

COMMISSION ON STATE MANDATES

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August 5, 2013

Mr. Arthur Palkowitz
Stutz Artiano Shinoff & Holtz
2488 Historic Decatur Road, Suite 200
San Diego, CA 92106

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

**RE: Adopted Statement of Decision, Draft Expedited Parameters and Guidelines,
Schedule for Comments, and Notice of Hearing**
Immunization Records - Pertussis, 11-TC-02
Health & Safety Code Sections 120325 and 120335
Statutes 2010, Chapter 434 (AB 354)
Twin Rivers Unified School District, Claimant

Dear Mr. Palkowitz:

On July 26, 2013, the Commission on State Mandates adopted the statement of decision partially approving the above-entitled matter. State law provides that reimbursement, if any, is subject to Commission approval of parameters and guidelines for reimbursement of the mandated program, approval of a statewide cost estimate, a specific legislative appropriation for such purpose, a timely-filed claim for reimbursement, and subsequent review of the claim by the State Controller's Office.

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

- **Draft Expedited Parameters and Guidelines.** Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 2, section 1183.12, the Commission staff is expediting the parameters and guidelines process by enclosing draft parameters and guidelines to assist the claimant. The proposed reimbursable activities are limited to those approved in the statement of decision by the Commission.
- **Claimant's Review of Draft Parameters and Guidelines.** Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 2, sections 1183.12(b) and (c), the successful test claimant may file modifications and comments on the proposal with Commission staff by **August 26, 2013**. The claimant may also propose a reasonable reimbursement methodology pursuant to Government Code section 17518.5 and California Code of Regulations, title 2, section 1183.13.

State Agencies and Interested Parties Comments. State agencies and interested parties may submit recommendations and comments by **September 10, 2013**. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 1183.11(d).) State agencies and interested parties may also submit recommendations and comments within 15 days of service of the claimant's modifications and comments. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 1183.12(d).)

Claimant Rebuttals to State Agency and Interested Party Comments. The claimant and other interested parties may submit written rebuttals within 15 days of service of state

agency and interested party modifications and comments. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 1183.11(f).)

- **Adoption of Parameters and Guidelines.** After review of the draft expedited parameters and guidelines and all proposed modifications and comments, Commission staff will prepare the proposed parameters and guidelines and statement of decision and recommend adoption by the Commission.

Reasonable Reimbursement Methodology and Statewide Estimate of Costs

- **Test Claimant and Department of Finance Submission of Letter of Intent.** Within 30 days of the Commission's adoption of a statement of decision on a test claim, the test claimant(s) and the Department of Finance may notify the executive director of the Commission in writing of their intent to follow the process described in Government Code sections 17557.1–17557.2 and section 1183.30 of the Commission's regulations to develop a *reasonable reimbursement methodology* and *statewide estimate of costs* for the initial claiming period and budget year for reimbursement of costs mandated by the state. The letter of intent shall include the date on which the test claimant and the Department of Finance will submit a plan to ensure that costs from a representative sample of eligible claimants are considered in the development of a reasonable reimbursement methodology.
- **Test Claimant and Department of Finance Submission of Draft Reasonable Reimbursement Methodology and Statewide Estimate of Costs.** Pursuant to the plan, the test claimant and the Department of Finance shall submit the *Draft Reasonable Reimbursement Methodology and Statewide Estimate of Costs* to the Commission. See Government Code section 17557.1 for guidance in preparing and filing a timely submission.
- **Review of Proposed Reasonable Reimbursement Methodology and Statewide Estimate of Costs.** Upon receipt of the jointly developed proposals, Commission staff shall notify all recipients that they shall have the opportunity to review and provide written comments or recommendations concerning the draft reasonable reimbursement methodology and proposed statewide estimate of costs within fifteen (15) days of service. The test claimant and Department of Finance may submit written rebuttals to Commission staff.
- **Adoption of Reasonable Reimbursement Methodology and Statewide Estimate of Costs.** At least ten days prior to the next hearing, Commission staff shall issue review comments and a staff recommendation on whether the Commission should approve the draft reasonable reimbursement methodology and adopt the proposed statewide estimate of costs pursuant to Government Code section 17557.2.

