Information Sheet – 04/21/2020 - Board of Trustees Meeting

TO: Board of Trustees Item: 8.4

FR: Celli Coeville

DATE: April 15, 2020

RE: Revised Board Policy & Administrative Regulation, BP/AR 5117, Interdistrict Attendance, Consider for Adoption

Board Policy 5117, Interdistrict Attendance, has been updated to reflect NEW LAW (AB 1127) which requires districts to provide transportation assistance to transfer students who are victims of bullying or are children of active duty military parents/guardians, if they are also eligible for free or reduced-priced meals.

Administrative Regulation 5117 has been updated to reflect provisions of AB 1127 which (1) prohibit consideration of specified characteristics when selecting students for transfer who are victims of bullying or children of active duty military parents/guardians and (2) require a district to accept a transfer out of the district for a victim of bullying if the district has only one school offering the student's grade level.

I've highlighted the proposed changes and indicated the differences in red font.

Recommended Action: Approve revised BP/AR 5117, Interdistrict Attendance

INTERDISTRICT ATTENDANCE

Note: The following section is for use by districts that have entered into an agreement with one or more other districts to accept student transfers through interdistrict attendance permits pursuant to Education Code 46600-46610.

The Governing Board recognizes that parents/guardians of students who reside within the geographic boundaries of one district may, for a variety of reasons, desire to enroll their children in a school in another district.

(cf. 5111.1 - District Residency)
(cf. 5116.1 - Intradistrict Open Enrollment)

Interdistrict Attendance Agreements and Permits

Note: Education Code 46600 requires that the interdistrict attendance agreement specify the terms and conditions under which individual permits may be granted or denied. In addition, pursuant to Education Code 46600, students who have been granted an interdistrict attendance permit must be allowed to continue to attend the school without having to reapply unless the agreement between the two districts contains specific agreed-upon standards for reapplication; see the accompanying administrative regulation. Districts also may include in the agreement the agreed-upon standards for revocation of students' interdistrict attendance. Examples of conditions that may result in revocation include falsification of information stated on the permit application, unsatisfactory attendance, continual disruption, or poor academic achievement.

The Board may enter into an agreement with any other school district, for a term not to exceed five school years, for the interdistrict attendance of students who are residents of the districts. (Education Code 46600)

The agreement shall specify the terms and conditions under which interdistrict attendance shall be permitted or denied. It also may contain standards agreed ~~to~~ upon by both districts for reapplication and/or revocation of the student's permit. (Education Code 46600)

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 46600, it is the responsibility of the superintendent or designee of the district of residence, subject to board policies of the district of residence and terms of the agreement, to issue an individual permit verifying the district's approval of an interdistrict transfer out of the district. The permit shall become valid when endorsed by the board's designee in the district of proposed enrollment. See the accompanying administrative regulation for procedures to follow when the permit is denied.

Upon receiving a permit for transfer into the district that has been approved by the student's district of residence, or upon receiving a written request from the parent/guardian of a district student who wishes to enroll in another district, the Superintendent or designee shall review the request and may approve or deny the permit subject to the terms and conditions of the

INTERDISTRICT ATTENDANCE

interdistrict attendance agreement.

Transportation

Note: The following **optional** section is for use by all districts and should be revised to reflect district practice. Districts are not required to provide transportation or transportation assistance to students admitted under an interdistrict attendance permit pursuant to Education Code 46600-46610, except that Education Code 46600, as amended by AB 1127 (Ch. 781, Statutes of 2019), requires the district of enrollment to provide transportation assistance to a student who is eligible for free or reduced price meals and is either a child of an active military duty parent/guardian or a victim of an act of bullying, as defined in Education Code 48900.

