

**Introduced by Senator Liu**

February 25, 2015

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An act to add Chapter 19 (commencing with Section 53310) to Part 28 of Division 4 of Title 2 of, and to repeal Section 53320 of, the Education Code, relating to community schools.

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

SB 403, as introduced, Liu. California Community Schools Act.

Existing law authorizes a county board of education to establish and maintain one or more county community schools, and authorizes a county board of education to enroll certain pupils in county community schools, including, but not limited to, a pupil who has been expelled, as specified.

This bill would establish the California Community Schools Act, which would authorize a local educational agency or school and one or more community partners, as defined, to form a community consortium to establish a community school with an integrated focus on academics, health and social services, youth and community development, and parent and community engagement, as specified. The bill would require the State Department of Education, subject to appropriation by the Legislature in the annual Budget Act or the availability of funds from private sources, to make community school grants available to qualified recipients to fund community schools and to enhance programs at community schools. The bill would establish qualification requirements for grant applicants, and would require grant recipients to comply with specified requirements, including, among others, conducting periodic evaluations. The bill would require the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence and the department to provide technical assistance to local educational agencies, as specified. The bill would

require the department, on or before November 1, 2019, to report specified information relating to the formation and operation of community schools to the education policy committees of the Legislature.

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 finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) All children are capable of success.
- 4 (b) Schools are the centers of vibrant communities.
- 5 (c) Strong families build strong educational communities.
- 6 (d) Children succeed when adults work together to foster
- 7 positive educational outcomes.
- 8 (e) Schools work best when families take active roles in the
- 9 education of children. Children are more successful in school when
- 10 families and teachers are supported to work as partners.
- 11 (f) Hunger, homelessness, health issues, and a lack of access to
- 12 intervention and enrichment activities inhibit learning. Schools
- 13 are limited in their ability to dedicate time and resources to provide
- 14 a wide range of opportunities and supports to ameliorate the
- 15 impacts of child poverty, creating an opportunity gap that inhibits
- 16 children from succeeding in school.
- 17 (g) A community school is a traditional school that actively
- 18 partners with its community to leverage existing resources and
- 19 identify new resources to support the transformation of the school
- 20 to provide enrichment, social services, and additional life skill
- 21 opportunities for pupils, parents, and community members at large.
- 22 Each community school is unique because its programming is
- 23 designed by and for the school staff, in partnership with parents,
- 24 community stakeholders, and pupils in response to the needs of
- 25 the local community.
- 26 (h) Using schools as hubs, community school strategies foster
- 27 intentional collaboration and alignment among school districts;
- 28 state, county and city government; and postsecondary education,
- 29 community-based organizations, nonprofit organizations, and
- 30 business. By providing in-school supports, enrichment, and
- 31 extended learning opportunities outside of normal school hours

1 pupils are more successful academically, more engaged in their  
2 communities, safer, and better prepared to make a successful  
3 transition to adulthood.

4 (i) The community schools approach is based on a whole child  
5 approach and youth development principles to improve pupil  
6 engagement and build a positive nurturing school climate. Research  
7 shows that community schools have a powerful positive impact  
8 on pupils, as demonstrated by increased academic success,  
9 increased attendance, improved pupil engagement, decreases in  
10 grade retention and dropout, and decreased behavioral problems  
11 with a resulting improvement of school climate.

12 (j) The integrated pupil support model of a community school  
13 embraces a whole child perspective that recognizes the importance  
14 of a child's health and safety, socioemotional development,  
15 behavior, and relationships to his or her educational success. The  
16 study recognizes that educational success is affected by multiple  
17 contexts, in and out of school. Research clearly indicates that the  
18 likelihood of academic success, especially for disadvantaged pupils,  
19 is enhanced by a more comprehensive set of supports and  
20 opportunities.

21 (k) The local control funding formula calls for a level  
22 educational playing field for high need pupils, which is a key focus  
23 of community schools. Local control and accountability plans take  
24 a holistic view of pupil outcomes, as do community schools. In  
25 addition to pupil achievement, new state priorities and local control  
26 and accountability plans add involvement of parents and the  
27 community in decisionmaking, and prioritize pupil engagement,  
28 school climate, college and career preparation, and other key areas  
29 that are highly aligned with community school strategies.

