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AB-438 Pupils with exceptional needs: individualized education programs: postsecondary goals and transition services. (2023-2024)

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Assembly Bill No. 438

CHAPTER 901

An act to amend, repeal, and add Sections 56043, 56341.5, and 56345 of the Education Code, relating to pupils with exceptional needs.

[Approved by Governor September 28, 2024. Filed with Secretary of State September 28, 2024.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 438, Blanca Rubio. Pupils with exceptional needs: individualized education programs: postsecondary goals and transition services.

Existing law requires local educational agencies to identify, locate, and assess individuals with exceptional needs and to provide those pupils with a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment, with special education and related services as reflected in an individualized education program. Existing law requires, beginning not later than the first individualized education program to be in effect when a pupil is 16 years of age, or younger if determined appropriate by the individualized education program team, and updated annually thereafter, the individualized education program to include appropriate measurable postsecondary goals and transition services, as defined, needed to assist the pupil in reaching those goals.

This bill would instead require an individualized education program, commencing July 1, 2025, to include measurable postsecondary goals and transition services, if determined appropriate by a pupil's individualized education program team, beginning when an individual with exceptional needs is starting their high school experience and not later than the first individualized education program to be in effect when the pupil is 16 years of age, as provided. By imposing additional requirements on local educational agencies in relation to individualized education programs, the 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 Local Program: yes

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 56043 of the Education Code is amended to read:

56043. The primary timelines affecting special education programs are as follows:

- (a) A proposed assessment plan shall be developed within 15 calendar days of referral for assessment, not counting calendar days between the pupil's regular school sessions or terms or calendar days of school vacation in excess of five schooldays, from the date of receipt of the referral, unless the parent or guardian agrees in writing to an extension, pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 56321.
- (b) A parent or guardian shall have at least 15 calendar days from the receipt of the proposed assessment plan to arrive at a decision, pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 56321.
- (c) Once a child has been referred for an initial assessment to determine whether the child is an individual with exceptional needs and to determine the educational needs of the child, these determinations shall be made, and an individualized education program team meeting shall occur, within 60 days of receiving parental consent for the assessment, pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 56302.1, except as specified in subdivision (b) of that section, and pursuant to Section 56344.
- (d) The individualized education program team shall review the pupil's individualized education program periodically, but not less frequently than annually, pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 56341.1.
- (e) A parent or guardian shall be notified of the individualized education program team meeting early enough to ensure an opportunity to attend, pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 56341.5. In the case of an individual with exceptional needs who is 16 years of age or younger, if appropriate, the meeting notice shall indicate that a purpose of the meeting will be the consideration of the postsecondary goals and transition services for the individual with exceptional needs, and the meeting notice described in this subdivision shall indicate that the individual with exceptional needs is invited to attend, pursuant to subdivision (e) of Section 56341.5.
- (f) (1) An individualized education program required as a result of an assessment of a pupil shall be developed within a total time not to exceed 60 calendar days, not counting days between the pupil's regular school sessions, terms, or days of school vacation in excess of five schooldays, from the date of receipt of the parent's or guardian's written consent for assessment, unless the parent or guardian agrees in writing to an extension, pursuant to Section 56344.
- (2) A meeting to develop an initial individualized education program for the pupil shall be conducted within 30 days of a determination that the child needs special education and related services pursuant to Section 300.323(c)(1) of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations and in accordance with Section 56344.
- (g) (1) Beginning not later than the first individualized education program to be in effect when the pupil is 16 years of age, or younger if determined appropriate by the individualized education program team, and updated annually thereafter, the individualized education program shall include appropriate measurable postsecondary goals and transition services needed to assist the pupil in reaching those goals, pursuant to paragraph (8) of subdivision (a) of Section 56345.
- (2) The individualized education program for pupils in grades 7 to 12, inclusive, shall include any alternative means and modes necessary for the pupil to complete the district's prescribed course of study and to meet or exceed proficiency standards for graduation, pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) of Section 56345.
- (3) Beginning not later than one year before the pupil reaches 18 years of age, the individualized education program shall contain a statement that the pupil has been informed of the pupil's rights under this part, if any, that will transfer to the pupil upon reaching 18 years of age, pursuant to Section 56041.5, subdivision (g) of Section 56345, and Section 300.520 of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations.
- (h) Beginning at the age of 16 years or younger, and annually thereafter, a statement of needed transition services shall be included in the pupil's individualized education program, pursuant to Section 56345.1 and Section 1414(d)(1)(A)(i)(VIII) of Title 20 of the United States Code.
- (i) A pupil's individualized education program shall be implemented as soon as possible following the individualized education program team meeting, pursuant to Section 300.323(c)(2) of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations and in accordance with Section 56344.
- (j) An individualized education program team shall meet at least annually to review a pupil's progress, the individualized education program, including whether the annual goals for the pupil are being achieved, the appropriateness of the placement, and to make any necessary revisions, pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 56343. The local educational agency shall maintain procedures to ensure that the individualized education program team reviews the pupil's individualized education program periodically, but not less frequently than annually, to determine whether the annual goals for the pupil are being achieved, and revises the individualized education program as appropriate to address, among other matters, the provisions specified in subdivision (d) of Section 56341.1, pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 56380.

