### LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



### Office of the Controller

Revenue Enhancement Unit 333 S. Beaudry Ave. 27<sup>th</sup> Floor Los Angeles, CA 90017 Telephone: (213) 241-3992 Fax: (213) 241-8911 **Roy Romer** Superintendent of Schools

Charles A. Burbridge Chief Financial Officer

Betty Ng Controller

Ruben J. Rojas
Director, Revenue Enhancement

January 20, 2006

Commission on State Mandates

Attention: Nancy Patton, Assistant Executive Director

980 Ninth Street, Suite 300 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Detailed Narrative of Claim

Claimant: Los Angeles Unified School District

Claim: Notification of Truancy, Statutes 1983, Chapter 498

Claim Years: Fiscal Years 1998-1999, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001



### Dear Ms. Patton:

Enclosed, pursuant to your December 22, 2005 letter to Trevin E. Sims, is the District's supplement to the Incorrect Reduction Claim filed on December 12, 2005. The enclosed claim includes the following documents:

- 1) Incorrect Reduction Claim form;
- 2) State Controller's Claiming Instructions;
- 3) A written detailed narrative signed under penalty of perjury;
- 4) State Controllers December 2002 Final Audit Report for the 1998-1999 fiscal year;
- 5) The State Controllers December 2002 Final Audit Report for the 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 fiscal years;
- The District's November 25, 2002 letter to the State Controller regarding the 1998-1999 draft audit report;
- 7) The District's November 14, 2002 letter to the State Controller regarding the 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 draft audit reports;
- 8) The District's Claim for Payment for the 1998-1999 fiscal yea;
- 9) The District's Claim for Payment for the 1999-2000 fiscal year;
- 10) The District's Claim for Payment for the 2000-2001 fiscal year; and
- 11) The Notice of Truancy Parameters and Guidelines, as amended June 22, 1993.

One (1) original and two (2) copies of the entire claim are enclosed.

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Ruben Rojas

Director of Revenue Enhancement Los Angeles Unified School District

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### Dear Ms. Patton:

The letter constitutes the Los Angeles Unified School District's ("District") detailed narrative pursuant to Title 2, Section 1185, subdivision (e)(2) of the California Code of Regulations in support of the above-referenced claims.

The State Controller's Office ("SCO") incorrectly reduced the District's 1998-1999, 1999-2000, and 2000-2001 claims totaling \$2,602,311 by \$2,352,507 thus allowing only \$249,804. As set forth below, the District complied with law and presented sufficient evidence to support the claimed amounts. The District requests the Commission on State Mandates to reverse the audit findings and award the District the correct claim amount of \$2,602,311.

### BACKGROUND

In 1983, the Legislature enacted Chapter 498, Statutes of 1983, codified in Education Code section 48260.5, requiring notification to parents or guardians of pupils upon initial classification of truancy. Specifically, the statute (as amended in 1994) provides:

Upon a pupil's initial classification as a truant, the school district shall notify the pupil's parent or guardian, by first-class mail or other reasonable means, of the following:

That the pupil is truant. (a)

- (b) That the parent or guardian is obligated to compel the attendance of the pupil at school.
- (c) That parents or guardians who fail to meet this obligation may be guilty of an infraction and subject to prosecution pursuant to Article 6 (commencing with Section 48290) of Chapter 2 of Part 27.
- (d) That alternative educational programs are available in the district.
- (e) That the parent or guardian has the right to meet with appropriate school personnel to discuss solutions to the pupil's truancy.
- (f) That the pupil may be subject to prosecution under Section 48264.
- (g) That the pupil may be subject to suspension, restriction, or delay of the pupil's driving privilege pursuant to Section 13202.7 of the Vehicle Code.
- (h) That it is recommended that the parent or guardian accompany the pupil to school and attend classes with the pupil for one day. 1

The State Board of Control ruled that this legislation constituted a reimbursable mandate under Government Code section 17561. Accordingly, the Commission on State Mandates adopted Parameters and Guidelines establishing the criteria for reimbursement. The Parameters and Guidelines provide that a claimant "shall be reimbursed for only those costs incurred for planning the notification process, revising district procedures, the printing and distribution of notification forms, and associated record keeping." Further, the Parameters and Guidelines provides "the Commission on State Mandates has adopted a uniform cost allowance for reimbursement in lieu of payment of total actual costs incurred. The uniform cost allowance is based on the number of initial notifications of truancy distributed pursuant to Education Code Section 48260.5..."

Pursuant to the Parameters and Guidelines, the District filed its claim for the 1998-1999 fiscal year on January 4, 2000, for the 1999-2000 fiscal year on January 12, 2001, and for the 2000-2001 fiscal year on December 20, 2001. The SCO issued its final audit report for the 1998-1999 claim on December 13, 2002. The SCO also issued its final audit report for the 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 claims on December 13, 2002.

The District timely submitted its Incorrect Reduction Claim for each of the three fiscal years on December 12, 2005.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The statute as originally enacted in 1983 only required that the notification to parents include five (5) elements. The 1994 amended added three (3) more required elements. However, for purposes of the claims at issue, as conceded by the SCO in its final audit reports, the District was only required to notify parents or guardians of the original five (5) elements.

### SUMMARY OF CLAIMS AND SCO FINDINGS

### 1998-1999 CLAIM PERIOD

### District Claim

The District submitted a claim for reimbursement in the amount of \$712,167 based on 60,869 truancy notifications.

### SCO Findings

The SCO, in the December 2002 final audit report, concluded that none of the District's \$712,167 claim was allowable and stated that the entire amount should be returned to the State. The SCO found that the District did not provide any documentation to substantiate any of the claim amounts. Specifically, the SCO explained:

"The SCO auditors randomly sampled 79 of the 165 school sites that claimed initial truancy notifications, representing 48% of the population. The sampled school sites claimed that 27,702 initial truancy notifications were distributed to the pupil's parent or guardian. The district did not provide any documentation to support the claimed number of initial truancy notifications distributed for all the 79 schools sampled. Consequently, the entire claimed number of initial truancy notification is unsupported and, therefore, unallowable.

The Pupil Service Attendance (PSA) coordinator of the school sites sampled indicated that the district implemented the notification forms for truancy in February 2001. The coordinator advised that prior to that month, PSA counselors contacted parents or guardians through other means such as telephone logs, attendance records, and the permits to return to classroom (PRC). The district did not notify pupil's parents or guardians in initial truancy via a letter or any other official documents as required by Parameters and Guidelines. (Emphasis added.)

### 1999-2000 AND 2000-2001 CLAIM PERIODS

### District Claim

The District submitted a claim for reimbursement for the 1999-2000 fiscal year in the amount of \$921,249, based on 75,327 truancy notifications; it submitted a claim for reimbursement for the 2000-2001 fiscal year in the amount of \$974,240, based on 76,531 truancy notifications. The combined total claim for the two fiscal years was \$1,895,489.

### **SCO Findings**

In its December 2002 final audit report, the SCO concluded \$1,877,083 of the claim was unallowable. The SCO stated that the District had been paid \$1,658,746 and should return \$1,640,340 to the State.

With regard to the 1999-2000 fiscal year, the SCO stated that it randomly sampled 67 of the 120 school sites that claimed initial truancy notifications, constituting 49,480 distributed notifications. The SCO found that:

"The district did not provide any documentation to support the claimed number of initial truancy notifications distributed at 55 of the 67 schools sampled. For the remaining 12 schools sampled, the district provided 286 letters that contained the required elements identified in Parameters and Guidelines. Consequently, the percentage of supported notifications distributed to pupil's parent or guardian by the district was 0.58% (286 divided by 49,480)."

With regard to the 2000-2001 fiscal year, the SCO stated that he randomly sampled 67 of the 120 school sites that claimed initial truancy notifications, constituting 44,676 distributed notifications. The SCO found that:

"The district did not provide any documentation to support the claimed notifications distributed at 41 of the 67 schools sampled. For the remaining 26 schools sampled, the district provided 598 letters that that contained the required elements identified in Parameters and Guidelines. Consequently, the percentage of supported notification distributed to the pupil's parent or guardian by the district was 1.34% (598 divided by 44,676)."

With regard to both claim years, the SCO further explained:

Pupil Services and Attendance (PSA) counselors and administrators of the school sites sampled identified various reasons for not distributing initial truancy notification forms containing the five required elements identified in Parameters and Guidelines. . . .

Though not reimbursable, the SCO reviewed telephone logs, attendance records, and PRCs to gain an understanding of the district's process of notifying a pupil's parent or guardian of the required five elements. These records did not support that the required elements were discussed with the pupil's parent or guardian. Furthermore, Parameters and Guidelines require the district to document the five specified elements on a form that is distributed to the pupil's parent or guardian. Other reasonable means identified in Parameters and Guidelines relate to the means of distributing the form (letter) other than by first-class mail, such as certified mail, overnight mail, etc."

### **DISTRICT POSITION RE INCORRECT REDUCTION**

In short, the SCO reduced the District's claims because the District did not produce a copy of a letter or other written document provided to the parent or guardian on each instance a parent or guardian was notified of the pupil's truancy pursuant to Section 48260.5. The District contends that the reduction for each of the three claims was incorrect because the SCO failed to appropriately consider evidence of the District's compliance with the requirements of Section 48260.5 either a letter or other written document to the parent or guardian.

The statute does not explicitly require that the notification be by letter or other written document. Section 48260.5 provides: "Upon a pupil's initial classification as a truant, the school district shall notify the pupil's parent or guardian, by first-class mail or other reasonable means, of the following: . . ." (Emphasis added.) The Parameters and Guidelines arguably presume that the notification will be effected through a written form. For example, the Parameters and Guidelines provide:

### V. REIMBURSABLE COSTS

### A. Scope of Mandate

The eligible claimant shall be reimbursed for only those costs incurred for planning the notification process, revising district procedures, the printing and distribution of notification forms, and associated record keeping.

### B. Reimbursable Activities

For each eligible school district the direct and indirect costs of labor, supplies, and services incurred for the following mandated program activities are reimbursable:

### 1. Planning and Preparation - One-time

# Planning the method of implementation, revising school district policies, and designing and printing the forms. (Emphasis added.)

However, the Parameters and Guidelines also do not explicitly state that the notification must be by letter or other written document. Nevertheless, the SCO, relying on the foregoing language in the Parameters and Guidelines, takes the position that the notification can only be effected and supported by a letter or other written form.

The District contends the SCO's interpretation is inconsistent with the language of the statute. If the Legislature had intended to limit the means of notification to a letter or other "writing" it could have done so. The District believes that the SCO's limited interpretation is inconsistent with the intent of

the statute and would in fact frustrate the Legislature's goal in enacting the statute, i.e., to ensure parents or guardians receive effective notice of the pupil's attendance issues.

As a result of its limited and incorrect interpretation of the statute, the SCO effectively disregarded all evidence the District presented to demonstrate it had satisfied the requirements of the statute by means other than a letter or other writing to the parent or guardian. Specifically, the District submitted phone logs, attendance records and other documentation in support of the claims. While the SCO indicates it "reviewed" this evidence, the audit reports suggest that the SCO wholly disregarded and rejected this evidence.

For these reasons, the District requests the Commission on State Mandates to reverse the audit findings and award the District the correct claim amount of \$2,602,311.

The District does not waive its right to assert any other fact, argument or position in support of the claims made in this incorrect reduction claim.

The foregoing facts are known to me personally and if so required, I could and would testify to the statements made herein. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the statements made in this document are true and complete to the best of my personal knowledge and as to all matters, I believe them to be true.

