

SEC. 161. (a) The sum of four hundred fifty million dollars (\$450,000,000) is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the Superintendent of Public Instruction on a one-time basis for allocation to special education local plan areas and shall be expended by special education local plan areas and their member local educational agencies for purposes of providing learning recovery support to pupils, as defined in this section, associated with impacts to learning due to school disruptions stemming from the COVID-19 public health emergency during the period of March 13, 2020, to September 1, 2021, inclusive.

(b) The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall allocate the funds appropriated in subdivision (a) to special education local plan areas no later than August 31, 2021. The funds shall be appropriated in an equal amount per pupil using the following methodology:

(1) For each special education local plan area, determine the total number of pupils who are 3 to 22 years of age, inclusive, with exceptional needs enrolled in each member local educational agency using the greater of Fall 1 Census special education data for the 2019–20 or 2020–21 fiscal years.

(2) The sum of the totals determined pursuant to paragraph (1) is the total statewide number of pupils with exceptional needs for the applicable year.

(3) Calculate a per pupil amount by dividing the amount appropriated in subdivision (a) for purposes of this section by the total statewide number of pupils with exceptional needs calculated in paragraph (2).

(4) Calculate a grant for each special education local plan area by multiplying the per pupil amount calculated in paragraph (3) by the total number of pupils with exceptional needs for the member local educational agency determined in paragraph (1).

(c) As a condition of receiving funding under this section, the special education local plan areas shall, on or before October 1, 2021, work with its member local educational agencies to develop and submit a plan to the Superintendent of Public Instruction detailing how the special education local plan area and its member local educational agencies will implement the requirements of this section, including detailed proposed expenditure information broken down by eligible activity, the number, disabilities, and demographics of pupils proposed to be served, evidence of matching funds as required by this section, and any other information required by the State Department of Education.

(d) Funds allocated pursuant subdivision (b) shall be used by the local educational agencies in collaboration with their special education local plan area to provide learning recovery support for pupils with disabilities related to impacts to learning resulting from COVID-19 school disruptions during the period of March 13, 2020, to September 1, 2021, inclusive.

(e) In expending funds appropriated pursuant to this section, local educational agencies and special education local plan areas shall do all of the following:

(1) Ensure that learning recovery support provided with these funds are related to COVID-19 school disruptions during the period of March 13, 2020, to September 1, 2021, inclusive.

(2) Match funding received under this section on a one-to-one basis by other funds spent for these purposes.

(3) Not use funds received under this section to supplant existing expenditures or obligations of the local educational agency.

(4) Not use funds received under this section for, or use these funds to match expenditures for, attorney's fees.

(f) As a condition of receiving funding under this section, special education local plan areas shall submit a report to the State Department of Education on or before September 30, 2023, that describes how funding received

under this section was spent and that includes a summary of learning recovery services provided pursuant to this section. The summary shall include the demographics of pupils served through the provided learning recovery and supports, including, but not limited to, the pupil's disability, family income, English learner classification, and the parent's primary language.

(g) (1) On or before December 1, 2023, the State Department of Education shall summarize this information and submit the summary to the appropriate fiscal and policy committees of the Legislature and to the Department of Finance.

(2) A report required to be submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government Code.

(h) Funds allocated pursuant to this section shall be available for encumbrance until June 30, 2023. Upon the expiration of its period of availability, the unencumbered balance of any apportionment made under this section shall be returned to the State Department of Education to return to the state.

(i) For purposes of this section the following definitions apply:

(1) "Local educational agency" means a school district, county office of education, or charter school.

(2) "Pupil" means an individual with exceptional needs, as defined in Section 56026 of the Education Code, during the COVID-19 school disruptions from March 13, 2020, to September 1, 2021, inclusive, or an individual who was referred for assessment pursuant to Section 56029 of the Education Code whose assessment was delayed due to the COVID-19 school disruptions from March 13, 2020, to September 1, 2021, inclusive.

(j) For purposes of making the computations required by Section 8 of Article XVI of the California Constitution, the appropriation made by subdivision (a) shall be deemed to be "General Fund revenues appropriated for school districts," as defined in subdivision (c) of Section 41202 of the Education Code, for the 2020–21 fiscal year, and included within the "total allocations to school districts and community college districts from General Fund proceeds of taxes appropriated pursuant to Article XIII B," as defined in subdivision (e) of Section 41202 of the Education Code, for the 2020–21 fiscal year.