Oppose HB 1638- WA MMR exemption rate is only 2.9% - 97.1% of WA Students are not exempt. Clark CO MMR exempt only 5%. WA is very, very safe. HB 1638 will harm small school districts.

In its current state this bill will prevent all the MMR PBE users from attending school next fall. The statewide all types combined MMR exemption rate is 2.9%, some significant piece of that is PBE, **so probably 15,000 to 20,000 students will not be in school**.

If one believes that false claim that, "22% of the children are missing MMR", it is easy to think that some segment of that are doing so casually, and if PBE is ended will shrug their shoulders, sheepishly throw up their hands and say "Aww shucks, you got me, I guess we to have vaccinate now", and you could see rates climb.

When you know the real exemption rates, 2.9% statewide, and 5.3% Clark County, you see that **even if they all were vaccinated it is only a 2% or 5% increase** in school children complete for MMR. Is vaccine protection so tenuous that 2% or 5% is the tipping point to disaster?

And in the real world the medical, societal, and educational pressure to vaccinate is so intense that no one is using a PBE casually. They are using the PBE as a last resort. They are all very committed to this choice and will seek out alternative education options. **It must be understood that this will function as a "kick kids out of school" bill, regardless of the intent.**

If the bill is amended to end exemption to all vaccines, then 37,000 students are impacted. This can be a real issue for small districts as funding formulae are based on FTE. WA has 36 reporting districts less than 100 students, 84 with less than 300.

The last time an exemption bill was in play small districts were surveyed for what they thought about the need for the legislation, and its effect on their district.

One superintendent from Adams county replied;

*"**Specifically, regarding vaccinations, if legislation was able to exclude children who aren't vaccinated by state requirements, our school WOULD be in danger**. We do have a high number of "opt outs"* {this isolated, rural district has only 14 students, so "high", 3, is a relative term} *from parents who feel the state invades their personal rights to privacy and freedom to choose for themselves**. If the role of the state is to educate every child, it seems they're undermining their own role.** Also, if a family chooses not to vaccinate, it only hurts themselves. The others who are vaccinated shouldn't have to worry. Students need to be in school. Please continue to work for the students. **Changing the requirements to make things more restrictive isn't going to change these families out here. If anything, they'll pull their kids out of school and home school them**, which only hurts the kids socially. **It also puts small rural schools under more pressure to have enough students to stay open, under current WA laws**."*

The business manager of a small Puget Island district stated:

*"Because our school is small, it is quite easy to mitigate danger. **It would be detrimental for our small school to be required to exclude students with less than the 16 required number of immunizations.** I am including our board in this email. Are there any steps you suggest for our board/school district to respond to the potential legislation?"*

California passed a bill, SB 277, that eliminated personal belief exemptions. What does the California experience tell us will happen in Washington if the same mistake is made?

This article details that exempting parents are very committed to their decision and largely impervious to a rule change, and will instead homeschool. Bill supporters misrepresented that ending exemptions will "raise" vaccination rates. The schools may measure higher, but mostly because exempting families will have left, and there will be very few new vaccinations.

LOCAL NEWS

http://www.redding.com/news/local/new-state-vaccine-law-could-cause-enrollment-problems-3a6fb524-67bc-3ae7-e053-0100007fcab1-390814921.html