- (k) A reassessment of a pupil shall occur not more frequently than once a year, unless the parent and the local educational agency agree otherwise in writing, and shall occur at least once every three years, unless the parent and the local educational agency agree, in writing, that a reassessment is unnecessary, pursuant to Section 56381, and in accordance with Section 1414(a)(2) of Title 20 of the United States Code.
- (l) A meeting of an individualized education program team requested by a parent or guardian to review an individualized education program pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 56343 shall be held within 30 calendar days, not counting days between the pupil's regular school sessions, terms, or days of school vacation in excess of five schooldays, from the date of receipt of the parent's or guardian's written request, pursuant to Section 56343.5.
- (m) If an individual with exceptional needs transfers from district to district within the state, the following apply pursuant to Section 56325:
- (1) If the child has an individualized education program and transfers into a district from a district not operating programs under the same special education local plan area in which the child was last enrolled in a special education program within the same academic year, the local educational agency shall provide the pupil with a free appropriate public education, including services comparable to those described in the previously approved individualized education program, in consultation with a parent or guardian, for a period not to exceed 30 days, by which time the local educational agency shall adopt the previously approved individualized education program or shall develop, adopt, and implement a new individualized education program that is consistent with federal and state law, pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 56325.
 - (2) If the child has an individualized education program and transfers into a district from a district operating programs under the same special education local plan area of the district in which the child was last enrolled in a special education program within the same academic year, the new district shall continue, without delay, to provide services comparable to those described in the existing approved individualized education program, unless the parent and the local educational agency agree to develop, adopt, and implement a new individualized education program that is consistent with state and federal law, pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 56325.
 - (3) If the child has an individualized education program and transfers from an educational agency located outside the state to a district within the state within the same academic year, the local educational agency shall provide the pupil with a free appropriate public education, including services comparable to those described in the previously approved individualized education program, in consultation with a parent or guardian, until the local educational agency conducts an assessment as specified in paragraph (3) of subdivision (a) of Section 56325.
 - (4) In order to facilitate the transition for an individual with exceptional needs described in paragraphs (1) to (3), inclusive, the new school in which the pupil enrolls shall take reasonable steps to promptly obtain the pupil's records, as specified, pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 56325.
- (n) The parent or guardian shall have the right and opportunity to examine all school records of the child and to receive complete copies within five business days after a request is made by the parent or guardian, either orally or in writing, and before any meeting regarding an individualized education program of the parent's or guardian's child or any hearing or resolution session pursuant to Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 56500), in accordance with Section 56504 and Chapter 6.5 (commencing with Section 49060) of Part 27.
- (o) Upon receipt of a request from a local educational agency where an individual with exceptional needs has enrolled, a former educational agency shall send the pupil's special education records, or a copy of those records, to the new local educational agency within five working days, pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 3024 of Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations.
- (p) The department shall do all of the following:
- (1) Have a time limit of 60 calendar days after a complaint is filed with the state educational agency to investigate the complaint.
 - (2) Give the complainant the opportunity to submit additional information about the allegations in the complaint.
 - (3) Review all relevant information and make an independent determination as to whether there is a violation of a requirement of this part or Part B of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. Sec. 1400 et seq.).
 - (4) Issue a written decision pursuant to Section 300.152(a)(5) of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations.
- (q) A prehearing mediation conference shall be scheduled within 15 calendar days of receipt by the Superintendent of the request for mediation, and shall be completed within 30 calendar days after the request for mediation, unless both parties to the prehearing mediation conference agree to extend the time for completing the mediation, pursuant to Section 56500.3.

(r) Any request for a due process hearing arising from subdivision (a) of Section 56501 shall be filed within two years from the date the party initiating the request knew or had reason to know of facts underlying the basis for the request, except that this timeline shall not apply to a parent if the parent was prevented from requesting the due process hearing, pursuant to subdivision (l) of Section 56505.

(s) The Superintendent shall ensure that, within 45 calendar days after receipt of a written due process hearing request, the hearing is immediately commenced and completed, including any mediation requested at any point during the hearing process, and a final administrative decision is rendered, pursuant to subdivision (f) of Section 56502.

(t) If either party to a due process hearing intends to be represented by an attorney in the due process hearing, notice of that intent shall be given to the other party at least 10 calendar days before the hearing, pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 56507.

(u) Any party to a due process hearing shall have the right to be informed by the other parties to the hearing, at least 10 calendar days before the hearing, as to what those parties believe are the issues to be decided at the hearing and their proposed resolution of those issues, pursuant to paragraph (6) of subdivision (e) of Section 56505.

(v) Any party to a due process hearing shall have the right to receive from other parties to the hearing, at least five business days before the hearing, a copy of all documents, including all assessments completed and not completed by that date, and a list of all witnesses and their general area of testimony that the parties intend to present at the hearing, pursuant to paragraph (7) of subdivision (e) of Section 56505.

(w) An appeal of a due process hearing decision shall be made within 90 calendar days of receipt of the hearing decision, pursuant to subdivision (k) of Section 56505.

(x) A complaint filed with the department shall allege a violation of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. Sec. 1400 et seq.) or a provision of this part that occurred not more than one year before the date that the complaint is received by the department, pursuant to Section 56500.2 and Section 300.153(c) of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

(y) This section shall become inoperative on July 1, 2025, and, as of January 1, 2026, is repealed.

SEC. 2. Section 56043 is added to the Education Code, to read:

56043. The primary timelines affecting special education programs are as follows:

(a) A proposed assessment plan shall be developed within 15 calendar days of referral for assessment, not counting calendar days between the pupil's regular school sessions or terms or calendar days of school vacation in excess of five schooldays, from the date of receipt of the referral, unless the parent or guardian agrees in writing to an extension, pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 56321.

