

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 7, 2015

SENATE BILL

No. 403

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Introduced by Senator Liu

February 25, 2015

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An act to *amend Section 1980 of, to add Chapter 19* (commencing with Section 53310) to Part 28 of Division 4 of Title 2 of, and to repeal Section ~~53320~~ 53322 of, the Education Code, relating to *California* community schools.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 403, as amended, 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. authorizes school districts and community college districts, and schools and colleges within those districts, to enter into cooperative or contractual arrangements with business, industry, or elements within the community for improvement of the local educational program.~~

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 *California* community school with an integrated focus on academies, health and social services, youth and community development, and parent and community engagement, as specified. *school, as defined.* 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

*California* community schools and to enhance programs at *California* 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;~~ *assistance*, 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 *California* community schools to the education policy committees of the Legislature. *The bill would also make a conforming change to provisions relating to county community schools.*

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,

1 community stakeholders, and pupils in response to the needs of  
2 the local community.

3 (h) Using schools as hubs, community school strategies foster  
4 intentional collaboration and alignment among school districts;  
5 state, county and city government; and postsecondary education,  
6 community-based organizations, nonprofit organizations, and  
7 business. By providing in-school supports, enrichment, and  
8 extended learning opportunities outside of normal school hours  
9 pupils are more successful academically, more engaged in their  
10 communities, safer, and better prepared to make a successful  
11 transition to adulthood.

12 (i) The community schools approach is based on a whole child  
13 approach and youth development principles to improve pupil  
14 engagement and build a positive nurturing school climate. Research  
15 shows that community schools have a powerful positive impact  
16 on pupils, as demonstrated by increased academic success,  
17 increased attendance, improved pupil engagement, decreases in  
18 grade retention and dropout, and decreased behavioral problems  
19 with a resulting improvement of school climate.

20 (j) The integrated pupil support model of a community school  
21 embraces a whole child perspective that recognizes the importance  
22 of a child's health and safety, socioemotional development,  
23 behavior, and relationships to his or her educational success. The  
24 study recognizes that educational success is affected by multiple  
25 contexts, in and out of school. Research clearly indicates that the  
26 likelihood of academic success, especially for disadvantaged pupils,  
27 is enhanced by a more comprehensive set of supports and  
28 opportunities.

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

38 (l) Successful community schools currently exist in California  
39 and throughout the nation, and should be models for replication.  
40 California schools have benefited from the federal Full-Service

1 Community Schools Program, the federal Promise-Neighborhood  
2 Initiative, *Neighborhoods program*, and from the national  
3 community schools movement that has been recognized by the  
4 National League of Cities and the National School Boards  
5 Association. These programs recognize that community schools  
6 are a fundamental equity strategy to address disparities.

7 (m) Community schools are cost effective because they leverage  
8 existing resources provided by local, regional, state, federal,  
9 nonprofit, and private sources and align and connect programs to  
10 the schools, where the pupils are already congregated and where  
11 parents and the broader community can be engaged.

12 *SEC. 2. Section 1980 of the Education Code is amended to*  
13 *read:*

14 1980. (a) A county board of education may establish and  
15 maintain one or more community schools.

16 (b) *A county community school shall not be designated as a*  
17 *California community school unless the requirements specified in*  
18 *the California Community Schools Act (Chapter 19 (commencing*  
19 *with Section 53310) of Part 28 of Division 4 of Title 2) are*  
20 *satisfied.*

21 ~~SEC. 2.~~

22 *SEC. 3. Chapter 19 (commencing with Section 53310) is added*  
23 *to Part 28 of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Education Code, to read:*  
24

## 25 CHAPTER 19. CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

### 26 Article 1. Definitions

27  
28  
29 53310. This chapter shall be known, and may be cited, as the  
30 California Community Schools Act.

31 53311. As used in this chapter, the following definitions apply:

32 (a) “Community consortium” means a partnership established  
33 between a school or a local educational agency and one or more  
34 community partners for purposes of ~~establishing, operating, and~~  
35 ~~sustaining~~ *establishing and operating* a community school.