Executed this 20th day of January, 2006, at Los Angeles, California, by:

Ruben Rojas

Director of Revenue Enhancement Los Angeles Unified School District

90405

For Official Use Only

State of California COMMISSION ON STATE MANDATES 980 Ninth Street, Suite 300 Sacramento, CA 95814 (916)323-3562

# COMMISSION ON STATE MANDATES

### INCORRECT REDUCTION CLAIM FORM

Claim No. Local Agency or School District Submitting Claim Los Angeles Unified School District Contact Person Telephone No. Ruben Roias Address 333 So. Beaudry Avenue 27th Floor, Suite 114 Los Angeles, CA 90017 ORIGINAL Representative Organization to be Notified Same as above Additional Notification: Lozano Smith, At Attn: Trevin E. ta Monica, CA This claim alleges an incorrect reduction of a reimbursement claim med with the State Controller's Office pursuant to section 17561 of the Government Code. This incorrect reduction claim is filed pursuant to section 17551(b) of the Government Code. CLAIM IDENTIFICATION: Specify Statute or Executive Order Notification of Truancy - Chapter 498, Statues of 1983 Fiscal Year\* Amount of the Incorrect Reduction 98-99 \$712,167. 99-00 \$915,904. 00 - 01\$724,436. \*More than one fiscal year may be claimed. IMPORTANT: PLEASE SEE INSTRUCTIONS AND FILING REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPLETING AN INCORRECT REDUCTION CLAIM ON THE REVERSE SIDE. Name and Title of Authorized Representative Telephone No. Ruben Rojas Director, Revenue Enhancement 241-3859 Signature of Authorized Representative

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### **NOTIFICATION OF TRUANCY**

### 1. Summary of Chapter 498/83

On November 29, 1984, the State Board of Control (successor agency is the Commission On State Mandates) determined that Education Code Section 48260.5, as added by Chapter 498, statutes of 1983, constitutes a State mandate because it requires school districts to perform an increased level of service. Education Code 48260.5 requires school districts, upon a pupil's initial classification as a truant, to notify the pupil's parent or guardian by first-class mail or other reasonable means of (1) the pupil's truancy; (2) that the parent or guardian is obligated to compel the attendance of the pupil at school; and (3) that parents or guardians who fall to meet this obligation may be guilty of an infraction and subject to prosecution pursuant to Article 6 (commencing with section 48290) of Chapter 2 of Part 27.

Additionally, the district must inform parents and guardians of: (1) alternative educational programs available in the district, and (2) the right to meet with appropriate school personnel to discuss solutions to the pupil's truancy.

- A truancy occurs when a student is absent from school without valid excuse three (3)
  days or is tardy in excess of thirty (30) minutes on each of more than three (3) days in
  one school year. (Definition from Education Code Section 48260.)
- A student shall be initially classified as truant upon the third unexcused absence, and the school must at that time perform the requirements mandated in Education Code 48260.5 as enacted by Chapter 498, Statutes of 1983.

### 2. Eligible Claimants

Any school district or county office of education which incurs increased costs as a result of this mandate is eligible to claim reimbursement of those costs.

### 3. Appropriations

Claims may only be filed with the State Controller's Office for programs that have been funded in the state budget or in special legislation. To determine funding availability for the current fiscal year, refer to the schedule "Appropriations for State Mandated Cost Programs" in the "Annual Claiming Instructions for State Mandated Costs" issued in mid-September of each year to superintendents of schools.

### 4. Types of Claims

### A. Reimbursement and Estimate Claims

An eligible claimant may file a reimbursement claim or an estimated claim as specified below. A reimbursement claim details the costs actually incurred for the previous fiscal year. An estimated claim shows the costs to be incurred for the current fiscal year.

• A claim for reimbursement or an estimate must exceed \$200 per fiscal year. However, a county superintendent of schools, as fiscal agent for the school district, may submit a combined claim in excess of \$200 on behalf of school districts within the county even if the individual district's claim does not exceed \$200. A combined claim must show the individual claim costs for each school district. Once a combined claim is filed, all subsequent claims for the same mandate must be filed in the combined form. A school district may withdraw from the combined claim form by providing a written notice to the county superintendent of schools and to the Controller, at least 180 days prior to the deadline for filing the claim, of its intent to file a separate claim.

### B. Filing Deadline

Refer to item 3 "Appropriations" to determine if the program is funded for the current fiscal year. If funding is available, an estimated claim may be filed as follows:

 An estimated claim must be filed with the State Controller's Office and postmarked by November 30 of the fiscal year in which costs are to be incurred. Timely filed estimated claims will be paid before late claims.

After having received payment for an estimated claim, the claimant must file a reimbursement claim by November 30 of the following fiscal year. If the district fails to file a reimbursement claim, monies received must be returned to the State. If no estimate claim was filed, the district may file a reimbursement claim detailing the actual costs incurred for the fiscal year, provided there was an appropriation for the program for that fiscal year. See item 3 above.

 A reimbursement claim must be filed with the State Controller's Office and postmarked by November 30 following the fiscal year in which costs were incurred. If the claim is filed after the deadline but by November 30 of the succeeding fiscal year, the approved claim will be reduced by 10% but not to exceed \$1,000. If the claim is filed more than one year after the deadline, the claim cannot be accepted.

### 5. Reimbursable Components

Eligible claimants will be reimbursed on a unit cost basis for an initial notice to the parents or guardian regarding the pupil's truancy. For the 1994/95 fiscal year the unit rate is \$10.83 per an initial notice. The unit rate is adjusted annually by the changes in the implicit price deflator and covers all direct and indirect costs of the following on-going activities:

- A. Identifying the truant pupil,
- B. Prepare and mail the truancy notice to the parents or guardian,
- C. Print additional forms,
- D. Recording and
- E. Filing.

### 6. Reimbursement Limitations

- A. This program does not provide reimbursement for activities related to resolving truancy problems (i.e., referrals to attendance review board, meetings with parents or guardian to discuss the pupil's truancy problems and/or discuss alternative educational programs, etc.).
- B. Reimbursements the claimant received from any source (i.e., federal, other State programs, foundations, etc.) as a result of this mandate, must be deducted from the amount claimed.

### 7. Claiming Forms and Instructions

#### A. Illustration of Claim Forms

The diagram entitled, "Illustration of Claim Forms", provides a graphical presentation of forms required to be filed with a claim. A claimant may submit computer generated reports in substitution of form FAM-27 and form NOT-1, provided the format of the report and data fields contained within the report are identical to the claim forms included in this chapter. The claim forms provided in this chapter should be duplicated and used by the claimant to file an estimated or reimbursement claim. The State

Controller's Office will revise the manual and claim forms as necessary. In such instances, new replacement forms will be mailed to claimants.

For audit purposes, all supporting documents must be retained for a period of two years after the end of the calendar year in which the reimbursement claim was filed or last amended, whichever is later. Such documents shall be made available to the State Controller's Office on request.

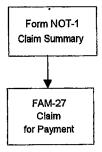
### B. Form NOT-1, Claim Summary

This form is used to compute the amount of claimable costs based on the number of reports forwarded to the governing board with the recommendation not to expel the student. The claimant must give the number of truant notifications. The cost data on this form is carried forward to form FAM-27.

#### C: Form FAM-27, Claim for Payment

Form FAM-27 contains a certification that must be signed by an authorized representative of the district. All applicable information from NOT-1 must be carried forward to this form for the State Controller's Office to process the claim for payment.

### **Illustration of Claim Forms**



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CLAIM FOR PAYMENT					State Controller Us		Program
Pursuant	to Government Code	Sec	tion 17561	4 ' '	Program Number 00		040
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. <b>N</b>	NOTIFICATION OF TRUANCY					_/	
(01) Claimant Identification Numb	1) Claimant Identification Number				Reimbursement Claim Data		
(02) Claimant Name				(22)	NOT-1, (03)		
County of Location			:	(23)			
Street Address or P.O. Box	<del></del>		Suite	(24)		a.	
City	State	-	Zip Code	(25)			-
Type of Claim	Estimated Claim	T	Reimbursement Claim	(26)			
	(03) Estimated	_   <sub>(</sub>	(09) Reimbursement 🔲	(27)			
	(04) Combined	_   (	(10) Combined	(28)			
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Fiscal Year of Cost	(06) 20 /20	-	(12) 20/20	(30)			
Total Claimed Amount			(13)	(31)	<u></u>		
Less: 10% Late Penalty,	not to exceed \$1,000	7	(14)	(32)			
Less: Prior Claim Payme		寸	(15)	(33)			
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Form FAM-27 (Revised 9/01)

**Program** 

### NOTIFICATION OF TRUANCY Certification Claim Form Instructions

**FORM FAM-27** 

- Leave blank. (01)
- A set of mailing labels with the claimant's I.D. number and address was enclosed with the letter regarding the claiming instructions. The malling labels are designed to speed processing and prevent common errors that delay payment. Affix a label in (02)the space shown on form FAM-27. Cross out any errors and print the correct information on the label. Add any missing address items, except county of location and a person's name. If you did not receive labels, print or type your agency's mailing address.
- If filing an original estimated claim, enter an "X" in the box on line (03) Estimated. (03)
- If filing an original estimated claim on behalf of districts within the county, enter an "X" in the box on line (04) Combined. (04)
- If filing an amended or combined claim, enter an "X" in the box on line (05) Amended. Leave boxes (03) and (04) blank. (05)
- Enter the fiscal year in which costs are to be incurred. (06)
- Enter the amount of estimated claim. If the estimate exceeds the previous year's actual costs by more than 10%, complete form (07)NOT-1 and enter the amount from line (08).
- Enter the same amount as shown on line (07). (80)
- If filing an original reimbursement claim, enter an "X" in the box on line (09) Reimbursement. (09)
- If filling an original reimbursement claim on behalf of districts within the county, enter an "X" in the box on line (10) Combined. (10)
- If filing an amended or a combined claim on behalf of districts within the county, enter an "X" in the box on line (11) Amended. (11)
- Enter the fiscal year for which actual costs are being claimed. If actual costs for more than one fiscal year are being claimed, (12)complete a separate form FAM-27 for each fiscal year.
- Enter the amount of reimbursement claim from form NOT-1, line (08). (13)
- Reimbursement claims must be filed by January 15 of the following fiscal year in which costs were incurred or the claims shall be reduced by a late penalty. Enter either the product of multiplying line (13) by the factor 0.10 (10% penalty) or \$1,000, whichever (14)
- If filing a reimbursement claim and a claim was previously filed for the same fiscal year, enter the amount received for the claim. (15)Otherwise, enter a zero.
- Enter the result of subtracting line (14) and line (15) from line (13). (16)
- If line (16) Net Claimed Amount is positive, enter that amount on line (17) Due from State. (17)
- If line (16) Net Claimed Amount is negative, enter that amount in line (18) Due to State. (18)
- Leave blank. (19) to (21)
- Reimbursement Claim Data. Bring forward the cost information as specified on the left-hand column of lines (22) through (36) for the reimbursement claim, e.g., NOT-1, (03), means the information is located on form NOT-1, line (3). Enter the information on (22) to (36) the same line but in the right-hand column. Cost information should be rounded to the nearest dollar, i.e., no cents. Indirect costs percentage should be shown as a whole number and without the percent symbol, i.e., 7.548% should be shown as 8. Completion of this data block will expedite the payment process.
- Read the statement "Certification of Claim." If it is true, the claim must be dated, signed by the agency's authorized officer, and must include the person's name and title, typed or printed. Claims cannot be paid unless accompanied by a signed (37)certification.
- Enter the name, telephone number, and e-mail address of the person to contact if additional information is required. (38)

SUBMIT A SIGNED, ORIGINAL FORM FAM-27 WITH ALL OTHER FORMS AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS (NO COPIES **NECESSARY) TO:** 

Address, if delivered by U.S. Postal Service:

OFFICE OF THE STATE CONTROLLER ATTN: Local Reimbursements Section **Division of Accounting and Reporting** P.O. Box 942850 Sacramento, CA 94250

Address, if delivered by other delivery service:

OFFICE OF THE STATE CONTROLLER ATTN: Local Reimbursements Section **Division of Accounting and Reporting** 3301 C Street, Suite 500 Sacramento, CA 95816

**School Mandated Cost Manual** State Controller's Office MANDATED COSTS Program **FORM NOTIFICATION OF TRUANCY** NOT-1 **CLAIM SUMMARY** Fiscal Year (02) Type of Claim (01) Claimant Reimbursement 20\_\_\_/20\_ Estimated **Claim Statistics** (03) Number of truant notifications Cost [\$12.73 for the 2000-01 fiscal year] (04) Unit Cost per an initial truancy notification [Line (03) x line (04)] (05) Total Costs **Cost Reduction** (06) Less: Offsetting Savings (07) Less: Other Reimbursements [Line (05) - {line (06) + line (07)}] (08) Total Claimed Amount

Revised 9/01

Chapter 498/83

Program 048

# NOTIFICATION OF TRUANCY CLAIM SUMMARY Instructions

FORM NOT-1

- (01) Enter the name of the claimant.
- (02) Type of Claim. Check a box, Reimbursement or Estimated, to identify the type of claim being filed. Enter the fiscal year of costs.

