

Office of the State Controller
State-Mandated Costs Claiming Instructions No. 2012-28
School Accountability Report Cards – Program No. 171
June 25, 2012
Revised October 1, 2025

In accordance with Government Code (GC) sections 17560 and 17561, eligible claimants may submit claims to the State Controller's Office (SCO) for reimbursement of costs incurred for state-mandated cost programs. This document contains claiming instructions and forms that eligible claimants must use for filing claims for the School Accountability Report Cards (SARC) program. SCO issues these claiming instructions subsequent to the Commission on State Mandates (CSM) adopting the program's Parameters and Guidelines (Ps & Gs). The [Ps & Gs](#) are an integral part of the claiming instructions and are located on CSM's website.

Proposition 98, an initiative measure approved by California voters, required every school to develop and issue a school accountability report card. Proposition 98 set forth 13 items that were to be included in these report cards. Statutes adopted after the approval of Proposition 98 added new subjects to be included. On April 23, 1998, CSM adopted a Statement of Decision (SOD) finding that the requirements in these statutes imposed a reimbursable state-mandated program on school districts within the meaning of Article XIII B, section 6 of the California Constitution and GC section 17514.

On July 28, 2005, CSM adopted a SOD on reconsideration of SARC as directed by Chapter 895, Statutes of 2004. CSM further determined it did not have the authority to rehear the portion of the original decision pertaining to activities required by Chapter 912, Statutes of 1997. The Legislature subsequently amended Chapter 895, Statutes of 2004, through Chapter 677, Statutes of 2005, Section 53 (urgency, operative October 7, 2005), to direct CSM to reconsider Chapter 912, Statutes of 1997, and to apply its decision on reconsideration of the entire SARC program to claims filed beginning January 1, 2005.

On January 26, 2006, CSM adopted a SOD on reconsideration of Chapter 912, Statutes of 1997. CSM concluded that Chapter 912, Statutes of 1997, as it amended Education Code (EC) section 33126, did not impose a new program or higher level of service, and did not impose costs mandated by the State within the meaning of Article XIII B, section 6 of the California Constitution and GC sections 17514 and 17556.

On September 25, 2009, in accordance with the Peremptory Writ of Mandate, CSM adopted the Notice of Adoption of the Order to Set Aside the SOD on reconsideration and order to set aside, and proposed an order to reinstate the original SOD adopted on April 23, 1998, and the Ps & Gs for the SARC program, adopted on August 20, 1998.

Chapter 530, Statutes of 2007, which became effective on January 1, 2008, deleted the following requirements in EC section 33126 that were found in the reimbursable activities:

1. Reporting the average verbal and math Scholastic Assessment Test scores of high school seniors, to the extent that those scores are provided, and the average percentage of seniors taking that exam for the most recent three-year period.
2. The degree to which pupils are prepared to enter the workforce.

On March 23, 2012, CSM amended the Ps & Gs to clarify that these two activities are no longer mandated or reimbursable, effective January 1, 2008.

Exception

There will be no reimbursement for any period in which the Legislature has suspended the operation of a mandate pursuant to state law.

Eligible Claimants

With the exception of community colleges, any school district, as defined in GC section 17519, that incurs increased costs as a result of this mandate, is eligible to claim for reimbursement. Charter schools and block grant recipients are not eligible to claim for reimbursement.

Reimbursement Claim Deadline

Pursuant to GC section 17560(a), annual reimbursement claims may be filed by **February 15** following the fiscal year in which costs were incurred. If the deadline falls on a weekend or holiday, claims are due the following business day. Claims filed after the deadline must be reduced by a late penalty. **Claims filed more than one year after the deadline will not be accepted.**

Penalty

- **Initial Reimbursement Claims**

When filed within one year of the initial filing deadline, claims are assessed a late penalty of 10% of the total amount of the initial claim without limitation pursuant to GC section 17561(d)(3).

- **Annual Reimbursement Claims**

When filed within one year of the annual filing deadline, claims are assessed a late penalty of 10% of the claim amount, not to exceed \$10,000, pursuant to GC section 17568.

Minimum Claim Cost

GC section 17564(a) states that no claim may be filed pursuant to sections 17551 and 17561, unless such a claim exceeds one thousand dollars (**\$1,000**). However, a county superintendent of schools may submit a combined claim on behalf of school districts within their county if the combined claim exceeds **\$1,000**, even if the individual school district's claim does not each exceed \$1,000. If the total costs for a given fiscal year do not exceed \$1,000, no reimbursement will be allowed except as

otherwise allowed by GC section 17564. The county superintendent of schools will determine if the submission of the combined claim is economically feasible and be responsible for disbursing the funds to each school district. These combined claims may be filed only when the county superintendent of schools is the fiscal agent for the districts. A combined claim must show the individual claim costs for each eligible school district. All subsequent claims based upon the same mandate must be filed in the combined form unless a school district provides a written notice of its intent to file a separate claim to the county superintendent of schools and to SCO at least 180 days prior to the deadline for filing the claim.

