

Date of Hearing: April 26, 2017

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Patrick O'Donnell, Chair
AB 1329 (Nazarian) – As Amended March 30, 2017

SUBJECT: Pupils: demographic data

SUMMARY: Requires the governing board or body of a school district or charter school to collect information on each pupil's race and ethnicity and disaggregate that data in a manner that better reflects the diversity of the pupil population. Provides that the information collected pursuant to this requirement shall be used for state reporting purposes only.

EXISTING LAW: Establishes the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS) to collect and maintain data, including demographic data, on K-12 pupils in California.

FISCAL EFFECT: State-mandated local program

COMMENTS:

Existing data collection. CALPADS was created to enable California to meet federal requirements delineated in the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001, and has been operational since 2009. It is the foundation of California's K-12 education data system, comprising student demographic, program participation, grade level, enrollment, course enrollment and completion, discipline, and statewide assessment data. The student-level, longitudinal data in CALPADS enables the facilitation of program evaluation, the assessment of student achievement over time, the calculation of more accurate dropout and graduation rates, the efficient creation of reports to meet state and federal reporting requirements, and the ability to create ad hoc reports and responses to relevant questions. CALPADS provides local educational agencies (LEAs) with access to longitudinal data and reports on their own students, and it gives LEAs immediate access to information on new students, enabling the LEAs to place students appropriately and to determine whether any assessments are necessary.

CALPADS allows the classification of pupils into the following racial/ethnic groups:

- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Chinese
- Japanese
- Korean
- Vietnamese
- Asian Indian
- Laotian
- Cambodian
- Hmong
- Other Asian
- Hawaiian
- Guamanian
- Samoan

- Tahitian
- Other Pacific Islander
- Filipino
- Black or African American
- White
- Multiple Race

In addition, each pupil's country of birth is also recorded in CALPADS, using country codes published by the International Organization for Standards.

Unknown impact on existing law. As described, the data collection required by this bill is already collected pursuant to existing law. However, the requirement that the data be used for state reporting purposes *only* is not current law and could be interpreted to mean that neither local education agencies nor the state could use the data for any purpose other than collection and storage. This means the data could not be used for purposes like identifying and measuring achievement gaps between pupil subgroups or evaluating the effectiveness of different programs with different pupil subgroups. This calls into question the purpose and value of collecting it.

On the other hand, to the extent this bill requires the data to be collected and reported in addition to and outside of the CALPADS framework, then the bill may have no effect on the existing purposes and uses of CALPADS. Instead, it would just add a duplicative requirement. But this leads to the further question of how the data would be collected and reported. The bill does not establish a reporting process or timeline. Nor does it define the phrase, "in a manner that better reflects the diversity of the pupil population." This suggests that each LEA would use its own definition, which would complicate the process of statewide reporting. Ordinarily, this would lead to concerns about "apples and oranges" comparisons, but that does not apply to this bill, because the data collected would be reported only, and not used for making comparisons or performing other kinds of analyses.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None received

Opposition

None received

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