You are advised that comments filed with the Commission are required to be simultaneously served on the other interested parties on the mailing list, and to be accompanied by a proof of service. However, this requirement may also be satisfied by electronically filing your documents. Please see <http://www.csm.ca.gov/dropbox.shtml> on the Commission's website for instructions on electronic filing. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 1181.2.) If you would like to request an extension of time to file comments, please refer to section 1183.01(c)(1) of the Commission's regulations.

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The parameters and guidelines for this matter are tentatively set for hearing on **December 6, 2013**.

Please contact Heidi Palchik at (916) 323-3562 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heather Halsey", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Heather Halsey
Executive Director

DRAFT EXPEDITED PARAMETERS AND GUIDELINES

Health and Safety Code Sections 120325 and 120335

Statutes 2010, Chapter 434

Immunization Records – Pertussis

11-TC-02

Period of reimbursement begins July 1, 2011

I. SUMMARY OF THE MANDATE

On July 26, 2013, the Commission on State Mandates (Commission) adopted a statement of decision finding that Health and Safety Code section 120335(d), as added and replaced by the test claim statute, imposes a partially reimbursable state-mandated program upon school districts within the meaning of article XIII B, section 6 of the California Constitution and Government Code section 17514. The Commission approved this test claim for the following reimbursable activities:

- A. For fiscal year 2011-2012, only for students entering the 7th through 12th grades:
 - (1) Unconditionally admit students who are fully immunized against pertussis based on records provided by the student's physician or agency performing the immunization, or who have documented a permanent medical exemption or a personal belief exemption to immunization against pertussis.
 - (2) Conditionally admit students that have not been fully immunized against pertussis and have not obtained a permanent medical exemption or a personal belief exemption to immunization if that pupil has a temporary medical exemption or is in the process of receiving doses of the required vaccines.
 - (3) For any student found not to have received all immunizations for pertussis which are required before admission or advancement to grades 7 through 12, or who is found not to have complied with requirements for conditional admission, notify that student's parents or guardians of the requirement to exclude the pupil from school if written evidence of the required immunization for pertussis, or lawful exemption therefrom, is not obtained within 10 school days.
 - (4) Exclude from further attendance any pupil who fails to obtain the required immunizations within 10 school days following notice, unless the pupil is exempt for medical reasons or personal beliefs, until the pupil provides written evidence that he or she has received the pertussis immunization required.
- B. Beginning July 1, 2012, only for students entering the 7th grade:
 - (1) Unconditionally admit students who are fully immunized against pertussis based on records provided by the student's physician or agency performing the immunization, or who have documented a permanent medical exemption or a personal belief exemption to immunization against pertussis.

- (2) Conditionally admit students that have not been fully immunized against pertussis and have not obtained a permanent medical exemption or a personal belief exemption to immunization if that pupil has a temporary medical exemption or is in the process of receiving doses of the required vaccines.
- (3) For any student who is found not to have complied with requirements for conditional admission, notify that student's parents or guardians of the requirement to exclude the pupil from school if written evidence of the required immunization for pertussis, or lawful exemption therefrom, is not obtained within 10 school days.
- (4) Exclude from further attendance any pupil who fails to obtain the required immunizations within 10 school days following notice, unless the pupil is exempt for medical reasons or personal beliefs, until the pupil provides written evidence that he or she has received the pertussis immunization required.

II. ELIGIBLE CLAIMANTS

Any "school district" as defined in Government Code section 17519, except for community colleges, which incurs increased costs as a result of this mandate is eligible to claim reimbursement.

III. PERIOD OF REIMBURSEMENT

Government Code section 17557(e), states that a test claim shall be submitted on or before June 30 following a given fiscal year to establish eligibility for that fiscal year. The claimant, Twin Rivers Unified School District, filed the test claim on September 26, 2011, establishing eligibility for reimbursement for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. However, Health and Safety Code section 120335(d) did become operative until July 1, 2011. Therefore, costs incurred for the activities in these parameters and guidelines are reimbursable after July 1, 2011.

