

**COMMISSION ON STATE MANDATES**

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December 7, 2006

Mr. Keith Petersen  
SixTen and Associates  
5252 Balboa Avenue, Suite 900  
San Diego, CA 92117

*And Interested Parties and Affected State Agencies (See Enclosed Mailing List)*

**RE: Adopted Statement of Decision and Draft Parameters and Guidelines**

*Pupil Safety Notices (02-TC-13)*

San Jose Unified School District, Claimant

Education Code Sections 32242, 32243, 32245, 46010.1; 48904, 48904.3, 48987

Welfare and Institutions Code Section 18285

California Code of Regulations, Title 5, Section 11523

As Added and Amended by Statutes 1983, Chapter 498; Statutes 1984, Chapter 482;

Statutes 1984, Chapter 948; Statutes 1986, Chapter 196; Statutes 1986, Chapter 332;

Statutes 1992, Chapter 445; Statutes 1992, Chapter 1317; Statutes 1993, Chapter 589;

Statutes 1994, Chapter 1172; Statutes 1996, Chapter 1023; Statutes 2002, Chapter 492

Dear Mr. Petersen:

The Commission on State Mandates adopted the attached Statement of Decision on December 4, 2006. State law provides that reimbursement, if any, is subject to Commission approval of parameters and guidelines for reimbursement of the mandated program, approval of a statewide cost estimate, a specific legislative appropriation for such purpose, a timely-filed claim for reimbursement, and subsequent review of the claim by the State Controller's Office.

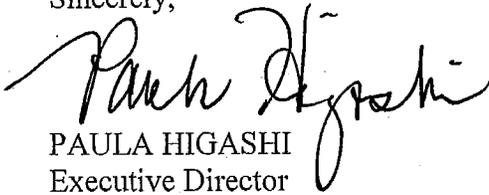
Following is a description of the responsibilities of all parties and of the Commission during the parameters and guidelines phase.

- **Draft Parameters and Guidelines.** Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 2, section 1183.12 (operative September 6, 2005), the Commission staff is expediting the parameters and guidelines process by enclosing draft parameters and guidelines to assist the claimant. The proposed reimbursable activities are limited to those approved in the Statement of Decision by the Commission.
- **Claimant's Review of Draft Parameters and Guidelines.** Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 2, section 1183.12, subdivisions (b) and (c), the successful test claimant may file modifications and/or comments on the proposal with Commission staff by **January 2, 2007**. The claimant may also propose a reasonable reimbursement methodology pursuant to Government Code section 17518.5 and California Code of Regulations, title 2, section 1183.13. The claimant is required to submit an original and two (2) copies of written responses to the Commission and to simultaneously serve copies on the state agencies and interested parties on the mailing list.

- **State Agencies and Interested Parties Comments.** State agencies and interested parties may submit recommendations and comments on staff's draft proposal and the claimant's modifications and/or comments within 15 days of service. State agencies and interested parties are required to submit an original and two (2) copies of written responses or rebuttals to the Commission and to simultaneously serve copies on the test claimant, state agencies, and interested parties on the mailing list. The claimant and other interested parties may submit written rebuttals. (See Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 1183.11.)
- **Adoption of Parameters and Guidelines.** After review of the draft parameters and guidelines and all comments, Commission staff will recommend the adoption of an amended, modified, or supplemented version of staff's draft parameters and guidelines. (See Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 1183.14.)

Please contact Nancy Patton at (916) 323-3562 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



PAULA HIGASHI  
Executive Director

Enclosures: Adopted Statement of Decision, Draft Parameters and Guidelines

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BEFORE THE  
COMMISSION ON STATE MANDATES  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN RE TEST CLAIM ON:

Education Code Sections 32242, 32243, 32245,  
46010.1; 48904, 48904.3, 48987; Welfare and  
Institutions Code Section 18285;

Statutes 1983, Chapter 498; Statutes 1984,  
Chapter 482; Statutes 1984, Chapter 948;  
Statutes 1986, Chapter 196; Statutes 1986,  
Chapter 332; Statutes 1992, Chapter 445;  
Statutes 1992, Chapter 1317; Statutes 1993,  
Chapter 589; Statutes 1994, Chapter 1172;  
Statutes 1996, Chapter 1023; Statutes 2002,  
Chapter 492;

California Code of Regulations, Title 5, Section  
11523;

Filed on February 21, 2003,

By San Jose Unified School District, Claimant.

**Case No.: 02-TC-13**

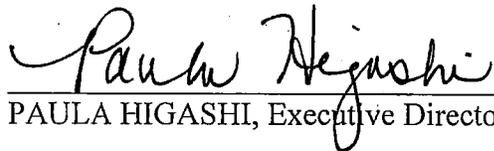
*Pupil Safety Notices*

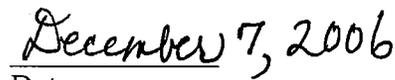
STATEMENT OF DECISION PURSUANT  
TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 17500  
ET SEQ.; CALIFORNIA CODE OF  
REGULATIONS, TITLE 2, DIVISION 2,  
CHAPTER 2.5, ARTICLE 7

*(Adopted on December 4, 2006)*

**STATEMENT OF DECISION**

The attached Statement of Decision of the Commission on State Mandates is hereby adopted  
in the above-entitled matter.

  
PAULA HIGASHI, Executive Director

  
Date

BEFORE THE  
COMMISSION ON STATE MANDATES  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN RE TEST CLAIM ON:

Education Code Sections 32242, 32243, 32245, 46010.1; 48904, 48904.3, 48987; Welfare and Institutions Code Section 18285;

Statutes 1983, Chapter 498; Statutes 1984, Chapter 482; Statutes 1984, Chapter 948; Statutes 1986, Chapter 196; Statutes 1986, Chapter 332; Statutes 1992, Chapter 445; Statutes 1992, Chapter 1317; Statutes 1993, Chapter 589; Statutes 1994, Chapter 1172; Statutes 1996, Chapter 1023; Statutes 2002, Chapter 492;

California Code of Regulations, Title 5, Section 11523;

Filed on February 21, 2003,

By San Jose Unified School District, Claimant.

Case No.: 02-TC-13

*Pupil Safety Notices*

STATEMENT OF DECISION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 17500 ET SEQ.; TITLE 2, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, DIVISION 2, CHAPTER 2.5 ARTICLE 7

*(Adopted on December 4, 2006)*

**STATEMENT OF DECISION**

The Commission on State Mandates ("Commission") heard and decided this test claim during a regularly scheduled hearing on December 4, 2006. Mr. Keith Petersen represented and appeared for the claimant, San Jose Unified School District. Ms. Donna Ferebee appeared for the Department of Finance.

The law applicable to the Commission's determination of a reimbursable state-mandated program is article XIII B, section 6 of the California Constitution, Government Code section 17500 et seq., and related case law.

The Commission adopted the staff analysis to deny the test claim at the hearing by a vote of 5 to 0.

**Summary of Findings**

This test claim was filed on February 21, 2003, by the San Jose Unified School District on statutes and a regulation that require school districts to provide, for the first time, notices and information regarding health, safety and legal issues to staff, parents, guardians and students. This test claim also addresses statutes and a regulation permitting school districts to withhold a student's transcripts, grades, and diploma if the student has willfully damaged or failed to return school property. In addition, the test claim includes a statute applicable to schools receiving notice from a student's previous school that the previous school has withheld a student's grades, diploma, or transcripts for good cause. In such a case, the new school must also withhold those grades, diplomas, or transcripts until the decision is rescinded.

The Commission found that the test claim statutes and regulation impose a partially reimbursable state-mandated program on school districts within the meaning of article XIII B, section 6 of the California Constitution and Government Code section 17514 to perform the following activities:

1. For the principal of the school site, within 45 days of receiving lead test survey results from the Department of Health Services, to notify the teachers and other school personnel and parents of the survey results. (Ed. Code, § 32242, subd. (c).)
2. For schools to notify parents of the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Act of 1991 upon receiving a finding that a school site has significant risk factors for lead. (Ed. Code, § 32243, subd. (a).)
3. For schools, within 45 days of receiving a finding by the Department of Health Services that a school subject to the Lead-Safe Schools Act has significant risk factors for lead, to notify the teachers, other personnel, and the parents of the finding. (Ed. Code, § 32243, subd. (a).)
4. For school districts to amend an existing notice sent to pupils in grades 7-12 and their parents or guardians to include the provision that "school authorities may excuse any pupil from the school for the purpose of obtaining confidential medical services without the consent of the pupil's parent or guardian." This activity is a one-time activity. (Ed. Code, § 46010.1.)
5. To disseminate guidelines, upon request, that describe complaint procedures, adopted by the State Department of Education, to parents or guardians of minor pupils in the primary language of the parent or guardian which he or she can follow in filing a complaint of child abuse by a school employee or other person committed against a pupil at a school site. (Ed. Code, § 48987.)
6. To provide an interpreter for a parent or guardian, whose primary language is other than English, in the case of any communications concerning the guidelines and procedures for filing child abuse complaints committed against a pupil at a school site. (Ed. Code, § 48987.)
7. For the principal of each school with students in grades 11 and/or 12 to distribute to each pupil in those grades an announcement explaining the California High School Proficiency Exam provided for under Education Code section 48412 in time to meet registration requirements for the fall test of that year. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 11523.)
8. To establish rules and regulations governing procedures for withholding grades, transcripts, and diplomas. (Ed. Code, § 48904, subd. (b)(3).)
9. For a transferee school, upon notice that a school district has withheld the grades, diploma or transcripts of any pupil pursuant to Education code section 48904, to continue to withhold the grades, diploma or transcripts of any transfer student as authorized by that section, until such time as it receives notice, from the district that initiated the decision to withhold, that the decision has been rescinded under the terms of that section. (Ed. Code, § 48904.3, subd. (a).)

