

Adopted: 1/29/98
Amended: 1/29/10

Amendment to Parameters and Guidelines

Education Code Sections 48262 and 48264.5

Statutes 1975, Chapter 1184
Statutes 1994, Chapter 1023

Habitual Truant

05-PGA-51 (CSM-4487 and 4487A)

This amendment is effective beginning with claims filed for the July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006 period of reimbursement

I. SUMMARY OF THE MANDATE SOURCE

Chapter 1184, Statutes of 1975, added former Education Code section 12403, and Chapter 1010, Statutes of 1976, recodified this section as Education Code Section 48262. Section 48262 defines *habitual truant* and states that, no pupil shall be deemed a *habitual truant*, unless school districts make a "conscientious effort" to hold at least one conference with the pupil's parent or guardian and the pupil.

Chapter 1023, Statutes of 1994, added Education Code section 48264.5. Subdivision (d) of this section requires school districts to classify a pupil as a habitual truant as defined in Education Code Section 48262 upon the pupil's fourth truancy within the same school year.

II. COMMISSION ON STATE MANDATES DECISION

The Commission on State Mandates, in the Statement of Decision adopted at the September 25, 1997 hearing, determined that Education Code sections 48262 and 48264.5 subdivision (d), impose a reimbursable state mandated new program or higher level of service upon school districts within the meaning of section 6, article XIII B of the California Constitution and section 17514 of the Government Code.

III. 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.

IV. PERIOD OF REIMBURSEMENT

This amendment is effective beginning with claims filed for the July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006 period of reimbursement.

Section 17557 of the Government Code states that a test claim must be submitted on or before December 31 following a fiscal year to establish eligibility for that fiscal year. The test claim for this mandate was submitted on September 28, 1995 and was amended on December 16, 1996. Therefore, all mandated costs incurred on or after July 1, 1995, for compliance with Education Code sections 48262 and 48264.5, subdivision (d), are eligible for reimbursement.

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

If the total costs for a given fiscal year do not exceed \$200, no reimbursement shall be allowed, except as otherwise allowed by Government Code section 17564.

V. REIMBURSABLE COSTS

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

Evidence corroborating the source documents may include, but is not limited to, worksheets, cost allocation reports (system generated), purchase orders, contracts, agendas, training packets, and declarations. Declarations must include a certification or declaration stating, "I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct based upon personal knowledge." 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 school district, the direct and indirect costs of labor, supplies and services incurred for the following mandate components are reimbursable:

A. Verifying Prior Truancies

Review of school district records to verify that the pupil has been reported as a truant at least four times during the same school year.

B. Making a Conscientious Effort to Schedule a Parent Conference

Make a conscientious effort to schedule a conference with the pupil's parent or guardian, the pupil and an appropriate school district employee, by:

- 1 Sending notice (by certified mail, if necessary) to the pupil's parent or guardian inviting the parent or guardian and the pupil to attend a conference with an appropriate school district employee; and
- 2 Making a final effort to schedule a conference by placing a telephone call to the parent/guardian, and by placing return calls to the parent/guardian.

C. Scheduling and Holding a Conference

If a conscientious effort results in the parent's or guardian's agreement to confer, schedule and hold a conference.

D. Reclassifying Pupils

After the school district has made a conscientious effort to schedule a conference (whether or not this effort resulted in a conference), reclassify the pupil as a habitual truant.

VI. CLAIM PREPARATION

Each claim for reimbursement pursuant to this mandate must be timely filed and set forth a listing of each item for which reimbursement is claimed under this mandate.

A. Reporting by Components

Claimed costs must be allocated according to the four components of reimbursable activity described in Section V.

B. Supporting Documentation

Claimed costs should be supported by the following information:

1. Employee Salaries and Benefits

Identify the employee(s) and the corresponding job classification(s), describe the mandated functions performed, and specify the actual number of hours devoted to each function, the productive hourly rate, and the related benefits. The average number of hours devoted to each function may be claimed if supported by a documented time study.

2. Materials and Supplies

Only expenditures that can be identified as direct costs of this mandate may be claimed. List the cost of materials consumed or expended specifically for the purpose of this mandate.

3. Contracted Services

Give the name(s) of the contractor(s) who performed the service(s). Describe the activities performed by each named contractor, and give the number of actual hours spent on the activities. Show the inclusive dates when services were performed and itemize all costs for those services.

4. Allowable Overhead Cost

- a. School districts must use the J-380 (or subsequent replacement) non-restrictive indirect cost rate provisionally approved by the California Department of Education.
- b. County Offices of Education must use the J-580 (or subsequent replacement) non-restrictive indirect cost rate provisionally approved by the California Department of Education.

C. Cost Accounting Statistics

The State Controller is directed to include in its claiming instructions each year the requirement that claimants report to the State Controller the number of pupils verified to have been reported as a truant at least four times during the same school year. This information is being collected for the purpose of establishing a database for potential future reimbursement based on prospective rates. The claiming instructions shall request that claimants send a copy of the completed form HT-1 for each of the initial years' reimbursement claims by mail or facsimile to the Commission on State Mandates, 1300 I Street, Suite 950, Sacramento, CA 95814, Facsimile number: (916) 445-0278. Providing this information is not a condition of payment; however, claimants are encouraged to provide this information to enable the Commission to develop a statewide cost estimate and recommend an appropriation to the Legislature.

VII. RECORD RETENTION

Pursuant to Government Code section 17558.5, subdivision (a), a reimbursement claim for actual costs filed by a local agency or school district pursuant to this chapter¹ 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 V, must be retained during the period subject to audit. If the Controller has initiated an audit during the period subject to audit, the retention period is extended until the ultimate resolution of any audit findings.

VIII. OFFSETTING SAVINGS AND OTHER REIMBURSEMENTS

Any offsetting savings the claimant experiences as a direct result of this mandate must be deducted from the costs claimed. In addition, reimbursement for this mandate received 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.

IX. REQUIRED CERTIFICATION

An authorized representative of the claimant will be required to provide a certification of claim, as specified in the State Controller's claiming instructions, for those costs mandated by the state contained herein.

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