



CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

TOM TORLAKSON

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

July 26, 2016

Dear County and District Superintendents and Charter School Administrators:

**REQUIRED ACTION FOR SCHOOLS: NEW HEALTH COVERAGE
OPPORTUNITIES AND ENROLLMENT ASSISTANCE**

Beginning in the 2015–16 school year, California public schools were required under Assembly Bill 2706 (Hernandez) to provide information on affordable health coverage options and in-person enrollment assistance. The requirement also applies to the 2016–17 and 2017–18 school years.

More recently, Senate Bill 75 (Lara) expanded affordable Medi-Cal coverage to **all** children, regardless of their immigration status. This means that low-income, undocumented children can receive full Medi-Cal benefits. Eligible children can enroll today. For more information, visit the Health4All Kids Web site at www.health4allkids.org.

In collaboration with the California Department of Education (CDE), the Children's Partnership's ALL IN For Health campaign, and California Coverage and Health Initiatives, Covered California created the **School Educator Partner Toolkit** for public school administrators to facilitate compliance with AB 2706 and raise awareness of SB 75. The kit includes sample language for newsletters, a one-page template in Spanish and English to include in weekly messages sent home with students, a list of county-based agencies, and other helpful resources. The template also includes a customizable space for information on local enrollment resources. The School Educator Partner Toolkit is available on the Covered California Web page at <http://www.coveredca.com/schools>.

As educators, we understand that the health and welfare of students is key to academic, social, emotional, and physical success. Research confirms the clear connection between student health, learning, and attendance. Adolescents with poor general health are less likely to graduate from high school or attend college. Promoting health coverage for our students is an investment in their well-being today and in the future.

Join me in publicizing essential information about the importance of health coverage and health care. Share the materials at back-to-school nights, parent-teacher conferences, open houses, and other events. Together, we can support students and

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families in establishing wholesome routines and habits for healthy children now and into adulthood.

If you have any questions regarding this subject, please contact Nancy Zarenda, Education Policy Consultant, Coordinated School Health and Safety Office, by phone at 916-445-8441 or by e-mail at nzarenda@cde.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Tom Torlakson

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