

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 23, 2025

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 20, 2025

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 271**

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**Introduced by Senator Reyes**

February 4, 2025

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An act to amend Sections 66023.4 and 66023.5 of, and to add Sections 66027.83 and 66062 to, the Education Code, relating to public postsecondary education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 271, as amended, Reyes. Public postsecondary education: students with dependent children: childcare services, resources, and programs.

Existing law establishes the University of California, the California State University, and the California Community Colleges, as the 3 segments of public postsecondary education in this state.

Existing law requires each community college campus and each California State University campus, and requests each University of California campus, to establish the position of the Basic Needs Coordinator to assist students, among other responsibilities, with basic needs services and resources, including childcare, and to establish a Basic Needs Center where basic needs services, resources, and staff are made available to students, as provided. Existing law requires each Basic Needs Center to, among other things, connect students to the financial aid department or financial aid office, as appropriate, to ensure that students are receiving all available financial aid.

This bill would expand the definition of basic needs services and resources to include childcare services and resources, ~~as defined~~ *defined*, *and would authorize that childcare services and support to include direct financial and service support*. The bill would ~~also~~ explicitly state

that all available financial aid includes supplemental awards such as the Cal Grant award for students with dependent children. *If a campus has an existing center or office that supports parenting students, the bill would authorize a Basic Needs Center to direct that student to the student parent center or office if the student would be better served by that center or office.*

Existing law requires each campus of the California State University and the California Community Colleges, and requests each campus of the University of California, to host on its internet website a student parent internet web page that contains information that clearly lists all on- and off-campus student parent services and resources, as specified.

This bill would require the financial aid office of each campus of the California Community Colleges and the California State University, and request the financial aid office of each campus of the University of California, to provide students with dependent children information on the campus' childcare development center and childcare offerings, if applicable, a referral to the campus Basic Needs Center, and information on supplemental awards such as the Cal Grant award for students with dependent children, as provided.

Existing law authorizes public postsecondary institutions to establish and maintain child development programs on or near their campuses.

This bill would require child development programs or preschools established by the California Community Colleges and the California State University, and request child development programs or preschools established by the University of California, to provide students with dependent children seeking childcare with a referral to the campus Basic Needs Center and the campus' financial aid office, as specified.

By imposing additional duties on community college districts, ~~the~~ *this* bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: yes.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 66023.4 of the Education Code is amended to read:

66023.4. (a) As used in this section:

(1) “Basic needs services and resources” includes, but is not limited to, housing, food, clothing, feminine hygiene, diapers, technology, childcare services and resources, and mental health services and resources.

(2) “Childcare services and resources” includes, but is not limited to, providing information on affordable childcare options on and near-campus, *campus and* information and connections to local resource and referral agencies ~~and the local planning council,~~ *and in order to obtain* support in applying to state and federal childcare subsidies and ~~programs,~~ *programs and finding local childcare providers*, including, but not limited to, the California state preschool program, Head Start, the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility ~~for to Kids—(CalWORKS)~~ *(CalWORKs)* childcare program, and general child care and development programs. *Childcare services and resources may also include direct financial or service support.*

(3) “Coordinator” means a basic needs coordinator established pursuant to this section.

(b) Each campus of the California State University shall, and each campus of the University of California is requested to, do all of the following:

(1) On or before July 1, 2025, establish the position of the Basic Needs Coordinator, and designate a staff person as the Basic Needs Coordinator to serve as the single point of contact for students experiencing basic needs insecurity related to basic needs services and resources. The coordinator shall act as a broker in identifying, supporting, and linking students to on- and off-campus housing, food, mental health, and other basic needs services and resources. To ensure the effectiveness and impact of this position, the coordinator shall be a dedicated position solely focused on addressing the basic needs of students and meet qualifications such as experience providing services to high-need and diverse populations. The coordinator shall oversee and coordinate with other staff tasked with addressing students’ basic needs, shall inform students of on- and off-campus basic needs services and

resources and how to access them, and shall develop on- and off-campus partnerships to provide basic needs services and resources to their students.

