed
28 schools to reduce their rates of suspension and improve school
29 climate; and
30 WHEREAS, Court-based interventions, such as truancy courts,
31 have shown promise in reducing chronic absenteeism and
32 improving academic performance; and
33 WHEREAS, Juvenile courts are actively engaged in monitoring
34 the educational needs of children under their jurisdiction, and
35 juvenile court judges are encouraged to take an active role in their
36 communities to encourage adequate support and services for at-risk
37 youth as well as to develop a close liaison with school authorities;
38 and

1 WHEREAS, Children in foster care with more stable placements
2 experience better educational outcomes and are more likely to
3 graduate; and

4 WHEREAS, The Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tom
5 Torlakson, has focused resources of the State Department of
6 Education to assist school districts in California to implement new
7 approaches to school discipline and attendance that will lead to
8 safer and more effective schools in California; and

9 WHEREAS, The Judicial Council has determined that keeping
10 students in school and out of our court system is an important
11 objective for all of California, and is hosting a December 4, 2013,
12 summit to bring collaborative teams from many California counties
13 together to plan reforms that will address the impact of existing
14 school discipline policies and the challenges of chronic
15 absenteeism; and

16 WHEREAS, The Assembly and the Senate are committed to
17 working together to reduce unnecessary suspensions and ensure
18 that all students in California have an opportunity to thrive in a
19 safe and supportive school environment; now, therefore, be it

20 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California the Senate*
21 *thereof concurring*, that the Legislature hereby designates
22 December 4, 2013, as Keeping Kids in School and Out of Court
23 Day, during which multidisciplinary teams from across California
24 will gather to develop collaborative plans to improve school
25 discipline practices and school attendance so that children in
26 California will succeed in school and avoid involvement in criminal
27 activity; and be it further

28 *Resolved*, that the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
29 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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