

Introduced by Senator Liu

February 28, 2011

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 18—Relative to public schools.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 18, as introduced, Liu. Public schools: pupil, teacher, and parent surveys.

This measure would state the intent of the Legislature to pursue every means necessary to ensure that the California School Climate, Health, and Learning Survey (CAL-SCHLS) remains viable and would urge the state to pursue federal funding, grants, or other sources to ensure that school districts receive the necessary funding to support the CAL-SCHLS.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, School climate and safety are an important priority
- 2 and significantly contribute to, or detract from, the overall success
- 3 of pupils, schools, and the general well-being of our children; and
- 4 WHEREAS, The California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) is
- 5 an anonymous, comprehensive, confidential, and self-reported
- 6 data collection system that addresses youth resiliency, school
- 7 climate, health risks, and behaviors, and is administered to pupils
- 8 in grades 5, 7, 9, and 11; and
- 9 WHEREAS, The California School Climate Survey (CSCS) is
- 10 an online staff survey that provides a means to confidentially obtain
- 11 staff perceptions about learning and teaching conditions for both
- 12 general and special education, in order to regularly inform decisions
- 13 about professional development, instruction, the implementation
- 14 of learning supports, and school reform; and

1 WHEREAS, The California School Parent Survey (CSPS)
2 assesses the perceptions of parents related to school climate, parent
3 outreach, and pupil achievement, and is designed to provide
4 teachers, administrators, and other school staff with information
5 directly from parents that can be used to foster positive learning
6 and teaching environments, parent involvement, and pupil
7 achievement, health, and well-being; and

8 WHEREAS, Together, the CHKS, CSCS, and CSPS form the
9 California School Climate, Health, and Learning Survey
10 (CAL-SCHLS) comprised of three interrelated surveys that secure
11 the critical information with respect to pupil, staff, and parental
12 perceptions of the teaching and learning environments in California
13 public schools; and

14 WHEREAS, These surveys provide all of the following: a
15 critical lens into the environments and outcomes of our schools,
16 an important tool for planning, addressing, and monitoring
17 problematic conditions, a meaningful tool for transparency and
18 accountability, and an important mechanism to support parental,
19 civic, and community-based engagement efforts; and

20 WHEREAS, As a condition of receiving funding pursuant to
21 the federal Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (20
22 U.S.C. Sec. 7101 et seq.), or for tobacco use prevention education
23 pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section 104350) of
24 Chapter 1 of Part 3 of Division 103 of the Health and Safety Code,
25 school districts are required to conduct the CHKS and CSCS
26 biennially; and

27 WHEREAS, Funding received pursuant to the federal Safe and
28 Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act, or for tobacco use
29 prevention education, has been curtailed, and absent reauthorization
30 of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (20 U.S.C.
31 Sec. 6301 et seq.), the collection of this critical information will
32 no longer be required; now, therefore, be it

33 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
34 *thereof concurring*, That it is the intent of the Legislature to pursue
35 every means necessary to ensure that the CAL-SCHLS remains
36 viable; and be it further

37 *Resolved*, That the state is urged to pursue federal funding,
38 grants, or other sources to ensure that school districts receive the
39 necessary funding to support the CAL-SCHLS, and be it further

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
- 2 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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