

APPENDIX E

Definition of Sparsely Populated Districts

The following section of the Education Code is taken from the 1997 California Special Education Programs Composite of Laws. It reflects Education Code language describing special education funding under the J-50 funding system, prior to Education Code amendments that resulted in implementation of the AB 602 funding legislation.

E.C. 56728.6 (d) (1)

(A) Sparsely populated districts are school districts that meet one of the following conditions:

- (i) A school district or combination of contiguous school districts in which the total enrollment is less than 600 students, kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive, and in which one or more of the school facilities is an isolated school.
- (ii) A school district or combination of contiguous school districts in which the total student density ratio is less than 15 students, kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive, per square mile and in which one or more of the school facilities is an isolated school.

(B) Isolated schools are schools with enrollments of less than 600 students, kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive, that meet one or more of the following conditions:

- (i) The school is located more than 45 minutes average driving time over commonly used and well-traveled roads from the nearest school, including schools in adjacent special education local plan areas, with an enrollment greater than 60 students, kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive.
- (ii) The school is separated, by roads that are impassable for extended periods of time due to inclement weather, from the nearest school, including schools in adjacent special education local plan areas, with an enrollment greater than 600 students, kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive.
- (iii) The school is of a size and location that, when its enrollment is combined with the enrollments of the two largest school within an average driving time of not more than 30 minutes over commonly used and well-traveled roads, including school in adjacent special education local plan areas, the combined enrollment is less than 600 students, kindergarten, and grades 1 to 12, inclusive.
- (iv) The school is the one of normal attendance for a severely disabled individuals, as defined in Section 56303.5, or an individual with a low-incidence disability, as defined in Section 56026.5, who otherwise would be required to be transported more than 75 minutes average one-way driving time over commonly used and well-traveled roads, to the nearest appropriate program.