The Commission further found that:

- Funds appropriated pursuant to Education Code section 32245 and Welfare and Institutions Code section 18285, subdivision (e), shall be identified as an offset in the Parameters and Guidelines for purposes of the lead notice activities.
- Any statutes and or executive orders that were pled in this test claim that are not identified above do not constitute a reimbursable state-mandated program.

## COMMISSION FINDINGS

### Background

This test claim consolidates statutes and a regulation concerning school districts' obligations to provide notices and information regarding health, safety and legal issues to staff, parents, guardians and students. For purposes of this analysis, the test claim statutes and regulation have been separated into two categories designated and discussed below as the "Notice Legislation" and the "Due Process Legislation."

#### "Notice Legislation"

The "Notice Legislation" generally requires school districts, for the first time, to provide notices to parents, staff, and pupils regarding:

- lead contamination risk factors in public schools,<sup>1</sup>
- excused absences for confidential medical procedures,<sup>2</sup>
- child abuse guidelines and notification procedures,<sup>3</sup> and
- the high school proficiency exam.<sup>4</sup>

#### "Due Process Legislation" (Ed. Code, §§ 48904 and 48904.3)

This test claim also addresses statutes permitting school districts to withhold a student's transcripts, grades and diploma if the student has willfully damaged or failed to return school property. For purposes of this analysis, these statutes are referred to collectively as the "Due Process Legislation." The "Due Process Legislation" provides as follows:

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<sup>1</sup> Education Code sections 32242, 32243, and 32245, added by Statutes 1992, chapter 1317 and amended by Statutes 1993, chapter 589, Assem. Bill No. 2211, (AB 2211) section 37.

<sup>2</sup> Education Code section 46010.1, added by Statutes 1986, chapter 196, effective June 27, 1986.

<sup>3</sup> Education Code section 48987, added by Statutes 1994, chapter 1172, Assem. Bill No. 2971 (AB 2971), section 13.

<sup>4</sup> California Code of Regulations, title 5, section 11523, filed September 15, 1978, as an emergency regulation; effective upon filing (Register 78, No. 37.)

- Education Code section 48904, subdivision (a)(1), states that:

Notwithstanding Section 1714.1 of the Civil Code<sup>5</sup>, the parent or guardian of any minor whose willful misconduct results in injury or death to any pupil or any person employed by, or performing volunteer services for, a school district or private school or who willfully cuts, defaces, or otherwise injures in any way any property, real or personal, belonging to a school district or private school, or personal property of any school employee, shall be liable for all damages so caused by the minor. The liability of the parent or guardian shall not exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000). The parent or guardian shall also be liable for the amount of any reward not exceeding ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) paid pursuant to Section 53069.5 of the Government Code. The parent or guardian of a minor shall be liable to a school district or private school for all property belonging to the school district or private school loaned to the minor and not returned upon demand of an employee of the district or private school authorized to make the demand.

- Education Code section 48904, subdivision (b)(1), states that:

Any school district or private school whose real or personal property has been willfully cut, defaced, or otherwise injured, or whose property is loaned to a pupil and willfully not returned ...*may* after affording the pupil his or her due process rights, withhold the grades, diploma, and transcripts of the pupil responsible for the damage until the pupil or the pupil's parent or guardian has paid for the damages thereto, as provided in subdivision (a). (Emphasis added.)

- Education Code section 48904, subdivision (b)(2), states that if the school decides to withhold grades:

The school district or private school shall notify the parent or guardian of the pupil in writing of the pupil's alleged misconduct before withholding the pupil's grades, diploma, or transcripts pursuant to this subdivision. When the minor and parent are unable to pay for the damages, or to return the property, the school district or private school shall provide a program of voluntary work for the minor in lieu of the payment of monetary damages. Upon completion of the voluntary work, the grades, diploma, and transcripts of the pupil shall be released.

- Education Code section 48904, subdivision (b)(3), states that:

The governing board of each school district or governing body of each private school shall establish rules and a regulation governing procedures for the implementation of this subdivision. The procedures shall conform to, but are

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<sup>5</sup> California Civil Code section 1714.1 imposes joint and several liability upon a minor and his or her parents or guardians for willful misconduct of the minor. The liability imposed by this section is in addition to any liability now imposed by law.

not necessarily limited to, those procedures established in this code for the expulsion of pupils.

- Education Code section 48904.3, subdivision (a), states that:  
Upon receiving notice that a school district has withheld the grades, diploma, or transcripts of any pupil pursuant to Section 48904, any school district to which the pupil has transferred shall likewise withhold the grades, diploma, or transcripts of the pupil as authorized by that section, until the time that it receives notice, from the district that initiated the decision to withhold, that the decision has been rescinded under the terms of that section.
- Education Code section 48904.3, subdivision (b), states that:  
Any school district that has decided to withhold a pupil's grades, diploma, or transcripts pursuant to Section 48904 shall, upon receiving notice that the pupil has transferred to any school district in this state, notify the parent or guardian of the pupil in writing that the decision to withhold will be enforced as specified in subdivision (a).

### **Claimant's Position**

Claimant contends that the test claim statutes and a regulation constitute a reimbursable state-mandated program and is seeking reimbursement for the following activities:

#### Lead Notice

- "For public elementary schools to notify teachers, other school personnel and parents of the results of surveys developing risk factors to predict lead contamination conducted by the State Department of Health Services pursuant to Education Code section 32242, subdivision (c)."<sup>6</sup>
- "For public elementary schools to notify parents of the provisions of the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Act of 1991 upon receiving a finding that a school site has significant risk factors for lead, pursuant to Education Code section 32243, subdivision (a)."<sup>7</sup>
- "For public elementary principals or the director of the school site to notify teachers, other personnel and the parents of a finding of significant risk factors for lead, within 45 days of receiving the finding, pursuant to Education Code section 32243, subdivision (a)."<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Test Claim of San Jose Unified School District, page 20.

<sup>7</sup> Test Claim of San Jose Unified School District, page 20. The Lead Poisoning Prevention Act of 1991 (Health & Saf. Code § 105272) provides, in pertinent part, that the Department of Health Services, before July 1, 1993, shall adopt regulations establishing a standard of care for evaluation, treatment, and monitoring of lead poisoning in children.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*

### Medical Services Notice

- “For the governing board of each school district to “notify pupils in grades 7-12 and the parents or guardians of all pupils enrolled in the district that the school authorities may excuse any pupil from the school for the purpose of obtaining confidential medical services pursuant to Education Code section 46010.1.”<sup>9</sup>

### Notice of Child Abuse Complaint Guidelines

- “To disseminate guidelines upon request, that describe complaint procedures adopted by the State Department of Education, to parents or guardians of minor pupils in the primary language of the parent or guardian which he or she can follow in filing a complaint of child abuse by a school employee or other person committed against a pupil at a school site, pursuant to Education Code section 48987.”<sup>10</sup>
- “To provide an interpreter for a parent or guardian, whose primary language is other than English, in the case of any communications concerning the guidelines and procedures for filing child abuse complaints committed against a pupil at a school site, pursuant to Education Code section 48987.”<sup>11</sup>

### High School Proficiency Exam Notice

- “To distribute to each pupil in grades 11 and 12 an announcement explaining the High School Proficiency Exam in sufficient time to meet registration requirements pursuant to Title 5, California Code of Regulations, Section 11523.”<sup>12</sup>

### Due Process/ Withholding of Grades, Transcripts and Diplomas for Student Misconduct

- “To adopt and implement rules and regulations, and to periodically update those rules and regulations governing notices to parents when school property has been damaged by a student, providing due process rights to those students, the provision of voluntary work programs, and the withholding of grades, diplomas and transcripts pursuant to Education Code section 48904, subdivision (b).”<sup>13</sup>
- “To provide a program of voluntary work for a minor pupil in lieu of the payment of monetary damages in the event the minor and the parent are unable to pay for the damage caused by the student, pursuant to Education Code section 48904, subdivision (b).”<sup>14</sup>
- “To notify the parent or guardian of a pupil, in writing, of the pupil’s alleged misconduct before withholding the pupil’s grades, diploma or transcripts pursuant to Education Code section 48904, subdivision (b).”<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> *Id.* at page 19.

<sup>10</sup> *Id.* at page 20.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>12</sup> *Id.* at page 18.

<sup>13</sup> Test Claim of San Jose Unified School District, page 18.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*

- “To afford a pupil his or her due process rights before withholding grades, diplomas or transcripts, pursuant to Education Code section 48904, subdivision (b).”<sup>16</sup>
- “To continue to withhold grades, diploma or transcripts of any transfer student whose grades were previously withheld by a transfer school as a result of his or her misconduct, pursuant to Education Code Section 48904.3, subdivision (a).”<sup>17</sup>
- “Upon receiving notice that a pupil, whose grades, diploma or transcripts are currently withheld, has transferred to another school district in this state to notify the parent or guardian that a decision to withhold a pupil’s grades diploma or transcripts will be enforced by his or her new school district, pursuant to Education Code section 48904.3, subdivision (b).”<sup>18</sup>

On September 18, 2006, the claimant filed an e-mail comment regarding Education Code section 46010.1 stating that although claimant agrees that amending the notice is a one-time activity, the distribution of the notice is ongoing and annual.

