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## SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Benjamin Allen, Chair

2017 - 2018 Regular

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<b>Bill No:</b>	AB 2235	<b>Hearing Date:</b>	June 13, 2018
<b>Author:</b>	Quirk-Silva		
<b>Version:</b>	May 16, 2018		
<b>Urgency:</b>	No	<b>Fiscal:</b>	Yes
<b>Consultant:</b>	Ian Johnson		

**Subject:** County community schools: funding.

### SUMMARY

This bill requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) to transfer the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) apportionment amount for county community school students from the school district of residence to the county office of education (COE). Further, the bill authorizes the SPI to transfer an alternative amount from the school district of residence to the COE upon a mutual agreement.

### BACKGROUND

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes county community schools, which are public schools that are run by COEs. These schools educate students in kindergarten through grade twelve, including students who are expelled from school or who are referred because of attendance or behavior problems, are homeless, on probation or parole, and who are not attending any school. Parents or guardians also may request that their child attend a county community school.
- 2) Establishes the LCFF for COEs, which includes funding for county community school students who are enrolled due to being on probation or parole or expelled from a district school.
- 3) Provides that the attendance of students at a county community school that are not on probation or parole or expelled shall be credited to the school district of residence.

### ANALYSIS

This bill requires the SPI to transfer the LCFF apportionment amount for county community school students from the school district of residence to the COE. Further, the bill authorizes the SPI to transfer an alternative amount from the school district of residence to the COE upon a mutual agreement.

### STAFF COMMENTS

- 1) ***Need for the bill.*** According to the author's office, the purpose of this bill is to restore the requirement that funding be transferred to the COEs that operate the schools of attendance. Because some counties have already negotiated

alternative local transfer amounts, the bill authorizes school districts and county offices of education (COEs) to continue to do so.

- 2) ***What role do county community schools play?*** County community schools are public schools that are run by COEs. The purpose of county community schools is to provide an education to students who are expelled from their regular schools, referred by a School Attendance Review Board or by probation, on probation or parole and not attending any school, homeless, or enrolled at the request of the student's parent or guardian.

County community schools' educational programs are characteristically student-centered and adapted to meet individual needs. A minimum day's program is 240 minutes. Students are provided with learning opportunities in academic skills, independent life skills, positive self-concepts, and effective relationships with others. Although students may graduate from county community schools, the programs are designed to help students transition to appropriate educational, training, or employment settings after their attendance in the county community school. The COE, community, and receiving school districts are frequently involved in program planning and transition services.

- 3) ***More funding certainty for county community schools.*** While state law designates COEs as the providers of education for students who are on probation, referred by a probation department, or mandatorily expelled from their school—COEs receive direct state funding to serve these students—the state also allows COEs to enroll other at-risk students in their county community schools. For these other students, COEs must develop local agreements under which the students' home districts reimburse them for associated education costs.

Prior to the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) directly credited a COE for any student it served. To provide clearer delineations of which students would be served by COEs versus districts for funding and accountability purposes, the LCFF provides definitions of which students will be credited to COEs versus school districts.

This bill requires the SPI to credit COEs for students they serve who are under school district jurisdiction, rather than school districts, unless an alternative agreement meeting certain requirements is established.

## **SUPPORT**

Orange County Office of Education (sponsor)  
California Association of School Business Officials  
Los Angeles County Office of Education

## **OPPOSITION**

None received