

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 6, 2016
AMENDED IN SENATE JANUARY 13, 2016
AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 20, 2015

SENATE BILL

No. 527

Introduced by Senator Liu

February 26, 2015

An act to add Article ~~14~~ 10 (commencing with Section ~~33480~~) 33430) to Chapter 3 of Part 20 of Division 2 of Title 2 ~~of of, and to repeal Section 33434 of,~~ the Education Code, relating to education finance.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 527, as amended, Liu. Education finance: Safe Neighborhoods and Schools ~~Planning Grants~~. *Fund: Learning Communities for School Success Program.*

Existing law, the Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act, enacted by Proposition 47, as approved by the voters at the November 4, 2014, statewide general election, among other things, established the Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Fund, a continuously appropriated fund, which is funded by savings that accrue to the state from the implementation of the act. The act provides that, among other purposes, 25% of the funds shall be disbursed to the State Department of Education to administer a grant program to public agencies aimed at improving outcomes for public school pupils by reducing truancy and supporting pupils who are at risk of dropping out of school or are victims of crime.

This bill would *establish the Learning Communities for School Success Program for the purpose of implementing that grant program, subject to an appropriation to the Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Fund in the annual Budget Act or another measure for the purposes of*

the bill. The bill would specify the administrative duties and responsibilities of the State Department of Education department with respect to the administration, subject to an appropriation in the Budget Act of 2016 or another measure enacted during the 2015–16 Regular Session of the Legislature, of Safe Neighborhoods and Schools planning program, including administering grants and coordinating assistance to local educational agencies, as defined. The bill would set forth criteria to guide the department in awarding planning grants under the program, program and would specify the purposes for which the planning grant funds may be used. The bill would require the department to submit a final evaluation of the program to the Legislature on or before January 31, 2020.

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

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

- 1 SECTION 1. *The Legislature finds and declares all of the*
- 2 *following:*
- 3 (a) *The Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act, approved as*
- 4 *Proposition 47 by the voters at the November 4, 2014, statewide*
- 5 *general election (the act), made significant changes to the state's*
- 6 *criminal justice system by reducing the penalties for certain*
- 7 *nonviolent, nonserious drug and property crimes. The act requires*
- 8 *the state savings realized from these criminal justice changes to*
- 9 *be deposited in the Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Fund and*
- 10 *spent on prevention and support services with the intent of reducing*
- 11 *crime, including truancy and dropout prevention.*
- 12 (b) *The act requires 25 percent of the moneys deposited in the*
- 13 *Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Fund to be allocated to the State*
- 14 *Department of Education for administration of a grant program*
- 15 *to reduce truancy and support pupils who are at risk of dropping*
- 16 *out of school or who are victims of crime.*
- 17 (c) *In accordance with the act, the funding provided to K–12*
- 18 *education should be used to help build the capacity of local*
- 19 *educational agencies to identify and implement evidence-based,*
- 20 *nonpunitive programs and practices to keep our most vulnerable*
- 21 *pupils in school, consistent with each local educational agency's*
- 22 *local control and accountability plan, including, but not limited*
- 23 *to, its goals for pupil engagement and school climate.*

1 (d) California needs to increase the knowledge base concerning
2 which strategies are most effective for improving pupil success
3 and eliminating the school-to-prison pipeline. One manner in
4 which this can be accomplished is for the local educational
5 agencies participating in the K–12 education grant program
6 pursuant to the act to report and evaluate outcomes using multiple
7 measures, while engaging in a broader community of practice that
8 disseminates promising and proven strategies to local educational
9 agencies statewide.

