

Nonpublic Schools and Agencies Fee Increase for Fiscal Year 2022–23

The California Department of Education (CDE) is required to ensure nonpublic schools and agencies who provide services to students with disabilities meet statutory and regulatory requirements. The work associated with fulfilling this obligation is supported by certification application fees collected from applicants, pursuant to California *Education Code (EC)* Section 56366.1(m), which charges a fee based upon the annual program capacity of the applicant. The current base application fees have not been updated since 2019–20, and are insufficient to cover administrative costs incurred by the CDE. Such costs include maintaining adequate staff to perform duties associated with oversight of the certification process. The statute allows the CDE to increase fees annually commensurate with the statewide average percentage inflation adjustment. The CDE anticipates that the annual change will be enacted each year moving forward, as allowed by *EC* Section 56366.1(m). The increase occurring in the upcoming renewal year is an aggregate total of the increases allowable during each year since Fiscal Year 2019–20, which includes 2020–21, 2021–22, and 2022–23.

EC Section 56366.1(m)(1) sets the base application fees as follows:

The nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency shall be charged a reasonable fee for certification. The Superintendent may adjust the fee annually commensurate with the statewide average percentage inflation adjustment computed for local control funding formula allocations pursuant to Section 42238.02, as implemented by Section 42238.03, of unified school districts with greater than 1,500 units of average daily attendance if the percentage increase is reflected in the school district local control funding formula allocation pursuant to Section 42238.02, as implemented by Section 4228.03, for inflation purposes.

The application fee increase is necessary to ensure that the CDE can maintain the required level of monitoring and oversight of nonpublic schools and agencies servicing students with disabilities. The CDE staff will be happy to support you through the renewal certification application process if you choose to move forward with certification.

The updated fees each year will be made available when the renewal application is released in August.

We appreciate your service to the children of California and look forward to a continued collaborative relationship with you as valued service providers.

If you have any questions regarding the current fee structure, please contact the Special Education Division, Nonpublic Agencies Unit at 916-327-0141.