

***ENSURING QUALITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR CHILDREN EDUCATED AT
NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS (NPS) --
AB 1858 SUMMARY***

Effective January 1, 2005, AB 1858 (Steinberg), Chapter 914, imposes new standards for students educated at a nonpublic schools (NPS). The Act's key provisions are as follows:

- ❑ Requires the qualifications of NPS staff to be **equivalent** to that of public school staff. EC 56366.1(n)(1)
- ❑ **Prohibits** a Licensed Children's Institution (LCI)/Group Home from requiring **as a condition of admission or residency** that a child be **identified as an individual with special needs** or **attend an affiliated NPS**. EC 56155.7; 56366.9.
- ❑ When a child who resides in a foster home or LCI is placed in a NPS, the Local Education Agency (LEA) **must address at the annual IEP Team Meeting** whether the NPS placement continues to be the **least-restrictive environment** for the child. EC 56157(c).
- ❑ Requires the NPS to **report** to the LEA on the **progress** of the child in meeting the goals and objectives of the IEP on a quarterly or trimester basis. EC 56157(d).
- ❑ Provides students placed in NPS with the opportunity to provide any representative of their IEP Team with **confidential input**. EC 56341(d); 56366.12.
- ❑ Requires NPS to prepare a **school accountability report card** and report Standardized Testing and Reporting Program (STAR) results to the State Department of Education (SDE). Requires SDE to provide the Legislature with a report regarding the NPS STAR testing data and performance. EC 56366(a)(9); 53366.11(b).
- ❑ Requires SDE to ensure that School Information System includes **disaggregated data** on pupils in foster care, and develop an alternative **accountability system for nonpublic schools**. Requires NPS to prepare a school accountability report card. EC 49085.
- ❑ Reduces from four years to one year the period of time the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) may **certify** an NPS as meeting certain standards. EC 56366.1(h).
- ❑ Expands when the SPI may or shall conduct **unannounced visits** to the NPS. Requires SPI to conduct an **investigation**, which may include an unannounced on-site visit if the SPI received notice of a significant deficiency in the quality of the educational services provided. 56366.1(i)(1) and (2).
- ❑ Requires NPS to certify to SPI that students have **access** to standards-based, core curriculum, the same instructional materials, college preparatory coursework, extracurricular activities, supplemental assistance and counseling **to the extent those educational materials, programs and services are available at the LEA in which the NPS is located**. EC56366.1.
- ❑ Requires NPS to have and abide by a **written policy for student discipline** that is consistent with state and federal law. EC 56366.10(d).
- ❑ Requires collaboration among state entities to draw down additional IV-E dollars to **expand the Foster Youth Services Program**. WIC 16014.
- ❑ Provides that any **funds** received by an NPS from an LEA for education of an individual with **exceptional needs** are for those purposes only and not the cost of the residential program. EC 56366.1(l)(1).