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## Model Notification of Rights for Elementary and Secondary Schools

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records maintained by the school. These rights transfer to the eligible student when he/she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level.

Parents or eligible students should submit to the School principal [or appropriate school official] a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The School official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. Schools are not required to provide copies of records unless, for reasons such as great distance, it is impossible for parents or eligible students to review the records. Schools may charge a fee for copies.

2. The right to request that a school correct the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading.

Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the School to correct a record should write the School principal [or appropriate school official], clearly identify the part of the record they want corrected, and specify why it should be corrected. If the School decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the School will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing. After the hearing, if the school still decides not to amend the records, the parent or eligible student has the right to place a statement with the records setting forth his/her view about the contested information.

3. Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student's education records. However, FERPA permits schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions,:

- School officials with legitimate education interest;
- Other schools to which a student is transferring;
- Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;
- Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;
- Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;
- Accrediting organizations;
- To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;
- Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and
- State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes of the student's enrollment or transfer.

Schools may disclose, without consent, "directory" information such as a student's name, address, telephone number, date of birth, email address, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic

teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, and the most recent previous public private school attended by the student. However, schools must inform parents and eligible students about directory information and allow parents and eligible students a reasonable amount of time to request that the school not disclose directory information about them. School official must notify parents and eligible students annually of their rights under FERPA. The actual means of notification is left to the discretion of each school.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202-8520

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## STATUTORY ATTENDANCE OPTIONS

Prepared by the California Department of Education

### CHOOSING YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL

#### A Summary of School Attendance Alternatives in California

California law [EC § 48980(h)] requires all school boards to inform each pupil's parents/guardians at the beginning of the school year of the various ways in which they may choose schools for their children to attend other than the ones assigned by school districts. Pupils that attend schools other than those assigned by the districts are referred to as "transfer pupils" throughout this notification. There is one process for choosing a school within the district which the parents/guardians live (intradistrict transfer), and three separate processes for selecting schools in other districts (interdistrict transfer). The general requirements and limitations of each process are described below.

#### Choosing a School Within the District in Which Parents/Guardians Live

The law (EC § 35160.5(b) (1) requires the school board of each district to establish a policy that allows parents/guardians to choose the schools their children will attend, regardless of where the parents/ guardians live in the district. The law limits choice within a school district as follows:

- Pupils who live in the attendance area of a school must be given priority to attend that school over pupils who do not live in the school's attendance area.
- In cases in which there are more requests to attend a school than there are openings, the selection process must be "random and unbiased," which generally means pupils must be selected through a lottery process rather than on a first-come, first-served basis. A district cannot use a pupil's academic or athletic performance as a reason to accept or reject a transfer.
- Each district must decide the number of openings at each school which can be filled by transfer pupils. Each district also has the authority to keep appropriate racial and ethnic balances among its schools, meaning that a district can deny a transfer request if it would upset this balance or would leave the district out of compliance with a court-ordered or voluntary desegregation program.
- A district is not required to provide transportation assistance to a pupil that transfers to another school in the district under these provisions.
- If a transfer is denied, a parent/guardian does not have an automatic right to appeal the decision. A district may, however, voluntarily decide to put in place a process for parents/guardians to appeal a decision.

## Choosing a School Outside the District in Which Parents/Guardians Live

Parents/guardians have four different options for choosing a school outside the district in which they live. The three options are described below:

### 1. Interdistrict Transfers (Discretionary)

The law (EC §§46600 through 46607) allows two or more school boards to enter into an agreement, for a term of up to five years, for the transfer of one or more pupils between districts. The agreement must specify the terms and conditions for granting or denying transfers. The district in which the parent/guardian lives may issue an individual permit under the terms of the agreement, or district policy, for transfer and for the applicable period of time. The permit is valid upon endorsement by the district of proposed attendance. The law on interdistrict transfers also provides for the following:

- If either district denies a transfer request, a parent/guardian may appeal that decision to the county board of education. There are specified timelines in the law for filing an appeal and for the county board of education to make a decision.
- No district is required to provide transportation to a pupil who transfers into the district.