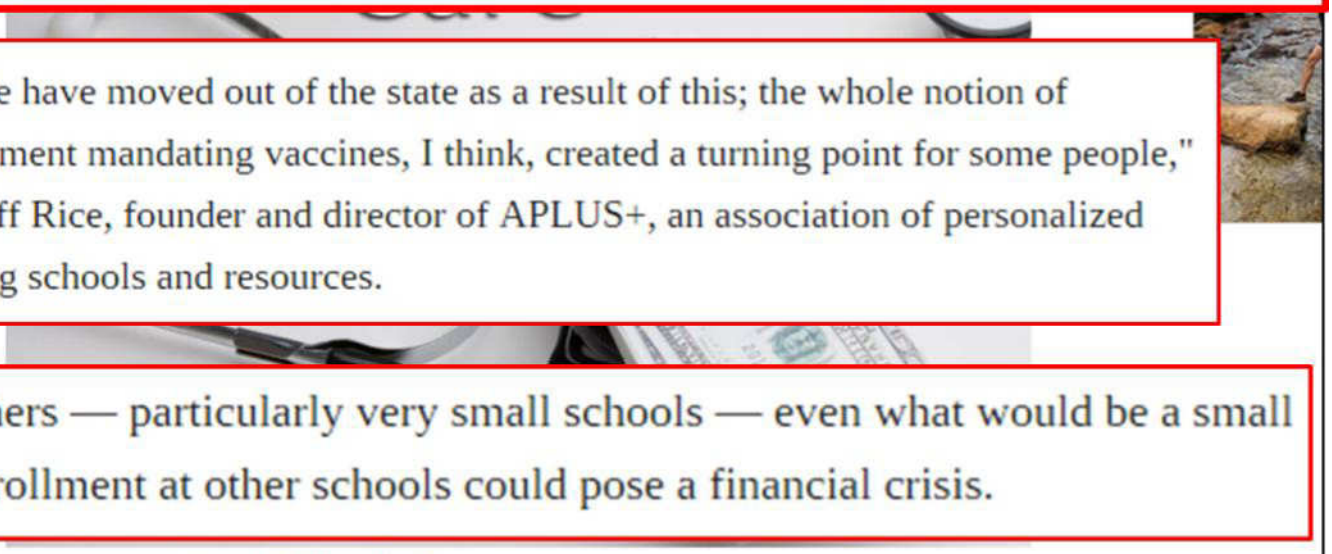
New state vaccine law could cause enrollment problems

CA SB 277 Pushed kids out of schools and hurt districts.

"There's a public perception out there that suddenly and magically, starting with this school year, everybody is going to be in vaccination compliance, and it's just not true," Rice said.

"People have moved out of the state as a result of this; the whole notion of government mandating vaccines, I think, created a turning point for some people," said Jeff Rice, founder and director of APLUS+, an association of personalized learning schools and resources.

But for others — particularly very small schools — even what would be a small drop in enrollment at other schools could pose a financial crisis.



Stethoscope wrapped around hundred dollar bills

By Alayna Shulman of the Redding Record Searchlight

But Rice said most of these families won't be so easily swayed by a new law.

"If ... they believe that the school is now forcing them, then it's likely that they will make a different choice rather than comply," he said. "I think there's a higher concentration of families who are ... more of the mind to say, regardless of what the government says, my principles tell me that I should have the choice, and therefore I'm going to make a choice based on principle rather than simply complying with the government says."

Action Item- *Notify your Professional Association, State Senator & Representatives-*
We don't need this bill, and don't let Medical Trade Groups set education policy.

This article describes administrator angst at now being the "vaccination police", a small district potentially losing $215,000 in funding, a family electing for a spouse to stop working to homeschool, and school districts trying to meet IEP student requirements.

CA SB 277 Pushed kids out of schools and hurt districts.

Article describing the issues with SB277 Implementation
"And, almost assuredly, they will be turning some children away.
That's a new and uncomfortable position for many of them."

North Coast journal
of Politics, People and Art
HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
this week ncj daily

"We are very frustrated that we are now the immunization police," said Julia Anderson, the executive director of Beginnings in Briceland, which includes Skyfish elementary school and a child care center. "This new law has a lot of parents in a total uproar."

"(Lawmakers) definitely put it in the laps of the schools when they made that law," said Steffano-Davis reflectively. "I'm hoping children can go to school. That's what I want to see. I want to educate kids."

Prepare for Impact

A new vaccination law has school administrators caught between a needle and a hard place

BY THADEUS GREENSON

It's not difficult to understand why administrators would be on edge given what's at stake. In California, school funding is tightly tied to enrollment and attendance. That means parents' deciding that homeschooling their children is preferable to vaccinating them has a direct impact on school budgets and, consequently, staffing...

Consider the case of Coastal Grove Charter School in Arcata, a Waldorf inspired school that serves about 230 students in kindergarten through eighth grade... 19 Kindergartners and nine 7th graders had PBE's... If those numbers carried over to this year, the school would have to turn away 28 students, or about 12 percent of its student body...

Going back to Coastal Grove, if the school were to see those 28 students vanish from its rolls this year, that would represent a funding reduction of more than $215,000...

Of course, the hope with the new law is that parents will opt to vaccinate their children and send them to school. But there's a lot of uncertainty, in Humboldt County, anyway, as to whether that will happen. Some families clearly are not going to do it. Take Tenae LaPorte, who has quit her job in a local dermatologist's office to homeschool her children. She had planned on sending them to Fieldbrook Elementary but is dead set against vaccinating them. "We can do this," LaPorte said of homeschooling and shifting her family from a two- to a one-income household, "because it's currently our only option we are willing to take."