(b) A parent or guardian shall have at least 15 calendar days from the receipt of the proposed assessment plan to arrive at a decision, pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 56321.

(c) Once a child has been referred for an initial assessment to determine whether the child is an individual with exceptional needs and to determine the educational needs of the child, these determinations shall be made, and an individualized education program team meeting shall occur, within 60 days of receiving parental consent for the assessment, pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 56302.1, except as specified in subdivision (b) of that section, and pursuant to Section 56344.

(d) The individualized education program team shall review the pupil's individualized education program periodically, but not less frequently than annually, pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 56341.1.

(e) A parent or guardian shall be notified of the individualized education program team meeting early enough to ensure an opportunity to attend, pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 56341.5. Consistent with Section 1414(d)(1)(A)(i)(VIII) of Title 20 of the United States Code, if determined appropriate by a pupil's individualized education program team, in the case of an individual with exceptional needs who is starting their high school experience and not later than when the pupil is 16 years of age or younger, as appropriate, the meeting notice shall indicate that a purpose of the meeting will be the consideration of the postsecondary goals and transition services for the individual with exceptional needs, and the meeting notice described in this subdivision shall indicate that the individual with exceptional needs is invited to attend, pursuant to subdivision (e) of Section 56341.5.

(f) (1) An individualized education program required as a result of an assessment of a pupil shall be developed within a total time not to exceed 60 calendar days, not counting days between the pupil's regular school sessions, terms, or days of school vacation in excess of five schooldays, from the date of receipt of the parent's or guardian's written consent for assessment, unless the parent or guardian agrees in writing to an extension, pursuant to Section 56344.

(2) A meeting to develop an initial individualized education program for the pupil shall be conducted within 30 days of a determination that the child needs special education and related services pursuant to Section 300.323(c)(1) of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations and in accordance with Section 56344.

(g) (1) Consistent with Section 1414(d)(1)(A)(i)(VIII) of Title 20 of the United States Code, if determined appropriate by a pupil's individualized education program team, beginning when the pupil starts their high school experience or not later than the first individualized education program to be in effect when the pupil is 16 years of age or younger, as appropriate, and updated annually thereafter, the individualized education program shall include appropriate measurable postsecondary goals and transition services needed to assist the pupil in reaching those goals, pursuant to paragraph (8) of subdivision (a) of Section 56345. If the individualized education program team determines that the pupil would benefit from the postponement of the inclusion of appropriate measurable postsecondary goals and transition services until 16 years of age, rather than when the pupil begins their high school experience, the individualized education program team is encouraged to appropriately justify the basis for that postponement.

(2) The individualized education program for pupils in grades 7 to 12, inclusive, shall include any alternative means and modes necessary for the pupil to complete the district's prescribed course of study and to meet or exceed proficiency standards for graduation, pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) of Section 56345.

(3) Beginning not later than one year before the pupil reaches 18 years of age, the individualized education program shall contain a statement that the pupil has been informed of the pupil's rights under this part, if any, that will transfer to the pupil upon reaching 18 years of age, pursuant to Section 56041.5, subdivision (g) of Section 56345, and Section 300.520 of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

(h) Pursuant to Section 1414(d)(1)(A)(i)(VIII) of Title 20 of the United States Code and Section 56345.1, if determined appropriate by the pupil's individualized education program team, beginning when the pupil starts their high school experience and not later than when the pupil is 16 years of age or younger, as appropriate, and annually thereafter, a statement of needed transition services shall be included in the pupil's individualized education program. If the individualized education program team determines that the pupil would benefit from the postponement of the inclusion of appropriate measurable postsecondary goals and transition services until 16 years of age, rather than when the pupil begins their high school experience, the individualized education program team is encouraged to appropriately justify the basis for that postponement.

(i) A pupil's individualized education program shall be implemented as soon as possible following the individualized education program team meeting, pursuant to Section 300.323(c)(2) of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations and in accordance with Section 56344.

(j) An individualized education program team shall meet at least annually to review a pupil's progress, the individualized education program, including whether the annual goals for the pupil are being achieved, the appropriateness of the placement, and to make any necessary revisions, pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 56343. The local educational agency shall maintain procedures to ensure that the individualized education program team reviews the pupil's individualized education program periodically, but not less frequently than annually, to determine whether the annual goals for the pupil are being achieved, and revises the individualized education program as appropriate to address, among other matters, the provisions specified in subdivision (d) of Section 56341.1, pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 56380.

(k) A reassessment of a pupil shall occur not more frequently than once a year, unless the parent and the local educational agency agree otherwise in writing, and shall occur at least once every three years, unless the parent and the local educational agency agree, in writing, that a reassessment is unnecessary, pursuant to Section 56381, and in accordance with Section 1414(a)(2) of Title 20 of the United States Code.

(l) A meeting of an individualized education program team requested by a parent or guardian to review an individualized education program pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 56343 shall be held within 30 calendar days, not counting days between the pupil's regular school sessions, terms, or days of school vacation in excess of five schooldays, from the date of receipt of the parent's or guardian's written request, pursuant to Section 56343.5.

(m) If an individual with exceptional needs transfers from district to district within the state, the following apply pursuant to Section 56325:

(1) If the child has an individualized education program and transfers into a district from a district not operating programs under the same special education local plan area in which the child was last enrolled in a special education program within the same academic year, the local educational agency shall provide the pupil with a free appropriate public education, including services comparable to those described in the previously approved individualized education program, in consultation with a parent or guardian, for a period not to exceed 30 days, by which time the local educational agency shall adopt the previously approved

individualized education program or shall develop, adopt, and implement a new individualized education program that is consistent with federal and state law, pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 56325.

