



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 30 2014

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1866 and Assembly Bill 1672 without my signature.

Attorney General Kamala Harris has worked diligently at both the local and statewide level to reduce truancy and absenteeism in California schools, a goal I share. Her package of sponsored legislation aims to reduce rates of truancy and absenteeism.

AB 1866 would require school districts to collect and report a significant amount of new student attendance information through the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System. While well intentioned, the collection of data for the interest of faraway authorities would not get to the root of the issue – keeping kids in school and on track.

AB 1672 would place new data collection and reporting burdens on districts that have voluntarily established local School Attendance Review Boards. A broad group of local education leaders believe AB 1672 “is simply a new requirement that mandates large amounts of specific data collection, disaggregation, formatting and internet posting.” I agree. Districts already have the ability to collect attendance and truancy data, and must address school attendance and chronic absenteeism under the Local Control Funding Formula.

The Local Control Funding Formula was created because local education agencies are the ones best suited to set goals and guidelines for their students. In the same vein, efforts to combat truancy are best exercised at the school level among teachers, principals and local school officials.

I encourage educators, parents and community members, through the Local Control and Accountability Plan process, to address school attendance issues. Keeping children in school and learning is a priority, but collecting more data is not the primary solution.

Sincerely,

  
Edmund G. Brown Jr.