



CDSS

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**  
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EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNOR

July 8, 2016

ERRATA

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 15-22E

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL CALWORKs PROGRAM SPECIALISTS  
ALL WELFARE TO WORK COORDINATORS  
ALL CONSORTIUM PROJECT MANAGERS

REASON FOR THIS  
TRANSMITTAL

- State Law Change
- Federal Law or Regulation Change
- Court Order
- Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- Initiated by CDSS

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO KIDS (CalWORKs) PROGRAM: CHANGES TO THE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

REFERENCE: ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) [No. 15-22](#)

The purpose of this errata is to provide clarification on the appropriate steps County Welfare Departments (CWDs) must take when a child age 16 years of age and above is not attending school regularly and has been deemed a chronic truant. As a reminder, Pursuant to AB 2382, there is no action to be taken for children under 16 years of age.

ACL 15-22 dated February 23, 2015 issued instructions to CWDs regarding the changes to the CalWORKs school attendance policies implemented by the passage of AB 2382, effective January 1, 2015, which changed the policy for children aged six to 18 years of age. The new policy was revised so that a child shall be presumed to be attending school unless he or she has been deemed a chronic truant pursuant to Section 48263.6 of the Education Code.

**Original Language Summary-ACL 15-22**

ACL 15-22, page two, instructed CWDs that if a child age 16 or older was deemed a chronic truant pursuant to Section 48263.6, the needs of the child shall not be considered in computing the grant of the family. This shall apply for any month in which the CWD is informed by a school district or a county School Attendance Review Board that the child 16 or older did not attend school, unless certain conditions or “exceptions” applied.

Page three of the ACL gave CWDs the option to screen the child for family stabilization services and give the family information regarding continuation schools. Page three also instructed CWDS to look back at cases and lift any penalties that should not have been applied because of the change in law that became effective on January 1, 2015.

The CDSS was asked to provide additional instruction on the steps to take when applying the school attendance penalty and referring the teen to Welfare to Work.

### **Clarifying Instructions**

When a child age 16 or older is deemed a chronic truant pursuant to Section 48263.6 of the Education Code and does not meet one of the exceptions listed on page two of ACL 15-22, the CWD shall not immediately apply the school attendance penalty (grant reduction equal to the child's portion) to the Assistance Unit's (AU's) grant. The CWD shall first refer the child to Welfare to Work (WTW) to develop a WTW Plan (that the child must sign). As a reminder, according to CWDs existing policies regarding what must be included in a child's WTW plan, the plan shall include, attending school or some other avenue to obtain a high school diploma or its equivalent along with requisite supportive services. A separate letter is forthcoming regarding the WTW process and specific details about the WTW plan.

If after a WTW plan is signed, the child does not cooperate with the plan and remains truant, the CWD shall **at that time** apply the school attendance penalty to the AU's grant. CWDs shall not sanction the child for failure to follow the WTW plan. Only the school attendance penalty will apply to these cases.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact the CalWORKs Eligibility Bureau. For questions regarding the Welfare to Work Plan, Family Stabilization or WTW Sanctions, please contact the CalWORKs Employment Bureau. Both can be reached by calling  
(916) 654-1322.

Sincerely,

### ***Original Document Signed By:***

TODD R. BLAND  
Deputy Director  
Welfare to Work Division

C: CWDA  
CSAC