Pursuant to Education Code 48311, a school district of choice is authorized, but not required, to provide transportation assistance to the extent that the district otherwise provides transportation assistance to students

Upon parent/guardian request, the district shall provide transportation assistance to a student receiving an interdistrict transfer who is eligible for free and reduced-price meals and is the child of an active duty military parent/guardian or a victim of bullying, as defined in Education Code 46600. (Education Code 46600)

(cf. 3553 - Free and Reduced Price Meals)

~~The district shall not provide transportation beyond any school attendance area. Upon~~ In addition, upon request of a student's parent/guardian, the Superintendent or designee may authorize transportation for ~~an~~ any interdistrict transfer student to and from designated bus stops within the attendance area of the school that the student attends if space is available.

Legal Reference:
EDUCATION CODE
8151 Apprentices, exemption from interdistrict attendance agreement
41020 Annual district audits
46600-46610 Interdistrict attendance agreements
48204 Residency requirements for school attendance
48300-48317 Student attendance alternatives, school district of choice program
48900 Grounds for suspension or expulsion; definition of bullying
48915 Expulsion; particular circumstances
48915.1 Expelled individuals; enrollment in another district
48918 Rules governing expulsion procedures
48980 Notice at beginning of term
48985 Notices to parents in language other than English
52317 Regional occupational center/program, enrollment of students, interdistrict attendance
CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION
Article 1, Section 31 Nondiscrimination on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin
~~*ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS*~~
~~*87 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 132 (2004)*~~
~~*84 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 198 (2001)*~~

INTERDISTRICT ATTENDANCE

Legal Reference (continued):
COURT DECISIONS
Walnut Valley Unified School District v. the Superior Court of Los Angeles County, (2011) 192 Cal.App.4th 234
Crawford v. Huntington Beach Union High School District, (2002) 98 Cal.App.4th 1275
ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS
87 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 132 (2004)
84 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 198 (2001)
Management Resources:
WEB SITES
CSBA: http://www.csba.org
California Department of Education: http://www.cde.ca.gov

INTERDISTRICT ATTENDANCE

Interdistrict Attendance Agreements and Permits

Note: The following option is for use by districts that have entered into an agreement with one or more other school districts to accept transfers through the "interdistrict attendance permit" or "reciprocal agreement" process pursuant to Education Code 46600-46610. (See Option 1 in the accompanying Board policy.) In 87 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 132 (2004), the Attorney General opined that districts could not charge students a fee for processing applications for interdistrict attendance.

In accordance with an agreement between the Governing Board and the board of another district, a permit authorizing a student of either district to enroll in the other district may be issued upon approval of both districts.

The district shall post on its web site the procedures and timelines for requesting an interdistrict transfer permit, including a link to BP 5117 - Interdistrict Attendance. The posted information shall include, but is not limited to: (Education Code 46600.1, 46600.2)

1. The date upon which the district will begin accepting and processing interdistrict transfer requests for the following school year

2. The reasons for which the district may approve or deny a request, and any information or documents that must be submitted as supporting evidence

3. If applicable, the process and timelines by which a denial of a request may be appealed within the district before the district renders a final decision

4. A statement that failure of a parent/guardian to meet any timelines established by the district shall be deemed an abandonment of the request

5. Applicable timelines for processing a request, including the following statements:

a. For an interdistrict transfer request received by the district 15 or fewer calendar days before the commencement of instruction in the school year for which the transfer is sought, the district will notify the parent/guardian of its final decision within 30 calendar days from the date the request was received.

b. For an interdistrict transfer request received by the district more than 15 days before the commencement of instruction in the school year for which the interdistrict transfer is sought, the district will notify the parent/guardian of its final decision as soon as possible, but no later than 14 calendar days after the commencement of instruction in the school year for which transfer is sought.

6. The conditions under which an existing interdistrict transfer permit may be revoked or rescinded

Note: Education Code 46600 requires districts to give priority for interdistrict attendance permits to a student who is a victim of an act of bullying, as provided below. For this purpose, Education Code 48900(r) defines bullying to

include, but not be limited to, bullying committed by means of an electronic act directed specifically toward the student; see AR 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process.