10 SEC. 2. Article 10 (commencing with Section 33430) is added
11 to Chapter 3 of Part 20 of Division 2 of Title 2 of the Education
12 Code, to read:

13
14 Article 10. The Learning Communities for School Success
15 Program
16

17 33430. The Learning Communities for School Success Program
18 is hereby established for the purpose of implementing, pursuant
19 to paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 7599.2 of the
20 Government Code, the K–12 education portion of the Safe
21 Neighborhoods and Schools Act, as approved as Proposition 47
22 by the voters at the November 4, 2014, statewide general election.
23 Through this program, the department shall administer grants and
24 coordinate assistance to local educational agencies to support the
25 local educational agencies in identifying and implementing
26 evidence-based, nonpunitive programs and practices that are
27 aligned with the goals for pupils contained in each of the local
28 educational agency’s local control and accountability plan
29 pursuant to Section 47606.5, 52060, or 52066, as applicable.

30 33431. (a) A local educational agency that chooses to apply
31 for funding pursuant to this article shall submit an application to
32 the department to receive a grant, in a format and by a date
33 determined by the department. An application submitted to the
34 department by a local educational agency shall include, at a
35 minimum, all of the following:

36 (1) Information about the pupil and school needs within the
37 local educational agency.

38 (2) The activities the local educational agency will undertake
39 with the grant funding.

1 (3) *How the activities specified in paragraph (2) support the*
2 *local educational agency’s goals for pupils contained in its local*
3 *control and accountability plan*

4 (4) *How the local educational agency will measure outcomes*
5 *associated with the activities specified in subdivision (e) and*
6 *metrics reported in the local educational agency’s local control*
7 *and accountability plan.*

8 (b) *An application shall be for three years of grant funding.*
9 *Consistent with the provisions of this article, the department may*
10 *establish requirements for grantees to meet at the end of the first*
11 *and second years of funding in order to receive funding for the*
12 *remaining grant period.*

13 (c) *The department shall determine eligibility for grants and*
14 *the distribution of grant funding based on all of the following*
15 *factors:*

16 (1) *Pupil and school needs the local educational agency will*
17 *address with the grant funds.*

18 (2) *Number of pupils to be served with the grant funds.*

19 (3) *Number, size, and type of participating schools within the*
20 *local educational agency.*

21 (4) *Any challenges the local educational agency experiences in*
22 *building capacity for fulfilling the purposes of this article.*

23 (5) *The unique characteristics of small school districts, given*
24 *their challenges with economies of scale and access to services in*
25 *rural locations.*

26 (d) (1) *Before the initial application deadline, the department*
27 *shall conduct targeted outreach to local educational agencies that*
28 *are likely to be given priority pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section*
29 *33432 and shall offer the local educational agencies technical*
30 *assistance as they develop their grant applications.*

31 (2) *The department may provide technical assistance with*
32 *application development to any local educational agency that*
33 *requests assistance. This may include assistance from external*
34 *entities the department may contract with as part of the training*
35 *and technical assistance structure established pursuant to Section*
36 *33433.*

37 (e) *The department shall issue application guidelines that*
38 *include, at a minimum, information on the outcome metrics the*
39 *department will use to evaluate the program. When determining*
40 *outcome metrics, the department shall consider metrics currently*

1 *being collected and used by existing federal, state, or local*
2 *programs. Consistent with the objective of the Safe Neighborhoods*
3 *and Schools Act to reduce crime, including truancy and dropout*
4 *prevention, the department shall consider using metrics for pupil*
5 *truancy and school dropout, among others.*

6 *(f) In meeting the requirements of this section, the department*
7 *shall consult with stakeholders, including, but not limited to,*
8 *representatives of local educational agencies, teachers and other*
9 *school personnel, parents, advocacy organizations with experience*
10 *working with target vulnerable populations, and parent- and*
11 *youth-serving community-based organizations. It the intent of the*
12 *Legislature that stakeholders provide input to the department on*
13 *the design of the application and review process, including the*
14 *size of the grant awards. The stakeholders shall not be involved*
15 *in determining who will be awarded grants.*

