



NEWS RELEASE

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Lawsuit impacts release of California student data; opt-out form available to parents

A recent lawsuit against the California Department of Education (CDE) is impacting all school districts across the state, including the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) and all public school districts in the county.

In April 2012, two organizations, the Morgan Hill Concerned Parents Association and the Concerned Parent Association, filed a lawsuit against the CDE alleging widespread, systemic non-compliance by local education agencies with special education laws. The suit also alleges the CDE fails to monitor, investigate and correct such non-compliance in accordance with the law. The CDE denies these allegations and is actively defending the litigation.

The SCCOE was not involved in the lawsuit and is not the subject of any of the suit's allegations. Nonetheless, as a part of this lawsuit, the CDE has been ordered by the United States District Court to release all data it has collected on general and special education students since Jan. 1, 2008. None of this information may be used outside the context of this lawsuit; no student's identifying records will be disclosed to the general public.

The SCCOE is committed to helping families stay informed about this issue and empowered to protect their children's data. Parents and guardians who do not wish for their students' information to be disclosed may complete and mail in an "opt-out form" to object and prevent the release of student data: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/di/ws/documents/form2016jan26.pdf>. The "opt-out form" must be mailed by April 1, 2016.

For more information visit: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/di/ws/morganhillcase.asp> or contact the California Department of Education at (916) 319-0800.

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