Form NOT-1 must filed for a reimbursement claim. Do not complete form NOT-1 if you are filing an estimated claim and the estimate does not exceed the previous fiscal year's actual costs by more than 10%. Simply enter the amount of the estimated claim on form FAM-27, line (07). However, if the estimated claim exceeds the previous fiscal year's actual costs by more than 10%, form NOT-1 must be completed and a statement attached explaining the increased costs. Without this information the high estimated claim will automatically be reduced to 110% of the previous fiscal year's actual costs.

- (03) Number of truant notifications. Enter the number of initial notifications sent upon the student's fourth unexcused absence to inform the parent or guardian of their child's absence from school without a valid excuse or is tardy in excess of thirty (30) minutes for more than three days in one school year.
- (04) Unit cost rate for the 2000-01 fiscal year is \$12.73 per initial notification. This cost rate will be updated yearly and listed in the annual updates to claiming instructions mailed to school districts in September.
- (05) Total Costs. Multiply line (03) by the unit cost rate, line (04).
- (06) Less: Offsetting Savings. If applicable, enter the total savings experienced by the claimant as a direct result of this mandate. Submit a detailed schedule of savings with the claim.
- (07) Less: Other Reimbursements. If applicable, enter the amount of other reimbursements received from any source (i.e., service fees collected, federal funds, other state funds etc.,) which reimbursed any portion of the mandated program. Submit a detailed schedule of the reimbursement sources and amounts.
- (08) Total Claimed Amount. Subtract the sum of Offsetting Savings, line (06), and Other Reimbursements, line (07), from Total Costs, line (05). Enter the remainder of this line and carry the amount forward to form FAM-27, line (07) for the Estimated Claim or line (13) for the Reimbursement Claim.

# LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Audit Report

### NOTIFICATION OF TRUANCY PROGRAM

Chapter 498, Statutes of 1983

July 1, 1998, through June 30, 1999



**KATHLEEN CONNELL**California State Controller

December 2002



# KATHLEEN CONNELL Controller of the State of California

December 13, 2002

Roy Romer, Superintendent Los Angeles Unified School District 333 South Beaudry Avenue, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor Los Angeles, CA 90017

Dear Mr. Romer:

The State Controller's Office (SCO) has completed an audit of the claim filed by the Los Angeles Unified School District for costs of the legislatively mandated Notification of Truancy Program (Chapter 498, Statutes of 1983) for the period of July 1, 1998, through June 30, 1999.

The district claimed and was paid \$712,167 for the mandated program. The SCO audit disclosed that none of the claimed costs are allowable because the district did not provide any documentation to support the claimed number of notification of truancy forms distributed to the pupil's parent or guardian. Consequently, the total amount should be returned to the State.

The SCO has established an informal audit review process to resolve a dispute of facts. The auditee should submit, in writing, a request for a review and all information pertinent to the disputed issues within 60 days after receiving the final report. The request and supporting documentation should be submitted to: Richard J. Chivaro, Chief Counsel, State Controller's Office, Post Office Box 942850, Sacramento, CA 94250-0001.

If you have any questions, please contact Walter Barnes, Chief Deputy State Controller, Finance, at (916) 445-3028.

Sincerely,

KATHLEEN CONNELL

State Controller

☐ SACRAMENTO 300 Capitol Mall, Suite 1850, Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 445-2636 ☐ Mailing Address: P.O. Box 942850, Sacramento, CA 94250 ☐ LOS ANGELES 600 Corporate Pointe, Suite 1150, Culver City, CA 90230 (310) 342-5678

### KC:jj/ams

cc: Joseph Zeronian, Ed.D.
Chief Financial Officer
Los Angeles Unified School District
Yoshiko Fong, Controller
Los Angeles Unified School District
Darlene P. Robles, Ph.D.
County Superintendent of Schools
Los Angeles County Office of Education

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## **Audit Report**

### Summary

The State Controller's Office (SCO) has completed an audit of the claim filed by the Los Angeles Unified School District for costs of the legislatively mandated Notification of Truancy Program (Chapter 498, Statutes of 1983), for the period of July 1, 1998, through June 30, 1999. The last day of fieldwork was September 30, 2002.

The district claimed and was paid \$712,167 for the mandated program. The SCO audit disclosed that none of the claimed costs are allowable because the district did not provide any supporting documentation to support the claimed number of notification of truancy forms distributed to the pupil's parent or guardian. Consequently, the total amount should be returned to the State.

### Background

In 1983, the State enacted Chapter 498, Statutes of 1983, requiring that special notifications be sent to the parents or guardians of pupils upon initial classification of truancy.

The legislation requires school districts, upon a pupil's initial classification as a truant, to notify the pupil's parent or guardian by first-class mail or other reasonable means of: (1) the pupil's truancy; (2) the parent's or guardian's obligation to compel the attendance of the pupil at school; and (3) a warning that parents or guardians who fail to meet this obligation may be guilty of an infraction and subject to prosecution.

In addition, the legislation requires the district to inform parents and guardians of: (1) alternative educational programs available in the district; and (2) the right to meet with appropriate school personnel to discuss solutions to the pupil's truancy. A truancy occurs when a student is absent from school without a valid excuse for more than three days or is tardy in excess of 30 minutes on each of more than three days in one school year.

On November 29, 1984, the State Board of Control (now the Commission on State Mandates) ruled that Chapter 498, Statutes of 1983, imposed a state mandated upon school districts and county offices of education reimbursable under Government Code Section 17561.

Parameters and Guidelines, adopted by the Commission on State Mandates, establishes the state mandate and defines criteria for reimbursement. In compliance with Government Code Section 17558, the SCO issues claiming instructions for each mandate requiring state reimbursement to assist school districts and local agencies in claiming reimbursable costs.

### Objective, Scope, and Methodology

The objective of the audit was to determine whether costs claimed are increased costs incurred as a result of the legislatively mandated Notification of Truancy Program (Chapter 498, Statutes of 1983), for the period of July 1, 1998, through June 30, 1999.

The auditors performed the following procedures:

- Reviewed the costs claimed to determine if they were increased costs resulting from the mandated program;
- Traced the costs claimed to the supporting documentation to determine whether the costs were properly supported;
- · Confirmed that the costs claimed were not funded by another source; and
- Reviewed the costs claimed to determine that the costs were not unreasonable and/or excessive.

The SCO conducted the audit in accordance with Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. The SCO did not audit the district's financial statements. The scope was limited to planning and performing audit procedures necessary to obtain reasonable assurance concerning the allowability of expenditures claimed for reimbursement. Accordingly, transactions were examined, on a test basis, to determine whether the amounts claimed for reimbursement were supported.

Review of the district's management controls was limited to gaining an understanding of the transaction flow and claim preparation process as necessary to develop appropriate auditing procedures.

### Conclusion

The SCO audit disclosed an instance of noncompliance with the requirements outlined above. This instance is described in the Finding and Recommendation section of this report and in the accompanying Summary of Program Costs (Schedule 1).

For fiscal year 1998-99, the district was paid \$712,167 by the State. The audit disclosed that none of the claimed costs are allowable. The total amount paid should be returned to the State.

### Views of Responsible Official

The SCO issued a draft report on November 1, 2002. Joseph Zeronian, Chief Financial Officer, responded by attached letter dated November 25, 2002, disagreeing with the audit results. The district's response is included as an attachment to this final audit report.

### **Restricted Use**

This report is solely for the information and use of the Los Angeles Unified School District, the Los Angeles County Office of Education, and the SCO; it is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties. This restriction is not intended to limit distribution of this report, which is a matter of public record.

WALTER BARNES

Chief Deputy State Controller, Finance

## Finding and Recommendation

FINDING — Overclaimed number of initial truancy notification forms distributed

The district did not provide documentation to substantiate any of the claimed costs for initial truancy notifications, totaling \$712,167, for the period of July 1, 1998, through June 30, 1999.

The SCO auditors randomly sampled 79 of the 165 school sites that claimed initial truancy notification, representing 48% of the population. The sampled school sites claimed that 27,702 initial truancy notifications were distributed to the pupil's parent or guardian. The district did not provide any documentation to support the claimed number of initial truancy notifications distributed for all the 79 schools sampled. Consequently, the entire claimed number of initial truancy notification is unsupported and, therefore, unallowable.

The Pupil Service Attendance (PSA) coordinator of the school sites sampled indicated that the district implemented the notification forms for truancy in February 2001. The coordinator advised that prior to that month, PSA counselors contacted parents or guardians through other means such as telephone logs, attendance records, and permits to return to classroom (PRC). The district did not notify pupils' parents or guardians of initial truancy via a letter or any other official documents as required by Parameters and Guidelines.

Though not reimbursable, the SCO reviewed telephone logs, attendance records, and PRCs to gain an understanding of the district's process of notifying a pupil's parent or guardian of the required five specific elements. These record did not support that the required elements were discussed with the pupil's parent or guardian. Furthermore, Parameters and Guidelines requires the district to document the five specific elements on a form that is distributed to the pupil's parent or guardian. Other reasonable means identified in Parameters and Guidelines relate to the means of distributing the form (letter) other than by first-class mail, such as certified mail, overnight mail, etc.

Parameters and Guidelines, adopted by the State Board of Control (now the Commission on State Mandates) on November 29, 1984, allows the district to be reimbursed for claimed costs by a uniform cost allowance if the initial truancy notification forms distributed to the pupil's parent or guardian contain five specific elements. Education Code Section 48260.5 was amended by Chapter 1023, Status of 1984, (effective January 1, 1995) to require eight specific elements. However, since Parameters and Guidelines has not been amended, the claimant continues to be reimbursed if it complies with the five specific elements in the guidelines.

Parameters and Guidelines, Section I., requires, "... school districts, upon the pupil's initial classification as a truant, to notify the pupil's parent or guardian, by first-class mail or other reasonable means, of (1) the pupil truancy; (2) that the parent or guardian is obligated to compel the attendance of the pupil at school; and (3) that parents or guardians who fail to meet this obligation may be guilty of an infraction and subject to prosecution pursuant to Article 6 (commencing with Section 48290) of Chapter 2 of part 27." Furthermore, the guidelines state, "... district must inform parents and guardians of (1) alternative educational programs available in the district; and (2) the right to meet with appropriate school personnel to discuss solutions to the pupil's truancy."

Parameters and Guidelines, Section V.A., states, "The eligible claimant shall be reimbursed for only those costs incurred for . . . the printing and distribution of notification forms. . . . "

Parameters and Guidelines, Section V.B.1., states that the claimant shall be reimbursed for "Planning the method of implementation, revising school district policies, and designing and printing the forms."

Parameters and Guidelines, Section V.B.2., states that the claimant shall be reimbursed for "Identifying the truant pupils to receive the notification, preparing and distributing by mail or other method the forms to parents/guardians..."

Parameters and Guidelines, Section V.C., states, "The uniform cost allowance is based on the number of initial notifications of truancy distributed pursuant to Education Code Section 48260.5, Chapter 498, Statues of 1983. For fiscal year 1992-93, the uniform cost allowance is \$10.21 per initial notification of truancy distributed. The cost allowance shall be adjusted each subsequent year by the Implicit Price Deflator.

Parameters and Guidelines, Section VII., states, "For audit purpose, documents must be kept on file for a period of 3 years from the date of final payment by the State Controller. . . . "

A summary of the unallowable costs is as follows:

	FY 1998- 99
Number of notifications claimed Uniform costs allowance	60,869 \$ 11.70
Total costs	\$712,167

### Recommendation

The district should develop and implement an adequate accounting and reporting system to ensure that it claims only initial notification of truancy letters distributed to pupils' parents or guardians that contain all required elements. Although Parameters and Guidelines requires only five specific elements to be subject to reimbursement, Education Code Section 48260.5 requires eight specific elements for the district to comply with statutory requirements.

