

Initial Statement of Reasons

SECTIONS 19810 and the 2016-17 Guide for Annual Audits of K-12 Local Education Agencies and State Compliance Reporting (July 1, 2016) incorporated by reference.

Specific Purpose of the Regulations

The regulation to be amended, Education Code Section 19810, is that which incorporates the Audit Guide by reference. The Audit Guide defines terms and specifies procedures to guide accountants in the conduct of statutorily required financial and compliance audits of local education agencies (LEAs). (Ed. Code §§ 14502.1, 14503, 41020.) The Education Audit Appeals Panel (EAAP) must adopt the Audit Guide by July 1 of the fiscal year to be audited, and must adopt any supplement to address legislative changes to the conditions of apportionment before March 1 of the audit year. (Ed. Code § 14502.1(b)).

The Controller, pursuant to Education Code Section 14502.1, has proposed the Audit Guide for fiscal year 2016-17, based on certain amendments of the language used in the 2015-16 Audit Guide (as revised, effective March 1, 2016). EAAP proposes to amend Ed. Code section 19810 and adopt the incorporated by reference 2016-17 Guide for Annual Audits of K-12 Local Education Agencies and State Compliance Reporting.

Necessity/Rationale

These amendments are necessary to implement Education Code sections 14502.1, 14503, 41020, 47612 and 47634.2. The rationale for each amendment is provided below, the overall purpose being to guide the conduct of audits and the content of audit reports consistent with Legislative intent and the Controller's proposals.

Problem to be Addressed in this Rulemaking

The proposed regulatory changes will make clarifying revisions and specify audit procedures to guide accountants in the conduct of the statutorily required financial and compliance audits of K-12 LEAs to address issues resulting from new legislation that affected conditions of apportionment.

Title 5, Division 1.5 **Chapter 3. Audits of California K - 12 Local Education Agencies** **Article 2 Audit Reports**

§ 19810. Annual Audit Guides.

The "~~2015-16~~2016-17 "Guide for Annual Audits for K-12 Local Education Agencies and State Compliance Reporting," (~~March 1, 2015~~July 1, 2016), adopted by the Education Audit Appeals Panel, is incorporated by reference. The guide provides the audit steps, reporting requirements, and other guidance, for the required annual financial and compliance audits, subject to auditor judgment where alternative or additional audit steps may be appropriate. The annual guide is superseded by a supplemental Audit Guide, if needed, adopted before March 1 of each fiscal year. Each annual guide and any applicable supplement are available on www.eaap.ca.gov/audit-guide, with paper or electronic copies available on request.

Note: Authority cited: Education Code Sections 14502.1, 47612; California Constitution, Article XIII, Section 36, subdiv. (e), subpara 7, and Article XIII A, Section 1, subdiv. (b), subparas 3(C) and 3(D).

Reference: California Constitution, Article XIII B, Section 1.5; and Education Code Sections 8482.3(c)(5), 2574(b)(3)(C), 14501, 14502.1, 14503, 15286, 41020, 42238.02(b)(3)(B), 47612.5, and 47634.2 and 48000, ~~Education Code~~.

Audit Guide Amendments

The proposed annual 2016-17 Audit Guide includes the following amendments to the text of the existing 2015-16 Audit Guide:

Amendments:

- *Section R Educator Effectiveness* is amended to add specific years, 2015-16 and 2016-17, to the directive that auditors confirm whether the LEA developed a plan for Educator Effectiveness expenditures, whereas previously the step was merely to determine whether the LEA had adopted a plan. The original wording was sufficient in the prior version of the audit guide, but this clarification is necessary since LEAs have now had two years to develop the plan.
- *Section W Unduplicated Local Control Funding Formula Pupil Counts*: Amendments authorize auditors to substitute pupils in representative samples to replace selected students who transferred to another LEA, in lieu of obtaining the needed information from the new LEA. The change facilitates reasonable and consistent audit procedures among the different auditors using this audit guide.
- *Section Z Immunizations* is amended to refer to current medical exemptions and personal beliefs exemptions from measles testing, filed before January 1, 2016; and to delete the personal beliefs exemption as to the Tdap vaccination, consistent with amendments to Health and Safety Code Sections 120325 et seq. (Stats. 2015, Ch. 35 (S.B. 277)).