### **Position of the Department of Finance**

DOF concurs with claimant’s position regarding the “Notice Legislation” but disagrees with regard to the “Due Process Legislation.”<sup>19</sup>

For example, the DOF letter dated June 13, 2003, states that:

As a result of our review we have concluded that parts D, E and G of Section 2: Withholding Grades, Diplomas, or Transcripts do not constitute reimbursable costs because these actions are required only if a school district chooses to withhold a pupil’s grades, diploma, or transcripts... Therefore withholding grades, diplomas and transcripts is permissive and any activities required are non-reimbursable.

The June 13, 2003 letter from the DOF further states that:

Part B of Section 2 seeks reimbursement for costs associated with adopting and implementing rules and regulations, and periodically updating those rules and regulations governing: (1) notices to parents when school property has been damaged by a student, (2) providing due process rights to those students, (3) the provision of voluntary work programs, and (4) the withholding of grades, diplomas, and transcripts, pursuant to Education Code 48904, subdivision (b). All of these provisions are conditioned upon districts’ decisions to seek payment for damages and return of property and the withholding of grades. Thus all activities

<sup>15</sup> Test Claim of San Jose Unified School District, page 19.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>19</sup> Letter from the Department of Finance, June 13, 2003.

are discretionary and not reimbursable. We concur with claimants that Sections 1, 3, 4, and 5 identify changes that impose new requirements.

No further comments have been filed by interested parties regarding this claim.

### Discussion

The courts have found that article XIII B, section 6, of the California Constitution<sup>20</sup> recognizes the state constitutional restrictions on the powers of local government to tax and spend.<sup>21</sup>

Its purpose is to preclude the state from shifting financial responsibility for carrying out governmental functions to local agencies, which are “ill equipped” to assume increased financial responsibilities because of the taxing and spending limitations that articles XIII A and XIII B impose.<sup>22</sup>

A test claim statute or executive order may impose a reimbursable state-mandated program if it orders or commands a local agency or school district to engage in an activity or task.<sup>23</sup>

In addition, the required activity or task must be new, constituting a “new program,” or it must create a “higher level of service” over the previously required level of service.<sup>24</sup>

The courts have defined a “program” subject to article XIII B, section 6, of the California Constitution, as one that carries out the governmental function of providing public services, or a law that imposes unique requirements on local agencies or school districts to implement a state policy, but does not apply generally to all residents and entities in the state.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> Article XIII B, section 6, subdivision (a), of the California Constitution provides that:

Whenever the Legislature or any state agency mandates a new program or higher level of service on any local government, the state shall provide a subvention of funds to reimburse that local government for the costs of the program or increased level of service, except that the Legislature may, but need not, provide a subvention of funds for the following mandates:

- (1) Legislative mandates requested by the local agency affected.
- (2) Legislation defining a new crime or changing an existing definition of a crime.
- (3) Legislative mandates enacted prior to January 1, 1975, or executive orders or regulations initially implementing legislation enacted prior to January 1, 1975.

<sup>21</sup> *Department of Finance v. Commission on State Mandates* (2003) 30 Cal.4th 727, 735.

<sup>22</sup> *County of San Diego v. State of California* (1997) 15 Cal.4th 68, 81.

<sup>23</sup> *Long Beach Unified School Dist. v. State of California* (1990) 225 Cal.App.3d 155, 174.

<sup>24</sup> *San Diego Unified School Dist. v. Commission on State Mandates* (2004) 33 Cal.4th 859, 878. *Lucia Mar Unified School Dist. v. Honig* (1988) 44 Cal.3d 830, 835.

<sup>25</sup> *San Diego Unified School Dist., supra*, 33 Cal.4th 859, 874-875 (reaffirming the test set out in *County of Los Angeles v. State of California* (1987) 43 Cal.3d 46, 56; See also *Lucia Mar Unified School Dist. v. Honig* (1988) 44 Cal.3d 830, 835.

To determine if the program is new or imposes a higher level of service, the test claim statutes and executive orders must be compared with the legal requirements in effect immediately before the enactment of the test claim legislation.<sup>26</sup> A “higher level of service” occurs when the new “requirements were intended to provide an enhanced service to the public.”<sup>27</sup>

Finally, the newly required activity or increased level of service must impose costs mandated by the state.<sup>28</sup>

The Commission is vested with exclusive authority to adjudicate disputes over the existence of state-mandated programs within the meaning of article XIII B, section 6.<sup>29</sup> In making its decisions, the Commission must strictly construe article XIII B, section 6, and not apply it as an “equitable remedy to cure the perceived unfairness resulting from political decisions on funding priorities.”<sup>30</sup>

Thus, this test claim presents the following issues:

- Are the test claim statutes and regulation subject to article XIII B, section 6 of the California Constitution?
- Do the test claim statutes and regulation constitute a “new program or higher level of service” for school districts within the meaning of article XIII B, section 6 of the California Constitution?
- Do the test claim statutes and regulation impose “costs mandated by the state” within the meaning of Government Code sections 17514 and 17556?

These issues are addressed below:

**Issue 1: Are the test claim statutes and regulation subject to article XIII B, section 6 of the California Constitution?**

**Do the Test Claim Statutes and Regulation Impose State-Mandated Activities?**

In order for test claim statutes and regulation to impose a reimbursable, state-mandated, program under article XIII B, section 6, the statutory language must mandate an activity or task upon local governmental entities. If the statutory language does not mandate or require the school district to perform a task, then article XIII B, section 6, does not apply.

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<sup>26</sup> *San Diego Unified School Dist.*, *supra*, 33 Cal.4th 859, 878; *Lucia Mar*, *supra*, 44 Cal.3d 830, 835.

<sup>27</sup> *San Diego Unified School Dist.*, *supra*, 33 Cal.4th 859, 878.

<sup>28</sup> *County of Fresno v. State of California* (1991) 53 Cal.3d 482, 487; *County of Sonoma v. Commission on State Mandates* (2000) 84 Cal.App.4th 1265, 1284 (*County of Sonoma*); Government Code sections 17514 and 17556.

<sup>29</sup> *Kinlaw v. State of California* (1991) 54 Cal.3d 326, 331-334; Government Code sections 17551 and 17552.

<sup>30</sup> *County of Sonoma*, *supra*, 84 Cal.App.4th 1265, 1280, citing *City of San Jose v. State of California* (1996) 45 Cal.App.4th 1802, 1817.

In statutory construction cases, our fundamental task is to ascertain the intent of the lawmakers so as to effectuate the purpose of the statute.... If the terms of the statute are unambiguous, we presume the lawmakers meant what they said, and the plain meaning of the language governs. [Citations omitted.]<sup>31</sup>

### The "Notice Legislation"

#### Notice of Lead Contamination Risk Factors

The test claim legislation involving notice of lead contamination risk factors arises in the context of the "Lead-Safe Schools Protection Act"(1992) (the "Act") (Ed. Code, §§ 32240-32245). The "Act" provides for sample surveys by the state Department of Health Services (DHS) to develop risk factors to predict lead contamination in public schools and then requires DHS to notify local school districts of the results.<sup>32</sup> Then, when notified by DHS, local school districts must in turn notify school employees, pupils and parents of both the DHS lead survey results and/or of the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Act of 1991.<sup>33</sup> Relevant portions of these statutes are discussed below.

Education Code section 32242, subdivision (c), states that:

Within 60 days of the completion of testing of a school site, the Department shall notify the principal of the school or the director of the school site of the survey results. Within 45 days of receiving the survey results, the principal or director, as the case may be, shall notify the teachers and other school personnel and parents of the survey results.

Education Code section 32243, subdivision (a), states that:

When a school subject to this article has been determined to have significant risk factors for lead...the school shall notify parents of the provisions of the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Act of 1991 (pursuant to Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 105275) of Part 5 of Division 103 of the Health and Safety Code). Within 45 days of receiving this finding, the school principal or the director of the school site shall notify the teachers, other personnel, and the parents of the finding.

Here, based upon the plain language of Education Code section 32242, subdivision (c), and Education Code section 32243, subdivision (a) the Commission finds that the following are mandated activities subject to article XIII B, section 6, of the California Constitution:

- For the principal of the school site, within 45 days of receiving lead test survey results from the Department of Health Services, to notify the teachers and other school personnel and parents of the survey results pursuant to Education Code section 32242, subdivision (c).

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<sup>31</sup> *Whitcomb v. California Employment Commission* (1944) 24 Cal. 2d 753,757.

<sup>32</sup> For purposes of the Act "schools" means public elementary schools as well as preschools, and day care facilities located on school property. (Ed. Code, § 32241, subs. (b)-(c).)

<sup>33</sup> Health and Safety Code section 105272.

- For schools to notify parents of the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Act of 1991 upon receiving a finding that a school site has significant risk factors for lead, pursuant to Education Code Section 32243, subdivision (a).
- For schools, within 45 days of receiving a finding by the Department of Health Services that a school subject to the Lead-Safe Schools Act has a significant risk factors for lead, to notify the teachers, other personnel, and the parents of the finding pursuant to Education Code section 32243, subdivision (a).

#### Notice/Confidential Medical Services

Education Code section 46010.1 is a stand alone provision of the Education Code in that it is not part of a larger act.