(2) (A) On or before July 1, 2025, establish a Basic Needs Center, which means a central location on campus where basic needs services, resources, and staff are made available to students. The Basic Needs Center is intended to be a one-stop, single location and point of contact for students to more easily access and gain awareness of basic needs services and resources. The campus shall make a reasonable effort to locate all on-campus basic needs services and resources at the Basic Needs Center. If the campus cannot reasonably locate all basic needs services or resources at the Basic Needs Center, the campus shall provide students with the location and contact information, including name, telephone number, and email address, for all basic needs services and resources not located in the Basic Needs Center. The coordinator shall be housed in the Basic Needs Center.

(B) Each Basic Needs Center shall do all of the following:

(i) Help ensure that students have the information they need to enroll in CalFresh, the California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC), the Young Child Tax Credit (YCTC), the California Special Supplemental Food Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and other relevant government benefits programs. This clause does not require campus Basic Needs Centers to provide tax advising or preparation services.

(ii) *If a campus has an existing center or office that supports parenting students and a student may be better served by that center or office, have the authority to direct that student to the student parent center or office.*

~~(ii)~~

(iii) Coordinate with their campus financial aid department or financial aid office. This clause does not require nor encourage the Basic Needs Center to be combined or colocated with the financial aid department or financial aid office.

~~(iii)~~

(iv) Connect students to the financial aid department or financial aid office, as appropriate, to ensure that students are receiving all available financial aid, including supplemental awards such as the awards for students with dependent children established pursuant

1 to Article 9 (commencing with Section 69465) of Chapter 1.7 of  
2 Part 42.

3 ~~(iv)~~

4 (v) Coordinate with their local homelessness response system  
5 to refer students to community resources available to address  
6 homelessness in addition to services and resources provided by  
7 the campus.

8 (C) Basic Needs Centers may provide support to students who  
9 can be reasonably expected to enroll in the upcoming term and to  
10 provide support to students during summer and winter breaks who  
11 were previously enrolled or are enrolled for the upcoming fall or  
12 spring term.

13 (D) Campuses shall endeavor, to the extent feasible, to use a  
14 portion of any funds made available for basic needs support for  
15 providing funds directly to students to address urgent needs. To  
16 the extent that a Basic Needs Center is already in place, that center  
17 may be used to satisfy the requirements of this section. If the  
18 existing Basic Needs Center fulfills only part of the requirements  
19 of this section, basic needs services and resources shall be expanded  
20 as needed to satisfy all the requirements of this section.

21 *(E) The childcare services and resources a Basic Needs Center*  
22 *may provide for parenting students includes, but is not limited to,*  
23 *direct financial or service support.*

24 (3) (A) On or before February 1, 2025, develop a document  
25 that shall be provided to students at the Basic Needs Center, once  
26 established pursuant to paragraph (2), in either electronic format  
27 or paper form, and that shall be made available to students online,  
28 that clearly lists on- and off-campus basic needs services and  
29 resources that includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:

30 (i) The description of the service or resource.

31 (ii) The location of where the service or resource is provided.

32 (iii) The point of contact for the service or resource, including  
33 a name, telephone number, and email address.

34 (iv) Any eligibility restrictions on accessing the service or  
35 resource.

36 (v) The United States Department of Agriculture's Food and  
37 Nutrition Service's "SNAP Retail Locator" internet website link,  
38 which contains a map with locations that are authorized retail food  
39 stores under the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
40 and accept the use of electronic benefits transfer cards issued

1 pursuant to Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 10065) of Part  
2 1 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

3 (B) Provide the document to students as a part of campus  
4 orientations in either electronic format or paper form.

5 (C) Provide to faculty the online link to the electronic format  
6 of the document, the location of the Basic Needs Center, once  
7 established pursuant to paragraph (2), and the contact information  
8 for the coordinator, once designated pursuant to paragraph (1),  
9 and encourage faculty to include the online link to the electronic  
10 format of the document, the location of the Basic Needs Center,  
11 and the contact information for the coordinator in their syllabi.