16 *33432. (a) A local educational agency that receives a grant*
17 *shall use the grant funds for planning, implementation, and*
18 *evaluation of activities in support of evidence-based, nonpunitive*
19 *programs and practices to keep the state’s most vulnerable pupils*
20 *in school, consistent with the local educational agency’s goals for*
21 *the pupil engagement and school climate state priorities as*
22 *identified in its local control and accountability plan pursuant to*
23 *Section 47606.5, 52060, or 52066, as applicable. These activities*
24 *may include, but are not limited to, all of the following:*

25 *(1) Establishing a community school, as defined in Section*
26 *33435.*

27 *(2) Implementing activities or programs to improve attendance*
28 *and reduce chronic absenteeism, including, but not limited to,*
29 *early warning systems or early intervention programs.*

30 *(3) Implementing restorative practices, restorative justice*
31 *models, or other programs to improve retention rates, reduce*
32 *suspensions and other school removals, and reduce the referral*
33 *of pupils to law enforcement agencies.*

34 *(4) Implementing activities that advance social-emotional*
35 *learning, positive behavior interventions and supports, culturally*
36 *responsive practices, and trauma-informed strategies.*

37 *(5) Establishing partnerships with community-based*
38 *organizations or other relevant entities to support the*
39 *implementation of evidence-based, nonpunitive approaches to*
40 *further the goals of the program.*

1 (b) In selecting grant recipients pursuant to this article, the
2 department shall give priority to a local educational agency that
3 meets any of the following criteria:

4 (1) (A) Has a high rate of chronic absenteeism, out-of-school
5 suspension, or school dropout for the general pupil population or
6 for a numerically significant pupil subgroup, as identified in a
7 local control and accountability plan pursuant to paragraphs (2)
8 and (3) of subdivision (a) of Section 52052.

9 (B) For purposes of this paragraph, “high rate” means a rate
10 that exceeds the state average.

11 (2) Is located in a community with a high crime rate.

12 (3) Has a significant representation of foster youth among its
13 pupil enrollment.

14 (c) A local educational agency that receives a grant shall
15 provide a local contribution of matching expenditures equal to at
16 least 20 percent of the total grant award. This local contribution
17 can be from cash expenditures or in-kind contributions. A local
18 educational agency is encouraged to exceed the 20-percent match
19 requirement to enable the local educational agency to sustain the
20 activities or programs established under this article beyond the
21 three-year grant period.

22 (d) A local educational agency that receives a grant shall use
23 the grant funds to supplement and not supplant the existing
24 resources the local educational agency currently allocates for
25 purposes specified in this article.

26 (e) A local educational agency shall not use grant funds to pay
27 for law enforcement activities, including personnel or equipment.

28 33433. (a) The department shall use the funding the Safe
29 Neighborhoods and Schools Act authorizes for administrative costs
30 pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 7599.2 of the Government
31 Code, which is no more than 5 percent of the annual funding the
32 department receives from the Safe Neighborhoods and Schools
33 Fund, for the administrative costs of implementing this article,
34 including, but not limited to, administering grant awards,
35 coordinating the training and technical assistance structure
36 described in subdivision (b), and completing the evaluation
37 pursuant to Section 33434.

38 (b) The department shall establish a structure to deliver training
39 and technical assistance to grantees using regional workshops
40 and technical assistance providers that have expertise on pupil

1 engagement, school climate, truancy reduction, and supporting
2 pupils who are at risk of dropping out of school or who are victims
3 of crime. The department may contract with those providers to
4 assist the grantees as well as to serve as a resource for other local
5 educational agencies that may use their own funding sources to
6 engage in this community of practice.

7 33434. (a) A local educational agency that receives grant
8 funding pursuant to this article shall evaluate and report to the
9 governing board of the school district, the county board of
10 education, or its chartering authority, as applicable, and the
11 department the results of the activities it undertakes pursuant to
12 this article. The department shall compile information from grantee
13 reports as part of an overall evaluation of the grant program
14 implementation. The department shall assess the benefits of
15 participation in the program and identify the pupil and school
16 outcomes associated with the strategies and programs implemented
17 by grantees. The department shall submit an interim report of
18 preliminary evaluation findings to the Legislature on or before
19 January 31, 2019, and a final evaluation report to the Legislature
20 on or before January 31, 2020.

