

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 6, 2006

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005—06 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 3036

Introduced by Assembly Member Jones

February 24, 2006

An act to add Chapter 7.5 (commencing with Section 42310) to Part 24 of the Education Code, relating to small schools.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 3036, as amended, Jones. Small schools: grant program.

Existing law requires a county superintendent of schools to make specified computations of funding amounts for each district with fewer than 2,501 units of second principal apportionment average daily attendance, on account of each necessary small school. Existing law also requires a county superintendent of schools to make specified computations of funding amounts for each district with fewer than 2,501 units of average daily attendance, on account of each necessary small high school.

This bill would establish the Small School ~~Implementation and Planning~~ *Planning and Implementation* Grant Program to provide school districts with one-year planning grants to research and develop implementation plans for the establishment of new small schools during an initial year and two-year implementation grants to implement those plans during a subsequent period of two years. The bill would require the Superintendent of Public Instruction, with the approval of the State Board of Education, to administer the program. The program would authorize school districts that intend to open a new small school or that intend to ~~convert~~ *redesign* a school ~~with an enrollment of 1,000 pupils or more, as specified,~~ into one or more

small schools to apply to the Superintendent for one-year planning grants for a minimum of \$25,000 and a maximum of \$50,000 and two-year implementation grants of ~~\$500,000~~ \$250,000 in each of the two years comprising the implementation stage. *The bill would make legislative statements of intent that priority be given to applications, as specified.* The bill would require the Superintendent, upon appropriation of \$25 million for purposes of the program, to allocate ~~\$2.5~~ \$2 million for one-year planning grants and ~~\$22.5~~ \$23 million for two-year implementation grants.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 7.5 (commencing with Section 42310)
2 is added to Part 24 of the Education Code, to read:

3
4 CHAPTER 7.5. SMALL SCHOOL ~~IMPLEMENTATION AND~~
5 ~~PLANNING~~ *PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION* GRANT PROGRAM

6
7 42310. This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the
8 Small School ~~Implementation and Planning~~ *Planning and*
9 *Implementation* Grant Program.

10 42311. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
11 following:

12 (a) Research has shown that school size is an important
13 predictor of pupil success. The research literature clearly states
14 the superiority of small schools as learning environments, *when*
15 *coupled with challenging and engaging curriculum and the*
16 *development of new programs and structures to support pupil*
17 *needs.* Smaller schools reduce the damaging effects of poverty
18 and help pupils narrow the achievement gap between them and
19 pupils from more affluent communities. Small schools provide a
20 climate more conducive to supporting the academic and
21 social-emotional needs of students, developing and implementing
22 innovative, rigorous, and relevant curriculum, and collaboration
23 and ongoing professional development among teachers and
24 administrators. Reducing school size has also been shown to
25 significantly increase the likelihood of success of school reform
26 efforts.

1 (b) A small number of pupils at a school results in all of the
2 following:

- 3 (1) Dramatic decreases in dropout and truancy rates.
- 4 (2) Increases in high school graduation and postsecondary
5 enrollment rates.
- 6 (3) Greater involvement in schools and greater participation in
7 making decisions relating to schools by parents.
- 8 (4) A greater sense of belonging and satisfaction among pupils
9 with regard to their schools.
- 10 (5) Fewer disciplinary problems.
- 11 (6) Decreases in crimes, violence, and gang participation.
- 12 (7) Decreases in the incidence of alcohol and tobacco use.
- 13 (8) Increases in pupil attendance.

14 (c) Communities and school districts throughout the state are
15 actively exploring the possibility of or are establishing small
16 schools as a strategic part of their school reform efforts. A
17 significant barrier to more widespread implementation of small
18 schools, however, is the lack of funding for thoughtful and
19 inclusive planning and implementation, which is a critical
20 component if schools are to develop a strong academic program
21 that will serve the needs of all pupils and be sustainable over
22 time.

23 42312. For purposes of this chapter, “small school” means a
24 school with an annual enrollment of less than 500 pupils.

25 42313. (a) The Small School Implementation and Planning
26 Grant Program is hereby established to provide school districts
27 with one-year planning grants to research and develop
28 implementation plans for the establishment of new small schools
29 during an initial year and two-year implementation grants to
30 implement those plans during a subsequent period of two years.

31 (b) The program shall be administered by the Superintendent,
32 subject to approval by the state board.

