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## SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Benjamin Allen, Chair

2017 - 2018 Regular

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**Bill No:** AB 192 **Hearing Date:** June 7, 2017  
**Author:** Medina  
**Version:** May 10, 2017  
**Urgency:** No **Fiscal:** Yes  
**Consultant:** Olgalilia Ramirez

**Subject:** Migrant education: statewide parent advisory council: reports

### SUMMARY

This bill modifies meeting and reporting requirements for the statewide parent advisory council (SPAC) of the Migrant Education Program (MEP).

### BACKGROUND

Existing law:

- 1) Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) to take necessary steps to ensure effective parental involvement throughout the state migrant education program, including the adoption of rules and regulations requiring each program to actively solicit parental involvement in the planning, operation, and evaluation of its programs through the establishment of, and consultation with, a parent advisory council.
- 2) Requires that each parent advisory council be comprised of members who are knowledgeable of the needs of migrant children and shall be elected by the parents of migrant children enrolled in the operating agency's programs. Specifies the means by which the councils' composition is determined.
- 3) Requires the SPI to establish a SPAC that shall participate in the planning, operation, and evaluation of the state migrant education program and specifies its membership.
- 4) Requires the SPI to sponsor a SPAC conference during the spring of each year.
- 5) Requires the SPAC to prepare and submit a report to the Legislature, the State Board of Education, the SPI, and the Governor regarding the status of the migrant education program within 120 days of the conclusion of a training program on preparing the report provided by the SPI.
- 6) Requires that the report include an evaluation of the migrant education program, a review of annual needs, and a year-end assessment.
- 7) Requires the SPI to furnish, without charge, parent advisory councils with a copy of all applicable state and federal migrant education statutes, rules and regulations, guidelines, and copies of all applicable state and federal audits, monitoring reports, and evaluations.

- 8) Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) to establish and implement training programs for members of the statewide and operating agency parent advisory councils to enable them to carry out their responsibilities. (Education Code § 54444.2.)

## ANALYSIS

This bill:

- 1) Requires the statewide parent advisory council to prepare and submit a report to the Legislature, Governor, State Board of Education and SPI already required under existing law every three years instead of annually.
- 2) Requires the State Parent Advisory Council (SPAC) Conference to be held biennially, instead of annually.
- 3) Authorizes the SPI to sponsor regional conferences to take the place of the state conference if the Superintendent determines that regional conferences will increase parent participation.

## STAFF COMMENTS

- 1) ***Need for the bill.*** The SPAC is composed of migrant parents elected from their respective region in California. According to the author the annual reporting requirement has made it difficult and nearly impossible for the Migrant Education Program (MEP) to consider recommendations from the report because of the overlap in developing the current-year report and the previous-year report. Recently, the SPAC voted to align the SPAC report with the federally-required State Service Delivery Plan (SSDP) which serves to identify the state's targeted program service areas, measurable outcomes for the MEP and is conducted every three years.

This bill seeks to improve the quality of the existing evaluation process by changing the state's reporting requirement from once every year to once every three years and align the SPAC report with the SSDP. This bill also seeks to boost parent attendance and participation in the Statewide SPAC conference by holding biennial conferences and regional meetings.

- 2) ***Migrant Education Program (MEP).*** MEP was created by the federal government in 1966, to address the educational needs of children whose family members are employed doing seasonal agricultural work. Children are eligible to participate in the MEP if they or their parents or guardians are migrant workers in the agricultural, dairy, lumber, or fishing industries, and their family has moved for the purpose of finding temporary or seasonal employment during the past three years. Migrant students are eligible for program services from age 3 until they (1) attain a high school diploma or its equivalent or (2) turn 21.

According to information provided by the author, California serves the largest number of migrant students in any state. In 2014-15, there were over 102,000 migrant students identified in California.

- 3) **Recent State Parent Advisory Council (SPAC) report.** In the Annual SPAC report for 2014-15, SPAC members reviewed the data compiled by the Migrant Education Program (MEP) subgrantees. They identified and analyzed common experiences and recommendations provided by migrant parents throughout the state. This bill proposes that SPAC issue this report every three years. SPAC members created a list of priority recommendations for each of the major components of the California MEP. The recommendations include all of the following:
- *Improve access to preschool by:*
    - Prioritizing early childhood development and providing more funding for preschool programs for children of migrant families.
    - Opening and supporting more preschool programs to increase accessibility and alleviate transportation challenges.
    - Assisting with transportation to preschool programs.
    - Encouraging parents to get involved in their children's academic success with workshops offered in their native language on child development and techniques to help their children's learning.
    - Improving children's academic success in preschool by hiring qualified teachers, offering bilingual/biliteral preschool programs, training parents, strengthening the use and development of the first language and supporting parents in their literacy and English-learning efforts.
  - *Provide additional academic support for migrant students through:*
    - Increasing individualized tutoring programs.
    - Continuing and expanding offerings of intensive and specialized courses that support migrant students' academic performance in focus areas such as algebra, science, and critical thinking.
    - Continuing to offer Saturday classes in which parents can participate together with their children.
    - Increasing parent training that enables them to support their children's academic success.
  - *Address the concerns of migrant parents with out-of-school youth by:*
    - Improving communication with migrant families about programs and services for out-of-school youth.
    - Continuing efforts to recruit out-of-school youth where they work.

- Bringing out-of-school programs and services to youths working in the fields.
- Increasing efforts to provide motivational programs, counseling, and assistance to connect out-of-school youth with mental health services and other support services.
- *Increase parental involvement by:*
  - Continuing to train parents to understand and navigate the education system.
  - Continuing and expanding training of teachers and MEP staff in cultural competence.
  - Continuing to train parents already engaged in their children's education to inform and encourage other parents to become involved.
  - Continuing and strengthening workshops and education programs for parents, including literacy classes and English as a second language.
  - Improving MEP communication with migrant parents.
- *Acknowledging the importance of good health for children's academic competence and performance by:*
  - Increasing training to inform parents about nutrition and exercise.
  - Providing nutrition classes for students as well as parents.
  - Expanding the availability of healthy food in schools.
  - Continuing to support the availability of regular health examinations by qualified professionals.

Staff notes that several of these recommendations are relative to improving parent involvement. Similarly, this bill proposes to increase parent participation at the statewide level by reducing the frequency of the statewide conference and in its place the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) may host regional meetings to boost attendance and parental involvement.

## **SUPPORT**

Tom Torlakson, Superintendent of Public Instruction

## **OPPOSITION**

None received.

**-- END --**