(2) If the child has an individualized education program and transfers into a district from a district operating programs under the same special education local plan area of the district in which the child was last enrolled in a special education program within the same academic year, the new district shall continue, without delay, to provide services comparable to those described in the existing approved individualized education program, unless the parent and the local educational agency agree to develop, adopt, and implement a new individualized education program that is consistent with state and federal law, pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 56325.

(3) If the child has an individualized education program and transfers from an educational agency located outside the state to a district within the state within the same academic year, the local educational agency shall provide the pupil with a free appropriate public education, including services comparable to those described in the previously approved individualized education program, in consultation with a parent or guardian, until the local educational agency conducts an assessment as specified in paragraph (3) of subdivision (a) of Section 56325.

(4) In order to facilitate the transition for an individual with exceptional needs described in paragraphs (1) to (3), inclusive, the new school in which the pupil enrolls shall take reasonable steps to promptly obtain the pupil's records, as specified, pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 56325.

(n) The parent or guardian shall have the right and opportunity to examine all school records of the child and to receive complete copies within five business days after a request is made by the parent or guardian, either orally or in writing, and before any meeting regarding an individualized education program of the parent's or guardian's child or any hearing or resolution session pursuant to Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 56500), in accordance with Section 56504 and Chapter 6.5 (commencing with Section 49060) of Part 27.

(o) Upon receipt of a request from a local educational agency where an individual with exceptional needs has enrolled, a former educational agency shall send the pupil's special education records, or a copy of those records, to the new local educational agency within five working days, pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 3024 of Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations.

(p) The department shall do all of the following:

(1) Have a time limit of 60 calendar days after a complaint is filed with the state educational agency to investigate the complaint.

(2) Give the complainant the opportunity to submit additional information about the allegations in the complaint.

(3) Review all relevant information and make an independent determination as to whether there is a violation of a requirement of this part or Part B of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. Sec. 1400 et seq.).

(4) Issue a written decision pursuant to Section 300.152(a)(5) of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

(q) A prehearing mediation conference shall be scheduled within 15 calendar days of receipt by the Superintendent of the request for mediation, and shall be completed within 30 calendar days after the request for mediation, unless both parties to the prehearing mediation conference agree to extend the time for completing the mediation, pursuant to Section 56500.3.

(r) Any request for a due process hearing arising from subdivision (a) of Section 56501 shall be filed within two years from the date the party initiating the request knew or had reason to know of facts underlying the basis for the request, except that this timeline shall not apply to a parent if the parent was prevented from requesting the due process hearing, pursuant to subdivision (l) of Section 56505.

(s) The Superintendent shall ensure that, within 45 calendar days after receipt of a written due process hearing request, the hearing is immediately commenced and completed, including any mediation requested at any point during the hearing process, and a final administrative decision is rendered, pursuant to subdivision (f) of Section 56502.

(t) If either party to a due process hearing intends to be represented by an attorney in the due process hearing, notice of that intent shall be given to the other party at least 10 calendar days before the hearing, pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 56507.

(u) Any party to a due process hearing shall have the right to be informed by the other parties to the hearing, at least 10 calendar days before the hearing, as to what those parties believe are the issues to be decided at the hearing and their proposed resolution of those issues, pursuant to paragraph (6) of subdivision (e) of Section 56505.

(v) Any party to a due process hearing shall have the right to receive from other parties to the hearing, at least five business days before the hearing, a copy of all documents, including all assessments completed and not completed by that date, and a list of all

witnesses and their general area of testimony that the parties intend to present at the hearing, pursuant to paragraph (7) of subdivision (e) of Section 56505.

(w) An appeal of a due process hearing decision shall be made within 90 calendar days of receipt of the hearing decision, pursuant to subdivision (k) of Section 56505.

(x) A complaint filed with the department shall allege a violation of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. Sec. 1400 et seq.) or a provision of this part that occurred not more than one year before the date that the complaint is received by the department, pursuant to Section 56500.2 and Section 300.153(c) of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

(y) This section shall become operative on July 1, 2025.

SEC. 3. Section 56341.5 of the Education Code is amended to read:

56341.5. (a) A local educational agency convening a meeting of the individualized education program team shall take steps to ensure that no less than one of the parents or guardians of the individual with exceptional needs is present at each individualized education program meeting or are afforded the opportunity to participate.

(b) A parent or guardian shall be notified of the individualized education program meeting early enough to ensure an opportunity to attend.

(c) The individualized education program meeting shall be scheduled at a mutually agreed-upon time and place. The notice of the meeting under subdivision (b) shall indicate the purpose, time, and location of the meeting and who shall be in attendance. A parent or guardian also shall be informed in the notice of the right, pursuant to Section 300.322(b)(1)(ii) of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations, to bring other people to the meeting who have knowledge or special expertise regarding the individual with exceptional needs, and shall be informed of subdivision (i) of Section 56341 relating to the participation of the infants and toddlers with disabilities service coordinator under Subchapter III (commencing with Section 1431) of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. Sec. 1400 et seq.) at the initial individualized education program team meeting for a child previously served under the Subchapter III program.

(d) As part of the participation of an individual with exceptional needs in the development of an individualized education program, as required by federal law, the individual with exceptional needs shall be allowed to provide confidential input to any representative of the individualized education program team.