Reimbursement of Claims

To be eligible for mandated cost reimbursement for any fiscal year, only actual costs may be claimed. These costs must be traceable and supported by source documents that show the validity of such costs, when they were incurred, and their relationship to the reimbursable activities. A source document is created at or near the same time the actual cost was incurred for the event or activity in question. Source documents may include, but are not limited to, employee time records or time logs, sign-in sheets, invoices, and receipts.

Evidence corroborating the source documents may include, but is not limited to, worksheets, cost allocation reports (system generated), purchase orders, contracts, agendas, training packets, and declarations. Declarations must include a certification or declaration stating: "I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct," and must further comply with the requirements of Code of Civil Procedure section 2015.5.

Evidence corroborating the source documents may include data relevant to the reimbursable activities otherwise in compliance with local, state, and federal government requirements. However, these documents cannot be substituted for source documents.

Audit of Costs

All claims submitted to SCO are subject to review to determine if costs are related to the mandate, are reasonable and not excessive, and if the claim was prepared in accordance with the SCO's claiming instructions and the Ps & Gs adopted by CSM. If any adjustments are made to a claim, the claimant will be notified of the amount adjusted, and the reason for the adjustment.

On-site audits will be conducted by SCO as deemed necessary. Pursuant to GC section 17558.5(a), a reimbursement claim for actual costs filed by a claimant is subject to audit by SCO no later than three years after the date the actual reimbursement claim was filed or last amended, whichever is later.

However, if no funds were appropriated or no payment was made to a claimant for the program for the fiscal year for which the claim was filed, the time for SCO to initiate an audit will commence to run from the date of initial payment of the claim.

Record Retention

All documentation to support actual costs claimed must be retained during the period subject to audit and made available to the SCO upon request. The period subject to audit is at a minimum, three years after the date that the actual reimbursement claim is filed or last amended, whichever is later, or, if no funds are appropriated or no payment is made to a claimant for the program for the fiscal year for which the claim is filed, three years after the date of initial payment of the claim. If an audit has been initiated by the SCO during the period subject to audit, the retention period is extended until the ultimate resolution of any audit findings. Supporting documents must be made available to the SCO on request.

Claim Submission

Electronic submissions of the signed Form FAM-27, all other forms, and supporting documentation are accepted through an online file transfer protocol called the **Data Exchange Portal (DEP)**. All information regarding [DEP](#) is available on the SCO's website.

For more information, contact the Local Reimbursements Section by [email](#).

SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT CARDS CLAIM FOR PAYMENT FORM		For State Controller's Office Use Only		PROGRAM 171
		(19) Program Number 00171		
		(20) Date Filed		
		(21) LRS Input		
(01) Claimant Identification Number		Reimbursement Claim Data		
(02) Claimant Name		(22)	FORM 1, (04) 1. (f)	
County of Location		(23)	FORM 1, (04) 2. (f)	
Street Address or P.O. Box and Suite		(24)	FORM 1, (06)	
City, State, and Zip Code		(25)	FORM 1, (07)	
(03)	Type of Claim	(26)	FORM 1, (09)	
(04)	(09) Reimbursement	(27)	FORM 1, (10)	
(05)	(10) Combined	(28)		
(06)	(11) Amended	(29)		
(07)	(12) Fiscal Year of Cost	(30)		
(08)	(13) Total Claimed Amount	(31)		
(14) Less: 10% Late Penalty		(32)		
(15) Less: Prior Claim Payment Received		(33)		
(16) Net Claimed Amount		(34)		
(17) Due from State		(35)		
(18) Due to State		(36)		

(37) CERTIFICATION OF CLAIM

In accordance with the provisions of Government Code sections 17560 and 17561, I certify that I am the officer authorized by the school district or county office of education to file mandated cost claims with the State of California for this program, and certify under penalty of perjury that I have not violated any of the provisions of Article 4, Chapter 1 of Division 4 of Title 1 of the Government Code.

I further certify that there was no application other than from the claimant, nor any grant(s) or payment(s) received, for reimbursement of costs claimed herein; claimed costs are for a new program or increased level of services of an existing program; and claimed amounts do not include charter school costs, either directly or through a third party. All offsetting revenues and reimbursements set forth in the parameters and guidelines are identified, and all costs claimed are supported by source documentation currently maintained by the claimant.

The amount for this reimbursement is hereby claimed from the State for payment of actual costs set forth on the attached statements.