Priority for interdistrict attendance shall be given to a student who has been determined, through an investigation by ~~staff of~~ either the district of residence or district of proposed enrollment, to be a victim of an act of bullying, as defined in Education Code 48900(r), committed by a student of the district of residence. (Education Code 46600)

(cf. 1312.3 – Uniform Complaint Procedures)
(cf. 5131.2 - Bullying)

Note: As amended by AB 1127 (Ch. 781, Statutes of 2019), Education Code 46600 requires districts to ensure that students who are victims of bullying or are children of active duty military parents/guardians be selected through an unbiased process that prohibits consideration of specified characteristics.

Until the district is at maximum capacity, the district shall accept any student whose interdistrict transfer application is based on being the victim of an act of bullying or a child of an active duty military parent/guardian. The district shall ensure that such students are admitted through an unbiased process that prohibits an inquiry into or evaluation or consideration of whether or not a student should be enrolled based on academic or athletic performance, physical condition, proficiency in English, family income, or any of the individual characteristics set forth in Education Code 220, including, but not limited to, race or ethnicity, gender, gender identity, gender expression, and immigration status. (Education Code 46600)

In addition, the Superintendent or designee may approve an interdistrict attendance permit for a student for any of the following reasons when stipulated in the agreement:

1. To meet the child care needs of the student, only as long as the student's child care provider remains within district boundaries

(cf. 5148 - Child Care and Development)

2. To meet the student's special mental or physical health needs as certified by a physician, school psychologist, or other appropriate school personnel

(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)

3. When the student has a sibling attending school in the receiving district, to avoid splitting the family's attendance

4. To allow the student to complete a school year when the student's parents/guardians have moved out of the district during that year

5. To allow the student to remain with a class graduating that year from an elementary, middle, or senior high school

6. To allow a high school senior to attend the same school attended as a junior, even if the student's family moved out of the district during the junior year

7. When the parent/guardian provides written evidence that the family will be moving into the district in the immediate future and would like the student to start the school year in the district

8. When the student will be living out of the district for one year or less

9. When recommended by the school attendance review board or by county child welfare, probation, or social service agency staff in documented cases of serious home or community problems which make it inadvisable for the student to attend the school of residence

(cf. 5113.1 - Chronic Absence and Truancy)
(cf. 5113.12 - District School Attendance Review Board)

10. When there is valid interest in a particular educational program not offered in the district of residence

11. To provide a change in school environment for reasons of personal and social adjustment

Note: In 84 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 198 (2001), the Attorney General opined that a lack of school facilities is a justifiable reason for denial of the interdistrict attendance permit request. However, according to the Attorney General, once the student is admitted, the district may not later deny the student continued attendance at a district school because of overcrowding. Although Attorney General opinions are not binding on the courts, they are generally afforded deference in the court when there is no specific statutory or case law to the contrary. The following paragraph is based on this Attorney General opinion.

The Superintendent or designee may deny initial requests for interdistrict attendance permits due to limited district resources, overcrowding of school facilities at the relevant grade level, or other considerations that are not arbitrary. However, once a student is admitted, the district shall not deny continued attendance because of overcrowded facilities at the relevant grade level.

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)

If the transfer request is for a school year that begins within 15 calendar days of the receipt of the request, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the parent/guardian of the final decision within 30 calendar days of receiving the request. If the transfer request is for a school year that begins more than 15 calendar days after the receipt of the request, the parent/guardian shall be notified of the final decision as soon as possible, but no later than 14 calendar days after the commencement of instruction during that school year. (Education Code 46600.2)

Note: Education Code 46600.2 requires a district that denies a request for an interdistrict transfer to give written notice to the parent/guardian of the right to appeal to the County Board of Education. Pursuant to Education Code 46601, parents/guardians may submit their appeal to the County Board within 30 calendar days of the district's final denial of the permit. The County Board then has 30 calendar days, unless extended by an additional five school days for good cause, to make its determination as to whether the student should be allowed to attend the district of proposed enrollment and the applicable period of attendance. However, Education Code 46601 allows a class 1 county (i.e., a county with a 1994-95 average daily attendance (ADA) of 500,000 or more for all districts in the county), until July 1, 2023, 60 calendar days to make its determination. Pursuant to Education Code 46602, if the County Board determines that the student should be permitted to attend the district of proposed enrollment, the district shall admit the student without delay.