Education Code section 46010.1 states that:

Commencing in the fall of 1986-87 academic year, the governing board of each school district shall, each academic year, notify pupils in grades 7-12, inclusive, and the parents or guardians of all pupils enrolled in the district, that school authorities may excuse any pupil from the school for the purpose of obtaining confidential medical services without the consent of the pupil's parent or guardian. The notice required pursuant to this section may be included with other notices.

Based upon the plain language of Education Code section 46010.1, the governing board of each school district, each academic year, as part of any other notice given pursuant to the Education Code, is required to notify pupils in grades 7-12, inclusive, and the parents or guardians of all pupils enrolled in the district, that school authorities may excuse any pupil for the purpose of obtaining confidential medical services. Since the notice required by section 46010.1 may be included with other notices already distributed by school districts to pupils in grades 7-12 and their parents or guardians, the Commission finds that the state-mandated activity is as follows:

- For school districts to amend an existing notice sent to pupils in grades 7-12 and their parents or guardians to include the provision that "school authorities may excuse any pupil from the school for the purpose of obtaining confidential medical services without the consent of the pupil's parent or guardian." This activity is a one-time activity.

#### Notice/Child Abuse Reporting/Interpreters

Education Code section 48987 states, in pertinent part, that:

The governing board of a school district or county office of education shall *upon request* disseminate the guidelines adopted by the State Department of Education pursuant to Section 33308.1 [describing procedures a parent or guardian can follow in filing a complaint of child abuse] to parents or guardians of minor pupils in the primary language of the parent or guardian...In the case of oral communications with the parent or guardian whose primary language is other than English, concerning that guideline or the procedures for filing child abuse complaints, the governing board shall provide an interpreter for that parent or guardian. (Emphasis added.)

The language omitted from the quotation of Section 48987 above, is indicated by the ellipsis. It reads:

The governing board of a school district or county office of education is *encouraged* to inform a parent or guardian, that desires to file a complaint against a school employee or other person that commits an act of child abuse as defined in Section 11165.6 of the Penal Code against a pupil at a school site, of the procedures for filing the complaint with local child protective agencies pursuant to the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act, established pursuant to Chapter 1444 of the Statutes of 1987. (Emphasis added.)

However, Claimant does not request reimbursement for the “encouraged” activity, nor is there any dispute that this language does not impose a state-mandated activity.<sup>34</sup>

Thus, based upon the plain language of Education Code section 48987 the Commission finds that the following are mandated activities subject to article XIII B, section 6 of the California Constitution:

- To disseminate guidelines, upon request, that describe complaint procedures adopted by the State Department of Education, to parents or guardians of minor pupils in the primary language of the parent or guardian which he or she can follow in filing a complaint of child abuse by a school employee or other person committed against a pupil at a school site.
- To provide an interpreter for a parent or guardian, whose primary language is other than English, in the case of any communications concerning the guidelines and procedures for filing child abuse complaints committed against a pupil at a school site.

#### Notice/High School Proficiency Exam

California Code of Regulations, title 5, section 11523, references sections 48410, subdivision (e), and 48412 of the Education Code. These sections exempt students age 16 or older from compulsory continuing education if the pupils have demonstrated the required proficiency by passing the High School Proficiency Exam. Students who pass this exam receive a certification of proficiency. This certification is not a high school diploma, and requirements for this certification are not related to the requirements for the High School Exit Exam.<sup>35</sup>

California Code of Regulations, title 5, section 11523 implements provisions of the Education Code pertaining to the High School Proficiency Exam by requiring notices to be sent out as specified in this regulation.

California Code of Regulations, title 5, section 11523 states that:

The school district superintendent shall require the principal of each school maintaining either or both of grades 11 and 12 to distribute to each pupil in those grades an announcement explaining the California High School Proficiency

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<sup>34</sup> See Test Claim of San Jose Unified School District at page 11. See also Declaration of Don Iglesias, Associate Superintendent of Instruction, San Jose Unified School District, February 2, 2003, at pages 3 and 4.

<sup>35</sup> Education Code section 60851.

Examination provided for under Education Code section 48412. Upon receipt of the announcements from the State Department of Education or its contractor, distribution shall be made in time sufficient to enable interested pupils to meet all examination registration requirements for the fall test of that year.

Here, based upon the plain language of California Code of Regulations, section 11523, the Commission finds that the following is a mandated activity subject to article XIII B, section 6 of the California Constitution:

- For the principal of each school maintaining either or both grades 11 and 12 to distribute to each pupil in those grades an announcement explaining the California High School Proficiency Exam provided for under Education Code section 48412 in time to meet registration requirements for the fall test of that year. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, §11523.)

#### The “Due Process Legislation”

In addition to the “Notice Legislation,” this test claim also addresses statutes and a regulation permitting school districts to withhold the transcripts, grades and diploma of a student who has willfully damaged or failed to return school property, after affording the student certain due process rights.<sup>36</sup> These provisions, collectively referred to in this analysis as the “Due Process Legislation,” are codified in Education Code sections 48904 and 48904.3 and are located within the same section of the Education Code containing statutory provisions concerning student suspension and expulsion.<sup>37</sup>

Claimant is requesting reimbursement for the following six activities based upon the “Due Process” test claim legislation:<sup>38</sup>

- “To notify the parent or guardian of a pupil, of the pupil’s alleged misconduct before withholding the pupil’s grades, diploma or transcripts pursuant to Education Code section 48904, subdivision (b).”
- “To afford a pupil his or her due process rights before withholding grades, diplomas or transcripts, pursuant to Education Code section 48904, subdivision (b).”
- “To provide a program of voluntary work under specified circumstances pursuant to Education Code section 48904, subdivision (b).”

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<sup>36</sup> Statutes 2002, chapter 492, added subdivisions (c) and (d) to Education Code section 48904.3. Subdivision (c) of section 48904.3 now states that: “For purposes of this section and Section 48904, “school district” is defined to include any county superintendent of schools.” Subdivision (d) of this section now states that: “This section and section 48904 shall also apply to state special schools, as described in Subdivision (a) of section 48927.” Education Code section 48927, subdivision (a), describes state special schools and states: “This chapter shall also apply to pupils attending the California School for the Blind and the two California Schools for the Deaf, which shall be referred to as the “state special schools.”

<sup>37</sup> Article 1, chapter 6, part 27, division 4, title 2 of the Education Code.

<sup>38</sup> See Test Claim of San Jose Unified School District, pages 18-19.

- “To notify the parent or guardian that a decision to withhold a pupil’s grades diploma or transcripts will be enforced by the pupil’s new school district, pursuant to Education Code section 48904.3, subdivision (b).”
- “To adopt and implement rules and regulations, and to periodically update those rules and regulations governing notices to parents when school property has been damaged by a student, providing due process rights to those students, the provision of voluntary work programs, and the withholding of grades, diplomas and transcripts pursuant to Education Code section 48904, subdivision (b)(3).”
- “To continue to withhold grades, diploma or transcripts of any transfer student whose grades were previously withheld by a transfer school pursuant to Education Code Section 48904.3, subdivision (a).”

In order for the test claim statutes to impose a reimbursable state-mandated program under article XIII B, section 6, the statutory language must mandate an activity or task upon local governmental agencies.

In 2003, the California Supreme Court decided the case, *Department of Finance v. Commission on State Mandates* (2003) 30 Cal. 4th 727 (*Kern High School District*) and considered the meaning of “state -mandate” pursuant to article XIII B, section 6 of the California Constitution.<sup>39</sup> In *Kern High School Dist.*, school districts requested reimbursement for notice and agenda costs for meetings of their school site counsels and advisory bodies. These bodies were established as a condition of various education-related programs that were funded by the state and federal government.

When analyzing the term “state-mandate,” the court reviewed the ballot materials for article XIII B, which provided that “a state mandate comprises something that a local government entity is forced to do.”<sup>40</sup> The ballot summary by the Legislative Analyst further defined “state mandates” as “requirements imposed on local governments by legislative or executive orders.”<sup>41</sup>

The court also reviewed and affirmed the holding in *City of Merced v. State of California* (1984) 153 Cal. App. 3d 777, determining that, when analyzing state-mandated claims, the Commission must look at the underlying program to determine if the claimant’s participation in the underlying program is voluntary or legally compelled.<sup>42</sup> The court stated the following:

In *City of Merced*, the city was under no legal compulsion to resort to eminent domain, but when it elected to employ that means of acquiring property; its obligation to compensate for lost business goodwill was not a reimbursable state mandate, because the city was not required to employ eminent domain in the first place. Here as well, if a school district elects to participate in or continue participation in any underlying *voluntary* education-related funded program, the

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<sup>39</sup> *Kern High School Dist.*, *supra*, 30 Cal.4th 727, 734.

<sup>40</sup> *Id.* at page 737.

<sup>41</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>42</sup> *Id.* at page 743.

district's obligation to comply with the notice and agenda requirements related to that program does not constitute a reimbursable mandate. (Emphasis in original.)<sup>43</sup>

Thus, the Supreme Court held as follows:

[W]e reject claimants' assertion that they have been legally compelled to incur notice and agenda costs, and hence are entitled to reimbursement from the state, based merely upon the circumstance that notice and agenda provisions are mandatory elements of education-related programs in which claimants have participated, *without regard to whether claimant's participation in the underlying program is voluntary or compelled.* [Emphasis added.]<sup>44</sup>

Based upon the plain language of the statutes creating the underlying education programs in *Kern High School Dist.*, the court determined that school districts were not legally compelled to participate in eight of the nine underlying programs.<sup>45</sup>

In *San Diego School District v. Commission on State Mandates* (2004) 33 Cal 4th 859, 880, the Supreme Court stated that when determining if there is a state mandate, the focus is on who made the decision to incur the cost:

[I]n its mandatory aspect, Education Code section 48915 appears to constitute a state mandate, in that it establishes conditions under which the state, rather than local officials, has made the decision requiring a school district to incur the cost of an expulsion hearing.