30 (l) Successful community schools currently exist in California  
31 and throughout the nation, and should be models for replication.  
32 California schools have benefited from the federal Full Service  
33 Community Schools Program, the federal Promise Neighborhood  
34 Initiative, and from the national community schools movement  
35 that has been recognized by the National League of Cities and the  
36 National School Boards Association. These programs recognize  
37 that community schools are a fundamental equity strategy to  
38 address disparities.

39 (m) Community schools are cost effective because they leverage  
40 existing resources provided by local, regional, state, federal,

1 nonprofit, and private sources and align and connect programs to  
2 the schools, where the pupils are already congregated and where  
3 parents and the broader community can be engaged.

4 SEC. 2. Chapter 19 (commencing with Section 53310) is added  
5 to Part 28 of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Education Code, to read:

6  
7 CHAPTER 19. CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

8  
9 Article 1. Definitions

10  
11 53310. This chapter shall be known, and may be cited, as the  
12 California Community Schools Act.

13 53311. As used in this chapter, the following definitions apply:

14 (a) “Community consortium” means a partnership established  
15 between a school or a local educational agency and one or more  
16 community partners for purposes of establishing, operating, and  
17 sustaining a community school.

18 (b) “Community partner” means a provider of one or more  
19 community services or a community organization nonprofit or  
20 business entity with a mission and record of improving conditions  
21 in the community.

22 (c) “Community school” means a public and private partnership  
23 to coordinate educational, developmental, and family engagement  
24 and support, before school and after school programs, and health  
25 services during school and nonschool hours for pupils, families,  
26 and local communities at a public school with the objectives of  
27 reducing absenteeism, increasing pupil engagement and  
28 connectedness, improving academic achievement, building stronger  
29 relationships between schools, pupils, parents, and communities,  
30 and improving the skills, capacity, and well-being of the pupils,  
31 families, and surrounding community residents.

32 (d) “Community services” includes all of the following:

33 (1) Primary medical and dental care that is available to pupils  
34 and when possible community residents.

35 (2) Mental health prevention and treatment services that is  
36 available to pupils and, when possible, community residents.

37 (3) Academic enrichment activities designed to promote a  
38 pupil’s cognitive development and provide opportunities to practice  
39 and apply academic skills.

1 (4) Programs designed to increase school attendance, including  
2 reducing truancy and early chronic absenteeism rates.

3 (5) Youth development programs designed to promote young  
4 people's social, emotional, physical, and moral development,  
5 including arts, sports, physical fitness, youth leadership, community  
6 service, and service learning opportunities.

7 (6) Early childhood education, including prekindergarten, Head  
8 Start, and Early Head Start programs.

9 (7) Programs designed to do all of the following:

10 (A) Facilitate parental involvement in, and engagement with,  
11 their children's education, including parental activities that involve  
12 supporting, monitoring, and advocating for their children's  
13 education.

14 (B) Promote parental leadership in the life of the school and  
15 community.

16 (C) Build parenting skills.

17 (8) Expanded learning opportunities for all pupils, including  
18 before and after school enrichment programs, workplace learning  
19 opportunities, and postsecondary partnerships.

20 (9) Schoolage child care services, including before school and  
21 after school services and full day programming that operates during  
22 school holidays, summers, vacations, and weekends.

23 (10) Supports to meet fundamental material needs of homeless  
24 and disadvantaged pupils.

25 (11) Youth and adult job training services and career counseling  
26 services.

27 (12) Programs that provide assistance to pupils who have been  
28 truant, suspended, or expelled and that offer multiple pathways to  
29 high school graduation, a General Education Development (GED),  
30 or other alternatives to high school completion.

31 (13) Adult education, including instruction in English as a  
32 second language, adult literacy, computer literacy, financial  
33 literacy, and skills training.

34  
35 Article 2. General Provisions  
36

37 53312. (a) Local educational agencies and schools are  
38 authorized and encouraged to form community consortiums with  
39 a variety of community partners to establish a community school  
40 or schools with an integrated focus on academics, health and social

1 services, youth and community development, and parent and  
2 community engagement that will lead to improved pupil learning,  
3 stronger families, and healthier communities.

4 (b) The community schools, formed pursuant to this chapter,  
5 shall strive to become centers of their communities by providing  
6 programs and services for persons of all ages, serving pupils,  
7 parents, and community members throughout the day, including  
8 evenings, weekends, and summer.

9 53313. The state board and the department shall support and  
10 encourage local educational agencies in the creation of community  
11 schools. All policies, guidelines, and rules and regulations adopted  
12 by the state board pursuant to this chapter shall actively foster the  
13 formation, development, and operation of community schools.