36 (b) “Community partner” means a provider of one or more  
37 community services or a community organization nonprofit or  
38 business entity with a mission and record of improving conditions  
39 in the community.

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

(c) *“California community school” or “community school” means a public school engaged in cross-agency partnerships with one or more community partners for the delivery of community services to pupils, families, and community members.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(C) Build parenting skills.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(e) “*Local educational agency*” means a school district, county office of education, or charter school.

## Article 2. General Provisions

53312. (a) Local educational agencies and schools are authorized and encouraged to form community consortiums with ~~a variety of community partners to establish a California community school or schools with an integrated focus on~~ academies, health and social services, youth and community development, and parent and community engagement that will lead to improved pupil learning, stronger families, and healthier communities. ~~schools.~~

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

53313. The state board and the department shall support and encourage local educational agencies in the creation of *California* community schools. All policies, guidelines, and rules and regulations adopted by the state board pursuant to this chapter shall

1 actively foster the formation, development, and operation of  
2 *California* community schools.

3 53314. The department may seek funds from nonprofit and  
4 private donors and grants to fund local educational agencies' efforts  
5 to create and support *California* community schools.

6 53315. The department and the California Collaborative for  
7 Educational Excellence shall ~~assist local educational agencies by~~  
8 ~~providing~~ provide technical assistance directly or through referral  
9 to third-party technical service providers. ~~A~~ *The department shall*  
10 *establish and maintain a resource and referral directory shall be*  
11 ~~established and maintained by the department~~ when funds become  
12 available, either through state appropriations or other funding and  
13 support.

14 53316. Subject to *the* appropriation of funds in the annual  
15 Budget Act or the availability of funding from private sources for  
16 *the* creation and support of *California* community schools, the  
17 department shall make ~~community school~~ grants available to fund  
18 *California* community schools and to enhance programs at  
19 *California* community schools.

20 53317. A request for proposal process shall be used in awarding  
21 grants under this chapter. ~~Proposals~~ *A proposal* may be submitted  
22 ~~on behalf of~~ by a school, a local educational agency, or a  
23 consortium of two or more schools or local educational agencies.  
24 ~~Proposals~~ *community consortium. The proposal* shall be evaluated  
25 and scored ~~on the basis of using criteria adopted by the state board~~  
26 *that is* consistent with this chapter and other factors developed and  
27 ~~adopted by the state board.~~ *chapter.*

28 53318. A community consortium shall develop a plan for  
29 aligning community services that may include, but is not limited  
30 to, the following:

31 (a) Assessing the needs of pupils, families, schools, and the local  
32 community.

33 (b) Mapping resources in the school and community to identify  
34 potential community partners to provide services that fill identified  
35 needs and resource gaps.

36 (c) Developing a plan to establish a community school  
37 infrastructure, including, but not limited to, establishing the  
38 following:

39 (1) A committee of elected officials and local leaders to focus  
40 on policy decisions.

1     (2) *An executive team tasked with overall operations.*

2     (3) *A school team for day-to-day service delivery, referrals, and*  
3 *coordination.*

4     (4) *Developing systems for coordination, collective*  
5 *decisionmaking, resources sharing, and sustainability.*

6     (5) *Examining opportunities to achieve economies of scale and*  
7 *eliminate duplication of efforts among the consortium members.*

8     (6) *Developing a plan for cross-agency collaboration by*  
9 *implementing memoranda of understanding between community*  
10 *partners.*

11     (7) *Evidence that community partners will commit time and*  
12 *resources to establishing relationships and creating systems for*  
13 *sharing resources and making decisions based on ongoing needs*  
14 *assessments and program quality data.*

15     (8) *Establishing school governance teams that are representative*  
16 *of the school community.*

17     (9) *Commitments from community partners to implement a data*  
18 *collection system based on shared outcome goals that includes*  
19 *community input to ensure improvement of service delivery and*  
20 *coordinated community services delivery.*