In this test claim, claimant also requests reimbursement as follows:

- "To notify the parent or guardian of a pupil, of the pupil's alleged misconduct before withholding the pupil's grades, diploma or transcripts pursuant to Education Code section 48904, subdivision (b)."<sup>46</sup>
- "To afford a pupil his or her due process rights before withholding grades, diplomas or transcripts, pursuant to Education Code section 48904, subdivision (b)."<sup>47</sup>

However, Education Code section 48904, subdivision (b)(1), reads:

Any school district or private school whose real or personal property has been willfully cut, defaced, or otherwise injured, or whose property is loaned to a pupil and willfully not returned upon demand of an employee of the district or private school authorized to make the demand *may*, after affording the pupil his or her due process rights, withhold the grades, diploma, and transcripts of the pupil

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<sup>43</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>44</sup> *Id.* at page 731.

<sup>45</sup> *Id.* at pages 744-745.

<sup>46</sup> Test Claim of San Jose Unified School District, page 19.

<sup>47</sup> *Ibid.*

responsible for the damage until the pupil or the pupil's parent or guardian has paid for the damages thereto, as provided in subdivision (a). (Emphasis added.)

This statute states that the school district:

...*may*, after affording the pupil his or her due process rights, withhold the grades, diploma, and transcripts . . . . (Emphasis added.)

The plain use of the term “may” in this context indicates that the initial decision to withhold a student’s grades, diploma, or transcripts is wholly within the discretion of the school district and not the state.<sup>48</sup> Thus, the downstream required activities of providing notice and due process rights are not mandated by the state. For this reason, the Commission finds that the following activities are *not* state-mandated activities within the meaning of article XIII B, section 6 of the California Constitution:

- To notify the parent or guardian of a pupil, of the pupil’s alleged misconduct before withholding the pupil’s grades, diploma or transcripts pursuant to Education Code section 48904, subdivision (b).
- To afford a pupil his or her due process rights before withholding grades, diplomas or transcripts, for student misconduct pursuant to Education Code section 48904, subdivision (b).

Claimant also requests reimbursement for the following activity:

- “To provide a program of voluntary work under specified circumstances pursuant to Education Code section 48904, subdivision (b).”<sup>49</sup>

Education Code section 48904, subdivision (b)(2), states that:

The school district or private school shall notify the parent or guardian of the pupil in writing of the pupil's alleged misconduct before withholding the pupil's grades, diploma, or transcripts pursuant to this subdivision. When the minor and parent are unable to pay for the damages, or to return the property, the school district or private school shall provide a program of voluntary work for the minor in lieu of the payment of monetary damages. Upon completion of the voluntary work, the grades, diploma, and transcripts of the pupil shall be released.

Although this statute uses the phrase “shall” it does so in the context of a statutory obligation that is triggered only if the claimant undertakes the activities described in Education Code section 48904, subdivision (b)(1), to withhold a student’s grades transcripts or diploma. Thus, because the activity described in this subdivision is a downstream obligation triggered by claimant’s own discretionary act of deciding to withhold grades, transcripts, or a diploma from a student, it cannot be said that these obligations are “mandated” by the state.<sup>50</sup> Instead, they are obligations that directly flow from the discretionary action of the school district.

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<sup>48</sup> Education Code section 75 states that “may” is discretionary and “shall” is mandatory.

<sup>49</sup> *Id.* at page 18.

<sup>50</sup> See *San Diego Unified School District v. Commission on State Mandates* (2004) 33 Cal4th 859, 880.

Thus, the Commission finds that Education Code section 48904, subdivision (b)(2), does not impose a state-mandated activity upon the claimant to provide a program of voluntary work pursuant to article XIII B, section 6 of the California Constitution.

Claimant also requests reimbursement for the following activity:

- “Upon receiving notice that a pupil, whose grades, diploma, or transcripts are currently withheld, has transferred to another school district in this state, to notify the parent or guardian that a decision to withhold a pupil’s grades, diploma or transcript will be enforced by his or her new district, pursuant to Education Code section 48904.3, subdivision (b).”<sup>51</sup>

Education Code section 48904.3, subdivision (b), states that:

Any school district that has decided to withhold a pupil's grades, diploma, or transcripts pursuant to Section 48904 shall, upon receiving notice that the pupil has transferred to any school district in this state, notify the parent or guardian of the pupil in writing that the decision to withhold will be enforced as specified in subdivision (a).

Here again, despite the use of the word “shall” in Education code section 48904, subdivision (a), the obligation to perform the activity described by this subdivision (to notify the student’s parent or guardian) is triggered only if the claimant exercises its discretion to withhold the grades, diploma and transcripts of a pupil pursuant to Education Code section 48904, subdivision (b)(1).<sup>52</sup>

Thus, the Commission finds that Education Code section 48904.3, subdivision (b), does not impose a state-mandated activity upon the school district.

Claimant further requests reimbursement for the following activities:

- “To adopt and implement rules and regulations, and to periodically update those rules and regulations governing notices to parents when school property has been damaged by a student, providing due process rights to those students, the provision of voluntary work programs, and the withholding of grades, diplomas and transcripts pursuant to Education Code section 48904, subdivision (b).”<sup>53</sup>
- “To continue to withhold grades, diploma or transcripts of any transfer student whose grades were previously withheld by a transfer school pursuant to Education Code section 48904.3, subdivision (a).”<sup>54</sup>

Education Code section 48904.3, subdivision (a), states that:

Upon receiving notice that a school district has withheld the grades, diploma, or transcripts of any pupil pursuant to Section 48904, any school district to which the

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<sup>51</sup> Test Claim of San Jose Unified School District, page 18.

<sup>52</sup> See *San Diego Unified School District supra* 33 Cal. 4<sup>th</sup> 859, 880.

<sup>53</sup> Test Claim of San Jose Unified School District, page 18.

<sup>54</sup> *Id.* at page 19.

pupil has transferred shall likewise withhold the grades, diploma, or transcripts of the pupil as authorized by that section, until the time that it receives notice, from the district that initiated the decision to withhold, that the decision has been rescinded under the terms of that section.”

Education Code section 48904, subdivision (b)(3), states that:

The governing board of each school district...shall establish rules and regulations governing procedures for the implementation of this subdivision. The procedures shall conform to, but are not necessarily limited to, those procedures established in this code for the expulsion of pupils.

These activities are not triggered by the local decision to withhold a pupil's grades, transcripts or a diploma, but are instead mandated by the state. The district is required to comply with these requirements even if that district has not made a decision to withhold grades, transcripts or a diploma. Thus, the Commission finds that the following are state-mandated activities subject to article XIII B, section 6, of the California Constitution:

- To establish rules and regulations governing procedures for withholding grades, transcripts, and diplomas pursuant to Education Code section 48904, subdivision (b)(3).
- For a transferee school, upon notice that a school district has withheld the grades, diploma or transcripts of any pupil pursuant to Education Code section 48904, to continue to withhold the grades, diploma or transcripts of any transfer student as authorized by that section, until such time as it receives notice from the district that initiated the decision to withhold, that the decision has been rescinded under the terms of that section.<sup>55</sup>

Thus, to recap, in the instant case, the Commission has determined that the following activities impose state-mandated activities upon school districts within the meaning of article XIII B, section 6 of the California Constitution:

1. For the principal of the school site, within 45 days of receiving lead test survey results from the Department of Health Services, to notify the teachers and other school personnel and parents of the survey results. (Ed. Code, § 32242, subd. (c).)
2. For schools to notify parents of the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Act of 1991 upon receiving a finding that a school site has significant risk factors for lead. (Ed. Code, § 32243, subd. (a).)
3. For schools, within 45 days of receiving a finding by the Department of Health Services that a school subject to the Lead-Safe Schools Act has significant risk factors for lead, to notify the teachers, other personnel, and the parents of the finding. (Ed. Code, § 32243, subd. (a).)
4. For school districts to amend an existing notice sent to pupils in grades 7-12 and their parents or guardians to include the provision that “school authorities may excuse any pupil from the school for the purpose of obtaining confidential medical services without

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<sup>55</sup> Education Code section 48904.3, subdivision (a).

the consent of the pupil's parent or guardian." This activity is a one-time activity. (Ed. Code, § 46010.1.)

5. To disseminate guidelines, upon request, that describe complaint procedures, adopted by the State Department of Education, to parents or guardians of minor pupils in the primary language of the parent or guardian, which he or she can follow in filing a complaint of child abuse by a school employee or other person committed against a pupil at a school site. (Ed. Code, § 48987.)
6. To provide an interpreter for a parent or guardian, whose primary language is other than English, in the case of any communications concerning the guidelines and procedures for filing child abuse complaints committed against a pupil at a school site. (Ed. Code, § 48987.)
7. For the principal of each school with students in grades 11 and/or 12 to distribute to each pupil in those grades an announcement explaining the California High School Proficiency Exam provided for under Education Code section 48412 in time to meet registration requirements for the fall test of that year. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 11523.)
8. To establish rules and regulations governing procedures for withholding grades, transcripts, and diplomas. (Ed. Code, § 48904, subd. (b)(3).)
9. For a transferee school, upon notice that a school district has withheld the grades, diploma or transcripts of any pupil pursuant to Education Code section 48904, to continue to withhold the grades, diploma or transcripts of any transfer student as authorized by that section, until such time as it receives notice, from the district that initiated the decision to withhold, that the decision has been rescinded under the terms of that section. (Ed. Code, § 48904.3, subd. (a).)