(e) For an individual with exceptional needs, beginning no later than the effective date of the individualized education program in effect when the individual reaches the age of 16 years, or younger if determined appropriate by the individualized education program team, the meeting notice also shall indicate that a purpose of the meeting will be the consideration of the postsecondary goals and transition services for the individual, pursuant to Section 56345.1 and Section 1414(d)(1)(A)(i)(VIII) of Title 20 of the United States Code, and the meeting notice shall indicate that the individual with exceptional needs is invited to attend. If the pupil does not attend the individualized education program meeting, the local educational agency shall take steps to ensure that the preferences and interests of the pupil are considered in accordance with Section 300.321(b)(2) of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

(f) The local educational agency, to the extent appropriate, with the consent of the parents or the individual with exceptional needs who has reached the age of majority, and in accordance with Section 300.321(b)(3) of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations, shall invite a representative of any participating agency that is likely to be responsible for providing or paying for transition services.

(g) Pursuant to Section 300.322(c) of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations, if no parent or guardian can attend the meeting, the local educational agency shall use other methods to ensure parent or guardian participation, including individual or conference telephone calls, and consistent with Section 300.328 of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations, the parent or guardian and the local educational agency may agree to use alternative means of meeting participation.

(h) A meeting may be conducted without a parent or guardian in attendance if the local educational agency is unable to convince the parent or guardian that the parent or guardian should attend. In this event, the local educational agency shall maintain a record of its attempts to arrange a mutually agreed-upon time and place, such as:

(1) Detailed records of telephone calls made or attempted and the results of those calls.

(2) Copies of correspondence sent to the parent or guardian and any responses received.

(3) Detailed records of visits made to the home or place of employment of the parent or guardian and the results of those visits.

(i) The local educational agency shall take any action necessary to ensure that the parent or guardian understands the proceedings at a meeting, including arranging for an interpreter for parents or guardians with deafness or whose native language

is a language other than English.

(j) The local educational agency shall give the parent or guardian a copy of the individualized education program, at no cost to the parent or guardian.

(k) This section shall become inoperative on July 1, 2025, and, as of January 1, 2026, is repealed.

SEC. 4. Section 56341.5 is added to the Education Code, to read:

56341.5. (a) A local educational agency convening a meeting of the individualized education program team shall take steps to ensure that no less than one of the parents or guardians of the individual with exceptional needs is present at each individualized education program meeting or are afforded the opportunity to participate.

(b) A parent or guardian shall be notified of the individualized education program meeting early enough to ensure an opportunity to attend.

(c) The individualized education program meeting shall be scheduled at a mutually agreed-upon time and place. The notice of the meeting under subdivision (b) shall indicate the purpose, time, and location of the meeting and who shall be in attendance. A parent or guardian also shall be informed in the notice of the right, pursuant to Section 300.322(b)(1)(ii) of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations, to bring other people to the meeting who have knowledge or special expertise regarding the individual with exceptional needs, and shall be informed of subdivision (i) of Section 56341 relating to the participation of the infants and toddlers with disabilities service coordinator under Subchapter III (commencing with Section 1431) of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. Sec. 1400 et seq.) at the initial individualized education program team meeting for a child previously served under the Subchapter III program.

(d) As part of the participation of an individual with exceptional needs in the development of an individualized education program, as required by federal law, the individual with exceptional needs shall be allowed to provide confidential input to any representative of the individualized education program team.

(e) Pursuant to Section 1414(d)(1)(A)(i)(VIII) of Title 20 of the United States Code and Section 56345.1, if determined appropriate by the pupil's individualized education program team, beginning when the pupil starts their high school experience or not later than the first individualized education program to be in effect when the pupil is 16 years of age or younger, as appropriate, the meeting notice also shall indicate that a purpose of the meeting will be the consideration of the postsecondary goals and transition services for the individual, and the meeting notice shall indicate that the individual with exceptional needs is invited to attend. If the pupil does not attend the individualized education program meeting, the local educational agency shall take steps to ensure that the preferences and interests of the pupil are considered in accordance with Section 300.321(b)(2) of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

(f) The local educational agency, to the extent appropriate, with the consent of the parents or the individual with exceptional needs who has reached the age of majority, and in accordance with Section 300.321(b)(3) of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations, shall invite a representative of any participating agency that is likely to be responsible for providing or paying for transition services.

(g) Pursuant to Section 300.322(c) of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations, if no parent or guardian can attend the meeting, the local educational agency shall use other methods to ensure parent or guardian participation, including individual or conference telephone calls, and consistent with Section 300.328 of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations, the parent or guardian and the local educational agency may agree to use alternative means of meeting participation.

(h) A meeting may be conducted without a parent or guardian in attendance if the local educational agency is unable to convince the parent or guardian that the parent or guardian should attend. In this event, the local educational agency shall maintain a record of its attempts to arrange a mutually agreed-upon time and place, such as:

(1) Detailed records of telephone calls made or attempted and the results of those calls.

(2) Copies of correspondence sent to the parent or guardian and any responses received.

(3) Detailed records of visits made to the home or place of employment of the parent or guardian and the results of those visits.

(i) The local educational agency shall take any action necessary to ensure that the parent or guardian understands the proceedings at a meeting, including arranging for an interpreter for parents or guardians with deafness or whose native language is a language other than English.

(j) The local educational agency shall give the parent or guardian a copy of the individualized education program, at no cost to the parent or guardian.

(k) This section shall become operative on July 1, 2025.