In addition, the district should establish policies and procedures to ensure that all costs claimed are supported.

### Auditee's Response

The letter confirming the 1998-99 audit for NOT was dated August 13, 2002, 3 years and 2 months after the end of the 1998-99 fiscal year. The audits for NOT for the two later fiscal years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 were requested on January 10, 2002, seven months earlier. The school district has a retention policy of 3 years; therefore, the documentation requested for the 1998-99 fiscal year was beyond the record retention policy for the District and had been destroyed. If the request for the documentation had been received earlier, the documentation may have been made available.

We questioned why the 1998-99 NOT documentation was not originally requested along with the other two years. Stephanie Woo, auditor for the SCO, responded during the entrance conference on August 13, 2002, that she had forgotten to include the 1998-99 year.

During the course of this audit there have been discussions between the SCO and District staff regarding the parameters and guidelines of the Notification of Truancy (NOT) mandate. There are major differences between the SCO and the LAUSD with regard to the appropriate method of notifying the pupils' guardians and the elements required in this notification.

The auditors only wanted to see letters for NOT. No other documentation was acceptable to them. However, the following sections of the Parameters and Guidelines relate to acceptable documentation:

VII A. Uniform Allowance Reimbursement

Documentation which indicates the total number of initial notifications of truancy distributed.

VII B. Reimbursement of Unique Costs

In addition to maintaining the same documentation as required for uniform cost allowance reimbursement, all costs claimed must be traceable to source documents and/or worksheets that show evidence of the validity of such costs.

Worksheets were not considered an acceptable source documentation by the auditors, only letters with the five elements.

The District does not agree with any portion of this draft audit report and plans to appeal the SCO's decision to disallow the entire claim.

#### SCO Comments

The finding and recommendation remain unchanged.

The SCO comments are presented in the order presented by the district. The district did not provide any additional documentation to support the unallowable costs.

The FY 1998-99 claim was filed January 14, 2000. Parameters and Guidelines states that documents must be maintained in accordance with statutory provisions. The SCO commenced the audit within two years after the end of the calendar year in which the reimbursement claim was filed as required by Government Code Section 17558.5. The district is responsible to ensure documentation is maintained to support claimed costs. Per discussion with one of the district's PSA coordinators, letters were not distributed to pupils' parents or guardians until January 2001.

The SCO initiated an audit of the reimbursement claim for FY 1998-99 because of the results of the SCO audit for FY 1999-2000 and FY 2000-01. In that audit, most of the claimed costs were not supported.

The SCO followed the Parameters and Guidelines in determining allowable costs. Section 1, Summary of Mandate, allows notification of an initial truancy by first-class mail or other reasonable means (such as certified mail, overnight mail, etc.). Sections V.A., V.B.1., and V.B.2. allow a district to be reimbursed a specified amount for every initial truancy notification form (letter) distributed to a pupil's parent or guardian that contains five specified elements identified in the Parameters and Guidelines.

The only support provided by the district for FY 1998-99 claimed costs was the filed claim. The district did not provide the SCO with any other information supporting the number of notifications claimed by schools or that those notifications were distributed to the schools. Though not reimbursable, the SCO auditors reviewed telephone logs, attendance records, and other records during the course of the audit for FY 1999-2000 and FY 2000-01 to determine if the five required elements were discussed. The review of these records did not support that the required elements were discussed. The finding has been updated to clarify this point.

The district's reference to worksheets relates to reimbursement of any unique costs the claimant incurred in excess of the uniform cost allowance it receives for every initial truancy notification form distributed to a pupil's parent or guardian. The district did not request reimbursement of unique costs. Even if worksheets are provided, the district would still need to validate the information.

# Schedule 1— Summary of Program Costs July 1, 1998, through June 30, 1999

Cost Elements	Actual Costs Claimed	Allowable per Audit	Audit Adjustment 1
July 1, 1998, through June 30, 1999			
Number of notifications Uniform cost allowance	60,869 \$ 11.70	<u>\$ 11.70</u>	(60,869) \$ 11.70
Total costs Less amount paid by the State	\$_712,167	(712,167)	\$(712,167)
Amount paid in excess of allowable costs claimed		<u>\$ 712,167</u>	

 $<sup>^{\</sup>mathrm{1}}$  See the Finding and Recommendation section.

### Attachment— Auditee's Response to Draft Audit Report

## Los Angeles Unified School District

### Office of the Chief Financial Officer

ROY ROMER Superintendent of Schools JOSEPH P. ZERONIAN Chief Financial Officer

November 25, 2002

Mr. Jim L. Spano, Chief Compliance Audits Bureau State Controller's Office Division of Audits P.O. Box 942850 Sacramento, CA 94250-5874

RE:

AUDIT OF LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT CLAIM FOR COSTS OF THE NOTICE OF TRUANCY PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 1998, THROUGH JUNE 30, 1999.

Dear Mr. Spano:

This letter is in response to the draft audit report, dated November 1, 2002, for the Notification of Truancy Program (NOT) mandated cost claim for 1998-99 filed by the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD).

The district claimed \$712,167 for this mandated program. The State Controller's Office (SCO) draft audit report disclosed that none of this amount is allowable because the district did not provide any documentation to support the claimed number of truancy notification forms distributed to the pupils' parents or guardians. Consequently the SCO believes the total amount should be returned to the State.

The letter confirming the 1998-99 audit for NOT was dated August 13, 2002, 3 years and 2 months after the end of the 1998-99 fiscal year. The audits for NOT for the two later fiscal years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 were requested on January 10, 2002, seven months earlier. The school district has a retention policy of 3 years; therefore, the documentation requested for the 1998-99 fiscal year was beyond the record retention policy for the District and had been destroyed. If the request for the documentation had been received earlier, the documentation may have been made available

Mr. Jim Spano Page 2 November 25, 2002

We questioned why the 1998-99 NOT documentation was not originally requested along with the other two years. Stephanie Woo, auditor for the SCO, responded during the entrance conference on August 13, 2002, that she had forgotten to include the 1998-99 year.

During the course of this audit there have been discussions between the SCO and District staff regarding the parameters and guidelines of the Notification of Truancy (NOT) mandate. There are major differences between the SCO and the LAUSD with regard to the appropriate method of notifying the pupils' parents or guardians and the elements required in this notification.

The auditors only wanted to see letters for NOT. No other documentation was acceptable to them. However, the following sections of the Parameters and Guidelines relate to acceptable documentation:

VII A. Uniform Allowance Reimbursement

Documentation which indicates the total number of initial notifications of truancy distributed.

VII B. Reimbursement of Unique Costs

In addition to maintaining the same documentation as required for uniform cost allowance reimbursement, all costs claimed must be traceable to source documents and/or worksheets that show evidence of the validity of such costs.

Worksheets were not considered an acceptable source of documentation by the auditors, only letters with the five elements.

The District does not agree with any portion of this draft audit report and plans to appeal the SCO's decision to disallow the entire claim.

We appreciate your giving us the opportunity to respond to this draft audit report. If you have any questions, please call Yoshi Fong at (213) 633-7801.

Sincerely,

Joseph P. Zeronian

c: Yoshiko Fong Eileen Okazaki Aurora Costales

# State Controller's Office Division of Audits Post Office Box 942850 Sacramento, California 94250-5874

http://www.sco.ca.gov

# LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Audit Report

## NOTIFICATION OF TRUANCY PROGRAM

Chapter 498, Statutes of 1983

July 1, 1999, through June 30, 2001



**KATHLEEN CONNELL**California State Controller

December 2002



### KATHLEEN CONNELL

### Controller of the State of California

December 13, 2002

Roy Romer, Superintendent Los Angeles Unified School District 333 South Beaudry Avenue, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor Los Angeles, CA 90017

Dear Mr. Romer:

The State Controller's Office (SCO) has completed an audit of the claims filed by the Los Angeles Unified School District for costs of the legislatively mandated Notification of Truancy Program (Chapter 498, Statutes of 1983) for the period of July 1, 1999, through June 30, 2001.

The district claimed \$1,895,489 for the mandated program. The SCO audit disclosed that \$18,406 is allowable and \$1,877,083 is unallowable. The unallowable costs occurred because the district significantly overstated the number of notification of truancy forms distributed to the pupil's parent or guardian. The district was paid \$1,658,746. Consequently, the amount paid in excess of allowable costs claimed, totaling \$1,640,340, should be returned to the State.

The SCO has established an informal audit review process to resolve a dispute of facts. The auditee should submit, in writing, a request for a review and all information pertinent to the disputed issues within 60 days after receiving the final report. The request and supporting documentation should be submitted to: Richard J. Chivaro, Chief Counsel, State Controller's Office, Post Office Box 942850, Sacramento, CA 94250-0001.

If you have any questions, please contact Walter Barnes, Chief Deputy State Controller, Finance, at (916) 445-3028.

Sincerely,

KATHLEEN CONNELL

State Controller

□ SACRAMENTO 300 Capitol Mall, Suite 1850, Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 445-2636
 □ Mailing Address; P.O. Box 942850, Sacramento, CA 94250
 □ LOS ANGELES 600 Corporate Pointé, Suite 1150, Culver City, CA 90230 (310) 342-5678

### KC:jj/ams

cc: Joseph Zeronian, Ed.D
Chief Financial Officer
Los Angeles Unified School District
Yoshiko Fong, Controller
Los Angeles Unified School District
Darline P. Robles, Ph.D.
County Superintendent of Schools
Los Angeles County Office of Education

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## **Audit Report**

### **Summary**

The State Controller's Office (SCO) has completed an audit of the claims filed by the Los Angeles Unified School District, for costs of the legislatively mandated Notification of Truancy Program (Chapter 498, Statutes of 1983) for the period of July 1, 1999, through June 30, 2001. The last day of fieldwork was July 25, 2002.

The district claimed \$1,895,489 for the mandated program. The SCO audit disclosed that \$18,406 is allowable and \$1,877,083 is unallowable. The unallowable costs occurred primarily because the district significantly overstated the number of notification of truancy forms distributed to the pupil's parent or guardian. The district was paid \$1,658,746. Consequently, the amount paid in excess of allowable costs claimed, totaling \$1,640,340, should be returned to the State.

### Background

In 1983, the State enacted Chapter 498, Statutes of 1983, requiring that special notifications be sent to the parents or guardians of pupils upon initial classification of truancy.

The legislation requires school districts, upon a pupil's initial classification as a truant, to notify the pupil's parent or guardian by first-class mail or other reasonable means of: (1) the pupil's truancy; (2) the parent's or guardian's obligation to compel the attendance of the pupil at school; and (3) a warning that parents or guardians who fail to meet this obligation may be guilty of an infraction and be subject to prosecution.

In addition, the legislation requires the district to inform parents and guardians of: (1) alternative educational programs available in the district; and (2) the right to meet with appropriate school personnel to discuss solutions to the pupil's truancy. A truancy occurs when a student is absent from school without a valid excuse for more than three days or is tardy in excess of 30 minutes on each of more than three days in one school year.

On November 29, 1984, the State Board of Control (now the Commission on State Mandates) ruled that Chapter 498, Statutes of 1983 imposed a state mandate upon school districts and county offices of education reimbursable under *Government Code* Section 17561.

Parameters and Guidelines, adopted by the Commission on State Mandates, establishes the state mandate and defines criteria for reimbursement. In compliance with Government Code Section 17558, the SCO issues claiming instructions for each mandate requiring state reimbursement to assist school districts and local agencies in claiming reimbursable costs.

### Objective, Scope, and Methodology

The objective of the audit was to determine whether costs claimed are increased costs incurred as a result of the legislatively mandated Notification of Truancy Program (Chapter 498, Statutes of 1983) for the period of July 1, 1999, through June 30, 2001.

The auditors performed the following procedures:

- Reviewed the costs claimed to determine if they were increased costs resulting from the mandated program;
- Traced the costs claimed to the supporting documentation to determine whether the costs were properly supported;
- Confirmed that the costs claimed were not funded by another source; and
- Reviewed the costs claimed to determine that the costs were not unreasonable and/or excessive.