**Do the State-Mandated Activities Constitute "Programs" Subject to Article XIII B, Section 6 of the California Constitution?**

In addition to being state-mandated, the test claim statutes and regulation must also constitute a "program" in order to be subject to article XIII B, section 6 of the California Constitution.

The relevant test is set forth in case law. The California Supreme Court, in the case of *County of Los Angeles v. State of California* (1987) 43 Cal 3d 46, defined the word "program" within the meaning of article XIII B, section 6 as a program that carries out the governmental function of providing a service to the public, or laws which, to implement a state policy, impose unique requirements on local governments and do not apply generally to all residents and entities in the state.<sup>56</sup> The court has held that only one of these findings is necessary.<sup>57</sup>

In the instant case, each of the above state-mandated activities meet this test to qualify as a program within the meaning of article XIII B, section 6 of the California Constitution.

Mandated activity numbers 1-7 and 9 (notices, child abuse guidelines, interpreters, and the withholding of grades, transcript, or diploma by a transferee school) meet this test by providing a service to members of the public who work in or whose children attend public schools.

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<sup>56</sup> *County of Los Angeles, supra*, 43 Cal.3d, 56.

<sup>57</sup> *Carmel Valley Fire Protection Dist. v. State of California* (1987) 190 Cal.App.3d 521, 537.

Although mandated activity number 8 (adopting rules and regulations pertaining to withholding of grades, transcripts and diplomas) applies to both public and private schools, this distinction does not affect the outcome based upon the court's decision in *Long Beach Unified School District v. The State of California* (1990) 225 Cal. App. 3d 155, 172.

In *Long Beach*, the appellate court stated that:

[A]lthough numerous private schools exist, education in our society is considered to be a peculiarly governmental function. [Citations] Further, public education is administered by local agencies to provide service to the public. Thus public education constitutes a "program" within the meaning of section 6.

Thus, the Commission finds that mandated activities 1-9 above constitute state-mandated programs subject to article XIII B, section 6 of the California Constitution.

**Issue 2: Do the (remaining) test claim statutes and regulation constitute a "new program or higher level of service" for school districts within the meaning of article XIII B, section 6 of the California Constitution?**

The courts have held that statutes and regulations impose a "new program or higher level of service" within the meaning of article XIII B, section 6 of the California Constitution when: (a) the requirements are new in comparison with the pre-existing scheme, and (b) the requirements were intended to provide an enhanced service to the public.<sup>58</sup>

To make this determination, the test claim statutes and regulation must initially be compared with the legal requirements in effect immediately prior to its enactment.<sup>59</sup>

In this case the test claim statutes and regulation in state-mandated activities numbers 1-9 did not exist in prior law.<sup>60</sup> And, as discussed above, each of these activities provides a service to members of the public who work in or whose children attend public schools. Therefore, the Commission concludes that these eight state-mandated activities are programs constituting a "new program or higher level of service" on school districts within the meaning of article XIII B, section 6 of the California Constitution.

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<sup>58</sup> *San Diego Unified School District, supra*, 33 Cal. 4th 859,878; *Lucia Mar Unified School District, supra*, 44 Cal 3d 830, 835.

<sup>59</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>60</sup> In addition, subsequent amendments to state-mandated programs 1-6 during the test claim period have been technical in nature and effected no substantive changes. See Statutes 1983, chapter 589, section 36; Statutes 1993, chapter 589, section 37; Statutes 1993, chapter 589, section 39; Statutes 1993, chapter 726, section 15; Statutes 1996, chapter 1023, section 34; Statutes 1993, chapter 726, section 15. Likewise although subdivision (a) of Education Code section 48904.3 was effectively broadened to include state special skills when Education Code section 48904.3 was amended by Statutes 2002, chapter 492 these provisions do not apply to local school districts and thus do not affect this analysis.

**Issue 3: Do the (remaining) test claim statutes and regulation impose “costs mandated by the state” within the meaning of Government Code sections 17514 and 17556?**

Government Code section 17514 states that:

“Costs mandated by the state” means any increased cost which a local agency or school district is required to incur after July 1, 1980, as a result of any statute enacted on or after January 1, 1975, which mandates a new program or higher level of service of an existing program within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.

However, Government Code section 17556 prohibits the Commission from finding costs mandated by the state as defined in Government Code 17514 under certain circumstances such as when a statute includes additional revenue specifically intended to fund the cost of the state mandate. Government Code section 17556, subdivision (e), states in pertinent part that:

The commission shall not find costs mandated by the state, as defined in Section 17514, in any claim submitted by a local agency or school district, if, after a hearing, the commission finds that:

....

(e) The statute, executive order, or an appropriation in a Budget Act or other bill provides for offsetting savings to ... school districts that result in no net costs to the ... school districts, or includes additional revenue that was specifically intended to fund the costs of the state mandate in an amount sufficient to fund the cost of the state mandate.

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In this case there is an issue as to whether or not the Commission can find “costs mandated by the state,” for providing notices to parents, teachers and other school personnel pursuant to the Lead-Safe Schools Protection Act. This is because part of this Act, Education Code section 32245, on its face, provides funding of those state-mandated activities. Education Code section 32245 states that:

*Funding to implement this article [The Lead-Safe Schools Act] shall be provided from the Child Health and Safety Fund ... upon appropriation by the Legislature pursuant to Section 18285 of the Welfare and Institutions Code. (Emphasis added.)*

Thus, Education Code section 32245 appears to trigger the provisions of Government Code section 17556 by providing for funding of a mandated activity (lead risk notices).

However, in order for Government Code section 17556, subdivision (e), to prohibit the Commission from finding costs mandated by the state, two elements must be satisfied.

First, the funding provisions of Education Code section 32245 and Welfare and Institutions Code section 18285 would have to be implemented through a Budget Act appropriation to include revenue specifically intended to fund the costs of these state-mandated lead risk notices.

Second, this revenue would have to be in an amount sufficient to fund the cost of the state mandate.

Education Code section 32245 states that it was intended to fund the Lead Safe Schools Act, which includes the lead risk notices. Thus, the first element (specific intent to fund the mandate) is met with regard to the lead risk notices.

However, the second element, which would require that Education Code section 32245 and Welfare and Institutions Code section 18285 be implemented through a Budget Act appropriation in an amount *sufficient* to fund the cost of the lead risk notices, must also be met.

Welfare and Institutions Code section 18285, which is incorporated by reference into Education Code section 32245, creates in the State Treasury the Child Health and Safety Fund. Section 18285 states that the Child Health and Safety Fund shall be created from money collected by the state pursuant to the license plate program and from civil penalties on family day care providers. It further provides that monies in the fund shall be expended, for up to any of eleven different programs having to do with child health and safety upon appropriation by the Legislature. Subdivision (e) of section 18285 states in pertinent part that:

(e) Fifty percent of moneys derived from the license plate program pursuant to Section 5072 of the Vehicle Code ... shall be available, *upon appropriation*, for programs which address *any* of the following [eleven] child health and safety concerns ... that are either to be carried out within a two-year period or whose implementation is dependent upon one-time initial funding: ... (10) *Childhood lead poisoning*.... (Emphasis added.)

The language of subdivision (e) provides that the Legislature *may* appropriate up to 50% of the Child Health and Safety Fund to fund any of eleven different programs. Only one of which includes prevention of childhood lead poisoning. However, there is no evidence in the law or record that any amount was appropriated pursuant to Education Code section 32245 sufficient to cover the cost of the lead notices.

Claimant states that:

It is estimated that the San Jose Unified School District incurred approximately in excess of \$1000.00, annually in staffing and other costs in excess of the funding provided to school districts and the state for the period of July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2002 to implement these new duties mandated by the state for which the school district has not been reimbursed by any federal, state, or local government agency.<sup>61</sup>

There is no evidence that this is not the case.

Therefore, the Commission concludes that the lead risk notices are "costs mandated by the state" within the meaning of Government Code sections 17514 and 17556.

However to the extent, and in the event, that funds are appropriated from the Child Health and Safety Fund pursuant to Education Code section 32245 or Welfare and Institutions Code section 18285, subdivision (e), they will be identified in the parameters and guidelines as offsetting revenue.

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<sup>61</sup> Declaration of Don Iglesias, Associate Superintendent of Instruction, San Jose Unified School District; dated February 19, 2003; pages 4-5, lines 18 -21 and 1-2, respectively.

The Commission further finds that none of the exceptions in Government Code section 17556 apply to the remaining test claim statutes and regulation. Thus, these activities also constitute "costs mandated by the state" within the meaning of Government Code sections 17514 and 17556.

