

School Districts of Choice

Austin Payne, SBCEO Legal Counsel



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Background

The governing board of a school district may elect to operate the school district as a school district of choice and may accept transfers from school districts of residence pursuant to this article. If the governing board of a school district elects to accept transfers as authorized under this article, it shall, **by resolution**, determine and adopt the number of transfers it is willing to accept under this article and shall accept all pupils who apply to transfer until the school district is at maximum capacity.

Cal. Educ. Code § 48301(a)(1)



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2017 Changes (AB 399)

- Funding Changes:
 - Basic Aid districts go from receiving 70% funding for students from non-Basic Aid district to 25%
 - Transfers among Basic Aid districts do not receive additional funding
- Registration with State Superintendent, reporting, oversight
- Expanded list of characteristics that districts cannot consider as selection criteria (incorporating Cal. Educ. Code § 200)



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Why Elect to Become a DOC

- May help smaller districts spread fixed costs
- May help districts avoid predicted enrollment decline
- Funding advantages lessened by 2017 changes



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Formation and Rules

- District passes annual resolution with maximum transfers accepted
- Register with CDE
- Limits on targeting communications
- Random public drawing for spots
- Limitations on transfers out of home district
- Selection priorities



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SB County and Statewide

- College Elementary and Vista del Mar Union (Down from 4 in 2016)
- 49 Statewide (5%) serving approximately 10,000 students
 - 80% in five large districts
- Demographically diverse
- Reasons for transfer: pursue thematic programs, college preparatory programs, fresh start.



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County Board

- No statutory role for County Board in DOC election/determinations. Districts of Choice must register with County Supt.
- Unlike IDT, no appeal to County Board
- DOC can revoke transfer if student recommended for expulsion (§ 48309)
- Districts may maintain DOC program and accept IDTs
- Does not affect IDT analysis