SEC. 5. Section 56345 of the Education Code is amended to read:

56345. (a) The individualized education program is a written statement for each individual with exceptional needs that is developed, reviewed, and revised in accordance with this section, as required by Section 1414(d) of Title 20 of the United States Code, and that includes all of the following:

(1) A statement of the individual's present levels of academic achievement and functional performance, including all of the following:

(A) The manner in which the disability of the individual affects their involvement and progress in the general education curriculum.

(B) For preschool children, as appropriate, the manner in which the disability affects their participation in appropriate activities.

(C) For individuals with exceptional needs who take alternate assessments aligned to alternate achievement standards, a description of benchmarks or short-term objectives.

(2) A statement of measurable annual goals, including academic and functional goals, designed to do both of the following:

(A) Meet the needs of the individual that result from the disability of the individual to enable the pupil to be involved in and make progress in the general education curriculum.

(B) Meet each of the other educational needs of the pupil that result from the disability of the individual.

(3) A description of the manner in which the progress of the pupil toward meeting the annual goals described in paragraph (2) will be measured and when periodic reports on the progress the pupil is making toward meeting the annual goals, such as through the use of quarterly or other periodic reports, concurrent with the issuance of report cards, will be provided.

(4) A statement of the special education and related services and supplementary aids and services, based on peer-reviewed research to the extent practicable, to be provided to the pupil, or on behalf of the pupil, and a statement of the program modifications or supports for school personnel that will be provided to enable the pupil to do all of the following:

(A) To advance appropriately toward attaining the annual goals.

(B) To be involved in and make progress in the general education curriculum in accordance with paragraph (1) and to participate in extracurricular and other nonacademic activities.

(C) To be educated and participate with other individuals with exceptional needs and nondisabled pupils in the activities described in this subdivision.

(5) An explanation of the extent, if any, to which the pupil will not participate with nondisabled pupils in the regular class and in the activities described in subparagraph (C) of paragraph (4).

(6) (A) A statement of individual appropriate accommodations that are necessary to measure the academic achievement and functional performance of the pupil on state and districtwide assessments consistent with Section 1412(a)(16)(A) of Title 20 of the United States Code.

(B) If the individualized education program team determines that the pupil shall take an alternate assessment instead of a particular state or districtwide assessment of pupil achievement, a statement of both of the following:

(i) The reason why the pupil cannot participate in the regular assessment.

(ii) The reason why the particular alternate assessment selected is appropriate for the pupil.

(7) The projected date for the beginning of the services and modifications described in paragraph (4), and the anticipated frequency, location, and duration of those services and modifications.

(8) Beginning not later than the first individualized education program to be in effect when the pupil is 16 years of age, or younger if determined appropriate by the individualized education program team, and updated annually thereafter, both of the following shall be included:

(A) Appropriate measurable postsecondary goals based upon age-appropriate transition assessments related to training, education, employment, and, where appropriate, independent living skills.

(B) The transition services, as defined in Section 56345.1, including courses of study, needed to assist the pupil in reaching those goals.

(9) (A) A description of the means by which the individualized education program will be provided under emergency conditions, as described in Section 46392, in which instruction or services, or both, cannot be provided to the pupil either at the school or in person for more than 10 schooldays. The description shall include all of the following:

- (i) Special education and related services.
- (ii) Supplementary aids and services.
- (iii) Transition services, as defined in Section 56345.1.
- (iv) Extended school year services pursuant to Section 300.106 of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

(B) Subparagraph (A) applies, on or after the operative date of this paragraph, to the development of an initial individualized education program or the next regularly scheduled revision of an individualized education program that has not already met the requirements of subparagraph (A).

(C) Public health orders shall be taken into account in implementing subparagraph (A).

(b) If appropriate, the individualized education program shall also include, but not be limited to, all of the following:

(1) For pupils in grades 7 to 12, inclusive, any alternative means and modes necessary for the pupil to complete the prescribed course of study of the district and to meet or exceed proficiency standards for graduation.

(2) For individuals whose native language is a language other than English, linguistically appropriate goals, objectives, programs, and services.

(3) Pursuant to Section 300.106 of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations, extended school year services shall be included in the individualized education program and provided to the pupil if the individualized education program team of the pupil determines, on an individual basis, that the services are necessary for the provision of a free appropriate public education to the pupil.

(4) Provision for the transition into the regular class program if the pupil is to be transferred from a special class or nonpublic, nonsectarian school into a regular class in a public school for any part of the schoolday, including both of the following:

(A) A description of activities provided to integrate the pupil into the regular education program. The description shall indicate the nature of each activity, and the time spent on the activity each day or week.

(B) A description of the activities provided to support the transition of pupils from the special education program into the regular education program.

(5) For pupils with low-incidence disabilities, specialized services, materials, and equipment, consistent with guidelines established pursuant to Section 56136.

(c) It is the intent of the Legislature in requiring individualized education programs, that the local educational agency is responsible for providing the services delineated in the individualized education program. However, the Legislature recognizes that some pupils may not meet or exceed the growth projected in the annual goals and objectives of the individualized education program of the pupil.

(d) Consistent with Section 56000.5 and Section 1414(d)(3)(B)(iv) of Title 20 of the United States Code, it is the intent of the Legislature that, in making a determination of the services that constitute an appropriate education to meet the unique needs of a deaf or hard-of-hearing pupil in the least restrictive environment, the individualized education program team shall consider the related services and program options that provide the pupil with an equal opportunity for communication access. The individualized education program team shall specifically discuss the communication needs of the pupil, consistent with "Deaf Students Education Services Policy Guidance" (57 Fed. Reg. 49274 (October 1992)), including all of the following:

(1) The pupil's primary language mode and language, which may include the use of spoken language with or without visual cues, or the use of sign language, or a combination of both.