## CONCLUSION

The Commission concludes that the test claim statutes and regulation constitute a partial reimbursable state-mandated program within the meaning of article XIII B, section 6 of the California Constitution and Government Code section 17514 for the following activities:

1. For the principal of the school site, within 45 days of receiving lead test survey results from the Department of Health Services, to notify the teachers and other school personnel and parents of the survey results. (Ed. Code, § 32242, subd. (c).)
2. For schools to notify parents of the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Act of 1991 upon receiving a finding that a school site has significant risk factors for lead. (Ed. Code, § 32243, subd. (a).)
3. For schools, within 45 days of receiving a finding by the Department of Health Services that a school subject to the Lead-Safe Schools Act has significant risk factors for lead, to notify the teachers, other personnel, and the parents of the finding. (Ed. Code, § 32243, subd. (a).)
4. For school districts to amend an existing notice sent to pupils in grades 7-12 and their parents or guardians to include the provision that "school authorities may excuse any pupil from the school for the purpose of obtaining confidential medical services without the consent of the pupil's parent or guardian." This activity is a one-time activity. (Ed. Code, § 46010.1.)
5. To disseminate guidelines, upon request, that describe complaint procedures, adopted by the State Department of Education, to parents or guardians of minor pupils in the primary language of the parent or guardian which he or she can follow in filing a complaint of child abuse by a school employee or other person committed against a pupil at a school site. (Ed. Code, § 48987.)
6. To provide an interpreter for a parent or guardian, whose primary language is other than English, in the case of any communications concerning the guidelines and procedures for filing child abuse complaints committed against a pupil at a school site. (Ed. Code, § 48987.)
7. For the principal of each school with students in grades 11 and/or 12 to distribute to each pupil in those grades an announcement explaining the California High School Proficiency Exam provided for under Education Code section 48412 in time to meet registration requirements for the fall test of that year. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 11523.)
8. To establish rules and regulations governing procedures for withholding grades, transcripts, and diplomas. (Ed. Code, § 48904, subd. (b)(3).)
9. For a transferee school, upon notice that a school district has withheld the grades, diploma or transcripts of any pupil pursuant to Education code section 48904, to continue to withhold the grades, diploma or transcripts of any transfer student as authorized by that section, until such time as it receives notice, from the district that

initiated the decision to withhold, that the decision has been rescinded under the terms of that section. (Ed. Code, § 48904.3, subd. (a).)

The Commission further finds that:

- Funds appropriated pursuant to Education Code section 32245 and Welfare and Institutions Code section 18285, subdivision (e), shall be identified as an offset in the Parameters and Guidelines for purposes of the lead notice activities.
- Any statutes and or executive orders that were pled in this test claim that are not identified above do not constitute a reimbursable state-mandated program.

## **DRAFT PARAMETERS AND GUIDELINES**

Education Code Sections 32242, 32243, 32245, 46010.1; 48904, 48904.3, 48987  
Welfare and Institutions Code Section 18285

Statutes 1983, Chapter 498; Statutes 1984, Chapter 482; Statutes 1984, Chapter 948;  
Statutes 1986, Chapter 196; Statutes 1986, Chapter 332; Statutes 1992, Chapter 445;  
Statutes 1992, Chapter 1317; Statutes 1993, Chapter 589; Statutes 1994, Chapter 1172;  
Statutes 1996, Chapter 1023; Statutes 2002, Chapter 492

California Code of Regulations, Title 5, Section 11523

*Pupil Safety Notices (02-TC-13)*

San Jose Unified School District, Claimant

### **I. SUMMARY OF THE MANDATE**

On December 4, 2006, the Commission on State Mandates (Commission) adopted the Statement of Decision for the *Pupil Safety Notices* program, finding that the test claim statutes and regulation impose a partially reimbursable state-mandated program on school districts within the meaning of article XIII B, section 6 of the California Constitution and Government Code section 17514 to perform the following activities:

1. For the principal of the school site, within 45 days of receiving lead test survey results from the Department of Health Services, to notify the teachers and other school personnel and parents of the survey results. (Ed. Code, § 32242, subd. (c).)
2. For schools to notify parents of the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Act of 1991 upon receiving a finding that a school site has significant risk factors for lead. (Ed. Code, § 32243, subd. (a).)
3. For schools, within 45 days of receiving a finding by the Department of Health Services that a school subject to the Lead-Safe Schools Act has significant risk factors for lead, to notify the teachers, other personnel, and the parents of the finding. (Ed. Code, § 32243, subd. (a).)
4. For school districts to amend an existing notice sent to pupils in grades 7-12 and their parents or guardians to include the provision that "school authorities may excuse any pupil from the school for the purpose of obtaining confidential medical services without the consent of the pupil's parent or guardian." This activity is a one-time activity. (Ed. Code, § 46010.1.)
5. To disseminate guidelines, upon request, that describe complaint procedures, adopted by the State Department of Education, to parents or guardians of minor pupils in the primary language of the parent or guardian which he or she can follow in filing a complaint of child abuse by a school employee or other person committed against a pupil at a school site. (Ed. Code, § 48987.)
6. To provide an interpreter for a parent or guardian, whose primary language is other than English, in the case of any communications concerning the guidelines and procedures

for filing child abuse complaints committed against a pupil at a school site. (Ed. Code, § 48987.)

7. For the principal of each school with students in grades 11 and/or 12 to distribute to each pupil in those grades an announcement explaining the California High School Proficiency Exam provided for under Education Code section 48412 in time to meet registration requirements for the fall test of that year. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 11523.)
8. To establish rules and regulations governing procedures for withholding grades, transcripts, and diplomas. (Ed. Code, § 48904, subd. (b)(3).)
9. For a transferee school, upon notice that a school district has withheld the grades, diploma or transcripts of any pupil pursuant to Education code section 48904, to continue to withhold the grades, diploma or transcripts of any transfer student as authorized by that section, until such time as it receives notice, from the district that initiated the decision to withhold, that the decision has been rescinded under the terms of that section. (Ed. Code, § 48904.3, subd. (a).)

The Commission further found that:

- Funds appropriated pursuant to Education Code section 32245 and Welfare and Institutions Code section 18285, subdivision (e), shall be identified as an offset in the Parameters and Guidelines for purposes of the lead notice activities.
- Any statutes and or executive orders that were pled in this test claim that are not identified above do not constitute a reimbursable state-mandated program.

## **II. ELIGIBLE CLAIMANTS**

Any "school district" as defined in Government Code section 17519, except for community colleges, which incurs increased costs as a result of this mandate is eligible to claim reimbursement. Charter schools are not eligible claimants.

## **III. PERIOD OF REIMBURSEMENT**

Government Code section 17557 states that a test claim must be submitted on or before June 30 following a given fiscal year to establish eligibility for that fiscal year. The test claim for this mandate was filed on February 21, 2003. Therefore, the costs incurred for compliance with this program are eligible for reimbursement on or after July 1, 2001.

Actual costs for one fiscal year should be included in each claim. Estimated costs for the subsequent year may be included on the same claim, if applicable. Pursuant to Government Code section 17561, subdivision (d)(1)(A), all claims for reimbursement of initial fiscal year costs shall be submitted to the State Controller within 120 days of the issuance date for the claiming instructions.

If the total costs for a given fiscal year do not exceed \$1,000, no reimbursement shall be allowed, except as otherwise allowed by Government Code section 17564.

## **IV. REIMBURSABLE ACTIVITIES**

To be eligible for mandated cost reimbursement for any fiscal year, only actual costs may be claimed. Actual costs are those costs actually incurred to implement the mandated activities. Actual costs must be traceable and supported by source documents that show the validity of such costs, when they were incurred, and their relationship to the reimbursable activities. A source

document is a document created at or near the same time the actual cost was incurred for the event or activity in question. Source documents may include, but are not limited to, employee time records or time logs, sign-in sheets, invoices, and receipts.

Evidence corroborating the source documents may include, but is not limited to, worksheets, cost allocation reports (system generated), purchase orders, contracts, agendas, and declarations. Declarations must include a certification or declaration stating, "I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct," and must further comply with the requirements of Code of Civil Procedure section 2015.5. Evidence corroborating the source documents may include data relevant to the reimbursable activities otherwise in compliance with local, state, and federal government requirements. However, corroborating documents cannot be substituted for source documents.

The claimant is only allowed to claim and be reimbursed for increased costs for the reimbursable activities identified below. Increased cost is limited to the cost of an activity that the claimant is required to incur as a result of the mandate.

For each eligible claimant, the following activities are reimbursable:

1. For the principal of the school site, within 45 days of receiving lead test survey results from the Department of Health Services, to notify the teachers and other school personnel and parents of the survey results. (Ed. Code, § 32242, subd. (c).)
2. For schools to notify parents of the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Act of 1991 upon receiving a finding that a school site has significant risk factors for lead. (Ed. Code, § 32243, subd. (a).)
3. For schools, within 45 days of receiving a finding by the Department of Health Services that a school subject to the Lead-Safe Schools Act has significant risk factors for lead, to notify the teachers, other personnel, and the parents of the finding. (Ed. Code, § 32243, subd. (a).)
4. For school districts to amend an existing notice sent to pupils in grades 7-12 and their parents or guardians to include the provision that "school authorities may excuse any pupil from the school for the purpose of obtaining confidential medical services without the consent of the pupil's parent or guardian." This activity is a one-time activity. (Ed. Code, § 46010.1.)
5. To disseminate guidelines, upon request, that describe complaint procedures, adopted by the State Department of Education, to parents or guardians of minor pupils in the primary language of the parent or guardian which he or she can follow in filing a complaint of child abuse by a school employee or other person committed against a pupil at a school site. (Ed. Code, § 48987.)
6. To provide an interpreter for a parent or guardian, whose primary language is other than English, in the case of any communications concerning the guidelines and procedures for filing child abuse complaints committed against a pupil at a school site. (Ed. Code, § 48987.)
7. For the principal of each school with students in grades 11 and/or 12 to distribute to each pupil in those grades an announcement explaining the California High School

Proficiency Exam provided for under Education Code section 48412 in time to meet registration requirements for the fall test of that year. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 11523.)

