

Assembly Bill No. 1106

CHAPTER 948

An act to add Chapter 14 (commencing with Section 11300) to Part 7 of the Education Code, relating to education.

[Approved by Governor October 12, 1997. Filed
with Secretary of State October 12, 1997.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1106, Knox. Middle college high schools.

(1) Existing law sets forth various duties and responsibilities governing secondary education.

This bill would require the California Community Colleges and the State Department of Education to collaborate with each other and with their respective local community colleges and local school districts to ensure the continued success of existing middle college high schools and to promote the establishment of new middle college high schools. The imposition of this requirement on community colleges and school districts would impose a state-mandated local program.

The bill would provide that the goal of the middle college high school is to select at-risk high school students who are performing below their academic potential and place them in an alternative high school located on a community college campus in order to reduce the likelihood that they will drop out of school before graduation.

The bill would require each middle college high school to be structured as a broad-based, comprehensive instructional program focusing on college preparatory and school-to-work curricula, career education, work experience, community service, and support and motivational activities. The bill would authorize the specific design of a middle college high school to vary depending on the circumstances of the community college or school district, but would prescribe basic elements of the middle college high school.

The bill would delineate the responsibilities of the California Community Colleges and the State Department of Education in this regard.

(2) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement, including the creation of a State Mandates Claims Fund to pay the costs of mandates that do not exceed \$1,000,000 statewide and other procedures for claims whose statewide costs exceed \$1,000,000.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares the following:

(a) The high school dropout rate in urban areas heavily impacted by drugs, gangs, and violence remains alarmingly high at approximately 25 percent. Many of the students at risk for not graduating are bright and eager to learn. There is an urgent need for an array of alternative educational options designed to keep them in school and prepare them for college or the work force. One of those programs is a middle college high school.

(b) A middle college high school is a high school located on a community college campus that is collaboratively operated by the local school district and the community college. The program serves selected at-risk students who are performing below their academic potential. These students flourish in the community college environment where they are treated as responsible adults and interact with college role models.

(c) Middle college high schools emphasize employment training, community service internships, and college preparation, combined with guidance and motivational activities.

(d) In California, two middle college high schools were established pursuant to a grant from the California Community Colleges in 1989. Student outcomes at these programs are impressive, with over 90 percent of the students from the Los Angeles Southwest College program in 1994 graduating and going on to college or postsecondary schooling, and achievement of 87 percent attendance.

(e) It is the intent of the Legislature that the California Community Colleges and the State Department of Education work together to ensure the continued success of the existing middle college high schools and encourage the establishment of additional middle college high schools throughout the state.

SEC. 2. Chapter 14 (commencing with Section 11300) is added to Part 7 of the Education Code, to read:

CHAPTER 14. MIDDLE COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOLS

11300. (a) The Legislature finds and declares that middle college high schools have proven to be a highly effective collaborative effort between local school districts and community colleges. The goal of the middle college high school is to select at-risk high school students who are performing below their academic potential and place them in an alternative high school located on a community college campus



in order to reduce the likelihood that they will drop out of school before graduation.

(b) Each middle college high school shall be structured as a broad-based, comprehensive instructional program focusing on college preparatory and school-to-work curricula, career education, work experience, community service, and support and motivational activities.

(c) The specific design of a middle college high school may vary depending on the circumstances of the community college or school district. The basic elements of the middle college high school shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (1) A curriculum that focuses on college and career preparation.
- (2) A reduced adult-student ratio.
- (3) Flexible scheduling to allow for work internships, community service experience, and interaction with community college student role models.
- (4) Opportunities for experiential internships, work apprenticeships, and community service.

11301. (a) The California Community Colleges and the State Department of Education shall collaborate with each other and with their respective local community colleges and local school districts to ensure the continued success of existing middle college high schools and to promote the establishment of new middle college high schools.

(b) The responsibilities of the California Community Colleges and the State Department of Education pursuant to subdivision (a) shall include, but need not be limited to, the following:

(1) With respect to existing middle college high schools, to monitor the ongoing viability of the programs, assist with the resolution of policy or financial issues that may arise, and track specific outcomes for students and schools, including attendance rates, graduation rates, college entrance and attendance rates, and employment rates for those students who do not attend college.

(2) With respect to the promotion of new middle college high schools, respond to inquiries from local school districts and community colleges about the establishment of middle college high schools, advise local entities on start-up costs and ongoing funding mechanisms for the program, consult with local entities on the organizational structure of, and curriculum development for, the middle college high schools, facilitate the completion of any necessary facilities improvements, communicate with local entities at least biannually about the existence of middle college high schools and the availability of State Department of Education and California Community Colleges resources, if any, to assist with the establishment of middle college high schools.

SEC. 3. Notwithstanding Section 17610 of the Government Code, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local



agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code. If the statewide cost of the claim for reimbursement does not exceed one million dollars (\$1,000,000), reimbursement shall be made from the State Mandates Claims Fund.

Notwithstanding Section 17580 of the Government Code, unless otherwise specified, the provisions of this act shall become operative on the same date that the act takes effect pursuant to the California Constitution.