Sitting in her office at the Humboldt County Office of Education, Special Education Director Tess Ives said there's one other large issue looming with the new vaccination law: What to do with the thousands of kids in Humboldt County who receive some sort of special education through what's called an individualized education plan, or an IEP. Under the law, districts and the county are responsible for providing the specialized services these kids need to get an education, a huge spectrum of offerings that range from special day classes to a bit of extra instruction or therapy. Even though schools might not be able to admit unvaccinated children under S.B. 277, that doesn't alleviate their special education obligations.

As the first day of school approaches, there's an anxiety building in many administrative offices throughout Humboldt County. The anxiety doesn't seem to be pervasive, but cloistered in different pockets throughout the region. And it centers around a simple question: Will students show up?

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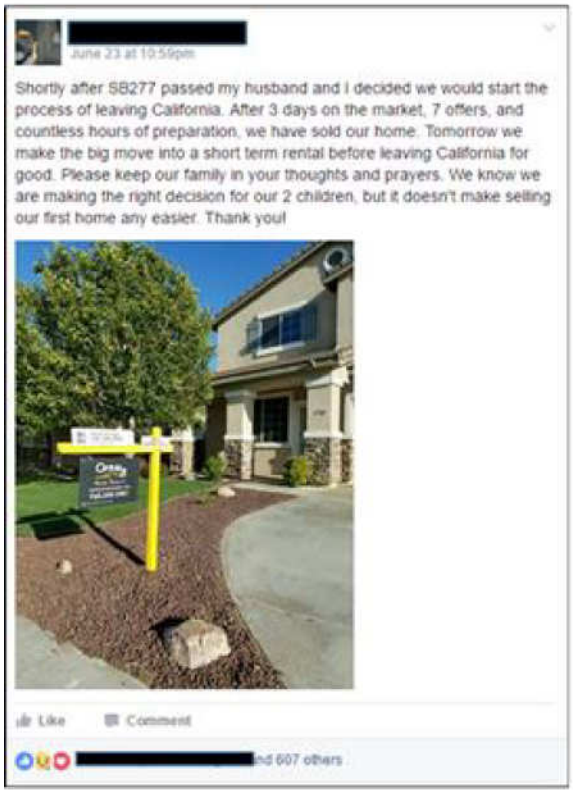
"It's easy to understand the controversy. After all, the bill mandated a medical treatment for children that some fear has adverse health impacts, with state lawmakers essentially telling parents: We're putting public health before your concerns for your immediate family."

Oppose legislation that restricts or eliminates non-medical vaccine exemptions

Vacaville school district is setting up a parallel education system for those that do not wish to comply to 16/16 injections or 17/17 injections, attempting to avoid litigation and to keep the FTE funding within their district. http://www.dailyrepublic.com/news/vacaville/vacaville-schools-provide-learning-options-for-children-not-vaccinated/