8. To establish rules and regulations governing procedures for withholding grades, transcripts, and diplomas. (Ed. Code, § 48904, subd. (b)(3).)
9. For a transferee school, upon notice that a school district has withheld the grades, diploma or transcripts of any pupil pursuant to Education code section 48904, to continue to withhold the grades, diploma or transcripts of any transfer student as authorized by that section, until such time as it receives notice, from the district that initiated the decision to withhold, that the decision has been rescinded under the terms of that section. (Ed. Code, § 48904.3, subd. (a).)

## V. CLAIM PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION

Each of the following cost elements must be identified for each reimbursable activity identified in Section IV, Reimbursable Activities, of this document. Each claimed reimbursable cost must be supported by source documentation as described in Section IV. Additionally, each reimbursement claim must be filed in a timely manner.

### A. Direct Cost Reporting

Direct costs are those costs incurred specifically for the reimbursable activities. The following direct costs are eligible for reimbursement.

#### 1. Salaries and Benefits

Report each employee implementing the reimbursable activities by name, job classification, and productive hourly rate (total wages and related benefits divided by productive hours). Describe the specific reimbursable activities performed and the hours devoted to each reimbursable activity performed.

#### 2. Materials and Supplies

Report the cost of materials and supplies that have been consumed or expended for the purpose of the reimbursable activities. Purchases shall be claimed at the actual price after deducting discounts, rebates, and allowances received by the claimant. Supplies that are withdrawn from inventory shall be charged on an appropriate and recognized method of costing, consistently applied.

#### 3. Contracted Services

Report the name of the contractor and services performed to implement the reimbursable activities. Attach a copy of the contract to the claim. If the contractor bills for time and materials, report the number of hours spent on the activities and all costs charged. If the contract is a fixed price, report the dates when services were performed and itemize all costs for those services.

#### 4. Fixed Assets and Equipment

Report the purchase price paid for fixed assets and equipment (including computers) necessary to implement the reimbursable activities. The purchase price includes taxes, delivery costs, and installation costs. If the fixed asset or equipment is also used for

purposes other than the reimbursable activities, only the pro-rata portion of the purchase price used to implement the reimbursable activities can be claimed.

#### 5. Travel

Report the name of the employee traveling for the purpose of the reimbursable activities. Include the date of travel, destination point, the specific reimbursable activity requiring travel, and related travel expenses reimbursed to the employee in compliance with the rules of the local jurisdiction. Report employee travel time according to the rules of cost element A.1, Salaries and Benefits, for each applicable reimbursable activity.

#### B. Indirect Cost Rates

Indirect costs are costs that have been incurred for common or joint purposes. These costs benefit more than one cost objective and cannot be readily identified with a particular final cost objective without effort disproportionate to the results achieved. After direct costs have been determined and assigned to other activities, as appropriate, indirect costs are those remaining to be allocated to benefited cost objectives. A cost may not be allocated as an indirect cost if any other cost incurred for the same purpose, in like circumstances, has been claimed as a direct cost.

Indirect costs include: (a) the indirect costs originating in each department or agency of the governmental unit carrying out state mandated programs, and (b) the costs of central governmental services distributed through the central service cost allocation plan and not otherwise treated as direct costs.

School districts must use the J-380 (or subsequent replacement) non-restrictive indirect cost rate provisionally approved by the California Department of Education.

County offices of education must use the J-580 (or subsequent replacement) non-restrictive indirect cost rate provisionally approved by the California Department of Education.

### VI. RECORD RETENTION

Pursuant to Government Code section 17558.5, subdivision (a), a reimbursement claim for actual costs filed by a local agency or school district pursuant to this chapter<sup>1</sup> is subject to the initiation of an audit by the Controller no later than three years after the date that the actual reimbursement claim is filed or last amended, whichever is later. However, if no funds are appropriated or no payment is made to a claimant for the program for the fiscal year for which the claim is filed, the time for the Controller to initiate an audit shall commence to run from the date of initial payment of the claim. In any case, an audit shall be completed not later than two years after the date that the audit is commenced. All documents used to support the reimbursable activities, as described in Section IV, must be retained during the period subject to audit. If an audit has been initiated by the Controller during the period subject to audit, the retention period is extended until the ultimate resolution of any audit findings.

### VII. OFFSETTING REVENUES AND OTHER REIMBURSEMENTS

Any offsets the claimant experiences in the same program as a result of the same statutes or executive orders found to contain the mandate shall be deducted from the costs claimed, including funds appropriated pursuant to Education Code section 32245 and Welfare and

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<sup>1</sup> This refers to Title 2, division 4, part 7, chapter 4 of the Government Code.

Institutions Code section 18285, subdivision (e), for purposes of the lead notice activities. In addition, reimbursement for this mandate from any source, including but not limited to, service fees collected, federal funds, and other state funds, shall be identified and deducted from this claim.

### **VIII. STATE CONTROLLER'S CLAIMING INSTRUCTIONS**

Pursuant to Government Code section 17558, subdivision (b), the Controller shall issue claiming instructions for each mandate that requires state reimbursement not later than 60 days after receiving the adopted parameters and guidelines from the Commission, to assist local agencies and school districts in claiming costs to be reimbursed. The claiming instructions shall be derived from the test claim decision and the parameters and guidelines adopted by the Commission.

Pursuant to Government Code section 17561, subdivision (d)(1), issuance of the claiming instructions shall constitute a notice of the right of the local agencies and school districts to file reimbursement claims, based upon parameters and guidelines adopted by the Commission.

### **IX. REMEDIES BEFORE THE COMMISSION**

Upon request of a local agency or school district, the Commission shall review the claiming instructions issued by the State Controller or any other authorized state agency for reimbursement of mandated costs pursuant to Government Code section 17571. If the Commission determines that the claiming instructions do not conform to the parameters and guidelines, the Commission shall direct the Controller to modify the claiming instructions and the Controller shall modify the claiming instructions to conform to the parameters and guidelines as directed by the Commission.

In addition, requests may be made to amend parameters and guidelines pursuant to Government Code section 17557, subdivision (d), and California Code of Regulations, title 2, section 1183.2.

### **X. LEGAL AND FACTUAL BASIS FOR THE PARAMETERS AND GUIDELINES**

The Statement of Decision is legally binding on all parties and provides the legal and factual basis for the parameters and guidelines. The support for the legal and factual findings is found in the administrative record for the test claim. The administrative record, including the Statement of Decision, is on file with the Commission.

**DECLARATION OF SERVICE BY MAIL**

I, the undersigned, declare as follows:

I am a resident of the County of Sacramento and I am over the age of 18 years, and not a party to the within action. My place of employment is 980 Ninth Street, Suite 300, Sacramento, California 95814.

On December 8, 2006, I served the:

**RE: Adopted Statement of Decision and Draft Parameters and Guidelines**

*Pupil Safety Notices; 02-TC-13*

San Jose Unified School District, Claimant

Statutes 1983, Chapter 498 (SB 813);

Statutes 1984, Chapters 482 and 948 (AB 3757 and AB 2549);

Statutes 1986, Chapters 196 and 332 (AB 1541 and AB 2824);

Statutes 1992, Chapters 445 and 1317 (AB 3257 and AB 1659);

Statutes 1993, Chapter 589 (AB 2211);

Statutes 1994, Chapter 1172 (AB 2978);

Statutes 1996, Chapter 1023 (SB 1023);

Statutes 2002, Chapter 492 (AB 1859)

Education Code Sections 32242, 32243, 32245, 46010.1, 48904, 48904.3, and 48987

Welfare and Institutions Code Section 18285

California Code of Regulations, Title 5, Section 11523

by placing a true copy thereof in an envelope addressed to:

SixTen & Associates

Mr. Keith B. Petersen

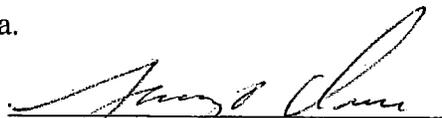
5252 Balboa Avenue, Suite 900

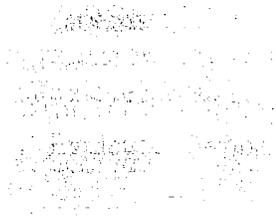
San Diego, CA 92117

State Agencies and Interested Parties (See attached mailing list);

and by sealing and depositing said envelope in the United States mail at Sacramento, California, with postage thereon fully paid.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct, and that this declaration was executed on December 8, 2006 at Sacramento, California.

  
Lorenzo Duran



# Commission on State Mandates

Original List Date: 2/24/2003  
Last Updated: 5/25/2006  
List Print Date: 12/07/2006  
Claim Number: 02-TC-13  
Issue: Pupil Safety Notices

Mailing Information: Notice of adopted SOD

## Mailing List

### TO ALL PARTIES AND INTERESTED PARTIES:

Each commission mailing list is continuously updated as requests are received to include or remove any party or person on the mailing list. A current mailing list is provided with commission correspondence, and a copy of the current mailing list is available upon request at any time. Except as provided otherwise by commission rule, when a party or interested party files any written material with the commission concerning a claim, it shall simultaneously serve a copy of the written material on the parties and interested parties to the claim identified on the mailing list provided by the commission. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 1181.2.)

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