
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Benjamin Allen, Chair

2017 - 2018 Regular

Bill No: AB 3096 **Hearing Date:** June 27, 2018
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Urgency: No **Fiscal:** Yes
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Subject: School Accountability Report Card.

SUMMARY

This bill eliminates duplicative reporting requirements for schools and school districts and streamlines the development of the School Accountability Report Card (SARC) by requiring the California Department of Education (CDE) to annually complete a SARC for each school and make the SARCs available online.

BACKGROUND

Existing law:

- 1) Requires every school to produce a School Accountability Report Card, which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - a) Pupil achievement by grade level as measured by statewide standardized tests.
 - b) Progress toward reducing dropout rates.
 - c) Estimated expenditures per pupil and types of services funded.
 - d) Progress toward reducing class size and teaching loads.
 - e) Information regarding the qualifications and assignment of teachers.
 - f) Quality and currency of textbooks and other instructional materials.
 - g) Availability of qualified persons to provide counseling and other pupil support purposes.
 - h) Safety, cleanliness, and adequacy of school facilities.
 - i) Annual number of schooldays dedicated to staff development in the most recent three year period.
 - j) Suspension and expulsion rates for the most recent three year period.
 - k) For secondary schools, the percentage of graduates who have completed the a-g course requirements.

- l) The number of advanced placement courses offered, by subject.
 - m) The Academic Performance Index.
 - n) Contact information pertaining to organized opportunities for parent involvement.
 - o) Career technical education data.
- 2) Existing law requires local educational agencies to adopt and annually revise Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAPs), establishing annual goals and identifying specific actions, in the following eight state priority areas:
- a) The degree to which the teachers of the school district are appropriately assigned and fully credentialed in the subject areas, and, for the pupils they are teaching, every pupil in the school district has sufficient access to the standards-aligned instructional materials, and school facilities are maintained in good repair.
 - b) Implementation of the academic content and performance standards adopted by the state board, including how the programs and services will enable English learners to access the common core academic content standards and the English language development standards, for purposes of gaining academic content knowledge and English language proficiency.
 - c) Parental involvement, including efforts the school district makes to seek parent input in making decisions for the school district and each individual school site, and including how the school district will promote parental participation in programs for unduplicated pupils and individuals with exceptional needs.
 - d) Pupil achievement, as measured by specified metrics at the state level.
 - e) Pupil engagement, as measured by specified metrics at the state level.
 - f) School climate, as measured by specified metrics at the state level and as developed locally.
 - g) The extent to which pupils have access to, and are enrolled in, a broad course of study, including the programs and services developed and provided to unduplicated pupils and individuals with exceptional needs, and the programs and services that are provided to benefit these pupils as a result of the funding received under the Local Control Funding Formula.
 - h) Pupil outcomes, as measured by specified metrics at the state level.
- 3) Requires the California Department of Education

ANALYSIS

This bill eliminates duplicative reporting requirements for schools and school districts and streamlines the development of the School Accountability Report Card (SARC) by requiring the California Department of Education (CDE) to annually complete a SARC for each school and make the SARCs available online. Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Requires each school, commencing with the 2019-20 school year, to annually report on the status of its school safety plan, including the key elements, to the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) by October 31 of each year, and requires the CDE to report the status of the school safety plan, including the key elements, for each school, in the annual SARC.
- 2) Revises the roles for local educational agencies and the CDE in the development of the SARC by:
 - a) Requiring the SPI to develop a standardized SARC intended to simplify the process and make the information more meaningful for the public instead of requiring the CDE to develop a template for local education agencies (LEAs) to use.
 - b) Deletes the requirement that the CDE develop standardized definitions of SARC elements for use by LEAs.
 - c) Requires the SPI to annually post, to the extent possible, the complete and viewable SARC for each school on the Internet by February 1, and requires the SARC to include all of the required data. If data are not included, the SPI shall report reasons to the Department of Finance and the appropriate policy and budget committees of the Legislature with an explanation of why and a description of corrective actions.
 - d) Requires the SARC be designed to allow schools or school districts to download or print the School Accountability Report Card from the Internet.
 - e) Deletes the requirement that the governing board of each school district develop and implement a SARC for each of its schools, but requires the governing board of each district to annually publicize the availability of the SARC completed by the SPI, and notify parents or guardians that a hard copy will be provided upon request.
 - f) Requires each school district that is connected to the Internet to provide a link to the information contained in the School Accountability Report Card on the school district Internet Web site and to furnish a current Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for its Internet Web site to the Superintendent.
 - g) Requires the SPI to develop a template for reporting the specified data on teachers, Williams settlement information, and Safety, cleanliness, and adequacy of school facilities, including any needed maintenance to ensure good repair. The template shall include both of the following:

- i) A field to report the determination of the sufficiency of textbooks and instructional materials.
 - ii) A summary statement of the condition of school facilities. The department shall provide examples of summary statements of the condition of school facilities that are acceptable and examples of these summary statements that are unacceptable.
- 3) Revises the following information on the School Accountability Report Card (SARC):
 - a) Requiring the SARC to contain actual instead of estimated expenditures per pupil, and requires this information to include the per-pupil expenditures of federal, state, and local funds, including actual personnel expenditures and actual nonpersonnel expenditures of federal, state, and local funds, disaggregated by source of funds, but deleting the average of actual salaries paid to certificated instructional personnel at that schoolsite.
 - b) Deletes the requirement that the SARC include Progress toward reducing class sizes and teaching loads over the most recent three year period and instead requires the SARC to just include distribution of class sizes at the schoolsite by grade level and the average class size for one year.
 - c) Reduces the required information on the SARC relating to the numbers of fully credentialed-, emergency credentialed-, and noncredentialed-teachers, and the teacher assignments and misassignments from the most recent three year period to a single year.
 - d) Requires the SARC to include the number of qualified personnel to provide counseling and other pupil support services instead of the availability of qualified personnel to provide counseling and other pupil support services, including the ratio of academic counselors per pupil.
 - e) Reduces Suspension and expulsion rates from the most recent three years to one year.
 - f) Information relating to career technical education, by deleting the list of programs offered by the school district and instead adding a list of career technical education courses offered the school.
 - g) Requires the SARC to include high school dropout rates and high school graduation rates instead of progress toward reducing dropout rates, including the one-year dropout rate over the most recent three-year period and the graduation rate over the most recent three-year period.
 - h) Requires the SARC to have a field in which each school district may include additional information.
- 4) Deletes the following information from the SARC:

- a) The annual number of schooldays dedicated to staff development for the most recent three-year period.
- b) The Academic Performance Index, including the disaggregation of subgroups, and the decile rankings and a comparison of schools.
- c) Contact information pertaining to organized opportunities for parental involvement.
- d) A listing of the primary representative of the career technical advisory committee of the school district and the industries represented.
- e) The following teacher salary information:
 - i) Beginning, median, and highest salary paid to teachers in the district, as reflected in the district's salary scale.
 - ii) The average salary for schoolsite principals in the district.
 - iii) The salary of the district superintendent.
 - iv) Based upon the state summary information provided by the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI), the statewide average salary for the appropriate size and type of district for the following:
 - I) Beginning, midrange, and highest salary paid to teachers.
 - II) Schoolsite principals.
 - III) District superintendents.
 - v) The statewide average of the percentage of school district expenditures allocated for the salaries of administrative personnel for the appropriate size and type of district for the most recent fiscal year, provided by the PI.
 - vi) The percentage allocated under the district's corresponding fiscal year expenditure for the salaries of administrative personnel, as defined the California School Accounting Manual published by the California Department of Education (CDE).
 - vi) The statewide average of the percentage of school district expenditures allocated for the salaries of teachers for the appropriate size and type of district for the most recent fiscal year, provided by the SPI.
 - vii) The percentage expended for the salaries of teachers, as defined in the California School Accounting Manual published by the CDE.

- 5) Deletes the requirement that mandated costs, if any, be reimbursed only if the information in the School Accountability Report Card (SARC) is accurate.
- 6) Deletes requirements for a report that was completed in 2008.
- 7) Deletes the requirement that the State Board of Education (SBE) shall approve definitions for and annually adopt the template for the SARC, and instead requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) to develop definitions for the SARC as well as a timetable for the further development of definitions and data collection procedures.
- 8) Requires the SPI to provide recommendations for changes to CALPADS or a successor system and other data collection mechanisms to ensure that the information will be preserved and available in the future.
- 9) Requires each school district to annually provide publicize the availability of the SARC for each school and notify parents or guardians that a hard copy will be available on request.
- 10) Requires each school district that is connected to the Internet to provide a link to the information contained in the SARC annually, and requires each school district that is not connected to the Internet to make hard copies available annually.
- 11) States that the Legislature finds and declares that this act furthers the purposes of the Classroom Instructional Improvement and Accountability Act.
- 12) Makes technical, clarifying, and conforming changes.
- 13) State Legislative findings and declarations relating to these provisions.

STAFF COMMENTS

- 1) ***Need for the bill.*** According to the author, “Completing existing reporting requirements is a monumental exercise for schools and districts. They engage in complicated and onerous cut-and- paste after the data is collected and stored in various locations throughout the year such as word documents and spreadsheets, downloaded from CALPADS or pulled from SARC and the prior year LCAP. Leveraging the existing data collection system (CALPADS) will free up time for administrators and instead allow districts to devote this additional time to focus on their strengths and opportunities for improvement as reflected on the California School Dashboard, and make strategic improvements in their LCAP annual update as necessary.