### 2. Parental Employment Transfers (Discretionary)

The law (EC §48204(b)) provides that a school district may deem a pupil as having complied with the residency requirements for school attendance if one or both parents/guardians of a pupil are physically employed within the boundaries of the district for a minimum of 10 hours during a school week. A school district is not required to accept a pupil requesting a transfer on this basis, but a pupil may not be rejected on the basis of race, ethnicity, sex, parental income, academic achievement, or any other "arbitrary" consideration. Other provisions of the EC § 48204(b) includes:

- Either the district in which the parent/guardian lives or the district in which the parent/guardian works may prohibit the transfer if it is determined that there would be a negative impact on the district's court-ordered or voluntary desegregation plan.
- The district in which the parent/guardian works may reject a transfer if it determines that the additional cost of educating the pupil would be more than the amount of government funds the district would receive for educating the pupil.
- There are set limits (based on total enrollment) on the net number of pupils that may transfer out of a district in any school year, unless the sending district approves a greater number of transfers.
- There is no required appeal process for a transfer that is denied. However, the district that declines to admit a pupil is encouraged to identify, and communicate in writing to the parent/guardian the specific reasons for denying the transfer.
- Once a pupil is deemed to have complied with the residency requirements for school attendance based on one or both parents or guardians being employed within the boundaries of the district and the pupil is enrolled in a school in a school district whose boundaries include the location where one or both parents of the pupil is employed, the pupil does not have to reapply in the next school year to attend a school within that school district and the district shall allow the pupil to attend school through the 12<sup>th</sup> grade in that district if one or both of the pupil's parents or guardians continues to be employed within the attendance boundaries of the school district, subject to certain conditions.

### 3. Districts of Choice (Discretionary)

The law (EC §§48300 through 48318) allows each school district to become a "*district of choice*" --that is, a district that accepts transfer pupils from outside the district under the terms of a resolution. A school board that decides to become a "*district of choice*" must determine the number of pupils it is willing to accept in this category each year and make sure that the pupils are selected through a "random and unbiased" process, which generally means a lottery process. Pupils may request transfers into a "*district of choice*" by January 1 of the prior school year.. Other provisions include:

- Either the district of choice or the district of residence may deny a transfer if it will negatively affect the racial and ethnic balance of the district, or a court-ordered or voluntary desegregation plan. The district of residency may also limit the total number of pupils transferring out of the district each year to a specified percentage of its total enrollment, depending on the size of the district.
- The district of choice may not prohibit a transfer based on the additional cost of educating the pupil but may prohibit a transfer if it would require the district to create a new program, except that a school district of choice shall not reject the transfer of a special needs pupil and an English learner.
- No pupil who currently attends a school or lives within the attendance area of a school can be forced out of that school to make room for a pupil transferring under these provisions.
- Siblings of pupils already attending school in the "*district of choice*" must be given transfer priority. Children of military personnel may also be given priority.
- A parent/guardian may request transportation assistance within the boundaries of the "*district of choice.*" The district may provide transportation only to the extent it already does so.

The above summary of the attendance alternatives available to parents/guardians and their children is intended to provide them with an overview of the laws applying to each alternative. Any parents/guardians, who are interested in securing more information about these options, districts' policies or procedures, and timelines for applying for transfers, should contact their own school district, or the district they may be thinking about transferring into.

#### 4. Open Enrollment

The law (EC §48350 et seq.) authorizes the parent/guardian of a pupil enrolled in a low-achieving school, as defined, to submit an application for the pupil to attend a school in a school district of enrollment, as defined. Other provisions include:

- An application requesting a transfer must be submitted by the parent of a pupil to the school district of enrollment prior to January 1 of the school year preceding the school year for which the pupil is requesting a transfer. The application deadline does not apply to a request for transfer if the parent is enlisted in the military and was relocated by the military within 90 days prior to submitting the transfer application.
- The application may request enrollment of the pupil in a specific school or program within the school district.
- A pupil may enroll in a school in the school district of enrollment in the school year immediately following the approval of the transfer application.
- A school district of enrollment shall establish a period of time to provide priority enrollment for pupils residing in the school district prior to accepting transfer applications.
- The school district of residence in which the pupil resides or a school district of enrollment to which a pupil has applied to attend may prohibit the transfer of the pupil or limit the number of pupils who transfer if the governing board of the district determines that the transfer would negatively impact a court-ordered or voluntary desegregation plan, the racial and ethnic balance of the district.
- A resident pupil who is enrolled in one of the district's schools shall not be required to submit an application in order to remain enrolled.
- Pupil applying for a transfer shall be assigned priority for approval as follows:
  - a. First priority for the siblings of children who already attend the desired school.
  - b. Second priority for pupils transferring from a program improvement school ranked in decile 1.
  - c. If the number of pupils who request a particular school exceeds the number of spaces available at that school, a lottery shall be conducted in the group priority order identified in (a) and (b), above, until all available spaces are filled.
- Initial applications for transfer to a school within a school district of enrollment shall not be approved if the transfer would require displacement from the desired school of any other pupil who resides within the attendance area of that school or is currently enrolled in that school.
- A pupil approved for a transfer to a school district of enrollment shall be deemed to have fulfilled the residency requirements for school attendance.

