
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Carol Liu, Chair
2015 - 2016 Regular

Bill No: SB 911
Author: Hertzberg
Version: January 26, 2016
Urgency: No
Consultant: Olgalilia Ramirez
Hearing Date: March 9, 2016
Fiscal: Yes

Subject: California American Indian education centers

SUMMARY

This bill deletes the January 1, 2017 repeal of the California American Indian Education Center (Center) program thereby extending the operation of the program indefinitely.

BACKGROUND

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the Center program to provide community-based educational resource centers to American Indian pupils, parents, guardians, and public schools in order to promote the academic and cultural achievement of American Indian pupils. (Education Code § 33381)
- 2) Requires each Center to submit an annual report to the California Department of Education (CDE) and further requires the report to include appropriate data that reflects each Center's ability to:
 - a) Meet its stated objectives.
 - b) Measure pupil academic performance.
 - c) Meet the continued educational and cultural needs of the community that the Center serves. (EC § 33384)
- 3) Requires the CDE, by January 1, 2011 and again by January 1, 2016, to report consolidated results for all Centers and supply information that is required for a comprehensive evaluation of those results, and make recommendations for program improvement. (EC § 33384)
- 4) Sunsets the Center program on January 1, 2017. (EC § 33385)

ANALYSIS

This bill deletes the January 1, 2017 sunset of the Center program thereby extending the operation of the program indefinitely.

STAFF COMMENTS

- 1) ***Need for the bill.*** The program is scheduled to sunset, on January 1, 2017. According to the author, while American Indian student performance has improved in recent years, American Indian students continue to perform below state averages at all levels of schooling. Additionally, these centers, established in the 1970's, have a long history of offering educational and cultural support to this group of students. This bill aims to ensure that American Indian students continue to receive services provided through Centers by eliminating the program's sunset date.

- 2) ***American Indian Education Centers.*** There are currently 22 centers located in eighteen counties, including but not limited to Alameda, Humboldt, Lake, Kern, Los Angeles and San Diego. Centers serve as educational resource centers to students, parents and public schools in American Indian communities. According to the California Department of Education (CDE) website, Center staff assist schools with professional development, counseling, tutorial services, or parent education. They also provide supplemental and extended day instructional programs to meet the needs of American Indian students.

Tribal organizations or incorporated American Indian organizations may apply to the department to establish a Center. Funding is subject to the amount appropriated in the annual budget act. Applications are approved for a period of five years.

- 3) ***Program evaluation.*** An evaluation of the program by CDE is expected to be released in the coming weeks. Current law requires CDE by, January 1, 2010 and again by January 1, 2016, to report consolidated results for all Centers and supply information that is required for a comprehensive evaluation of those results, and make recommendations for program improvement. If the committee chooses to eliminate the sunset date of the Center program, would seem prudent to require that the comprehensive evaluation of the program continue to occur. For this reason **staff recommends** the bill be amended to update section 33384 (2) of the Education Code as follows:

§ 33384. (2) ~~On or before January 1, 2011, and again on or before January 1, 2016~~ *On or before January 1, 2021 and every five years thereafter* the department shall report consolidated results for all centers and supply information that is required for a comprehensive evaluation of those results, and make recommendations for program improvement.

For clarification purposes, **staff further recommends** an amendment to require the department to make the above information available to the appropriate fiscal and policy committees of the Legislature.

SUPPORT

Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians
 Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians
 Sycuan Band of Kumeyaay Nation

OPPOSITION

None received.

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