21     (10) *Use of a community schoolsite coordinator to facilitate*  
22 *partnership coordination, ensure equitable access to high-quality*  
23 *support services, and engage members from all constituent groups.*

24     ~~53318. In order to~~

25     ~~53319. To qualify for a grant under this chapter, a school or~~  
26 ~~local educational agency shall have, an applicant shall, at a~~  
27 ~~minimum, the following components or have a plan to develop~~  
28 ~~the following components as a part of the grant proposal in order~~  
29 ~~to sustain a system for alignment of school and community~~  
30 ~~resources with the needs of pupils and families: proposal:~~

31     (a) *A local advisory group comprised of school leadership,*  
32 *parents, and community stakeholders that establishes school*  
33 *specific programming goals, assesses program needs, and oversees*  
34 *the process of implementing expanded programming.*

35     (b) ~~A program director or resource~~ *community schoolsite*  
36 *coordinator who is responsible for establishing the local advisory*  
37 *group, assessing the needs of pupils and community members,*  
38 *identifying programs to meet those needs, coordinating partnerships*  
39 *and services with community partners, developing the before and*  
40 *after school, weekend, and summer programming, and overseeing*



1 the implementation of programming to ensure high quality and  
2 robust participation.

3 (c) A collaborative governance structure for the effective  
4 ~~braiding~~ *integration* of school and community resources and family  
5 and community engagement.

6 (d) Expanded learning opportunities for all pupils, such as before  
7 and after school enrichment programs, workplace learning  
8 opportunities, and postsecondary partnerships.

9 (e) Access to onsite, coordinated ~~support~~ *community* services  
10 for pupils and families, such as physical and mental health services  
11 through school-based health centers or programs, social services,  
12 and youth, family, and community engagement and development  
13 designed to holistically address the mental, emotional, and physical  
14 health of pupils and to support the acceleration of academic  
15 achievement.

16 ~~(f) Maintenance of attendance records in all programming~~  
17 ~~components.~~

18 ~~(g) Maintenance of measurable data showing annual~~  
19 ~~participation and the impact of programming on the participating~~  
20 ~~children and adults.~~

21 ~~(h)~~  
22 (f) Documentation of ~~true~~ collaboration between the school and  
23 community stakeholders, including local ~~governmental units,~~  
24 ~~government,~~ civic organizations, families, businesses, and social  
25 service providers.

26 ~~(i)~~  
27 (g) A nondiscrimination policy ensuring that the community  
28 school does not condition participation upon race, ethnic origin,  
29 religion, sex, or disability.

30 ~~53319.~~  
31 53320. A grant recipient under this chapter shall do all of the  
32 following:

33 (a) Conduct periodic evaluations of the progress achieved with  
34 funds allocated under a grant, consistent with the purposes of this  
35 chapter.

36 (b) Use the evaluations to refine and improve activities  
37 conducted with the grant and the performance measures for the  
38 activities.

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

1 (d) Identify best practices and lessons learned for the purpose  
2 of helping other to help local educational agencies and schools in  
3 the formation of *California* community schools and to revise the  
4 community school policies of the state board and the department.

5 (e) *Maintain attendance records in all programming*  
6 *components.*

7 (f) *Maintain data on annual participation.*

8 53321. *Nothing in this chapter limits a county community*  
9 *school formed pursuant to Section 1980 from also being designated*  
10 *as a California community school, subject to compliance with this*  
11 *chapter.*

12 ~~53320.~~

13 53322. (a) The department shall study and report on the  
14 formation and operation of *California* community schools,  
15 including, but not limited to, all of the following:

16 (1) Best practices that can be replicated by other local  
17 educational agencies and schools desiring to form community  
18 schools.

19 (2) Whether *California* community schools have improved pupil  
20 learning, family and community engagement, school effectiveness  
21 in decreasing truancy and the dropout rate, and physical and mental  
22 health of the pupils and other members of the community.

23 (3) Whether *California* community schools have met their  
24 educational and community goals.

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

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