Reimbursement for state-mandated costs may be claimed as follows:

1. Actual costs for one fiscal year shall be included in each claim.
2. Pursuant to Government Code section 17561(d)(1)(A), all claims for reimbursement of initial fiscal year costs shall be submitted to the State Controller within 120 days of the issuance date for the claiming instructions.
3. Pursuant to Government Code section 17560(a), a school district may, by February 15 following the fiscal year in which costs were incurred, file an annual reimbursement claim that details the costs actually incurred for that fiscal year.
4. If revised claiming instructions are issued by the Controller pursuant to Government Code section 17558(c), between November 15 and February 15, a school district filing an annual reimbursement claim shall have 120 days following the issuance date of the revised claiming instructions to file a claim. (Government Code section 17560(b).)
5. If the total costs for a given fiscal year do not exceed \$1,000, no reimbursement shall be allowed except as otherwise allowed by Government Code section 17564(a).
6. There shall be no reimbursement for any period in which the Legislature has suspended the operation of a mandate pursuant to state law.

IV. REIMBURSABLE ACTIVITIES

To be eligible for mandated cost reimbursement for any fiscal year, only actual costs may be claimed. Actual costs are those costs actually incurred to implement the mandated activities. Actual costs must be traceable to and supported by source documents that show the validity of such costs, when they were incurred, and their relationship to the reimbursable activities. A source document is a document created at or near the same time the actual cost was incurred for the event or activity in question. Source documents may include, but are not limited to, employee time records or time logs, sign-in sheets, invoices, and receipts.

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

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

For each eligible claimant that incurs increased costs, the following activities are reimbursable:

A. For fiscal year 2011-2012, only for students entering the 7th through 12th grades:

- (1) Unconditionally admit students who are fully immunized against pertussis based on records provided by the student's physician or agency performing the immunization, or who have documented a permanent medical exemption or a personal belief exemption to immunization against pertussis. This activity includes determining whether a student should be admitted or excluded based on the student's immunization status or exemption from immunization against pertussis only.

This activity does not include activities generally required when admitting students since those are not new.

- (2) Conditionally admit students that have not been fully immunized against pertussis and have not obtained a permanent medical exemption or a personal belief exemption to immunization if that pupil has a temporary medical exemption or is in the process of receiving doses of the required vaccines. This activity includes providing notice to the student's parent of the requirement and deadline for providing written evidence of full immunization or lawful exemption therefrom within 10 school days.

This activity does not include activities generally required when admitting students since those are not new.

- (3) For any student found not to have received all immunizations for pertussis which are required before admission or advancement to grades 7 through 12, or who is found not to have complied with requirements for conditional admission, notify that student's parents or guardians of the requirement to exclude the pupil from school if

written evidence of the required immunization for pertussis, or lawful exemption therefrom, is not obtained within 10 school days.

- (4) Exclude from further attendance any pupil who fails to obtain the required immunizations within 10 school days following notice, unless the pupil is exempt for medical reasons or personal beliefs, until the pupil provides written evidence that he or she has received the pertussis immunization required.

B. Beginning July 1, 2012, only for students entering the 7th grade:

- (1) Unconditionally admit students who are fully immunized against pertussis based on records provided by the student's physician or agency performing the immunization, or who have documented a permanent medical exemption or a personal belief exemption to immunization against pertussis. This activity includes determining whether a student should be admitted or excluded based on the student's immunization status or exemption from immunization against pertussis only.

This activity does not include activities generally required when admitting students since those are not new.

- (2) Conditionally admit students that have not been fully immunized against pertussis and have not obtained a permanent medical exemption or a personal belief exemption to immunization if that pupil has a temporary medical exemption or is in the process of receiving doses of the required vaccines. This activity includes providing notice to the student's parent of the requirement and deadline for providing written evidence of full immunization or lawful exemption therefrom within 10 school days.

This activity does not include activities generally required when admitting students since those are not new.

- (3) For any student who is found not to have complied with requirements for conditional admission, notify that student's parents or guardians of the requirement to exclude the pupil from school if written evidence of the required immunization for pertussis, or lawful exemption therefrom, is not obtained within 10 school days.