12 (D) To ensure that the document remains useful to students, the  
13 document shall be reviewed, updated, and made available online  
14 on both the internet website of the campus via the student basic  
15 needs tab and the internet website-based student account associated  
16 with a student's attendance at the institution, as specified in  
17 paragraph (6), no later than the first day of every fall semester or  
18 fall quarter.

19 (4) On or before February 1, 2025, streamline the application  
20 and intake process for on-campus basic needs services and  
21 resources to minimize duplication and eliminate barriers to access.  
22 If an application is required, develop and use a single application  
23 for students to receive on-campus basic needs services and  
24 resources.

25 (5) On or before February 1, 2025, develop and implement a  
26 plan to identify and provide outreach to students, including  
27 nontraditional students, who have basic needs insecurity related  
28 to housing, food, and mental health. Once the coordinator is  
29 designated pursuant to paragraph (1) and the Basic Needs Center  
30 is established pursuant to paragraph (2), the outreach shall include  
31 information about the coordinator and the Basic Needs Center.

32 (6) On or before February 1, 2025, provide a student basic needs  
33 tab that is clearly visible and easily accessible from a drop-down  
34 menu on the home page of the campus' internet website and include  
35 the information described in paragraph (3) conspicuously on both  
36 the internet website of the campus via the student basic needs tab  
37 and the internet website-based student account associated with a  
38 student's attendance at the institution. Once the coordinator is  
39 designated pursuant to paragraph (1) and the Basic Needs Center  
40 is established pursuant to paragraph (2), information about the

1 coordinator and Basic Needs Center shall also be included on both  
2 the internet website of the campus via the student basic needs tab  
3 and the internet website-based student account associated with a  
4 student's attendance at the institution.

5 (c) (1) Each campus of the California State University shall  
6 report to the office of the Chancellor of the California State  
7 University, and each campus of the University of California is  
8 requested to report to the office of the President of the University  
9 of California, information that shall include, but not be limited to,  
10 all of the following:

11 (A) The description and number of basic needs services and  
12 resources, broken down by category.

13 (B) The number of students served by the basic needs services  
14 and resources.

15 (C) Any existing and available data regarding the socioeconomic  
16 and demographic backgrounds of these students.

17 (D) Challenges and best practices in the implementation of the  
18 basic needs services and resources.

19 (E) Whether students who used the basic needs services and  
20 resources remained enrolled or graduated from that campus.

21 (F) The number of students who first started receiving CalFresh  
22 benefits in the previous year and the total number of students in  
23 the previous year who received CalFresh benefits, as provided by  
24 the State Department of Social Services.

25 (G) Whether the campus has a data sharing agreement with the  
26 relevant county operating the CalFresh program for the purpose  
27 of identifying new, continuing, and returning students who are  
28 potentially eligible for CalFresh benefits, or efforts underway to  
29 enact such an agreement.

30 (2) The data and information reported under this subdivision  
31 shall be disaggregated by each basic needs service and resource,  
32 where applicable.

33 (3) Campuses are encouraged to collaborate with the State  
34 Department of Social Services to obtain the data identified in  
35 paragraph (1), as applicable.

36 (d) (1) The office of the Chancellor of the California State  
37 University shall, and the office of the President of the University  
38 of California is requested to, develop and submit to the Governor  
39 and the Legislature, on or before March 1 of each year from 2026  
40 to 2030, inclusive, a report based on the data and information

1 reported by campuses pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2) of  
2 subdivision (c) and information on the use of funds made available  
3 from the Budget Act of 2022 to implement this section.

4 (2) A legislative report that includes the information required  
5 to be reported in this subdivision and submitted in any of the years  
6 2026 to 2030, inclusive, shall fulfill the reporting requirement  
7 pursuant to this subdivision to reduce duplicative efforts.

8 (e) This section does not preclude the California State University  
9 and the University of California from having additional basic needs  
10 staff who assist the Basic Needs Coordinator in completing the  
11 requirements of subdivision (b).