If a student's interdistrict transfer request is denied, the Superintendent or designee shall, in writing, notify the parents/guardians of their right to appeal to the County Board of Education within 30 calendar days from the date of the final denial. (Education Code 46600.2)

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

All notices to parents/guardians regarding the district's decision on any request for interdistrict

transfer shall conform to the translation requirements of Education Code 48985, and may be provided by regular mail, electronic format if the parent/guardian provides an email address, or by any other method normally used to communicate with parents/guardians in writing. (Education Code 46600.2)

Pending a decision by the two districts or by the County Board on appeal, the Superintendent or designee may provisionally admit a student who resides in another district for a period not to exceed two school months, provided the district is the district of proposed enrollment. If the decision has not been rendered by the conclusion of two school months and the districts or County Board is still operating within the prescribed timelines, the student shall not be allowed to continue attending the district school to which the student was provisionally admitted. (Education Code 46603)

Students who are under consideration for expulsion or who have been expelled may not appeal interdistrict attendance denials or rescissions while expulsion proceedings are pending or during the term of the expulsion. (Education Code 46601)

(cf. 5119 - Students Expelled from Other Districts)
(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

Once a student is admitted to a school on the basis of an interdistrict attendance permit, the student shall not be required to reapply for an interdistrict transfer and shall be allowed to continue to attend the school of enrollment, unless reapplication standards are otherwise specified in the interdistrict attendance agreement. Existing interdistrict attendance permits shall not be rescinded after June 30 following a student's completion of grade 10 or for any student entering grade 11 or 12 in the subsequent school year. (Education Code 46600)
~~Transfers Out of the District~~

Transfers Out of the District

A student whose parent/guardian is in active military duty shall not be prohibited from transferring out of the district, provided the school district of proposed enrollment approves the application for transfer. (Education Code 46600, 48307)

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 46600, as amended by AB 1127, the district cannot prohibit a transfer out of the district for a victim of bullying if the district has only one school offering the student's grade level and thus is unable to grant an intradistrict transfer.

If the district is unable to provide an intradistrict transfer to a student who is a victim of an act of bullying, as defined in Education Code 46600, the district shall not prohibit the student from transferring out of the district if the district of proposed enrollment approves the application for transfer. (Education Code 46600)

The district may limit transfers out of the district to a school district of choice under any of the following circumstances: (Education Code 48307)

Note: Even if a district has not designated itself as a school district of choice, it has the authority pursuant to Education Code 48307 to limit the number of students transferring out of the district into other districts that have designated themselves as school districts of choice. A district with an ADA of more than 50,000 may annually limit the number of such transfers to one percent of its current year estimated ADA. A district with an ADA of 50,000 or less may limit the number of such transfers to three percent of its current estimated ADA and may limit the maximum number of such transfers for the duration of the program to 10 percent of the ADA for that period. In Walnut Valley Unified School District v. Superior Court of Los Angeles County, the appellate court held that

the 10 percent cap on outbound transfers "for the duration of the program" should be based on the district's ADA over the entire life of the district of choice program (i.e., from the program's inception in 1994 until the present day). The district may revise item #1 to reflect the applicable percentage in Education Code 48307 based on its ADA.

1. The number of student transfers out of the district to a school district of choice has reached the limit specified in Education Code 48307 based on the district's average daily attendance.

2. The County Superintendent of Schools has given the district a negative budget certification or has determined that the district will not meet the state's standards and criteria for fiscal stability in the subsequent fiscal year exclusively as a result of student transfers from this district to a school district of choice.

(cf. 3100 - Budget)