California Department of Education  
School District Organization Handbook  
September 2016

# PREFACE

Most people see school districts as stable or even permanent governmental entities. School district boundaries, however, do change. Territory is transferred from one school district to another, districts are divided or combined with their neighbors, and some districts are terminated. This handbook describes how these changes come about.

This handbook was originally developed in 1993, and revised in 1997, through the joint efforts of the California State Board of Education, the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association, the Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team, and the California Department of Education (CDE). Since 1998, portions of the handbook are updated by the CDE with input from school district organization staff from county offices of education across the state. The handbook is intended as a resource for county committees on school district organization, school district governing boards and administrators, and interested members of the public.

Any comments or suggestions regarding the content of this handbook should be sent to:

School Fiscal Services Division

California Department of Education

1430 N Street, Suite 3800

Sacramento, CA 95814

NOTES:

The guidance in this handbook is not binding on local educational agencies or other entities. Except for statutes, regulations, and court decisions that are referenced herein, the handbook is exemplary, and compliance with it is not mandatory (see California *Education Code* Section 33308.5).

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