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signature of Authorized Officer	Date Signed	
	Telephone Number	
Type or Print Name and Title of Authorized Signatory	Email Address	

(38) Name of Agency Contact Person for Claim	Telephone Number	
	Email Address	
Name of Consulting Firm/Claim Preparer	Telephone Number	
	Email Address	

PROGRAM 171	SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT CARDS CLAIM FOR PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS	FORM FAM-27
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- (01) Enter the claimant identification number assigned by the State Controller's Office.
- (02) Enter claimant official name, county of location, street or postal office box address, city, state, and zip code.
- (03) to (08) Leave blank.
- (09) If filing a reimbursement claim, enter an "X" in the box on line (09) Reimbursement.
- (10) If filing a combined reimbursement claim on behalf of districts within the county, enter an "X" in the box on line (10) Combined.
- (11) If filing an amended reimbursement claim, enter an "X" in the box on line (11) Amended.
- (12) Enter the fiscal year in which actual costs are being claimed. If actual costs for more than one fiscal year are being claimed, complete a separate Form FAM-27 for each fiscal year.
- (13) Enter the amount of the reimbursement claim as shown on Form 1, line (11). The total claimed amount must exceed \$1,000; minimum claim must be \$1,001.
- (14) Initial reimbursement claims must be filed as specified in the claiming instructions. Annual reimbursement claims must be filed by **February 15**, or as specified in the claiming instructions following the fiscal year in which costs were incurred. Claims filed after the specified date must be reduced by a late penalty. Enter zero if the claim was filed on time. Otherwise, enter the result from the following penalty calculation formula:
- Late Initial Reimbursement Claims: Form FAM-27, line (13) multiplied by 10%, without limitation; or
 - Late Annual Reimbursement Claims: Form FAM-27, line (13) multiplied by 10%, late penalty not to exceed \$10,000.
- (15) Enter the amount of payment, if any, received for the claim. If no payment was received, enter zero.
- (16) Enter the net claimed amount by subtracting the sum of lines (14) and (15) from line (13).
- (17) If line (16), Net Claimed Amount, is positive, enter that amount on line (17), Due from State.
- (18) If line (16), Net Claimed Amount, is negative, enter that amount on line (18), Due to State.
- (19) to (21) Leave blank.

PROGRAM 171	SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT CARDS CLAIM FOR PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS (CONTINUED)	FORM FAM-27
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(22) to (27) Bring forward the cost information as specified in the left-hand column of lines (22) through (27) for the reimbursement claim, e.g., Form 1, (04) 1. (f), means the information is located on Form 1, block (04), line 1., column (f). Enter the information on the same line but in the right-hand column. Cost information should be rounded to the nearest dollar, i.e., no cents. The indirect costs percentage should be shown as a whole number and without the percent symbol, i.e., 7.548% should be shown as 8. Completion of this data block will expedite the process.

(28) to (36) Leave blank.

(37) Read the statement of Certification of Claim. The claim must be signed and dated by the agency's authorized officer, and include their typed or printed name, title, telephone number, and email address. Claims cannot be paid unless accompanied by an original signed certification. Please sign the Form FAM-27 in blue ink or electronic signature. If submitting by U.S. Postal Service or by other delivery service, attach a copy of the FAM-27 to the top of the claim.

(38) Enter the name, telephone number, and email address of the agency contact person for the claim. If the claim was prepared by a consultant, type or print the name of the consulting firm, claim preparer, telephone number, and email address.

Electronic submissions of the signed Form FAM-27, all other forms, and supporting documentation are accepted through an online file transfer protocol called the Data Exchange Portal (DEP). All information regarding [DEP](#) is available on the SCO's website.

For more information, contact the Local Reimbursements Section by [email](#).

PROGRAM 171	SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT CARDS CLAIM SUMMARY					FORM 1
(01) Claimant				(02) Fiscal Year 20__/20__		
Claim Statistics						
(03) School district's website address:						
Direct Costs		Object Accounts				
(04) Reimbursable Activities	(a) Salaries and Benefits	(b) Materials and Supplies	(c) Contract Services	(d) Fixed Assets	(e) Travel and Training	(f) Total
Activities deleted by Chapter 530, Statutes of 2007, are not reimbursable beginning January 1, 2008.						
Component 1 - Compilation, Analysis, and Reporting of Data						
Component 2 - Annual Posting of School Accountability Report Cards on the Internet						
(05) Total Direct Costs						
Indirect Costs						
(06) Indirect Cost Rate				[Refer to Claim Summary Instructions]		%
(07) Total Indirect Costs				[Line (05)(f) minus (05)(d) minus \$] times line(06)		
(08) Total Direct and Indirect Costs				[Line (05)(f) plus line (07)]		
Cost Reduction						
(09) Less: Offsetting Revenues						
(10) Less: Other Reimbursements						
(11) Total Claimed Amount					[Line (08) minus {line (09) plus line (10)}]	