- (4) Exclude from further attendance any pupil who fails to obtain the required immunizations within 10 school days following notice, unless the pupil is exempt for medical reasons or personal beliefs, until the pupil provides written evidence that he or she has received the pertussis immunization required.

In addition, the following activities are specifically excluded from reimbursement: (1) reporting the immunization status of students to county health departments or the state; (2) recording and maintaining student immunization records; (3) periodically reviewing student immunization records to ensure compliance with the test claim statute; and (4) referring students or their parents or guardians to medical provider for review of immunization records and provision of required immunizations. These activities are not required by the test claim statutes and are instead addressed by the Department of Public Health ("DPH") regulations¹ that exist to

¹ California Code of Regulations, title 17, sections 6020, 6035, 6040, 6051, 6055, 6065, 6070, and 6075 (Register 2011, No. 26, eff. 6/30/11).

implement and interpret the test claim statutes. The Commission concluded in the test claim statement of decision that the DPH regulations were not properly pled and therefore beyond the Commission's jurisdiction.²

V. CLAIM PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION

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

A. Direct Cost Reporting

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

1. Salaries and Benefits

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

2. Materials and Supplies

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

3. Contracted Services

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

4. Fixed Assets

Report the purchase price paid for fixed assets (including computers) necessary to implement the reimbursable activities. The purchase price includes taxes, delivery costs, and installation costs. If the fixed asset is also used for purposes other than the reimbursable activities, only the pro-rata portion of the purchase price used to implement the reimbursable activities can be claimed.

5. Travel

Report the name of the employee traveling for the purpose of the reimbursable activities. Include the date of travel, destination, the specific reimbursable activity requiring travel,

² Test Claim Statement of Decision, at pp. 11-12.

and related travel expenses reimbursed to the employee in compliance with the rules of the local jurisdiction. Report employee travel time according to the rules of cost element A.1., Salaries and Benefits, for each applicable reimbursable activity.

B. Indirect Cost Rates

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

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

School districts must use the California Department of Education approved indirect cost rate for the year that funds are expended.

VI. RECORD RETENTION

Pursuant to Government Code section 17558.5(a), a reimbursement claim for actual costs filed by a local agency or school district pursuant to this chapter³ is subject to the initiation of an audit by the Controller no later than three years after the date that the actual reimbursement claim is filed or last amended, whichever is later. However, if no funds are appropriated or no payment is made to a claimant for the program for the fiscal year for which the claim is filed, the time for the Controller to initiate an audit shall commence to run from the date of initial payment of the claim. In any case, an audit shall be completed not later than two years after the date that the audit is commenced. All documents used to support the reimbursable activities, as described in Section IV, must be retained during the period subject to audit. If an audit has been initiated by the Controller during the period subject to audit, the retention period is extended until the ultimate resolution of any audit findings.

VII. OFFSETTING REVENUES AND REIMBURSEMENTS

Any offsets the claimant experiences in the same program as a result of the same statutes or executive orders found to contain the mandate shall be deducted from the costs claimed. In addition, reimbursement for this mandate from any source, including but not limited to, service fees collected, federal funds, and other state funds, shall be identified and deducted from this claim.

VIII. STATE CONTROLLER'S CLAIMING INSTRUCTIONS

Pursuant to Government Code section 17558(b), the Controller shall issue claiming instructions for each mandate that requires state reimbursement not later than 90 days after receiving the adopted parameters and guidelines from the Commission, to assist local agencies and school

³ This refers to Title 2, division 4, part 7, chapter 4 of the Government Code.

districts in claiming costs to be reimbursed. The claiming instructions shall be derived from the test claim decision and the parameters and guidelines adopted by the Commission.

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

IX. REMEDIES BEFORE THE COMMISSION

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

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

X. LEGAL AND FACTUAL BASIS FOR THE PARAMETERS AND GUIDELINES

The statements of decision adopted for the test claim and parameters and guidelines are legally binding on all parties and provide the legal and factual basis for the parameters and guidelines. The support for the legal and factual findings is found in the administrative record. The administrative record is on file with the Commission.