Parents are going so far as to move out of state to avoid the impact of SB277




DAILY REI

FAIRFIELD-SUISUN, CA

Education

Vacaville schools provide learning options for children not vaccinated

By Daily Republic staff — From page A4 | March 24, 2016

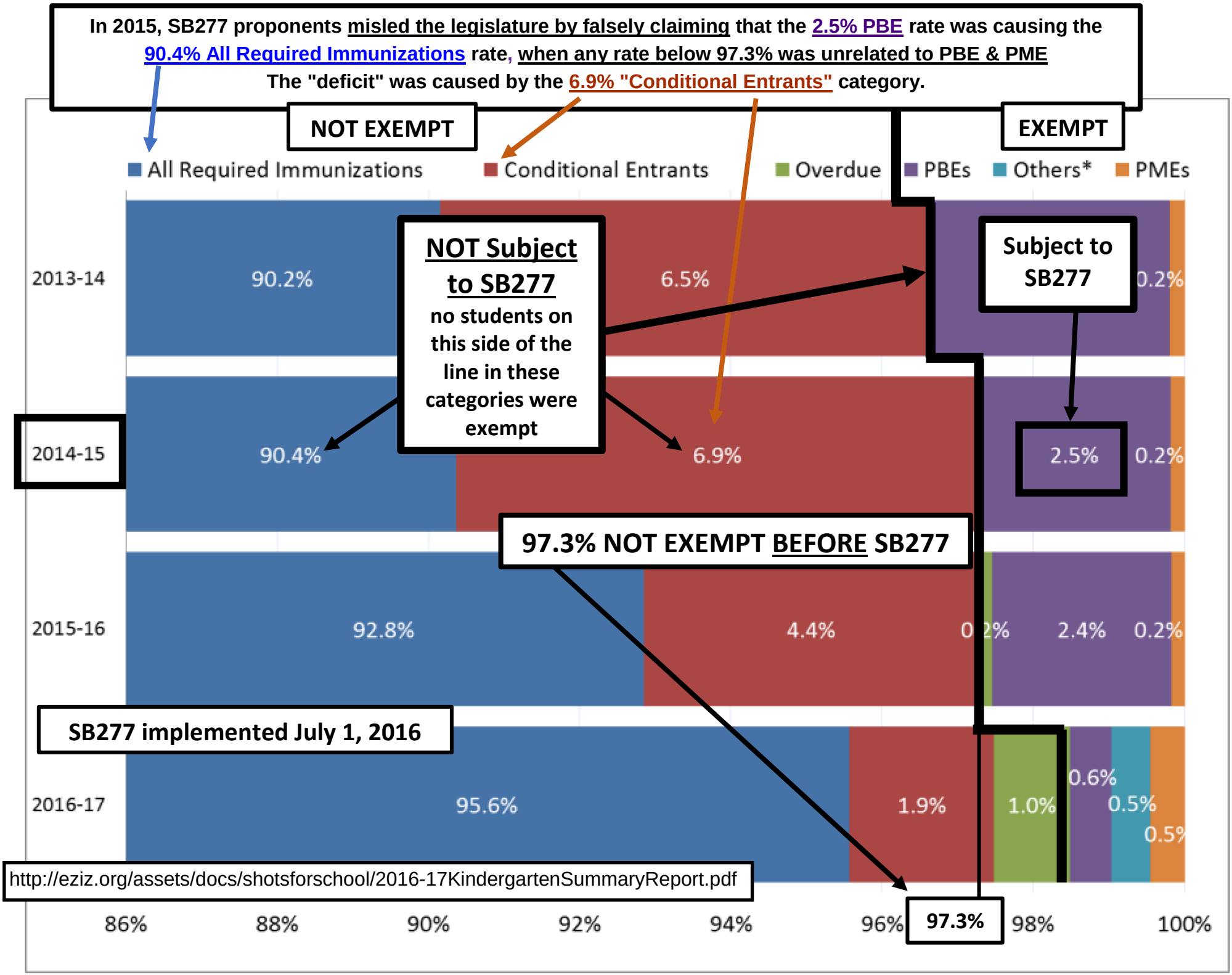
VACAVILLE — School officials in Vacaville are making plans for families who have unvaccinated children to continue their children's education.

The changes prompted by Senate Bill 277 will take effect July 1, which means that children without current vaccinations will no longer be able to attend California schools or day care centers.