The SCO conducted the audit in accordance with Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. The SCO did not audit the district's financial statements. The scope was limited to planning and performing audit procedures necessary to obtain reasonable assurance concerning the allowability of expenditures claimed for reimbursement. Accordingly, transactions were examined, on a test basis, to determine whether the amounts claimed for reimbursement were supported.

Review of the district's management controls was limited to gaining an understanding of the transaction flow and claim preparation process as necessary to develop appropriate auditing procedures.

### Conclusion

The SCO audit disclosed an instance of noncompliance with the requirements outlined above. The instance is described in the Finding and Recommendation section of this report and in the accompanying Summary of Program Costs (Schedule 1).

For the audit period, the Los Angeles Unified School District claimed \$1,895,489 for costs of the legislatively mandated Notification of Truancy Program. The SCO audit disclosed that \$18,406 is allowable and \$1,877,083 is unallowable.

For fiscal year (FY) 1999-2000, the district was paid \$921,249 by the State. The audit disclosed that \$5,345 is allowable. The amount paid in excess of allowable costs claimed, totaling \$915,904, should be returned to the State.

For FY 2000-01, the district was paid \$737,497 by the State. The audit disclosed that \$13,061 is allowable. The amount paid in excess of allowable costs claimed, totaling \$724,436, should be returned to the State.

### Views of Responsible **Official**

The SCO issued a draft report on October 3, 2002. Joseph Zeronian, Chief Financial Officer, responded by letter dated November 14, 2002, disagreeing with the audit results. The district's response is included as an attachment to this final audit report.

### **Restricted Use**

This report is solely for the information and use of the Los Angeles Unified School District, the Los Angeles County Office of Education, and the SCO; it is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties. This restriction is not intended to limit distribution of this report, which is a matter of public record.

WALTER BARNES

Chief Deputy State Controller, Finance

Welly Boy

## Finding and Recommendation

FINDING -Overclaimed number of initial truancy notification forms distributed

The district did not provide documentation to substantiate a significant portion of claimed costs for initial truancy notifications. A summary of the variance in claimed costs is as follows:

•	FY 1999-2000	FY 2000-01	Total
Claimed costs Supported costs	\$ 921,249 (5,345)	\$ 974,240 (13,061)	\$1,895,489 (18,406)
Unsupported costs	\$ 915,904	\$ 961,179	\$1,877,083

For FY 1999-2000, the SCO auditors randomly sampled 67 of the 120 school sites that claimed initial truancy notifications, representing 56% of the population. The sampled school sites claimed that 49,480 initial truancy notifications were distributed to the pupil's parent or guardian. The district did not provide any documentation to support the claimed number of initial truancy notifications distributed at 55 of the 67 schools sampled. For the remaining 12 schools sampled, the district provided 286 letters that contained the required elements identified in Parameters and Guidelines. Consequently, the percentage of supported notifications distributed to the pupil's parent or guardian by the district was 0.58% (286 divided by 49,480). The percentage of initial truancy notifications distributed to the pupil's parent or guardian that was not supported by the district was 99.42%.

For FY 1999-2000, the district claimed that 75,327 initial truancy notifications at the 120 schools were distributed to the pupil's parent or guardian. Based on the results of the SCO sample, the district supported that only 437 notifications were distributed, a difference of 74,890. For FY 1999-2000, Parameters and Guidelines allows the district to be reimbursed \$12.23 for every form distributed. Consequently, unallowable costs total \$915,904 (74,890 multiplied by \$12.23).

For FY 2000-01, the SCO auditors randomly sampled 67 of the 120 school sites that claimed initial truancy notifications, representing 56% of the population. The sampled school sites claimed that 44,676 initial truancy notifications were distributed to the pupil's parent or guardian. The district did not provide any documentation to support the claimed notifications distributed at 41 of the 67 schools sampled. For the remaining 26 schools sampled, the district provided 598 letters that contained the required elements identified in Parameters and Guidelines. Consequently, the percentage of supported notifications distributed to the pupil's parent or guardian by the district was 1.34% (598 divided by 44,676). The percentage of initial truancy notifications distributed to the pupil's parent or guardian that was not supported by the district was 98.66%.

For FY 2000-01, the district claimed that 76,531 initial truancy notifications at the 120 schools were distributed to the pupil's parent or guardian. Based on the results of the SCO sample, the district supported that only 1,026 notifications were distributed, leaving a difference of 75,505. For FY 2000-01, Parameters and Guidelines allows the district to be reimbursed \$12.73 for every form distributed. Consequently, unallowable costs total \$961,179 (75,505 multiplied by \$12.73).

The SCO computed the unallowable costs by multiplying the total claimed initial truancy notifications by the unsupported percentage and by applying that number to the uniform cost allowance as follows:

	FY 1999-2000	FY 2000-01	Total
Number of notifications claimed	75,327	76,531	
Percentage of unsupported number of notifications	99.42%	98.66%	
Unsupported number of notifications Uniform costs allowance	(74,890) \$ 12.23	(75,505) \$ 12.73	
Audit adjustment	\$ (915,904)	\$ (961,179)	<u>\$(1,877,083)</u>

Pupil Services and Attendance (PSA) counselors and administrators of the school sites sampled identified various reasons for not distributing initial truancy notification forms containing the five required elements identified in Parameters and Guidelines. PSA counselors stated that:

- They were not aware of the existence of the mandate or proper guidelines for reporting initial truancy notifications;
- They did not work for the district during the review periods and thus were not able to locate the records;
- The notification records had been destroyed (they were not informed to retain any records);
- · At some school sites, the PSA counselors were not on duty daily and were available only one day a week. In these instances, the school administrative staff notified parents or guardians of the initial truancy and did not retain any records; administrative staff claimed they were not told to retain the records; and
- They contacted parents or guardians through other reasonable means such as telephone logs, attendance records, and permits to return to classroom (PRC) rather than notification letters sent to the pupil's parent or guardian.

Though not reimbursable, the SCO reviewed telephone logs, attendance records, and PRCs to gain an understanding of the district's process of notifying a pupil's parent or guardian of the required five elements. These records did not support that the required elements were discussed with the pupil's parent or guardian. Furthermore, Parameters and Guidelines requires the district to document the five specified elements on a form that is distributed to the pupil's parent or guardian. Other reasonable means identified in Parameters and Guidelines relate to the means of distributing the form (letter) other than by first-class mail, such as certified mail, overnight mail, etc.

Parameters and Guidelines, adopted by the State Board of Control on November 29, 1984, allows the district to be reimbursed for claimed costs if the initial truancy notification forms distributed to the pupil's parent or guardian contain five specified elements. Education Code Section 48260.5 was amended by Chapter 1023, Statutes of 1984, (effective January 1, 1995) to require eight specified elements. However, since Parameters and Guidelines has not been amended, the claimant continues to be reimbursed if it complies with the five specified elements in the guidelines.

Parameters and Guidelines, Section I., requires "...school districts, upon the pupil's initial classification as a truant, to notify the pupil's parent or guardian, by first-class mail or other reasonable means, of (1) the pupil truancy; (2) that the parent or guardian is obligated to compel the attendance of the pupil at school; and (3) that parents or guardians who fail to meet this obligation may be guilty of an infraction and subject to prosecution pursuant to Article 6 (commencing with section 48290) of Chapter 2 of Part 27." Furthermore, the guidelines state, "...district must inform parents and guardians of (1) alternative educational programs available in the district; and (2) the right to meet with appropriate school personnel to discuss solutions to the pupil's truancy."

Parameters and Guidelines, Section V.A., states, "The eligible claimant shall be reimbursed for only those costs incurred for . . . the printing and distribution of notification forms. . . . "

Parameters and Guidelines, Section V.B.1., states that the claimant shall be reimbursed for "Planning the method of implementation, revising school district policies, and designing and printing the forms."

Parameters and Guidelines, Section V.B.2., states that the claimant shall be reimbursed for "Identifying the truant pupils to receive the notification, preparing and distributing by mail or other method the forms to parents/guardians. . . . "

Parameters and Guidelines, Section V.C., states, "The uniform cost allowance is based on the number of initial notifications of truancy distributed pursuant to Education Code Section 48260.5, Chapter 498, Statutes of 1983. For fiscal year 1992-93, the uniform cost allowance is \$10.21 per initial notification of truancy distributed. The cost allowance shall be adjusted each subsequent year by the Implicit Price Deflator."

Parameters and Guidelines, Section VII., states, "For audit purpose, documents must be kept on file for a period of 3 years from the date of final payment by the State Controller..."

### Recommendation

The district should develop and implement an adequate accounting and reporting system to ensure that it claims only initial notification truancy letters distributed to the pupil's parent or guardian that contain all required elements. Although *Parameters and Guidelines* requires only five specified elements to be subject to reimbursements, *Education Code* Section 48260.5 requires eight specified elements for the district to comply with statutory requirements.

In addition, the district should establish policies and procedures to ensure that all costs claimed are supported.

### Auditee's Response

There are major differences between the SCO and LAUSD with regard to the method of notifying the pupil's parent or guardian and the required elements involved with this notification. SCO limits the notification method to first-class mail, only.

Since the parameters and guidelines state that notification is to be by first-class mail or other reasonable means, the district has mostly used other reasonable means, which includes the use of telephone or individual contact.

In review of the detail records of the auditors it was obvious that only letters were being accepted, even though it was explained to the auditors that phone calls and personal contact were also used and are believed to be an acceptable means per the parameter and guidelines. With the size of LAUSD, it is unreasonable to expect that only letters would be used for notification of truancies. The population and demographics of LAUSD, (e.g., homeless, transitory and migrant students, number of languages spoken) have made it necessary for staff to pursue other means to communicate with parents and guardians about compulsory school attendance.

There is also disagreement on the elements in the letters that were reviewed. There are several letters used by the district depending on the specific location or school site. Not all elements of the mandate may have been available, especially the element described as "alternative educations program available." If any element was not available to that school, it was not included in the letter.

At the school sites the auditors came into contact with PSA counselors. Many of these counselors would not have been able to assist the auditor during the review because either they are new employees of the district or that they were not assigned to the school site during the audit period under review. If the counselor was not able to assist the auditor it appeared the claim for that site was not allowed. In our opinion, the situation listed in the draft report on page 5 are not valid reasons for disallowing the claimed amounts.

#### SCO Comments

The finding and recommendation remain unchanged.

The SCO comments are presented in the order presented by the district. The district did not provide any additional documentation to support the unallowable costs.

The SCO did not limit the notification method to first-class mail. Instead, the SCO allowed notification forms (letters) distributed by other reasonable means, such as certified mail, overnight mail, etc.

Parameters and Guidelines, Sections V.A., V.B.1., and V.B.2., allows a district to be reimbursed a specificed amount for every initial truancy notification form (letter) distributed to a pupil's parent or guardian that contains five specified elements identified in the Parameters and Guidelines. Telephone calls and individual contacts are not reimbursable activities.

Though not reimbursable, the SCO auditors reviewed telephone logs, attendance records, and other records to gain an understanding of the district's process of notifying a pupil's parent or guardian of the five required elements. The review of these records did not support that the required elements were discussed. The finding has been updated to clarify this point.

Parameters and Guidelines states that one of the five elements required to be included in the initial truancy notification form is the district's responsibility of informing parents and guardians of alternative education programs available in the district. Even though all school sites may not offer alternative education programs, the district does offer such programs at various locations. The district is responsible for ensuring that the parent or guardian know that the child can participate at those locations.

Claimed initial truancy notifications were not determined to be unallowable because PSA counselors were unable to assist the auditors. SCO auditors worked with individuals identified as the primary contact at each school site, typically a PSA counselor. Subsequent to visiting an individual school site, SCO auditors scheduled a meeting with district staff. On July 11, 2002, SCO auditors met with a district PSA coordinator, members of the district's Controller's staff, and the district's consulting firm, which assisted in preparing the filed claims, to discuss the results of the preliminary review and provide copies of schedules that identified the schools visited and the number of notifications claimed, allowed, and unallowed by school site. The SCO requested that the district review the accuracy of the information presented in the schedules. A formal exit conference was conducted on July 25, 2002, with Aurora Costales, Principal Accountant, and representatives from the district's consulting firm. The draft report was issued October 3, 2002.