The effort to align and streamline, whenever possible, reporting requirements will allow districts to better meet local needs, enhance focus on the state priorities at the school level, and minimize local efforts in meeting state and federal accountability requirements. AB 3096 creates a more aligned reporting system for the SARC as well as a “one-stop” resource for parents and stakeholders to access information about their schools.

This bill will streamline reporting requirements by requiring the California Department of Education (CDE) to develop and annually complete a SARC for each school and make the SARCs available online instead of requiring school districts to annually complete the SARC as a separate report. School districts connected to the Internet would be required to provide a link to the SARC for every school in their districts. The governing boards of school districts would continue to annually publicize the availability of the SARC for each school within their districts and notify parents that a hard copy will be provided upon request. Districts will continue to report the Williams requirements on a stand-alone report on their websites, and will be required to provide the URL to CDE so the department can make the Web site links available via the online SARC.”

- 2) **Background on School Accountability Report Card (SARC).** In November 1988 California voters approved Proposition 98, "The Classroom Instructional Improvement and Accountability Act." In addition to establishing a minimum funding guarantee for public schools and community colleges, Proposition 98 requires each public school to produce a SARC each year. Since Proposition 98 was enacted, subsequent legislation has added to the information that the SARC must provide. Subsequent legislation also required the CDE to develop and the State Board of Education to adopt a template for completing the SARC in order to simplify the process. Currently, the SARC template is 17 pages long and covers all of the statutorily-required information, including measures of pupil outcomes, pupil demographics, conditions of learning, engagement, school site expenditure and salaries, and course offerings.
- 3) **Purpose of this bill.** Since the requirement to produce an annual SARC was established in 1988, other annual reporting requirements have also been established. Specifically, since 2014, school districts have been required to adopt annual Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAPs), and the LCAPs are required to address the eight state priorities described above. As part of their adoption of an annual LCAP, school district governing boards must include, for the school district and each school within the district, a description of: (1) the annual goals to be achieved for each of the state priorities, and (2) the specific actions to be taken during each year of the plan to achieve the goals established. School districts have the discretion to establish what their goals and specific actions will be, and which state priority areas those goals and actions will address.

The eight state priorities are also addressed by the annual Dashboard, which is used to monitor and evaluate individual school performance. The first Dashboard was released in the Fall of 2017. The Dashboard uses state indicators to provide data on student achievement, student engagement, school climate, access to a broad course of study, and college and career readiness. Local indicators are used for basic services and conditions of schools, implementation of state academic content standards, and parent engagement.

Accordingly, there are three separate annual reports that contain much of the same information. Therefore, the purpose of this bill is to streamline data reporting by requiring the CDE to use data that is already collected to populate SARCs for each school. With this change, schools would no longer be

responsible for completing their own School Accountability Report Card (SARCs) and would, instead, put a link to the California Department of Education (CDE)-created SARCs on their Internet web sites.

- 4) ***Williams settlement information.*** SARCs are required to provide information on the condition of school facilities and the availability of textbooks and other instructional materials. This requirement was established by SB 550 (Vasconcellos, Chapter 900, Statutes of 2004) in response to the settlement agreement in *Williams v State of California*, which established new standards and accountability mechanisms to ensure that all California public school students have textbooks and instructional materials and that their schools are clean, safe, and functional. Under existing law, the CDE does not collect this information, and therefore is unable to enter it into SARCs on its own accord. Previous versions of this bill omitted *Williams* settlement information from the SARC completely; however, the author responded to concerns about that omission and amended the bill to retain *Williams* settlement information, as well as information of school facilities. However, staff is informed that concerns remain about the manner in which *Williams* settlement information would be presented on the SARC. *The committee may wish to consider* encouraging the author to continue to work with stakeholders on this issue.
- 5) ***Teacher salary information still available.*** This bill deletes teacher salary information from the SARC. However, each year the CDE gives every California school district and county office of education the opportunity to complete an optional known as "Form J-90." This form requests salary schedule information, employee placement on the salary schedules by full-time equivalents, bargaining unit bonuses paid for selected services, salaries and days of service for school principals and superintendents, and health and welfare benefits by carrier with amounts paid by the district or county office per employee. Participation in this survey is voluntary and thus there is less than 100 percent reporting of all school districts and county offices. Each school district and county office of education is, however, encouraged to respond by written communications from the CDE and from School Services of California, Inc. (SSC), CDE's contracting agency for compilation of this material. Additionally, districts who do not respond and whose average daily attendance (ADA) exceeds 500 are telephoned by SSC staff a minimum of two times and encouraged to complete the survey. CDE's website currently has downloadable data going back 18 years. The most report includes information from 83 percent of school districts and county offices of education, representing 97.96 percent of the state's ADA.

SUPPORT

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson
Association of California School Administrators
California School Boards Association
Project Lead the Way
Riverside County Superintendent of Schools
Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) Administrators Association of California

OPPOSITION

American Civil Liberties Union of California
Children Now
EdVoice
Public Advocates

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