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**Effective: January 1, 2012**

West's Annotated California Codes Currentness

Education Code (Refs & Annos)

Title 2. Elementary and Secondary Education (Refs & Annos)

Division 4. Instruction and Services (Refs & Annos)

Part 27. Pupils (Refs & Annos)

▣ Chapter 2. Compulsory Education Law (Refs & Annos)

▣ Article 1. Persons Included (Refs & Annos)

→→ **§ 48205. Excused absences; average daily attendance computation**

(a) Notwithstanding Section 48200, a pupil shall be excused from school when the absence is:

(1) Due to his or her illness.

(2) Due to quarantine under the direction of a county or city health officer.

(3) For the purpose of having medical, dental, optometrical, or chiropractic services rendered.

(4) For the purpose of attending the funeral services of a member of his or her immediate family, so long as the absence is not more than one day if the service is conducted in California and not more than three days if the service is conducted outside California.

(5) For the purpose of jury duty in the manner provided for by law.

(6) Due to the illness or medical appointment during school hours of a child of whom the pupil is the custodial parent.

(7) For justifiable personal reasons, including, but not limited to, an appearance in court, attendance at a funeral service, observance of a holiday or ceremony of his or her religion, attendance at religious retreats, attendance at an employment conference, or attendance at an educational conference on the legislative or judicial process offered by a nonprofit organization when the pupil's absence is requested in writing by the parent or guardian and approved by the principal or a designated representative pursuant to uniform standards established by the governing board.

(8) For the purpose of serving as a member of a precinct board for an election pursuant to Section 12302 of the Elections Code.

(9) For the purpose of spending time with a member of the pupil's immediate family, who is an active duty member of the uniformed services, as defined in Section 49701, and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from, deployment to a combat zone or combat support position. Absences granted pursuant to this paragraph shall be granted for a period of time to be determined at the discretion of the superintendent of the school district.

(b) A pupil absent from school under this section shall be allowed to complete all assignments and tests missed during the absence that can be reasonably provided and, upon satisfactory completion within a reasonable period of time, shall be given full credit therefor. The teacher of the class from which a pupil is absent shall determine which tests and assignments shall be reasonably equivalent to, but not necessarily identical to, the tests and assignments that the pupil missed during the absence.

(c) For purposes of this section, attendance at religious retreats shall not exceed four hours per semester.

(d) Absences pursuant to this section are deemed to be absences in computing average daily attendance and shall not generate state apportionment payments.

(e) "Immediate family," as used in this section, has the same meaning as set forth in Section 45194, except that references therein to "employee" shall be deemed to be references to "pupil."

(Added by Stats.1979, c. 236, p. 491, § 2. Amended by Stats.1986, c. 112, § 1; Stats.1987, c. 1452, § 412; Stats.1990, c. 315 (S.B.2706), § 1; Stats.1994, c. 134 (A.B.2466), § 1; Stats.1998, c. 846 (S.B.1468), § 17, eff. Sept. 25, 1998; Stats.1999, c. 312 (S.B.1208), § 1; Stats.2007, c. 204 (S.B.278), § 1; Stats.2011, c. 610 (A.B.387), § 1.)

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## NOTICE OF ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS

### California Education Code Section 58501

*The following notice must be sent along with the Notification to Parents and Guardians required by EC § 48980. Further, a copy shall be posted in at least two places normally visible to pupils, teachers, and visiting parents in each attendance unit for the entire month of March in each year.*

California state law authorizes all school districts to provide for alternative schools. Section 58500 of the Education Code defines alternative school as a school or separate class group within a school which is operated in a manner designed to:

- (a) Maximize the opportunity for students to develop the positive values of self-reliance, initiative, kindness, spontaneity, resourcefulness, courage, creativity, responsibility, and joy.
- (b) Recognize that the best learning takes place when the student learns because of his/her desire to learn.
- (c) Maintain a learning situation maximizing student self-motivation and encouraging the student in his/her own time to follow his/her own interests. These interests may be conceived by him/her totally and independently or may result in whole or part from a presentation by his/her teachers of choices of learning projects.
- (d) Maximize the opportunity for teachers, parents, and students to cooperatively develop the learning process and its subject matter. This opportunity shall be a continuous, permanent process.
- (e) Maximize the opportunity for the students, teachers, and parents to continuously react to the changing world, including but not limited to the community in which the school is located.

In the event any parent, pupil, or teacher is interested in further information concerning alternative schools, the county superintendent of schools, the administrative office of this district, and the principal's office in each attendance unit have copies of the law available for your information. This law particularly authorizes interested persons to request the governing board of the district to establish alternative school programs in each district.

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## Type 2 Diabetes Information

Pursuant to California *Education Code* Section 49452.7, this type 2 diabetes information is for local educational agencies to provide to parents and guardians of incoming seventh grade students beginning July 1, 2010.