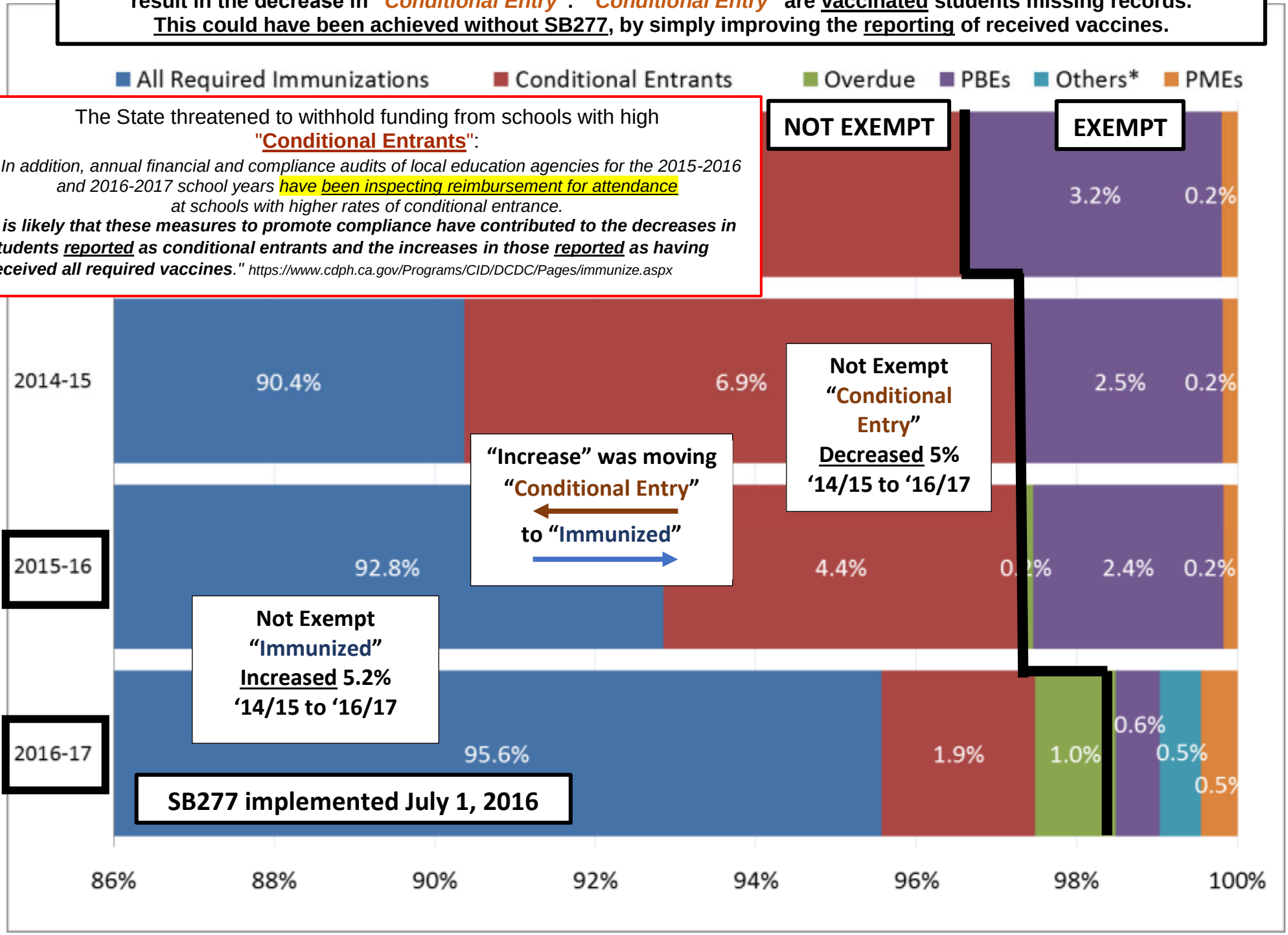
The Vacaville School District's Independent Study Program is an alternative offered for children in the area. The district recently created a school principal position for the Independent Study Program and appointed Manolo Garcia as principal, according to a school district press release.

Other parents are now homeschooling in record numbers to avoid the mandates.