# Schedule 1— Summary of Program Costs July 1, 1999, through June 30, 2001

Cost Elements	Actual Costs Claimed	Allowable per Audit	Audit Adjustments
July 1, 1999, through June 30, 2000  Number of initial truancy notifications Uniform cost allowance  Total costs Less amount paid by the State  Amount paid in excess of allowable costs claimed	75,327 \$ 12.23 \$ 921,249	437 \$ 12.23 5,345 (921,249) \$ 915,904	(74,890) \$ 12.23 \$ (915,904)
July 1, 2000, through June 30, 2001  Number of initial truancy notifications Uniform cost allowance  Total costs Less amount paid by the State  Amount paid in excess of allowable costs claimed  Summary: July 1, 1999, through June 30, 2001	76,531 \$ 12.73 \$ 974,240	1,026 \$ 12.73 13,061 (737,497) \$ 724,436	(75,505) \$ 12.73 \$ (961,179)
Total costs Less amount paid by the State Amount paid in excess of allowable costs claimed	\$ 1,895,489	\$ 18,406 (1,658,746) \$ 1,640,340	\$(1,877,083)

 $<sup>^{1}\,</sup>$  See Finding and Recommendation section.

## Attachment— Auditee's Response to Draft Audit Report

## Los Angeles Unified School District

### Office of the Chief Financial Officer

ROY ROMER Superimendem of Schools

IOSEPH P. ZERONIAN Chief Financial Officer

November 14, 2002

Jim L. Spano, Chief Compliance Audits Bureau State Controller's Office Division of Audits P.O. Box 942850 Sacramento, CA 94250-5874

SUBJECT:

NOTIFICATION OF TRUANCY - DRAFT AUDIT REPORT FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 1999 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2001

Dear Mr. Spano:

This is in response to your audit letter, dated October 3, 2002, of the Notification of Truancy program filed by the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD).

The district claimed \$1,895,489 for this mandated program. The draft audit report issued by SCO disclosed that \$18,406 was allowable and \$1,877,083 was unallowable due to the district overstating the number of notification of trunney forms distributed to the pupil's parent or guardian. The district does not agree with the SCO regarding the unallowable costs due to the following:

There are major differences between the SCO and LAUSD with regard to the method of notifying the pupil's parent or guardian and the required elements involved with this notification. SCO limits the notification method to first-class mail, only.

Since the parameters and guidelines state that notification is to be by first-class mail or other reasonable means, the district has mostly used other reasonable means, which includes the use of telephone or individual contact.

In review of the detail records of the auditors it was obvious that only letters were being accepted, even though it was explained to the auditors that phone calls and personal contact were also used and are believed to be an acceptable means per the parameter and guidelines. With the size of LAUSD, it is unreasonable to expect that only letters would be used for

notification of truancies. The population and demographics of LAUSD, (e.g., homeless, transitory and migrant students, number of languages spoken) have made it necessary for staff to pursue other means to communicate with parents and guardians about compulsory school attendance.

There is also disagreement on the elements in the letters that were reviewed. There are several letters used by the district depending on the specific location or school site. Not all elements of the mandate may have been available, especially the element described as "alternative educations program available." If any element was not available to that school, it was not included in the letter.

At the school sites the auditors came into contact with PSA counselors. Many of these counselors would not have been able to assist the auditor during the review because either they are new employees of the district or that they were not assigned to the school site during the audit period under review. If the counselor was not able to assist the auditor it appeared the claim for that site was not allowed. In our opinion, the situation listed in the draft report on page 5 are not valid reasons for disallowing the claimed amounts.

For the record, the exit conference held on July 25, 2002, was not only discussed with Aurora Costales, but others as well. We would appreciate having those individuals' names be included in the report.

We appreciate your giving us the opportunity to respond to this draft report.

Sincerely.

Joseph R. Zeronian Chief Pinancial Officer

c: Yoshiko Fong Eileen Okazaki Ken Furuya Aurora Costales Chris Prasad John Conshafter State Controller's Office
Division of Audits
Post Office Box 942850
Sacramento, California 94250-5874

http://www.sco.ca.gov

November 25, 2002

Mr. Jim L. Spano, Chief Compliance Audits Bureau State Controller's Office Division of Audits P.O. Box 942850 Sacramento, CA 94250-5874

RE:

AUDIT OF LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT CLAIM FOR COSTS OF THE NOTICE OF TRUANCY PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 1998, THROUGH JUNE 30, 1999.

Dear Mr. Spano:

This letter is in response to the draft audit report, dated November 1, 2002, for the Notification of Truancy Program (NOT) mandated cost claim for 1998-99 filed by the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD).

The district claimed \$712,167 for this mandated program. The State Controller's Office (SCO) draft audit report disclosed that none of this amount is allowable because the district did not provide any documentation to support the claimed number of truancy notification forms distributed to the pupils' parents or guardians. Consequently the SCO believes the total amount should be returned to the State.

The letter confirming the 1998-99 audit for NOT was dated August 13, 2002, 3 years and 2 months after the end of the 1998-99 fiscal year. The audits for NOT for the two later fiscal years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 were requested on January 10, 2002, seven months earlier. The school district has a retention policy of 3 years; therefore, the documentation requested for the 1998-99 fiscal year was beyond the record retention policy for the District and had been destroyed. If the request for the documentation had been received earlier, the documentation may have been made available

We questioned why the 1998-99 NOT documentation was not originally requested along with the other two years. Stephanie Woo, auditor for the SCO, responded during the entrance conference on August 13, 2002, that she had forgotten to include the 1998-99 year.

During the course of this audit there have been discussions between the SCO and District staff regarding the parameters and guidelines of the Notification of Truancy (NOT) mandate. There are major differences between the SCO and the LAUSD with regard to the appropriate method of notifying the pupils' parents or guardians and the elements required in this notification.

The auditors only wanted to see letters for NOT. No other documentation was acceptable to them. However, the following sections of the Parameters and Guidelines relate to acceptable documentation:

VII A. Uniform Allowance Reimbursement

Documentation which indicates the total number of initial notifications of truancy distributed.

VII B. Reimbursement of Unique Costs

In addition to maintaining the same documentation as required for uniform cost allowance reimbursement, all costs claimed must be traceable to source documents and/or worksheets that show evidence of the validity of such costs.

Worksheets were not considered an acceptable source of documentation by the auditors, only letters with the five elements.

The District does not agree with any portion of this draft audit report and plans to appeal the SCO's decision to disallow the entire claim.

We appreciate your giving us the opportunity to respond to this draft audit report. If you have any questions, please call Yoshi Fong at (213) 633-7801.

Sincerely,

Joseph P. Zeronian

c: Yoshiko Fong Eileen Okazaki Aurora Costales Jim L. Spano, Chief
Compliance Audits Bureau
State Controller's Office
Division of Audits
P.O. Box 942850
Sacramento, CA 94250-5874

SUBJECT:

NOTIFICATION OF TRUANCY - DRAFT AUDIT REPORT FOR THE

PERIOD OF JULY 1, 1999 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2001

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We appreciate your giving us the opportunity to respond to this draft report.

Sincerely,

Joseph & Zeronian Chief Pinancial Officer

e: Yoshiko Fong Eileen Okazaki Ken Furuya Aurora Costales Chris Prasad John Conshafter

	CLAIM FOR PA JENT			- AMOS AND			
				(19) Program Number 00048			
	NOTIFICATION OF TRUANCY			(20) Date Filed / /			
į	[2			(21) Signature Present			
1	S19265			Reimbursement Claim	Data		
^				(22) NOT-1,(03)	60,869		
	Claimant Name			(23)			
H -	County Of Loc LOS ANGELES			(24)			
E R	Street Address 355 SOUTH GR	AND AVENUE SUITE 80	07	(25)			
E	LOS ANGELES	State CA	90071	(26)			
T	Type of Claim	Estimated Claim	Reimbursement Claim	(27)			
		(03) Estimated X	(09) Reimbursement X	(28)			
		(04) Combined	(10) Combined	(29)			
		(05) Amended	(11) Amended	(30)			
	Fiscal Year of Cost	1999 / 2000	(12) 1998 / 1999	(31)			
	Fotal Claimed Amount	\$ 783,384	(13) \$ 712,167	(32)			
	Less: 10% Late 1 \$1000 (if applicab	Penalty, but not to exceed ble)	(14)	(33)			
7	Less: Estimate F	Payment Received	(15) \$ 744,629	(34)			
1	Net Claimed Amo		(16) \$ -32,462	(35)			
1	Due From State	\$ 783,384	(17)	(36)			
	Due to State		(18) \$ 32,462	(37)			
T	(38) CERTIFICA	VIION OF CLAIM		CC Ab A X and Aba managem	authorized by the local		
ا	agency to file clai penalty of perjur	y that I have not violated a	ornia for costs mandated any of the provisions of (	oy Chapter 498, Statute Government Code Sectio	ns 1090 to 1096, inclusive.		
	I further certify that there were no applications for nor any grant or payments received, other than from the claimant, for reimbursement of costs claimed herein; and such costs are for a new program or increased level of services of an existing program mandated by Chapter 498, Statutes of 1983.						
	The amounts for estimated and/or statements.	Estimated Claim and/or Factual costs for the mand	Reimbursement Claim an ated program of Chapte	re hereby claimed from t r 498, Statutes of 1983, s	he State for payment of et forth on the attached		
1	^	horized Robresentative	Date	, ,			
	( Vang	Mood	1/14/2000 TROLLER				
	OLONZO WOOL  Type or Print Nam		Title	HINOLLEN			
	(39) Name of Conta	ct Person For Claim		elephone Number			
į	Steve Smith, Mandated Cost Systems 916-487-4435 Ext.						

N( FICATION CLAIM S	FORM NOT-1	
INSTRI	UCTIONS	
01) Claimant:	(02) Type of Claim:	Fiscal Year:
319265	Reimbursement 🔼	1998 / 1999
LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SD	Estimated	
Claim Statistics		
03) Number of truant notifications		60,869
	•	
Cost		
(04) Unit Cost per an initial truancy notification	n [\$11.70 for the 1998/99 fiscal year]	11.7
(05) Total Costs: [Line (03) x line(04)]		712,16
Cost Reduction		
(06) Less: Offsetting Savings, if applicable		
(07) Less: Other Reimbursements, if appli		
(08) Total Claimed Amount:	{Line(05) - [Line(06) + line(07)]}	712,16

#### **MANDATED COSTS FORM** NOT-1A **NOTIFICATION OF TRUANCY CLAIM SUMMARY** (02) Type of Claim: (01) Clamant: Fiscal Year: Reimbursement X S19265 1998 / 1999 Estimated LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SD **Claim Statistics** (03) For each school in the district, enter the number of Notifications (a) (a) Name of School **Notifications** 32ND/USC PER ART MAG 18 54TH ST EL 44 ADAMS MS 64 AGGELER HS 59 ALTA LOMA EL 20 ANGELES MESA EL 40 ARAGON EL 8 ARCO IRIS PRIMRY CTR 17 ARROYO SECO ALTERN 1,342 AUDUBON MS 55 BANCROFT MS 12 BANCROFT PER ART MAG 1,442 BANNING SH 24 BASSETT EL 10 BEETHOVEN EL 916 BELL SH 4 BELLAGIO NEWCOMR CTR BELMONT NEWCOMR CTR 1,035 BELMONT SH 375 BELVEDERE MS 184 BERENDO MS 589 BETHUNE MS 709 BIRMINGHAM SH 97 BRAVO MEDICAL MAG 852 BURBANK MS 529 BURROUGHS MS 21 BYRD MS 510 CANOGA PARK SH 41 CARNEGIE MS CAROLDALE LRNG CMTY 2,839 CARSON SH 11,865