Technical, Theoretical, or Empirical Studies, Reports, or Documents

In preparing the proposed regulations, EAAP did not rely on any technical, theoretical, or empirical studies or reports.

Reasonable Alternatives to the Regulations, Including Alternatives that Would Lessen Any Adverse Impact on Small Business, and the Agency's Reasons for Rejecting Those Alternatives.

The Audit Guide regulations are applicable only to certified public accountants and public accountants who audit LEAs, and indirectly to the LEAs themselves. No alternatives to these amendments have been proposed which would reduce any impact on small business; in any case, no adverse impact on small business has been identified. No other alternatives were presented to or considered by EAAP. Particularly where the Legislature has ordered that specific matters be included in the Audit Guide and/or stated that compliance is a condition of apportionment, there is no alternative consistent with legislative intent.

Alternatives Proposed as Less Burdensome and Equally Effective in Achieving the Purposes.

No other alternatives were presented to or considered by EAAP.

Prescribed Audit Procedures.

The proposed 2016-17 Audit guide clarifies and revises the language used in the 2015-16 Audit Guide to conform to legislation. These audits must be performed by licensed public accountants who must conduct the audits in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. (Ed. Code §§ 14501, 14503, and 41020; Title 5, §§ 19811 and 19812.) The Audit Guide includes provisions that authorize an auditor to use alternative procedures if, in the exercise of professional judgment, the auditor determines other procedures are more appropriate in particular circumstances. (Title 5, §§ 19814 and 19816(h)).

Evidence Supporting Finding of No Significant Adverse Economic Impact on Any Business.

EAAP has prepared the following Economic Impact Assessment pursuant to Government Code Section 11346.3(b) and has made an initial determination that adoption of the proposed regulations would not have a significant adverse economic impact on any business in the State of California. The regulations direct accountants to perform the steps necessary for the annual audits required by Education Code Section 41020. Education Code Section 14503 requires the use of this Audit Guide in the performance of those audits of LEAs. In brief, any economic impact derives from the statutory audit requirement and changes in substantive law already subject to audit.

Economic Impact Assessment

Staff of the Education Audit Appeals Panel (EAAP) have performed an economic impact assessment of the proposed regulations amending section 19810 and revising the Audit Guide which is incorporated by reference. This assessment was performed in compliance with Government Code section 11346.3(b).

What would the proposed regulations do?

This rulemaking adopts the Audit Guide for 2016-17, required by Section 14502.1, through incorporation by reference in a revised Education Code Section 19810. The Audit Guide provides guidance, through definitions of terms and specification of procedures, to auditors in the conduct of the annual financial and compliance audits required of K-12 local education agencies by Education Code Section 41020. The guidance facilitates auditors in conducting audits and readers of audit reports by directing the manner of presenting findings.

Creation or Elimination of Jobs Within the State of California

The activities specified in the regulations, or auditor-selected alternative activities, are necessary to implement existing Education Code sections. There will be no jobs created or eliminated as a result of these proposed regulations.

Creation of New or Elimination of Existing Businesses Within the State of California

These regulations will make only technical and conforming changes to Section 19810 and the K-12 Audit Guide. There will be no businesses created or eliminated as a result of these

regulations.

Expansion of Businesses or Elimination of Existing Businesses Within the State of California

The proposed regulations will not expand or eliminate business. Education Code Section 41020 requires that these audits be conducted by professional accounting firms under contract to local education agencies, and requires that those firms use the standards and procedures developed pursuant to Section 14500 and following.

Benefits of the Regulation to the Health and Welfare of California Residents

These regulations make technical and conforming changes to the K-12 Audit Guide to ensure its compliance with existing statutes. As stated under the “Informative Digest/Policy Statement Overview” above, the proposed regulations will update and improve audit procedures of K-12 local education agencies, which would ultimately benefit the welfare of California residents by ensuring that local education agencies are in compliance with regulatory requirements.