(2) The availability of a sufficient number of age, cognitive, and language peers of similar abilities, which may be met by consolidating services into a local plan areawide program or providing placement pursuant to Section 56361.

(3) Appropriate, direct, and ongoing language access to special education teachers and other specialists who are proficient in the pupil's primary language mode and language consistent with existing law regarding teacher training requirements.

(4) Services necessary to ensure communication-accessible academic instructions, school services, and extracurricular activities consistent with the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. Sec. 701 et seq.) and the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12101 et seq.).

(5) In accordance with Section 300.113 of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations, each public agency shall ensure that hearing aids worn in school by children with hearing impairments, including deafness, are functioning properly.

(6) Subject to paragraph (7), each public agency, pursuant to Section 300.113(b) of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations, shall ensure that external components of surgically implanted medical devices are functioning properly.

(7) For a child with a surgically implanted medical device who is receiving special education and a service under Section 56363, a public agency is not responsible for the postsurgical maintenance, programming, or replacement of the medical device that has been surgically implanted, or of an external component of the surgically implanted medical device.

(e) State moneys appropriated to districts or local educational agencies may not be used for any additional responsibilities and services associated with paragraphs (1) and (2) of subdivision (d), including the training of special education teachers and other specialists, even if those additional responsibilities or services are required pursuant to a judicial or state agency determination. Those responsibilities and services shall only be funded by a local educational agency as follows:

(1) The costs of those activities shall be funded from existing programs and funding sources.

(2) Those activities shall be supported by the resources otherwise made available to those programs.

(3) Those activities shall be consistent with Sections 56240 to 56243, inclusive.

(f) It is the intent of the Legislature that the communication skills of teachers who work with hard-of-hearing and deaf children be improved. This section does not remove the discretionary authority of the local educational agency in regard to inservice activities.

(g) Beginning not later than one year before the pupil reaches 18 years of age, a statement that the pupil has been informed of the pupil's rights under this part, if any, that will transfer to the pupil upon reaching 18 years of age pursuant to Section 56041.5.

(h) The individualized education program team is not required to include information under one component of a pupil's individualized education program that is already contained under another component of the individualized education program.

(i) This section does not require that additional information, beyond that explicitly required by Section 1414 of Title 20 of the United States Code and this part, be included in the individualized education program of a pupil.

(j) This section shall become inoperative on July 1, 2025, and, as of January 1, 2026, is repealed.

SEC. 6. Section 56345 is added to the Education Code, to read:

56345. (a) The individualized education program is a written statement for each individual with exceptional needs that is developed, reviewed, and revised in accordance with this section, as required by Section 1414(d) of Title 20 of the United States Code, and that includes all of the following:

(1) A statement of the individual's present levels of academic achievement and functional performance, including all of the following:

(A) The manner in which the disability of the individual affects their involvement and progress in the general education curriculum.

(B) For preschool children, as appropriate, the manner in which the disability affects their participation in appropriate activities.

(C) For individuals with exceptional needs who take alternate assessments aligned to alternate achievement standards, a description of benchmarks or short-term objectives.

(2) A statement of measurable annual goals, including academic and functional goals, designed to do both of the following:

(A) Meet the needs of the individual that result from the disability of the individual to enable the pupil to be involved in and make progress in the general education curriculum.

(B) Meet each of the other educational needs of the pupil that result from the disability of the individual.

(3) A description of the manner in which the progress of the pupil toward meeting the annual goals described in paragraph (2) will be measured and when periodic reports on the progress the pupil is making toward meeting the annual goals, such as

through the use of quarterly or other periodic reports, concurrent with the issuance of report cards, will be provided.

(4) A statement of the special education and related services and supplementary aids and services, based on peer-reviewed research to the extent practicable, to be provided to the pupil, or on behalf of the pupil, and a statement of the program modifications or supports for school personnel that will be provided to enable the pupil to do all of the following:

(A) To advance appropriately toward attaining the annual goals.

(B) To be involved in and make progress in the general education curriculum in accordance with paragraph (1) and to participate in extracurricular and other nonacademic activities.

(C) To be educated and participate with other individuals with exceptional needs and nondisabled pupils in the activities described in this subdivision.

(5) An explanation of the extent, if any, to which the pupil will not participate with nondisabled pupils in the regular class and in the activities described in subparagraph (C) of paragraph (4).

(6) (A) A statement of individual appropriate accommodations that are necessary to measure the academic achievement and functional performance of the pupil on state and districtwide assessments consistent with Section 1412(a)(16)(A) of Title 20 of the United States Code.

(B) If the individualized education program team determines that the pupil shall take an alternate assessment instead of a particular state or districtwide assessment of pupil achievement, a statement of both of the following:

(i) The reason why the pupil cannot participate in the regular assessment.

(ii) The reason why the particular alternate assessment selected is appropriate for the pupil.

(7) The projected date for the beginning of the services and modifications described in paragraph (4), and the anticipated frequency, location, and duration of those services and modifications.