MANDATE NOTIFICATION CLAIM SI	N OF TRUANCY	FORM NOT-1A
(01) Clamant:	(02) Type of Claim:	iscal Year:
\$19265	Reimbursement (X)	998 / 1999
LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SD	Estimated	7 1333
Claim Statistics	·	
(03) For each school in the district, enter the nun	nber of Notifications	
(a)		(d)
Name of School		Notifications
CARVER MS	,	98
CHATSWORTH SH		1,558
CLAY MS		443
CLEVELAND SH		323
COHASSET EL		45
COLUMBUS MS		58
COOPER HS		127
CRENSHAW SH		1,079
CURTISS MS		30
DANA MS		720
DARBY EL		10
DODSON MS		32
DORSEY LAW/GOV MAG		24
DORSEY SH		940
DOWNTOWN BUSINESS MG		271
DREW MS		497
EAGLE ROCK SH		167
EDISON MS		1,061
EL CAMINO REAL SH		12
EL DORADO EL EL SERENO MS		159
ELIZABETH LC		4.5
EMIZABETA DE EMERSON MS		386
FAIR EL		60
FAIRFAX SH		775
FLEMING MS		125
FORD BLVD EL		50
FOSHAY LC		264
FRANKLIN SH		62
FREMONT SH		64
FROST MS		10
		22,56

MANDATED COSTS		FORM
NOTIFICATION OF TRUANCY		
CLAIM SUMN		
(01) Clamant:	(02) Type of Claim:	Fiscal Year:
S19265	Reimbursement 🛣	1998 / 1999
LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SD	Estimated	1998 / 1999
Claim Statistics		
(03) For each school in the district, enter the number of	of Notifications	
(a)		(d)
Name of School		
Name of School		Notifications
		103
FULTON MS		210
GAGE MS		1,568
GARDENA SH		901
GARFIELD SH		89
GOMPERS MS		
GRANADA HILLS SH		898
GRANT SH		520
GRIFFITH MS		192
HALE MS		37
HAMILTON MUS ACA MAG		434
HAMILTON SH-COMPLEX		1,112
HARRISON EL		16
HARTE PREP MS		67
HENRY MS		45
HOLLENBECK MS		146
HOLLYWOOD SH		631
HOLMES MS		278
HUNTINGTON PARK SH		793
IRVING MS		56
JEFFERSON NEW MS #1		518
JEFFERSON SH		833
JOHNSON HS		5:
JORDAN SH		33!
KENNEDY SH		1,57
KING MS		110
KING-DREW MED MAG		
LACES MAG	•	100
LAUSD/USC MTH/SC MAG		8
LAWRENCE MS		
LE CONTE MS		18
LINCOLN SH		50
		35,28

NOTIFICATION OF TRUANCY  CLAIM SUMMARY				
(01) Clamant: (02 S19265 LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SD	2) Type of Claim: Fis Reimbursement	cal Year:		
Claim Statistics				
(03) For each school in the district, enter the number of Notifications		<del> </del>		
(a)		(d)		
Name of School		Notifications		
LOCKE SH		2,44		
LOS ANGELES SH		1,93		
MACLAY MS		4		
MADISON MS		7:		
MANN MS		16		
MANUAL ARTS SH		73		
MARINA DEL REY P/A		13		
MARK TWAIN MS		13		
MARKHAM MS		23		
MARLTON SCHOOL				
MARSHALL SH		73		
MID-CITY MAGNET		1		
MIDDLE COLLEGE HS				
MILLER HS				
MILLIKAN MS		63		
MONROE SH		46		
MOUNT GLEASON MS	·	8		
MOUNT VERNON MS		64		
MUIR MS		1,44		
MULHOLLAND MS		34		
NARBONNE MATH/SC MAG				
NARBONNE SH		15		
NIGHTINGALE MS		12		
NIMITZ MS		18		
NO HOLLYWOOD SH		1,45		
NOBEL MS	·	2		
NORTHRIDGE MS		16		
OLIVE VISTA MS		9		
PACOIMA MS		5		
PALISADES CHARTR HS		23		
PALMS MS		3		
		48,10		

NOTIFICATION OF TRUANCY			
CLAIM SUI	MMARY		
(01) Clamant:		scal Year:	
S19265	Reimbursement x 19	98 /1999	
LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SD	Estimated		
Claim Statistics			
(03) For each school in the district, enter the number	er of Notifications		
(a)		(d)	
Name of School			
		Notifications	
PARKMAN MS	•	51	
PEARY MS		91	
PIO PICO EL		30	
POLYTECHNIC SH		1,120	
PORTER MS		21	
PORTOLA MS		36	
RAMONA HS		154	
REED MS		127	
RESEDA SH		1,169	
REVERE MS		20	
ROOSEVELT SH		337	
SAN FERNANDO MS		225	
SAN FERNANDO SH		208	
SAN PEDRO SH		1,150	
SEPULVEDA G/HA MAG		4	
SEPULVEDA MS		254	
SHERMAN OAKS EL		36	
SOUTH GATE MS		689	
SOUTH GATE SH		765	
STEVENSON MS		219	
SUN VALLEY MS		78	
SUTTER MS		115	
SYLMAR SH		253	
TAFT SH		362	
UNIVERSITY SH		117	
VALLEY ALTERNATIVE		9	
VAN NUYS MS		69	
VAN NUYS SH		1,673	
VENICE SH		273	
VERDUGO HILLS SH		811	
VIRGIL MS		134	
		58,704	
		1 20,704	

MANDATE	·····	U COST Manual			
MANDATE		FORM NOT-1A			
NOTIFICATION OF TRUANCY					
CLAIM SU	JMMARY				
(01) Clamant:	(02) Type of Claim:	scal Year:			
\$19265	Reimbursement (X)				
LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SD	Estimated	98 / 1999			
Claim Statistics					
(03) For each school in the district, enter the num	ber of Notifications				
(a)		(d)			
Name of School					
		Notifications			
WASHINGTON PREP SH	•	355			
WEBSTER MS		6:			
WEST HOLLYWOOD EL		38			
WESTCHESTER SH		124			
WESTSIDE LDRSHIP MAG		1!			
WHITE MS		10!			
WILMINGTON MS		149			
WILSON SH		1,18			
WRIGHT MS		6.			
YOUTH OPPOR		58			
		.			
·					
		60,869			

Sta	te	6f	Cal	lifo	rnia

	CLAIM FOR PAYMENT			For State Controller Use Only	
	Pursu	ant to Government Code S		(19) Program Number 00048	
•	NOTIFICATION OF TRUA			(20) Date Filed	//
		offication of them		(21) Signature Present	
 L	(01) Claimant Identification Number: S19265			Reimbursement Claim	Data
A B		(02) Mailing Address			75,327
E L	Claimant Nam LOS ANGELES	UNIFIED SD		(23)	
Н	LOS ANGELES				
E R		RAND AVENUE STE 117		(25)	
E 	City LOS ANGELES	CA	90071	(26)	
	Type of Claim	Estimated Claim	Reimbursement Claim	(27)	
		(03) Estimated X	(09) Reimbursement X	(28)	
		(04) Combined	(10) Combined	(29)	
		(05) Amended	(11) Amended	(30)	
	Fiscal Year of Cost	2000 / 2001	(12) 1999 / 2000	(31)	
	Total Claimed Amount	(07) \$ 921,249	\$ 921,249	(32)	
		Less: 10% Late Penalty, but not to exceed \$1000 (if applicable)		(33)	
	Less: Estimate P	'ayment Received	(15)	(34)	
	Net Claimed Amo	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	\$ 921,249	(35)	
	Due From State	\$ 921,249	(17) \$ 921,249	(36)	
	Due to State		(18)	(37)	
	In accordance wit agency to file clair penalty of perjury I further certify th	y that I have not violated a hat there were no applicati	rnia for costs mandated ny of the provisions of C ons for nor any grant o	by Chapter 498, Statutes Government Code Section r payments received, othe	s of 1983; and certify under is 1090 to 1096, inclusive. er than from the claimant, for
reimbursement of costs claimed herein; and such costs are for a new program or increased level of suprogram mandated by Chapter 498, Statutes of 1983.  The amounts for Estimated Claim and/or Reimbursement Claim are hereby claimed from the State					e State for payment of
	estimated and/or statements.	actual costs for the manda	r 498, Statutes of 1983, se	t iorth on the attached	
	1 -:	norized Representative	Date	,	
	Choshike.	Arra		2/2001	
	YOSHIKO FONG			IG CONTROLLER	
	Type or Print Name (39) Name of Contact		Title Te	elephone Number	
	1 '	h, Mandated Cost Sy	916-487-4435 Ext.		

NO (IFICATION OF TRUANCY  CLAIM SUMMARY  INSTRUCTIONS		FORM NOT-1
(01) Claimant: \$19265 LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SD	(02) Type of Claim:  Reimbursement   Estimated	Fiscal Year: 1999 / 2000
Claim Statistics		
(03) Number of truant notifications		75,327
Cost		
(04) Unit Cost per an initial truancy notifi	cation [\$12.23 for the 1999/00 fiscal year]	12.23
(05) Total Costs: [Line (03) x line(04)]	1	921,249
Cost Reduction		
(06) Less: Offsetting Savings, if appli		
(07) Less: Other Reimbursements, if	<u>, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , </u>	
(08) Total Claimed Amount:	{Line(05) - [Line(06) + line(07)]}	921,24

NOTIFICATION OF TRUANCY  CLAIM SUMMARY		
(01) Clamant: S19265 LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SD	(02) Type of Claim: Fish Reimbursement X 199	cal Year:
Claim Statistics		
(03) For each school in the district, enter t	he number of Notifications	
(a)		(d)
Name of School		Notifications
ADAMS MS	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	298
AUDUBON M		718
BANCROFT		212
BANNING S		1,07
BELL SH		831
BELMONT S		1,43
BELVEDERE		34
BERENDO M		72
BETHUNE M		69
BIRMINGHA		90
BRAVO MED		21
BURBANK M		41
BURROUGHS		35
BYRD MS		5
CANOGA PA		55
CARNEGIE		40
CARSON SH		1,38
CARVER MS		38
CHATSWORT		1,11
CLAY MS		46
CLEVELAND		69
COLUMBUS		20
CRENSHAW		92
CURTISS M		25
DANA MS		4.5
DODSON MS		26
DORSEY SH	•	69
DOWNTOWN		20
DREW MS		60
EAGLE ROC		. 80
EDISON MS		43
		18,11

**School Mandated Cost Manual** 

# **MANDATED COSTS**

NOTIFICATION OF TRUANCY CLAIM SUMMARY		
(01) Clamant: \$19265	Reimbursement X 19	scal Year: 99 / 2000
LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SD	Estimated	
Claim Statistics		
(03) For each school in the district, enter t	the number of Notifications	
(a)		(d)
Name of School		Notifications
EL CAMINO		1,205
EL SERENO		299
EMERSON M		334
FAIRFAX S		606
FLEMING M		298
FRANKLIN		1,739
FREMONT S		2,067
FROST MS		225
FULTON MS		423
GAGE MS		446
GARDENA S		1,257
GARFIELD		1,480
`GOMPERS M		503
GRANADA H		678
GRANT SH		1,34
GRIFFITH		345
HALE MS		353
HAMILTON		718
HARTE PRE		39!
HENRY MS		19
HOLLENBEC		33.
HOLLYWOOD		80
HOLMES MS		27
HUNTINGTO		1,11
IRVING MS		19
JEFFERSON		1,06
JORDAN SH		99
KENNEDY S		1,04
KING MS		30
KING-DREW		26
LAWRENCE		40
		39,83

**School Mandated Cost Manual** 

# MANDATED COSTS NOTIFICATION OF TRUANCY CLAIM SUMMARY

FORM NOT-1A

	M SUMMARY	
(01) Clamant: s19265	Reimbursement [X]	scal Year:
LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SD	Estimated	99 / 2000
Claim Statistics		
(03) For each school in the district, enter the	e number of Notifications	
(a)		(d)
Name of School		Notifications
LE CONTE		371
LINCOLN S		706
LOCKE SH		899
LOS ANGEL		1,676
MACLAY MS		282
MADISON M		390
MANN MS		509
MANUAL AR		1,296
MARINA DE		149
MARK TWAI		343
MARKHAM M		500
MARSHALL		1,489
MILLIKAN		364
MONROE SH		1,191
MOUNT GLE		444
MOUNT VER		614
MUIR MS		800
MULHOLLAN		321
NARBONNE		727
NIGHTINGA		252
NIMITZ MS		464
NO HOLLYW		1,161
NOBEL MS		139
NORTHRIDG		276
OLIVE VIS		390
PACOIMA M		289
PALISADES		664
PALMS MS		23
PARKMAN M		272
PEARY MS		51
POLYTECHN		1,26
		58,83

