

News Release



Controller of the State of California - Kathleen Connell

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For Immediate Release

CLAIMS FORM INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED TO REIMBURSE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS STATEWIDE FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION COSTS

First Opportunity for Districts to Recoup Costs in 20 Years

SACRAMENTO, August 8, 2000—State Controller Kathleen Connell has issued claiming instructions and forms to local education agencies statewide that allows them to file claims from the past 20 years for special education costs. Local education agencies are primarily comprised of school districts and county offices of education. The claiming instructions and forms are available on the State Controller's Office Internet site at <http://www.sco.ca.gov>.

The Controller is implementing a recent decision by the Commission on State Mandates, which she voted in favor of as a commission member, that authorizes local education agencies to file claims to cover costs for money spent from eight specific special education areas required by the state. "This undertaking is a positive step toward resolving special education costs dating back 20 long years," said Connell. "We have finally arrived at that point where we can reasonably begin the process of funding for special education programs, which I have for some time believed is sorely needed," she added.

Local education agencies will be required to submit claims by December 5, 2000 to qualify for funding. "Our office will work to review and process the claims as quickly as possible," explained Connell. "However, the Legislature will still have to appropriate funding before any payments can be made."

The eight areas that are eligible for reimbursement include community advisory committees, extended school year programs, resource specialist programs, interim placement programs for students with disabilities, and others.

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