

## AB 2018: ANTICIPATED LEGISLATION REQUIRING MANDATED REPORTER TRAINING IN CA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICTS

California Community Colleges may soon have to comply with laws requiring the training of employees who are mandated reporters regarding the detection and reporting of child abuse.

AB 2018, authored by Assembly Member Sebastian Ridley-Thomas, would establish the Mandated Child Abuse Reporting Employee Training Act of 2016. The bill builds on the framework established under California's Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (CANRA) which classifies teachers, child care workers, doctors, public safety personnel and others as "mandated reporters" who are legally obligated to report suspected cases of child abuse and neglect. In 2014, California enacted AB 1432 (Statutes of 2014, Chapter 797), which established a training requirement for mandated reporters at K-12 schools. Similar to AB 1432, AB 2018 would require the governing board of each California community college district to do all of the following:

- (1) provide annual training on the detection and reporting of child abuse to those employees and administrators who are mandated reporters;
- (2) develop a process for all persons required to receive training to provide proof of completing the training within the first six weeks of each academic year, or within the first six weeks of employment, for newly hired employees: and
- (3) develop a process to identify students who are minors enrolled in classes at the community college district and provide that information only to faculty members and other employees who are mandated reporters.

An online training module provided by the State Department of Education may be used to comply with the training requirement. However, schools and community college districts are free to use other training and tracking programs, so long as they annually report the alternative training method to the Department of Education and the Office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges. Persons employed by more than one district or more than one college in a single community college district would only be required to take the training once per academic year, however, each district would still have to ensure that the training was completed.

This legislation has been supported by the California School Employees Association as well as the California Teachers Association, and has received no opposition. In light of its similarity to AB 1432, it is likely to be signed into law this year. If it is enacted, it will go into effect as of January 1, 2017.

For questions regarding this *Briefing*, please contact your Keenan Account Manager.

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