(8) Pursuant to Section 1414(d)(1)(A)(i)(VIII) of Title 20 of the United States Code and Section 56345.1, if determined appropriate by the pupil's individualized education program team, beginning when the pupil starts their high school experience or not later than the first individualized education program to be in effect when the pupil is 16 years of age or younger, as appropriate, and updated annually thereafter, both of the following shall be included:

(A) Appropriate measurable postsecondary goals based upon age-appropriate transition assessments related to training, education, employment, and where appropriate, independent living skills.

(B) The transition services, as defined in Section 56345.1, including courses of study, needed to assist the pupil in reaching those goals.

(9) (A) A description of the means by which the individualized education program will be provided under emergency conditions, as described in Section 46392, in which instruction or services, or both, cannot be provided to the pupil either at the school or in person for more than 10 schooldays. The description shall include all of the following:

(i) Special education and related services.

(ii) Supplementary aids and services.

(iii) Transition services, as defined in Section 56345.1.

(iv) Extended school year services pursuant to Section 300.106 of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

(B) Subparagraph (A) applies, on or after the operative date of this paragraph, to the development of an initial individualized education program or the next regularly scheduled revision of an individualized education program that has not already met the requirements of subparagraph (A).

(C) Public health orders shall be taken into account in implementing subparagraph (A).

(b) If appropriate, the individualized education program shall also include, but not be limited to, all of the following:

(1) For pupils in grades 7 to 12, inclusive, any alternative means and modes necessary for the pupil to complete the prescribed course of study of the district and to meet or exceed proficiency standards for graduation.

(2) For individuals whose native language is a language other than English, linguistically appropriate goals, objectives, programs, and services.

(3) Pursuant to Section 300.106 of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations, extended school year services shall be included in the individualized education program and provided to the pupil if the individualized education program team of the pupil determines, on an individual basis, that the services are necessary for the provision of a free appropriate public education to the pupil.

(4) Provision for the transition into the regular class program if the pupil is to be transferred from a special class or nonpublic, nonsectarian school into a regular class in a public school for any part of the schoolday, including both of the following:

(A) A description of activities provided to integrate the pupil into the regular education program. The description shall indicate the nature of each activity, and the time spent on the activity each day or week.

(B) A description of the activities provided to support the transition of pupils from the special education program into the regular education program.

(5) For pupils with low-incidence disabilities, specialized services, materials, and equipment, consistent with guidelines established pursuant to Section 56136.

(c) It is the intent of the Legislature in requiring individualized education programs, that the local educational agency is responsible for providing the services delineated in the individualized education program. However, the Legislature recognizes that some pupils may not meet or exceed the growth projected in the annual goals and objectives of the individualized education program of the pupil.

(d) Consistent with Section 56000.5 and Section 1414(d)(3)(B)(iv) of Title 20 of the United States Code, it is the intent of the Legislature that, in making a determination of the services that constitute an appropriate education to meet the unique needs of a deaf or hard-of-hearing pupil in the least restrictive environment, the individualized education program team shall consider the related services and program options that provide the pupil with an equal opportunity for communication access. The individualized education program team shall specifically discuss the communication needs of the pupil, consistent with "Deaf Students Education Services Policy Guidance" (57 Fed. Reg. 49274 (October 1992)), including all of the following:

(1) The pupil's primary language mode and language, which may include the use of spoken language with or without visual cues, or the use of sign language, or a combination of both.

(2) The availability of a sufficient number of age, cognitive, and language peers of similar abilities, which may be met by consolidating services into a local plan areawide program or providing placement pursuant to Section 56361.

(3) Appropriate, direct, and ongoing language access to special education teachers and other specialists who are proficient in the pupil's primary language mode and language consistent with existing law regarding teacher training requirements.

(4) Services necessary to ensure communication-accessible academic instructions, school services, and extracurricular activities consistent with the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. Sec. 701 et seq.) and the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12101 et seq.).

(5) In accordance with Section 300.113 of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations, each public agency shall ensure that hearing aids worn in school by children with hearing impairments, including deafness, are functioning properly.

(6) Subject to paragraph (7), each public agency, pursuant to Section 300.113(b) of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations, shall ensure that external components of surgically implanted medical devices are functioning properly.

(7) For a child with a surgically implanted medical device who is receiving special education and a service under Section 56363, a public agency is not responsible for the postsurgical maintenance, programming, or replacement of the medical device that has been surgically implanted, or of an external component of the surgically implanted medical device.

(e) State moneys appropriated to districts or local educational agencies may not be used for any additional responsibilities and services associated with paragraphs (1) and (2) of subdivision (d), including the training of special education teachers and other specialists, even if those additional responsibilities or services are required pursuant to a judicial or state agency determination. Those responsibilities and services shall only be funded by a local educational agency as follows:

(1) The costs of those activities shall be funded from existing programs and funding sources.

(2) Those activities shall be supported by the resources otherwise made available to those programs.

(3) Those activities shall be consistent with Sections 56240 to 56243, inclusive.

(f) It is the intent of the Legislature that the communication skills of teachers who work with hard-of-hearing and deaf children be improved. This section does not remove the discretionary authority of the local educational agency in regard to inservice

activities.

(g) Beginning not later than one year before the pupil reaches 18 years of age, a statement that the pupil has been informed of the pupil's rights under this part, if any, that will transfer to the pupil upon reaching 18 years of age pursuant to Section 56041.5.

(h) The individualized education program team is not required to include information under one component of a pupil's individualized education program that is already contained under another component of the individualized education program.

(i) This section does not require that additional information, beyond that explicitly required by Section 1414 of Title 20 of the United States Code and this part, be included in the individualized education program of a pupil.

(j) This section shall become operative on July 1, 2025.

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