12 SEC. 2. Section 66023.5 of the Education Code is amended to  
13 read:

14 66023.5. (a) As used in this section:

15 (1) “Basic needs services and resources” includes, but is not  
16 limited to, housing, food, clothing, feminine hygiene, diapers,  
17 technology, childcare services and resources, and mental health  
18 services and resources.

19 (2) “Childcare services and resources” includes, but is not  
20 limited to, providing information on affordable childcare options  
21 on and near-campus, *campus and* information and connections to  
22 local resource and referral agencies ~~and the local planning council,~~  
23 ~~and in order to obtain~~ support in applying to state and federal  
24 childcare subsidies and ~~programs,~~ *programs and finding local*  
25 *childcare providers*, including, but not limited to, the California  
26 state preschool program, Head Start, the California Work  
27 Opportunity and Responsibility ~~for to Kids—(CalWORKS)~~  
28 *(CalWORKs)* childcare program, and general child care and  
29 development programs. *Childcare services and resources may*  
30 *also include direct financial support or service support.*

31 (3) “Coordinator” means a basic needs coordinator established  
32 pursuant to this section.

33 (b) Each campus of the California Community Colleges shall  
34 do all of the following:

35 (1) No later than July 1, 2022, establish the position of the Basic  
36 Needs Coordinator, and designate a staff person as the Basic Needs  
37 Coordinator to serve as the single point of contact for students  
38 experiencing basic needs insecurity related to basic needs services  
39 and resources. The coordinator shall act as a broker in identifying,  
40 supporting, and linking students to on- and off-campus housing,



1 food, mental health, and other basic needs services and resources.  
 2 To ensure the effectiveness and impact of this position, the  
 3 coordinator shall be a dedicated position solely focused on  
 4 addressing the basic needs of students and meet qualifications such  
 5 as experience providing services to high-need and diverse  
 6 populations. The coordinator shall oversee and coordinate with  
 7 other staff tasked with addressing students' basic needs, shall  
 8 inform students of on- and off-campus basic needs services and  
 9 resources and how to access them, and shall develop on- and  
 10 off-campus partnerships to provide basic needs services and  
 11 resources to their students.

12 (2) (A) No later than July 1, 2022, establish a Basic Needs  
 13 Center, which means a central location on campus where basic  
 14 needs services, resources, and staff are made available to students.  
 15 The Basic Needs Center is intended to be a one-stop, single location  
 16 and point of contact for students to more easily access and gain  
 17 awareness of basic needs services and resources. The campus shall  
 18 make a reasonable effort to locate all on-campus basic needs  
 19 services and resources at the Basic Needs Center. If the campus  
 20 cannot reasonably locate all basic needs services or resources at  
 21 the Basic Needs Center, the campus shall provide students with  
 22 the location and contact information, including name, telephone  
 23 number, and email address, for all basic needs services and  
 24 resources not located in the Basic Needs Center. The coordinator  
 25 shall be housed in the Basic Needs Center.

26 (B) Each Basic Needs Center shall help ensure that students  
 27 have the information they need to enroll in CalFresh, the California  
 28 Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC), the Young Child Tax Credit  
 29 (YCTC), the California Special Supplemental ~~Food~~ *Nutrition*  
 30 Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and other  
 31 relevant government benefits programs. *If a campus has an existing*  
 32 *center or office that supports parenting students and a student*  
 33 *may be better served by that center or office, the Basic Needs*  
 34 *Center may direct that student to the student parent center or*  
 35 *office.* Each Basic Needs Center shall coordinate with their campus  
 36 financial aid department or financial aid office. This section does  
 37 not require nor encourage the Basic Needs Center to be combined  
 38 or colocated with the financial aid department or financial aid  
 39 office. The funding made available by the Budget Act of 2021 to  
 40 implement this section, or any subsequent Budget Act or statute