33 (c) A school district that intends to open a new small school or
34 that intends to ~~convert a school with an enrollment of 1,000~~
35 ~~pupils or more~~ *redesign a school, pursuant to subparagraphs (A)*
36 *to (C), inclusive, of paragraph (1) of subdivision (e) or*
37 *subparagraphs (A) to (D), inclusive, of paragraph (1) of*
38 *subdivision (f), into two or more small schools may apply to the*
39 Superintendent for funding pursuant to this chapter.

1 (d) Upon appropriation of twenty-five million dollars
 2 (\$25,000,000) for purposes of this chapter, the Superintendent
 3 ~~shall allocate two million five hundred thousand dollars~~
 4 ~~(\$2,500,000) million for one-year planning grants and~~
 5 ~~twenty-two million five hundred thousand dollars (\$22,500,000)~~
 6 ~~million for two-year implementation grants.~~ *shall allocate two*
 7 *million dollars (\$2,000,000) for one-year planning grants and*
 8 *twenty three million dollars (\$23,000,000) for two-year*
 9 *implementation grants.*

10 (e) (1) The Superintendent shall select school districts to
 11 receive one-year planning grants of an amount of a minimum
 12 twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) and a maximum of fifty
 13 thousand dollars (\$50,000). *It is the intent of the Legislature that*
 14 *priority be given to applications that meet one or more of the*
 15 *following criteria:*

16 (A) *Propose to establish a new school or redesign an existing*
 17 *school serving pupils in the attendance area of a school ranked*
 18 *in any of deciles 1 to 3, inclusive, of the Academic Performance*
 19 *Index, as defined in Section 52052.*

20 (B) *Propose to establish a new school or redesign an existing*
 21 *school serving pupils in the attendance area of a school deemed*
 22 *critically overcrowded.*

23 (C) *Propose to establish a new school or redesign an exiting*
 24 *school serving pupils in the attendance area of a school that has*
 25 *a demonstrated achievement gap with a significant number of*
 26 *subgroups of pupils performing below grade level.*

27 (2) A school district may use the one-year planning grant for
 28 purposes of creating a design team comprised of ~~appropriate~~
 29 ~~interested parties~~ *representatives of all interested parties,*
 30 *including parents, community members, teachers, other school*
 31 *staff, and pupils to do all of the following:*

32 (A) Research small school implementation strategies.

33 (B) Conduct site visits to model small schools.

34 (C) Investigate successful small school models and determine
 35 which model best meets the needs of pupils in that community.

36 (D) Convene community meetings to collaborate and plan
 37 regarding the establishment of a small school.

38 (E) Consult with experts in curriculum, instruction, and
 39 structural models for small schools.

1 (f) (1) A school district that receives a one-year planning
2 grant pursuant to this section is eligible to apply to the
3 Superintendent for a two-year implementation grant *to establish*
4 *a new small school with its own administration and department*
5 *identifier number*. Upon completion of its implementation plan, a
6 school district shall submit the plan to the Superintendent. The
7 Superintendent shall review the implementation plans submitted
8 by school districts pursuant to this subdivision and select eligible
9 districts to receive implementation grants of ~~five hundred~~
10 ~~thousand dollars (\$500,000)~~ *two hundred fifty thousand dollars*
11 *(\$250,000)* in each of the two years comprising the
12 implementation stage. *It is the intent of the Legislature that*
13 *priority be given to applications that meet one or more of the*
14 *following criteria:*

15 (A) *Propose to establish a new school or redesign an existing*
16 *school serving pupils in the attendance area of a school ranked*
17 *in any of deciles 1 to 3, inclusive, of the Academic Performance*
18 *Index, as defined in Section 52052.*

19 (B) *Propose to establish a new school or redesign an existing*
20 *school serving pupils in the attendance area of a school deemed*
21 *critically overcrowded.*

22 (C) *Propose to establish a new school or redesign an exiting*
23 *school serving pupils in the attendance area of a school that has*
24 *a demonstrated achievement gap with a significant number of*
25 *subgroups of pupils performing below grade level.*

26 (D) *Demonstrate maximum flexibility and autonomy for new*
27 *schools in, among other things, developing and implementing*
28 *curriculum, scheduling, budgeting, and staffing.*

29 (2) A school district may use the two-year implementation
30 grant to implement its plan to establish a new small school for
31 additional support during the first two years of operation of the
32 school.