



Essential Training For Educational Administrators

Enacted California Legislation Related to Education | 2025



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This report contains a summary of major laws enacted by the California Legislature during the 2025 session of interest to K-12 schools and community colleges. Enacted bills become law on January 1, 2026, unless adopted as urgency measures with earlier effective dates or unless they contain delayed operative dates.

This year's report was compiled by Abby Auffant, General Counsel of Schools Legal Service, Carlos Rojas, Chief Governmental Relations Officer, and Mae Kittle, Legislative Assistant, Office of the Kern County Superintendent of Schools. The report has the following features:

- All bills are listed by subject matter, in numerical bill order by house: Assembly and Senate.
- Each bill is briefly summarized in the boxed text. Bills that need more detailed explanation are discussed in the section beneath the box.
- An index at the front of the report arranges bills in subject matter categories, with references to the pages in the report where the summaries are found.

The full text of all bills considered by the Legislature in the 2025 session—whether or not adopted—can be found on the internet at <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>. This site also includes prior versions of the bill and various committee reports that can be helpful in understanding legislative history and intent. The full text of all current California code sections can also be found at <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes.xhtml>. You may wish to “bookmark” these sites for continued reference.

If you rely on printed versions of the Education Code, we recommend ensuring your codes are up to date. As a convenient alternative, you may wish to purchase the annual one-volume softbound pamphlet edition of the Education Code published by Thomson West (<http://west.thomson.com/> or 1-800-344-5008).

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2025 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

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**BROWN ACT
(Public Meetings)**

SB 707 (Durazo) – Open meetings: meeting and teleconference requirements.

This bill comprehensively amends the Ralph M. Brown Act (Government Code sections governing open meetings) to modernize public meeting requirements for local agencies, including school districts, county boards of education, and community college districts.

1. Social Media Clarification: Clarifies that school board members may use internet-based social media platforms to answer questions and provide information to the public, but may not "discuss among themselves" business within their jurisdiction. "Discuss among themselves" now explicitly includes comments or use of digital icons (like reactions) to other board members' posts. Board members cannot respond directly to communications made by other board members on social media platforms.
2. Remote Participation for Members with Disabilities: Authorizes school board members with disabilities to participate remotely as a reasonable accommodation without meeting traditional teleconferencing location requirements. Members must participate through audio and visual technology (unless a physical condition related to their disability requires audio-only), and must disclose whether other adults are present with them and the general nature of their relationship.
3. Agenda Posting Requirements: Maintains existing requirements that school districts with websites must post agendas online in an open, searchable format at least 72 hours before regular meetings. Agendas must be posted on the primary website homepage through a prominent, direct link (not in a contextual menu), or through an integrated agenda management platform that meets specific accessibility requirements.
4. Public Comment Time for Non-English Speakers: Requires school districts that limit public comment time to provide at least twice the allotted time to members of the public who use a translator, ensuring non-English speakers receive equal opportunity to address the board. This requirement does not apply if the district uses simultaneous translation equipment.
5. Committee Public Comment Exception: Clarifies that school boards need not provide public comment on items already heard by a committee unless the committee has primary jurisdiction over elections, budgets, police oversight, privacy, library materials access, or taxes/spending proposals. This exception does not apply if members did not participate from a single physical location open to the public.

6. Emergency Meeting Notifications: Authorizes presiding officers to notify media of emergency meetings by email instead of telephone, provided the media outlets have requested email notifications. All provided email addresses must be exhausted before notice requirements are deemed satisfied.

7. Disruption and Removal Authority: Clarifies that presiding officers may remove individuals who disrupt meetings, including those participating via telephone or audiovisual platforms. "Disrupting" includes engaging in behavior constituting use of force or "true threat of force" (defined as threats with sufficient intent and seriousness that a reasonable observer would perceive as actual threats).

8. Brown Act Training Requirement: Maintains existing requirement that school districts must provide a copy of the Brown Act to any person elected or appointed to serve on the school board.

CHILDCARE AND PRESCHOOL

AB 563 (Jackson) -- Childcare: Early Childhood Policy Council.

Amends Section 10320 of the Welfare and Institutions Code to restructure the Early Childhood Policy Council, which advises the Governor, Legislature, and state department on early learning and care policy. The bill expands council membership from unspecified to 27 members, establishes two mandatory standing advisory committees (parent and workforce), and specifies detailed appointment processes, meeting requirements, and reporting obligations.

AB 752 (Avila Farias) -- Child daycare facilities.

Establishes that daycare centers colocated with multifamily housing (5+ units) are considered residential use and a "use by right," prohibiting local jurisdictions from requiring conditional use permits or other discretionary approvals. Prohibits local jurisdictions from imposing business license fees, taxes, or charges on these colocated daycare centers.

AB 753 (Garcia) -- Childcare: facility licensure: teacher requirements.

Creates a temporary "assistant teacher permit" for early childhood education and childcare programs to address staffing shortages. The Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) must issue permits to applicants with at least 6 units in early childhood education who are enrolled in coursework and sponsored by a state-contracted preschool or childcare provider. Permits are valid for 2 years maximum, non-renewable, and sunset in 2029 or one year after the revised child development permit matrix is implemented.

SB 151 (Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee) -- Early childhood education and childcare

This bill implements provisions of a collective bargaining agreement between the State of California and Child Care Providers United - California (CCPU), affecting reimbursement and compensation for family childcare providers and childcare centers serving state-subsidized programs. Key provisions include: (1) Changes reimbursement methodology from attendance-based to enrollment-based (certified need) for subsidized childcare programs from July 1, 2025 to July 1, 2028; (2) Provides monthly "cost of care plus" rates ranging from \$98-\$230 per enrolled child based on provider type and region; (3) Authorizes one-time stabilization payments of \$300-\$431 per child to providers; (4) Appropriates \$88.55 million for enrollment-based reimbursement and \$157.85 million for stabilization payments; (5) Establishes ongoing funding mechanisms for provider training, healthcare, and retirement benefits through 2028.