1 to implement this section, shall not be used to combine or colocate  
2 the Basic Needs Center with the financial aid department or  
3 financial aid office and shall not be used for the administration of  
4 student financial aid programs, including staffing. Each Basic  
5 Needs Center shall connect students to the financial aid department  
6 or financial aid office, as appropriate, to ensure that students are  
7 receiving all available financial aid, including supplemental awards  
8 such as the awards for students with dependent children established  
9 pursuant to Article 9 (commencing with Section 69465) of Chapter  
10 1.7 of Part 42. Each Basic Needs Center shall coordinate with their  
11 local homelessness response system to refer students to community  
12 resources available to address homelessness in addition to services  
13 and resources provided by the campus. Basic Needs Centers may  
14 provide support to students who can be reasonably expected to  
15 enroll in the upcoming term and to provide support to students  
16 during summer and winter breaks who were previously enrolled  
17 or are enrolled for the upcoming fall or spring term.

18 (C) Campuses shall endeavor, to the extent feasible, to use a  
19 portion of any funds made available for basic needs support for  
20 providing funds directly to students to address urgent needs. To  
21 the extent that a Basic Needs Center is already in place, that center  
22 may be used to satisfy the requirements of this section. If the  
23 existing Basic Needs Center fulfills only part of the requirements  
24 of this section, basic needs services and resources shall be expanded  
25 as needed to satisfy all the requirements of this section.

26 (D) *The childcare services and resources a Basic Needs Center*  
27 *may provide for parenting students includes, but is not limited to,*  
28 *direct financial or service support.*

29 (3) (A) No later than February 1, 2022, develop a document  
30 that shall be provided to students at the Basic Needs Center, once  
31 established pursuant to paragraph (2), in either electronic format  
32 or paper form, and that shall be made available to students online,  
33 that clearly lists on- and off-campus basic needs services and  
34 resources that includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:

- 35 (i) The description of the service or resource.
- 36 (ii) The location of where the service or resource is provided.
- 37 (iii) The point of contact for the service or resource, including  
38 a name, telephone number, and email address.
- 39 (iv) Any eligibility restrictions on accessing the service or  
40 resource.

1 (B) On or before September 1, 2025, update the document  
2 developed pursuant to subparagraph (A) to include in the list of  
3 on- and off-campus basic needs services and resources the United  
4 States Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service's  
5 "SNAP Retail Locator" internet website link, which contains a  
6 map with locations that are authorized retail food stores under the  
7 federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and accept  
8 the use of electronic benefits transfer cards issued pursuant to  
9 Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 10065) of Part 1 of Division  
10 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

11 (C) Provide the document to students as a part of campus  
12 orientations in either electronic format or paper form.

13 (D) Provide to faculty the online link to the electronic format  
14 of the document, the location of the Basic Needs Center, once  
15 established pursuant to paragraph (2), and the contact information  
16 for the coordinator, once designated pursuant to paragraph (1),  
17 and encourage faculty to include the online link to the electronic  
18 format of the document, the location of the Basic Needs Center,  
19 and the contact information for the coordinator in their syllabi.

20 (E) To ensure that the document remains useful to students, the  
21 document shall be reviewed, updated, and made available online  
22 on both the internet website of the campus via the student basic  
23 needs tab and the internet website-based student account associated  
24 with a student's attendance at the institution, as specified in  
25 paragraph (6), no later than the first day of every fall and spring  
26 semester or no later than the first day of every fall and spring  
27 quarter.

28 (4) No later than February 1, 2022, streamline the application  
29 and intake process for on-campus basic needs services and  
30 resources to minimize duplication and eliminate barriers to access.  
31 If an application is required, develop and use a single application  
32 for students to receive on-campus basic needs services and  
33 resources.

34 (5) No later than February 1, 2022, develop and implement a  
35 plan to identify and provide outreach to students, including  
36 nontraditional students, who have basic needs insecurity related  
37 to housing, food, and mental health. Once the coordinator is  
38 designated pursuant to paragraph (1) and the Basic Needs Center  
39 is established pursuant to paragraph (2), the outreach shall include  
40 information about the coordinator and the Basic Needs Center.