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The California Department of Education developed this type 2 diabetes information in collaboration with the California Department of Public Health, American Diabetes Association, California School Nurses Organization, and Children's Hospital of Orange County. Also see available translations of this information.

### Description

Type 2 diabetes is the most common form of diabetes in adults.

Until a few years ago, type 2 diabetes was rare in children, but it is becoming more common, especially for overweight teens.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), one in three American children born after 2000 will develop type 2 diabetes in his or her lifetime.

Type 2 diabetes affects the way the body is able to use sugar (glucose) for energy.

The body turns the carbohydrates in food into glucose, the basic fuel for the body's cells.

The pancreas makes insulin, a hormone that moves glucose from the blood to the cells.

In type 2 diabetes, the body's cells resist the effects of insulin, and blood glucose levels rise.

Over time, glucose reaches dangerously high levels in the blood, which is called hyperglycemia.

Hyperglycemia can lead to health problems like heart disease, blindness, and kidney failure.

### Risk Factors Associated with Type 2 Diabetes

It is recommended that students displaying or possibly experiencing the risk factors and warning signs associated with type 2 diabetes be screened (tested) for the disease.

#### Risk Factors

Researchers do not completely understand why some people develop type 2 diabetes and others do not; however, the following risk factors are associated with an increased risk of type 2 diabetes in children:

**Being overweight.** The single greatest risk factor for type 2 diabetes in children is excess weight. In the U.S., almost one out of every five children is overweight. The chances are more than double that an overweight child will develop diabetes.

**Family history of diabetes.** Many affected children and youth have at least one parent with diabetes or have a significant family history of the disease.

**Inactivity.** Being inactive further reduces the body's ability to respond to insulin.

**Specific racial/ethnic groups.** Native Americans, African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, or Asian/Pacific Islanders are more prone than other ethnic groups to develop type 2 diabetes.

**Puberty.** Young people in puberty are more likely to develop type 2 diabetes than younger children, probably because of normal rises in hormone levels that can cause insulin resistance during this stage of rapid growth and physical development.

## **Warning Signs and Symptoms Associated with Type 2 Diabetes**

Warning signs and symptoms of type 2 diabetes in children develop slowly, and initially there may be no symptoms. However, not everyone with insulin resistance or type 2 diabetes develops these warning signs, and not everyone who has these symptoms necessarily has type 2 diabetes.

Increased hunger, even after eating

Unexplained weight loss

Increased thirst, dry mouth, and frequent urination

Feeling very tired

Blurred vision

Slow healing of sores or cuts

Dark velvety or ridged patches of skin, especially on the back of the neck or under the arms

Irregular periods, no periods, and/or excess facial and body hair growth in girls

High blood pressure or abnormal blood fats levels

## **Type 2 Diabetes Prevention Methods and Treatments**

Healthy lifestyle choices can help prevent and treat type 2 diabetes. Even with a family history of diabetes, eating healthy foods in the correct amounts and exercising regularly can help children achieve or maintain a normal weight and normal blood glucose levels.

Eat healthy foods. Make wise food choices. Eat foods low in fat and calories.

Get more physical activity. Increase physical activity to at least 60 minutes every day.

Take medication. If diet and exercise are not enough to control the disease, it may be necessary to treat type 2 diabetes with medication.

The first step in treating type 2 diabetes is to visit a doctor. A doctor can determine if a child is overweight based on the child's age, weight, and height. A doctor can also request tests of a child's blood glucose to see if the child has diabetes or pre-diabetes (a condition which may lead to type 2 diabetes).

## **Types of Diabetes Screening Tests That Are Available**

Glycated hemoglobin (A1C) test. A blood test measures the average blood sugar level over two to three months. An A1C level of 6.5 percent or higher on two separate tests indicates diabetes.

Random (non-fasting) blood sugar test. A blood sample is taken at a random time. A random blood sugar level of 200 milligrams per deciliter (mg/dL) or higher suggests diabetes. This test must be confirmed with a fasting blood glucose test.

Fasting blood sugar test. A blood sample is taken after an overnight fast. A fasting blood sugar level less than 100 mg/dL is normal. A level of 100 to 125 mg/dL is considered pre-diabetes. A level of 126 mg/dL or higher on two separate tests indicates diabetes.

Oral glucose tolerance test. A test measuring the fasting blood sugar level after an overnight fast with periodic testing for the next several hours after drinking a sugary liquid. A reading of more than 200 mg/dL after two hours indicates diabetes.

Type 2 diabetes in children is a preventable/treatable disease and the guidance provided in this information sheet is intended to raise awareness about this disease. Contact your student's school nurse, school administrator, or health care provider if you have questions.