MANDATED COS	STS	FORM
NOTIFICATION OF T	RUANCY	NOT-1A
CLAIM SUMMAI		
(01) Clamant:	(02) Type of Claim: Fis	cal Year:
S19265	Reimhursement (X)	
LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SD	Estimated	99 / 2000
Claim Statistics		
(03) For each school in the district, enter the number of N	otifications	
(a)		(d)
Name of School		Notifications
POPULED NO.		
PORTER MS		225
PORTOLA M REED MS		353
RESEDA SH		293
REVERE MS		726
ROOSEVELT		260
SAN FERNA		1,295 753
SAN PEDRO		781
SEPULVEDA		466
SOUTH GAT		1,053
STEVENSON		300
SUN VALLE		476
SUTTER MS		218
SYLMAR SH		834
TAFT SH		922
UNIVERSIT		641
VAN NUYS		929
VENICE SH		681
VERDUGO H		.597
VIRGIL MS		628
WASHINGTO		1,409
WEBSTER M		290
WESTCHEST		785
WHITE MS		318
WILMINGTO		423
WILSON SH		618
WRIGHT MS		221
		75 327
		16 200

	CLAIM FOR PAYMENT		For State Controller Use Only	Program
Pursuant to Government Code Section 17561		(19) Program Number 00048	1	
N	OTIFICATION OF TRUAN	CY	(20) Date Filed / /	048
			(21) LRS Input / /	0.0
(01) Claimant Identification Nu S19265	mber		Reimbursement Claim	Data
(02) Claimant Name LOS ANGELES UN	TETED SD		(22) LEAN-1. (03)	76,53
County of Location LOS ANGELES			(23)	
Street Address or P.O. Box 355 SOUTH GRAN	D AVENUE STE 1171		(24)	
City LOS ANGELES	State C <b>A</b>	Zip Code <b>90071</b>	(25)	
Type of Claim	Estimated Claim	Reimbursement Claim	(26)	
	(03) Estimated X	(09) Reimbursement X	(27)	
	(04) Combined	(10) Combined	(28)	
	(05) Amended	(11) Amended	(29)	
Fiscal Year of Cost	(06) 2001 / 2002	(12) 2000 / 2001	(30)	
Total Claimed Amoun	t (07) \$ 974,240	(13) \$ 974,240	(31)	
Less: 10% Late Penal	ty, not to exceed \$1000	(14)	(32)	
Less: Prior Claim Pa	yment Received	(15) \$ 737,497	(33)	
Net Claimed Amount		(16) \$ 236,743	(34)	
Due From State	(08) \$ 974,240	(17) \$ 236,743	(35)	
Due to State		(18)	(36)	
with the State of Californi violated any of the provis	rovisions of Government Code 1 a for costs mandated by Chapte ions of Government Code Sections was no application other than fr	er 498, Statutes of 1983, and one 1090 to 1096, inclusive.	ficer authorized by the local ager certify under penalty of perjury the at or payment received, for reimble ces of an existing program mand	at I have not ursement of
The amounts for Estimate actual costs for the mand	ed Claim and/or Reimbursemen lated program of Chapter 498, S	t Claim are hereby claimed fro Statutes of 1983, set forth on t	om the State for payment of estim he attached statements.	ated and/or
Signature of Authorized C	Officer		Date	
YOSHIKO FONG	U S		CONTROLLER	
Type or Print Name		·····	Title	
(38) Name of Contact Person	For Claim	Telephone Number (9	16 ) 487-4435	Ext.
Steve Smith, Ma	andated Cost Systems	E-mall Address SCO	help@mandated.com	

Form FAM-27 (Revised 9/01)

Pr. 14101 CRC 12-18-01 py Ma/or

Chapters 498/83

tato Controller's Office	School Mar	ndated Cost Manual
Program	2. 2. AV 12/12/12/12/20	
048		
040	INSTRUCTIONS	NOT-1
D1) Claimant:	(02) Type of Claim:	Fiscal Year:
19265	Reimbursement X	
OS ANGELES UNIFIED SD	Estimated	2000 / 2001
Claim Statistics		
03) Number of truant notifications	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	76,531
		<del></del>
Cost		
(04) Unit Cost per an initial truancy	notification [\$12.73 for the 2000/01 fiscal year]	12.7
(05) Total Costs: [Line (03) x line	e(04)]	974,24
Cost Reduction		
(06) Less: Offsetting Savings, if	applicable	
(07) Less: Other Reimbursemer	nts, if applicable	
(08) Total Claimed Amount:	{Line(05) - [Line(06) + line(07)]}	974,24

#### State Controller's Office **School Mandated Cost Manual** MANDATED COSTS **FORM NOTIFICATION OF TRUANCY** NOT-1A **CLAIM SUMMARY** (01) Clamant: (02) Type of Claim: Fiscal Year: Reimbursement X S19265 2000 / 2001 Estimated LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SD **Claim Statistics** (03) For each school in the district, enter the number of Notifications (a) (d) Name of School Notifications 329 ADAMS MS 738 AUDUBON MS 280 BANCROFT MS 1,144 BANNING SH 829 BELL SH 387 BELVEDERE MS 408 BERENDO MS 716 BETHUNE MS 771 BIRMINGHAM SH 226 BRAVO MEDICAL MAG 409 BURBANK MS 50 BURROUGHS G/HA MAG 372 BURROUGHS MS 92 BYRD MS 787 CANOGA PARK SH 377 CARNEGIE MS 1,329 CARSON SH 512 CARVER MS 754 CHATSWORTH SH 574 CLAY MS 762 CLEVELAND SH 219 COLUMBUS MS 893 CRENSHAW SH 301 CURTISS MS 458 DANA MS 192 DODSON MS 761 DORSEY SH 224 DOWNTOWN BUSINESS M 699 DREW MS 562 EAGLE ROCK SH 528

EDISON MS

Claim Statistics

EL CAMINO REAL SH

EL SERENO MS

EMERSON MS

FAIRFAX SH

FLEMING MS

FRANKLIN SH

FREMONT SH

FROST MS

GAGE MS

FULTON MS

GARDENA SH

GARFIELD SH

GOMPERS MS

GRANT SH

HALE MS

HENRY MS

GRIFFITH MS

HARTE PREP MS

HOLLENBECK MS

HOLLYWOOD SH

HOLMES MS

IRVING MS

JORDAN SH

KENNEDY SH

LAWRENCE MS

KING MS

JEFFERSON SH

GRANADA HILLS SH

HAMILTON SH-COMPLEX

HUNTINGTON PARK SH

KING-DREW MED MAG

(01) Clamant:

S19265

## MANDATED COSTS **FORM** NOT-1A **NOTIFICATION OF TRUANCY CLAIM SUMMARY** (02) Type of Claim: Fiscal Year: Reimbursement X 2000 / 2001 Estimated LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SD (03) For each school in the district, enter the number of Notifications (d) (a) Name of School **Notifications**

1,080

400

347

775

204

917

225

470

553

1,252

1,480

565

604

309

356

609

432

219

307

825

253

165

1,038

1,081

1,062

813

366

351

459

1,265

2,214

NOTIFICATION OF TRUANCY CLAIM SUMMARY		NOT-1A
(01) Clamant:	(02) Type of Claim:	Fiscal Year:
S19265	Reimbursement X	2000 / 2001
LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SD	Estimated	7 2002
Claim Statistics		·
(03) For each school in the district, enter the nur	mber of Notifications	
(a)		(d)
Name of School		Notifications
POLYTECHNIC SH	,	1,36
PORTER MS		20
PORTOLA HG MAG		5
PORTOLA MS	·	37
REED MS		31
RESEDA SH		55
REVERE MS		26
ROOSEVELT MTH/SC MA		9
ROOSEVELT SH		1,39
SAN FERNANDO MS		28
SAN FERNANDO SH		81
SAN PEDRO SH		76
SEPULVEDA MS		57
SOUTH GATE MS		57:
SOUTH GATE SH		1,28
STEVENSON MS		30
SUN VALLEY MS		46
SUTTER MS		24
SYLMAR SH		70
TAFT SH		1,00
UNIVERSITY SH		76
VAN NUYS MS		16
VAN NUYS SH		72
VENICE SH		71
VERDUGO HILLS SH		52
VIRGIL MS		58.
WASHINGTON PREP SH	•	1,44
WEBSTER MS		30
WESTCHESTER SH		78
WHITE MS		29
WILMINGTON MS		45
		75.58

Crate Contioner's Office	School Mandated	Cost Manual
MANDATE	D COSTS	FORM
NOTIFICATION	OF TRUANCY	NOT-1A
CLAIM SU		1101-17
		<del>_</del>
(01) Clamant: S19265		cal Year:
	Reimbursement X	00 /2001
LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SD	Estimated	•
Claim Statistics		
(03) For each school in the district, enter the numb	ber of Notifications	
(a)		(4)
Name of School		(d)
Name of School		Notifications
WILSON SH		
WRIGHT M/SC AER MAG		647
WRIGHT MS		38
WRIGHT MS		265
		1
		1
		-
	-	76,531

G:\PG\NOT1.PG

F

Adopted: 8/27/87 Amended: 7/28/88 Amended: 7/22/91

> PARAMETERS AND GUIDELINES Chapter 498, Statutes of 1983 Education Code Section 48260.5 Notification of Truancy

### I. SUMMARY OF MANDATE

Chapter 498, Statutes of 1983, added Education Code Section 48260.5 which requires school districts, upon a pupil's initial classification as a truant, to notify the pupil's parent or guardian by first-class mail or other reasonable means of (1) the pupil's truancy; (2) that the reasonable means of (1) the pupil's truancy; (2) that the parent or guardian is obligated to compel the attendance of the pupil at school; and (3) that parents or guardians who fail to meet this obligation may be guilty of an infraction and subject to prosecution pursuant to Article 6 (commencing with section 48290) of Chapter 2 of Part 27.

Additionally, the district must inform parents and guardians of (1) alternative educational programs available in the district, and (2) the right to meet with appropriate school personnel to discuss solutions to the pupil's truancy.

A truancy occurs when a student is absent from school without valid excuse more than three (3) days or is tardy in excess of thirty (30) minutes on each of more than three (3) days in one school year. (Definition from Education Code Section 48260.)

A student shall be initially classified as truant upon the fourth unexcused absence, and the school must at that time perform the requirements mandated in Education Code Section 48260.5 as enacted by Chapter 498, Statutes of 1983.

### II. BOARD OF CONTROL DECISION

On November 29, 1984, the State Board of Control determined that Education code Section 48260.5, as added by Chapter 498, Statutes of 1983, constitutes a state mandated program because it requires an increased level of service by requiring specified notifications be sent to the parents or quardians of pupils upon initial classification of truancy,

### III. ELIGIBLE CLAIMANTS

The claimants are all school districts and county offices of education of the state of California, except a community college district, as defined by Government Code Section 17519 (formerly Revenue and Taxation Code 2208.5), that incur increased costs as a result of implementing the program activities of Education Code Section 48260.5, Chapter 498, Statutes of 1983.

#### IV. PERIOD OF REIMBURSEMENT

Chapter 498, Statutes of 1983, became effective July 28, 1983. Section 17557 of the Government Code provides that a test claim must be submitted on or before December 31 following a given fiscal year to establish eligibility for that fiscal year. The test claim for Education Code Section 48260.5, Chapter 498, Statutes of 1983, was initially filed on August 25, 1984, therefore the reimbursable costs to the school districts are all such permitted costs incurred on or after July 28, 1983.

#### V. REIMBURSABLE COSTS

### A. Scope of Mandate

The eligible claimant shall be reimbursed for only those costs incurred for planning the notification process, revising district procedures, the printing and distribution of notification forms, and associated record keeping.

### B. Reimbursable Activities

For each eligible school district the direct and indirect costs of labor, supplies, and services incurred for the following mandated program activities are reimbursable:

1. Planning and Preparation -- One-time

Planning the method of implementation, revising school district policies, and designing and printing the forms.

### Notification process -- On-going

Identifying the truant pupils to receive the notification, preparing and distributing by mail or other method the forms to parents/guardians, and associated recordkeeping.