(6) No later than February 1, 2022, provide a student basic needs tab that is clearly visible and easily accessible from a drop-down menu on the home page of the campus' internet website and include the information described in paragraph (3) conspicuously on both the internet website of the campus via the student basic needs tab and the internet website-based student account associated with a student's attendance at the institution. Once the coordinator is designated pursuant to paragraph (1) and the Basic Needs Center is established pursuant to paragraph (2), information about the coordinator and Basic Needs Center shall also be included on both the internet website of the campus via the student basic needs tab and the internet website-based student account associated with a student's attendance at the institution.

(c) (1) Each campus of the California Community Colleges shall report to the office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges information that shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following:

(A) The description and number of basic needs services and resources, broken down by category.

(B) The number of students served by the basic needs services and resources.

(C) Any existing and available data regarding the socioeconomic and demographic backgrounds of these students.

(D) Challenges and best practices in the implementation of the basic needs services and resources.

(E) Whether students who used the basic needs services and resources remained enrolled or graduated from that campus.

(F) The number of students who first started receiving CalFresh benefits in the previous year and the total number of students in the previous year who received CalFresh benefits, as provided by the State Department of Social Services.

(G) Whether the campus has a data sharing agreement with the relevant county operating the CalFresh program for the purpose of identifying new, continuing, and returning students who are potentially eligible for CalFresh benefits, or efforts underway to enact such an agreement.

(2) The data and information reported under this subdivision shall be disaggregated by each basic needs service and resource, where applicable.

1 (3) Campuses are encouraged to collaborate with the State  
2 Department of Social Services to obtain the data identified in  
3 paragraph (1), as applicable.

4 (d) (1) The office of the Chancellor of the California  
5 Community Colleges shall develop and submit to the Governor  
6 and the Legislature every year beginning on or before May 1, 2023,  
7 a report based on the data and information reported by campuses  
8 pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2) of subdivision (c) and  
9 information on the use of funds made available from the Budget  
10 Act of 2022 to implement this section.

11 (2) A legislative report that includes the information required  
12 to be reported in this subdivision and submitted in any of the years  
13 required by paragraph (1) shall fulfill the reporting requirement  
14 pursuant to this subdivision to reduce duplicative efforts.

15 SEC. 3. Section 66027.83 is added to the Education Code, to  
16 read:

17 66027.83. The financial aid office on each campus of the  
18 California Community Colleges and the California State University  
19 shall, and the financial aid office on each campus of the University  
20 of California is requested to, provide all of the following to students  
21 with dependent children:

22 (a) Information on the campus' childcare development center  
23 and childcare offerings, if applicable.

24 (b) Referral to the campus Basic Needs Center established  
25 pursuant to Section 66023.4 or 66023.5 for support accessing  
26 information, including, but not limited to, information and  
27 connections to local resource and referral agencies ~~and the local~~  
28 ~~planning council, and in order to obtain~~ support in applying for  
29 state and federal childcare subsidies and ~~programs.~~ *programs and*  
30 *finding local childcare providers.*

31 (c) Information on any supplemental awards such as the awards  
32 for students with dependent children established pursuant to Article  
33 9 (commencing with Section 69465) of Chapter 1.7 of Part 42.

34 SEC. 4. Section 66062 is added to the Education Code, to read:

35 66062. A child development center or preschool established  
36 pursuant to Section 66060 by the California Community Colleges  
37 and the California State University shall, and a child development  
38 center or preschool established pursuant to Section 66060 by the  
39 University of California is requested to, provide students with  
40 dependent children seeking childcare with both of the following:

1 (a) Referral to the campus Basic Needs Center established  
2 pursuant to Section 66023.4 or 66023.5 for support accessing  
3 information, including, but not limited to, information and  
4 connections to local resource and referral agencies ~~and the local~~  
5 ~~planning council, and in order to obtain~~ support in applying for  
6 state and federal childcare subsidies and ~~programs.~~ *programs and*  
7 *finding local childcare providers.*

8 (b) Referral to the campus' financial aid office, including  
9 information on the awards for students with dependent children  
10 established pursuant to Article 9 (commencing with Section 69465)  
11 of Chapter 1.7 of Part 42.

12 SEC. 5. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that  
13 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to  
14 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made  
15 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division  
16 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.