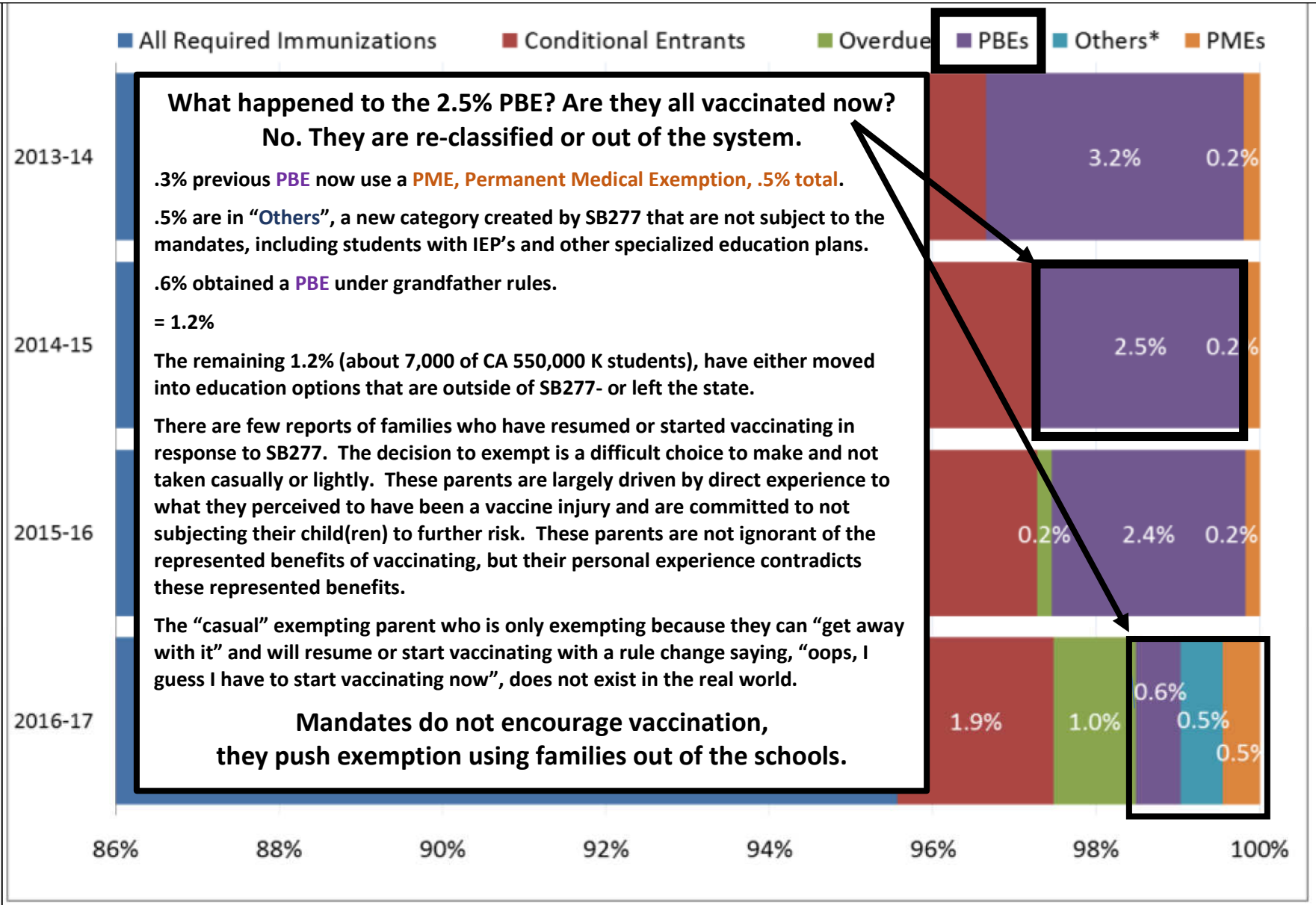
CA SB 277 Pushed kids out of schools and hurt districts.


In 2015, SB277 proponents misled the legislature by falsely claiming that the 2.5% PBE rate was causing the 90.4% All Required Immunizations rate, when any rate below 97.3% was unrelated to PBE & PME
The "deficit" was caused by the 6.9% "Conditional Entrants" category.
NOT EXEMPT
EXEMPT
All Required Immunizations
Conditional Entrants
Overdue
PBEs
Others*
PMEs
2013-14
90.2%
6.5%
0.2%
NOT Subject to SB277
no students on this side of the line in these categories were exempt
Subject to SB277
2014-15
90.4%
6.9%
2.5%
0.2%
97.3% NOT EXEMPT BEFORE SB277
2015-16
92.8%
4.4%
0.2%
2.4%
0.2%
SB277 implemented July 1, 2016
2016-17
95.6%
1.9%
1.0%
0.6%
0.5%
0.5%
http://eziz.org/assets/docs/shotsforschool/2016-17KindergartenSummaryReport.pdf
86%
88%
90%
92%
94%
96%
97.3%
98%
100%

Did, or is, SB277 "working", in the sense most people think it should- i.e. are more students vaccinated?
No. Almost all "improvement" has been in the "not exempt" left side of the line. The "increase" in "*Immunized*" is a result in the decrease in "*Conditional Entry*". "*Conditional Entry*" are <u>vaccinated</u> students missing records.
<u>This could have been achieved without SB277</u>, by simply improving the <u>reporting</u> of received vaccines.



These CDPH charts show that PBE use played no part in vaccination rates below 97.3%. Recording the vaccination of over 500,000 CA Kindergartners within the first few weeks of school is a significant task. Students must have a status to enroll, so school staff were placing not exempt vaccinated students without records into the "Conditional Entry", where they have been misrepresented to be "unvaccinated". Further compounding the issue is that 4 of the 16 required injections are scheduled in a 2-year window between age 4 and 6. K enrollment is age 5. Younger K students who were still in process and receiving these boosters during the year could not be counted as "immunized" and were also put into "Conditional". PBE use was measured & responsible.



*Other children lacking required immunizations under criteria specified in SB 277.

Figure 6. Percentage of All Kindergarten Students by Reported Admission Status by School Year, 2013-2014 to 2016-2017. In the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 school years, entrants were subject to AB 2109. In the 2016-2017 school year, entrants have been subject to SB 277.