STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

April 8, 1996

ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 96-15

Reason for this Transmittal
[ ] State Law Change
[ ] Federal Law or Regulation Change
[ ] Court Order
[X] Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
[ ] Initiated by CDSS

TO: COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
COUNTY GAIN COORDINATORS
COUNTY CAL-LEARN COORDINATORS
CAL-LEARN CASE MANAGEMENT CONTRACTORS

SUBJECT: REPORT CARDS FOR CAL-LEARN BONUSES AND SANCTIONS

REFERENCE: Manual of Policies and Procedures Section 42-762.3(q) and 42-766.33.

The purpose of this letter is to provide clarification on the California Department of Social Services' policy regarding a report on a teen parent's academic achievement (report card) that is eligible for Cal-Learn bonuses and sanctions. Cal-Learn limits the number of report cards eligible for Cal-Learn bonuses and sanctions to four within a twelve-month period. Counties are reporting that some Cal-Learn teen parents are attending alternative education programs that normally issue less than four report cards to students and, in some cases, no reports are issued.

To provide a regular fiscal incentive to encourage teen parents to attend and progress in school programs, and to provide maximum flexibility for Cal-Learn program administration at the local level, counties may make agreements with education program staff for the provision of four report cards per twelve-month period for Cal-Learn participants. While counties are not required to seek out such agreements, these agreements would be consistent with the purpose of the Cal-Learn program and would provide a standardized schedule for fiscal incentives.

If a county elects to establish a report card issuance process specifically for Cal-Learn participants, the process must apply to all Cal-Learn teen parents attending the school/educational program and each report card issued must be considered potentially eligible for both bonuses and sanctions. Report cards that are issued solely for the purpose of accessing

a bonus, or solely for the purpose of applying a sanction, would not be eligible for Cal-Learn fiscal incentives.

When discussing the provision of report cards with educational program staff, please keep in mind that educational program staff are not required to comply with a county's request to establish a report card issuance process for the Cal-Learn program. In addition, should educational program staff unilaterally establish a process specifically for their Cal-Learn students, the county cannot disregard the report cards as long as they meet Cal-Learn program requirements.

If you have any questions regarding this policy please contact your county Cal-Learn program analyst at (916) 654-1424.

Sincerely,

Bruce Wagstaff

BRUCE WAGSTAFF
Deputy Director
Welfare Programs Division