14 53314. The department may seek funds from nonprofit and  
15 private donors and grants to fund local educational agencies' efforts  
16 to create and support community schools.

17 53315. The department and the California Collaborative for  
18 Educational Excellence shall assist local educational agencies by  
19 providing technical assistance directly or through referral to  
20 third-party technical service providers. A resource and referral  
21 directory shall be established and maintained by the department  
22 when funds become available, either through state appropriations  
23 or other funding and support.

24 53316. Subject to appropriation in the annual Budget Act or  
25 the availability of funding from private sources for creation and  
26 support of community schools, the department shall make  
27 community school grants available to fund community schools  
28 and to enhance programs at community schools.

29 53317. A request for proposal process shall be used in awarding  
30 grants under this chapter. Proposals may be submitted on behalf  
31 of a school, a local educational agency, or a consortium of two or  
32 more schools or local educational agencies. Proposals shall be  
33 evaluated and scored on the basis of criteria consistent with this  
34 chapter and other factors developed and adopted by the state board.

35 53318. In order to qualify for a grant under this chapter, a  
36 school or local educational agency shall have, at a minimum, the  
37 following components or plan to develop the following components  
38 as a part of the grant proposal in order to sustain a system for  
39 alignment of school and community resources with the needs of  
40 pupils and families:

1 (a) A local advisory group comprised of school leadership,  
2 parents, and community stakeholders that establishes school  
3 specific programming goals, assesses program needs, and oversees  
4 the process of implementing expanded programming.

5 (b) A program director or resource coordinator who is  
6 responsible for establishing the local advisory group, assessing  
7 the needs of pupils and community members, identifying programs  
8 to meet those needs, coordinating partnerships and services with  
9 community partners, developing the before and after school,  
10 weekend, and summer programming, and overseeing the  
11 implementation of programming to ensure high quality and robust  
12 participation.

13 (c) A collaborative governance structure for the effective  
14 braiding of school and community resources and family and  
15 community engagement.

16 (d) Expanded learning opportunities for all pupils, such as before  
17 and after school enrichment programs, workplace learning  
18 opportunities, and postsecondary partnerships.

19 (e) Access to onsite, coordinated support services for pupils and  
20 families, such as physical and mental health services through  
21 school-based health centers or programs, social services, and youth,  
22 family, and community engagement and development designed to  
23 holistically address the mental, emotional, and physical health of  
24 pupils and to support the acceleration of academic achievement.

25 (f) Maintenance of attendance records in all programming  
26 components.

27 (g) Maintenance of measurable data showing annual  
28 participation and the impact of programming on the participating  
29 children and adults.

30 (h) Documentation of true collaboration between the school and  
31 community stakeholders, including local governmental units, civic  
32 organizations, families, businesses, and social service providers.

33 (i) A nondiscrimination policy ensuring that the community  
34 school does not condition participation upon race, ethnic origin,  
35 religion, sex, or disability.

36 53319. A grant recipient under this chapter shall do all of the  
37 following:

38 (a) Conduct periodic evaluations of the progress achieved with  
39 funds allocated under a grant, consistent with the purposes of this  
40 chapter.

1 (b) Use the evaluations to refine and improve activities  
2 conducted with the grant and the performance measures for the  
3 activities.

4 (c) Make the results of the evaluations publicly available,  
5 including providing public notice of the availability.

6 (d) Identify best practices and lessons learned for the purpose  
7 of helping other local educational agencies and schools in the  
8 formation of community schools and to revise the community  
9 school policies of the state board and the department.

10 53320. (a) The department shall study and report on the  
11 formation and operation of community schools, including, but not  
12 limited to, all of the following:

13 (1) Best practices that can be replicated by other local  
14 educational agencies and schools desiring to form community  
15 schools.

16 (2) Whether community schools have improved pupil learning,  
17 family and community engagement, school effectiveness in  
18 decreasing truancy and the dropout rate, and physical and mental  
19 health of the pupils and other members of the community.

20 (3) Whether community schools have met their educational and  
21 community goals.

22 (b) The department shall report its findings and  
23 recommendations to the education policy committees of the  
24 Legislature on or before November 1, 2019.

25 (c) Pursuant to Section 10231.5 of the Government Code, this  
26 section is repealed on November 1, 2020.