21 (b) (1) A report to be submitted pursuant to subdivision (a)
22 shall be submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the
23 Government Code.

24 (2) Pursuant to Section 10231.5 of the Government Code, this
25 section is repealed on January 31, 2024.

26 33435. For purposes of this article, the following definitions
27 apply:

28 (a) “Community school” means a public school that participates
29 in a community-based effort to coordinate and integrate
30 educational, developmental, family, health, and other
31 comprehensive services through community-based organizations
32 and public and private partnerships with one or more community
33 partners for the delivery of community services that may be
34 provided at a school site to pupils, families, and community
35 members.

36 (b) “Local educational agency” means a school district, county
37 office of education, or charter school.

38 33436. This article shall not become operative unless funds
39 are appropriated in the annual Budget Act or another statute to
40 the Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Fund in accordance with the

1 *Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act for the purposes specified*
 2 *in this article.*

3 SECTION 1. ~~Article 14 (commencing with Section 33480) is~~
 4 ~~added to Chapter 3 of Part 20 of Division 2 of Title 2 of the~~
 5 ~~Education Code, to read:~~

6
 7 ~~Article 14. Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Planning Grants~~

8
 9 ~~33480. (a) Subject to an appropriation in the Budget Act of~~
 10 ~~2016 or another measure enacted during the 2015-16 Regular~~
 11 ~~Session of the Legislature, and from funds available pursuant to~~
 12 ~~the Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act, approved as Proposition~~
 13 ~~47 by the voters on November 4, 2014, the department shall~~
 14 ~~administer the Safe Neighborhoods and Schools planning grants~~
 15 ~~for the purpose of improving outcomes for public school pupils~~
 16 ~~by reducing truancy and supporting pupils who are at risk of~~
 17 ~~dropping out of school or are victims of crime.~~

18 ~~(1) All local educational agencies in the state shall be eligible~~
 19 ~~to apply for the grant program. As used in this article, a “local~~
 20 ~~educational agency” is a school district, a county office of~~
 21 ~~education, or a charter school.~~

22 ~~(2) Priority for funding shall be local educational agencies that~~
 23 ~~are located in communities with high crime rates, as determined~~
 24 ~~by local crime statistics, or have high rates of any of the following,~~
 25 ~~as determined by school-level data:~~

- 26 ~~(A) Chronic absenteeism.~~
- 27 ~~(B) Pupil suspension.~~
- 28 ~~(C) Dropout rates in middle or high schools.~~
- 29 ~~(D) Foster youth.~~

30 ~~(b) A local educational agency that chooses to apply for funding~~
 31 ~~pursuant to this article shall submit a plan to the department, in a~~
 32 ~~format and by a date determined by the department, that includes~~
 33 ~~a description of all of the following:~~

- 34 ~~(1) Local needs based on school-level data for any of the~~
 35 ~~following:~~
 - 36 ~~(A) Chronic absenteeism.~~
 - 37 ~~(B) Pupil suspensions.~~
 - 38 ~~(C) Dropout rates in middle or high schools.~~
 - 39 ~~(D) Local crime rates.~~
 - 40 ~~(E) The number of foster youth.~~

