

Date of Hearing: July 15, 2015

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
Patrick O'Donnell, Chair  
SB 369 (Block) – As Introduced February 24, 2015

**SENATE VOTE:** 40-0

**SUBJECT:** California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System: pupils of military families.

**SUMMARY:** Requires the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS) to be expanded to include data on the enrollment of pupils of military families. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI), on or before July 1, 2016, to add a reporting process within CALPADS requiring local educational agencies (LEAs) to report the enrollment of pupils of military families.
- 2) Requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to include pupils of military families as an indicator for purposes of a currently-required quarterly report on pupil attendance.
- 3) Specifies that implementation of this requirement shall not subject the CDE to a loss of funding pursuant to Item 6110-001-0890 of the 2015 Budget Act.
- 4) Defines "pupils of military families" to mean pupils whose parent or legal guardian is an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States.

**EXISTING LAW:** Establishes CALPADS to accomplish all of the following goals:

- 1) Provide school districts and the CDE access to data necessary to comply with federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) reporting requirements.
- 2) Provide a better means of evaluating educational progress and investments over time.
- 3) Provide local educational agencies information that can be used to improve pupil achievement.
- 4) Provide an efficient, flexible, and secure means of maintaining longitudinal statewide pupil level data.
- 5) Facilitate the ability of the state to publicly report data required by federal law.
- 6) Ensure compliance with the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Existing law also prohibits, via Budget Bill language, the expansion of CALPADS for any purpose.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- 1) CALPADS – Minor General Fund costs to the CDE to create a new indicator in CALPADS to identify pupils of military families, and communicate the new requirements to LEAs.
- 2) LEAs – Unknown, but potentially significant one-time mandated costs on LEAs, reimbursable from the General Fund, for approximately 1,000 schools districts to develop and implement a local process for identifying and tracking pupils of military families, and inputting that information into CALPADS. Likely minor, but potentially significant ongoing mandated costs on LEAs for additional data entry to update CALPADS. (see staff comments)

**COMMENTS:** CALPADS was created to enable California to meet federal requirements delineated in the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001. CALPADS has been operational since 2009 and contains information on student demographics, 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.

**Impact on CALPADS.** The CDE indicates that the change required by this bill is relatively simple and could probably be achieved in approximately one year. The process involves adding a new field to CALPADS and testing and de-bugging the software change. LEAs would need to change the online user interface, which they use to report data to CALPADS, and add the military status of parents/guardians to the information they collect from families.

However, budget language prohibits the CDE from adding additional data elements to CALPADS. Specifically, provision 13 of budget item 6110-001-0890 of the Budget Act of 2015 provides, in part, "As a further condition of receiving these [federal] funds, the SDE shall not add additional data elements to CALPADS, require local educational agencies to use the data collected through the CALPADS for any purpose, or otherwise expand or enhance the system beyond the data elements and functionalities that are identified in the most current approved Feasibility Study and Special Project Reports and the CALPADS Data guide v4.1." **This bill** contains a provision that exempts its requirements from this Budget Act prohibition.

**Arguments in support.** Supporters argue that children in military families experience events that affect their education, such as moving frequently and having a parent deployed away from the family. Currently, there is no method of tracking their attendance and progress to evaluate programs and identify best practices. Including an indicator in CALPADS for the children of military families would permit such tracking over time. Supporters argue that collecting this information would build awareness at the school and classroom level of students that may be

affected by the deployment of a parent and facilitate data-driven decision making to improve the distribution of Department of Defense and local resources to offer appropriate support.

**Technical correction needed.** This bill references Item 6110-001-0890 of the 2015 Budget Act. The correct item number in the 2015 Budget Act is 6100-001-0890. **Staff recommends** the bill be amended to make this correction.

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

American Legion-Department of California  
AMVETS-Department of California  
California State PTA  
Military Officers Association of America, California Council of Chapters  
U. S. Department of Defense  
Vietnam Veterans of America, California State Council  
Two individuals

**Opposition**

None received

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