PROGRAM 171	SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT CARDS CLAIM SUMMARY INSTRUCTIONS	FORM 1
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- (01) Enter the name of the claimant.
- (02) Enter the fiscal year of costs.
- (03) Enter the school district's website address where the School Accountability Report Card information was posted on the Internet during the fiscal year of the claim.
- (04) For each reimbursable activity, enter the totals from Form 2, line (05), columns (d) through (h), to Form 1, block (04), columns (a) through (e), in the appropriate row. Total each row.
- (05) Total columns (a) through (f).
- (06) Enter the approved indirect cost rate from the California Department of Education for the year that funds are expended.
- (07) From the Total Direct Costs, line (05)(f), deduct Fixed Assets, line (05)(d), and any other item excluded from indirect cost distribution base in accordance with the California School Accounting Manual, Procedure 915. Enter zero if there are no exclusions. Multiply the result by the Indirect Cost Rate, line (06).
- (08) Enter the sum of Total Direct Costs, line (05)(f), and Total Indirect Costs, line (07).
- (09) If applicable, enter any offsetting revenue received by the claimant for this mandate from any state or federal source. Submit a schedule detailing the revenue sources and amounts.
- (10) If applicable, enter the amount of other reimbursements received from any source including, but not limited to, service fees collected, federal funds, and other state funds that reimbursed any portion of the mandated cost program. Submit a schedule detailing the reimbursement sources and amounts.
- (11) From Total Direct and Indirect Costs, line (08), subtract the sum of Offsetting Revenues, line (09), and Other Reimbursements, line (10). Enter the remainder on this line and carry the amount forward to Form FAM-27, line (13) of the Reimbursement Claim.

PROGRAM 171	SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT CARDS ACTIVITY COST DETAIL	FORM 2
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(01) Claimant	(02) Fiscal Year 20__/20__
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(03) Reimbursable Activities: Check only one box per form to identify the activity being claimed.

Component 1 - Compilation, Analysis, and Reporting of Data	Component 2 - Annual Posting of School Accountability Report Cards on the Internet
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(04) Description of Expenses			Object Accounts				
(a) Employee Names, Job Classifications, Functions Performed, and Description of Expenses	(b) Hourly Rate or Unit Cost	(c) Hours Worked or Quantity	(d) Salaries and Benefits	(e) Materials and Supplies	(f) Contract Services	(g) Fixed Assets	(h) Travel and Training
(05) Total Subtotal Page: ____ of ____							

PROGRAM 171	SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT CARDS ACTIVITY COST DETAIL INSTRUCTIONS	FORM 2
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- (01) Enter the name of the claimant.
- (02) Enter the fiscal year of costs.
- (03) Check the box which indicates the activity being claimed. Check only one box per form. A separate Form 2 must be prepared for each applicable activity.
- (04) The following table identifies the type of information required to support reimbursable costs. To itemize costs for the activity checked in block (03), enter each employee name, job classification, a brief description of the activities performed, productive hourly rate, actual time spent, fringe benefits, supplies used, contract services, fixed assets, and travel and training expenses. The descriptions required in column (04)(a) must be of sufficient detail to explain the cost of activities or items being claimed.

Object Accounts	Columns								Submit Supporting Documents with the Claim
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	
Salaries	Employee Name and Job Classification	Hourly Rate	Hours Worked	Salaries equal Hourly Rate times Hours Worked					Copy of Timesheets
Benefits	Activities Performed	Benefit Rate		Benefits equal Benefit Rate times Salaries					
Materials and Supplies	Description of Supplies Used	Unit Cost	Quantity Used		Costs equal Unit Cost times Quantity Used				Copy of Invoices
Contract Services	Name of Contractor and Specific Tasks Performed	Hourly Rate	Hours Worked and Inclusive Dates of Service			Costs equal Hourly Rate times Hours Worked or Total Contract Cost			Copy of Contract and/or Invoices
Fixed Assets	Description of Equipment Purchased	Unit Cost times Quantity	Usage				Costs equal Total Cost times Usage		Copy of Contract and/or Invoices
Travel	Purpose of Trip, Name and Title, Destination, Departure Date, and Return Date	Per Diem Rate, Mileage Rate, and Travel Cost	Days, Miles, and Travel Mode					Costs equal Rate times Days or Miles or Total Travel Cost	Rate(s) Verification and/or Invoices
Training	Employee Name and Title and Name of Class Attended		Dates Attended					Registration Fee	Copy of Registration, Certificate, or Invoice

- (05) Total line (04), columns (d) through (h) and enter the sums on this line. Check the appropriate box to indicate if the amount is a total or subtotal. If more than one form is needed to detail activity costs, number each page. Enter totals from line (05), columns (d) through (h) to Form 1, block (04), columns (a) through (e) in the appropriate row.