- 1 ~~(2) A commitment to do all of the following:~~
- 2 ~~(A) Align the program or strategies to the local educational~~
- 3 ~~agency's local control and accountability plan (LCAP), and include~~
- 4 ~~measurable goals in the local educational agency's LCAP.~~
- 5 ~~(B) Address the needs of each pupil subgroup, as identified in~~
- 6 ~~the LCAP of the local educational agency.~~
- 7 ~~(C) Implement a community schools strategy, pursuant to~~
- 8 ~~paragraph (1) of subdivision (c), for the purpose of reducing~~
- 9 ~~truancy and supporting pupils who are at risk of dropping out of~~
- 10 ~~school or are victims of crime.~~
- 11 ~~(D) Engage pupils, families, the community, and partners in~~
- 12 ~~planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.~~
- 13 ~~(E) Maintain a team, including school personnel, that is~~
- 14 ~~responsible for overall operations.~~
- 15 ~~(F) Monitor and evaluate program or strategy outputs, including~~
- 16 ~~the evaluation rubrics adopted by the state board, and provide a~~
- 17 ~~report of outputs at a regularly scheduled public meeting of the~~
- 18 ~~governing board of the local educational agency.~~
- 19 ~~(3) How the program or strategies will be sustained subsequent~~
- 20 ~~to the planning period.~~
- 21 ~~(4) How the program or strategies will be monitored and~~
- 22 ~~evaluated.~~
- 23 ~~(e) Planning grant funds pursuant to this article may be used~~
- 24 ~~for any of the following purposes:~~
- 25 ~~(1) Development and initial implementation of a community~~
- 26 ~~schools strategy, to coordinate and integrate delivery of~~
- 27 ~~educational, developmental, family, health, and other~~
- 28 ~~comprehensive services to pupils and their families through~~
- 29 ~~community-based organizations and public and private~~
- 30 ~~partnerships, which strategy shall include all of the following:~~
- 31 ~~(A) Assessing and meeting academic, social, emotional, physical~~
- 32 ~~health, and mental health needs of pupils.~~
- 33 ~~(B) Identifying school and community resources, and developing~~
- 34 ~~partnerships with community and service providers.~~
- 35 ~~(C) Cross-agency collaboration.~~
- 36 ~~(D) Integration of services.~~
- 37 ~~(E) Establishment of a team, including school personnel, that~~
- 38 ~~is responsible for overall operations.~~
- 39 ~~(2) Technical assistance and professional development in~~
- 40 ~~community schools strategies.~~

- 1 ~~(3) Community schools planning activities.~~
- 2 ~~(4) Initial costs of implementing new activities and services, or~~
- 3 ~~improving or expanding upon existing activities and services.~~
- 4 ~~(d) The department shall do all of the following:~~
- 5 ~~(1) Conduct outreach regarding the Safe Neighborhood and~~
- 6 ~~Schools planning grants to local educational agencies that are~~
- 7 ~~located in communities with high crime rates, as determined by~~
- 8 ~~local crime statistics, or have high rates of any of the following,~~
- 9 ~~as determined by school-level data:~~
- 10 ~~(A) Chronic absenteeism.~~
- 11 ~~(B) Pupil suspension.~~
- 12 ~~(C) Middle or high school dropout rates.~~
- 13 ~~(D) Foster youth.~~
- 14 ~~(2) Provide training and technical assistance to local educational~~
- 15 ~~agencies that receive funding pursuant to this article.~~
- 16 ~~(3) Coordinate training and technical assistance for local~~
- 17 ~~educational agencies that do not receive funding pursuant to this~~
- 18 ~~article.~~
- 19 ~~(e) The department may use up to 5 percent of funds allocated~~
- 20 ~~to the department pursuant to the Safe Neighborhoods and Schools~~
- 21 ~~Act for administrative costs.~~
- 22 ~~(f) Funds made available to a local educational agency pursuant~~
- 23 ~~to this article may be used only to supplement, and not supplant,~~
- 24 ~~any other federal, state, or local funds that would otherwise be~~
- 25 ~~available to carry out the activities described in this article. It is~~
- 26 ~~the intent of the Legislature that any ongoing costs for activities~~
- 27 ~~pursuant to this article be paid for by the participating local~~
- 28 ~~educational agency.~~