SB 568 (Niello) -- Pupil health: epinephrine delivery systems: schoolsites and childcare programs.

Expands the scope of emergency epinephrine delivery systems (EpiPens) in California schools to include state or federally subsidized childcare programs operated by or under contract with LEAs. This includes California state preschool programs, Head Start programs, and general childcare and development programs. The bill allows trained childcare employees to administer epinephrine and requires LEAs to stock epinephrine at childcare program locations.

SB 778 (Limon) -- Migrant childcare and development programs.

Amends eligibility and enrollment priorities for migrant agricultural worker families in childcare and development programs under the Welfare and Institutions Code. Requires the California Department of Social Services to ensure that self-certification of income for migrant childcare programs is consistent with other childcare and development programs.

SB 792 (Arreguin) -- Childcare.

Amends definitions and provisions in the Welfare and Institutions Code related to childcare and development programs, including changes to part-time/full-time care definitions, family fee exemptions, and program administration. Primarily affects state-subsidized childcare programs administered by the California Department of Social Services, with limited direct impact on K-12 LEAs except for districts operating childcare programs or California School Age Families Education Programs.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

AB 542 (Rodriguez) -- Continuation schools and classes: youth workforce development programs

Amends Education Code Section 46170 to authorize school districts operating continuation high schools or continuation education classes to offer youth workforce development programs to pupils on one or two weekdays per week, provided pupils remain enrolled in at least 15 hours of class attendance weekly. Programs must be supervised by certificated employees, offered in partnership with specified educational or workforce entities, and enable pupils to earn academic credit or industry certificates through workplace experiences.

AB 821 (Gipson) -- Pupil instruction: high school graduation requirements: career technical education.

This bill amends Education Code Section 51225.3 to clarify and maintain existing high school graduation requirements in California. The bill primarily addresses technical amendments related to career technical education (CTE) courses that can satisfy the visual/performing arts, world language, or CTE requirement (subparagraph E), and maintains the existing ethnic studies and personal finance graduation requirements that were previously enacted. The bill does not create new graduation requirements but rather preserves and clarifies the current framework for pupils graduating from California high schools.

AB 1255 (Assembly Education Committee) -- Pupil instruction: newcomer pupils: migrant education: migrant regions.

This bill makes two changes: (1) Requires the Instructional Quality Commission to consider including resources for teachers to help meet the unique academic and English language development needs of newcomer pupils at the next adoption of K-8 English Language Arts and English Language Development instructional materials; and (2) Updates the definition of "currently migratory child" in the migrant education program to clarify that parents or guardians must be informed of the child's eligibility for services.

AB 1369 (Ramos) -- Pupil rights: school graduation ceremonies and related events: adornments.

Amends Education Code Section 35183.1 to clarify that pupils may wear traditional tribal regalia or recognized objects of religious or cultural significance as adornments at school graduation ceremonies or related events. Prohibits LEAs from requiring preapproval processes or mandating cap-wearing when incompatible with adornments.

AB 1454 (Rubio) -- Pupil literacy: credential program standards and professional development: instructional materials.

This bill establishes comprehensive literacy instruction requirements across three key areas: (1) requires the CTC to update standards for reading and literacy leadership specialist credentials and administrative services credentials to include evidence-based literacy instruction by January 2028 and September 2028 respectively; (2) requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to adopt K-8 English language arts and English language development instructional materials by January 2027 that align with evidence-based literacy practices; and (3) mandates that all requirements align with the ELA/ELD Framework, evidence-based foundational reading skills instruction, and dyslexia program guidelines.

SB 48 (Fong) -- Educational equity: discrimination prevention coordinators.

Creates four new coordinator positions within the California Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights: (1) Religious Discrimination Prevention Coordinator, (2) Race and Ethnicity Discrimination Prevention Coordinator, (3) Gender Discrimination Prevention Coordinator, and (4) LGBTQ Discrimination Prevention Coordinator. Each position requires gubernatorial appointment and Senate confirmation.

SB 472 (Stern) -- Pupil instruction: Holocaust and genocide education: notice, survey, and grant program.

Requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to notify all LEAs serving grades 7-12 that Holocaust and genocide education is part of the state's History-Social Science standards and framework. Authorizes the Superintendent to establish the Holocaust and Genocide Education Grant Program to provide direct allocations to LEAs for instructional materials, professional development, events, and related resources.

SB 510 (Richardson) -- Pupil instruction: treatment of African Americans

Amends Education Code Section 51226.3 to direct the Instructional Quality Commission and SBE to consider including additional historical content when revising the history-social science curriculum framework or adopting new instructional materials. Specifically requires consideration of African American contributions during Spanish colonization, Gold Rush, and Antebellum periods.

SB 619 (Senate Education Committee) -- Public postsecondary education

This bill makes several amendments to California Education Code provisions related to community college enrollment and transfer pathways: (1) requires community college districts to report completed courses and grades through eTranscript California for high school students attending community college; (2) updates references from "Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC)" to "California General Education Transfer Curriculum" throughout transfer pathway provisions; (3) changes "foster parent" terminology to "resource family" in the Foster and Kinship Care Education Program; and (4) requires community colleges to award course credit for Advanced Placement exams aligned with California General Education Transfer Curriculum or local general education requirements.

CREDENTIALING**AB 606 (Quirk-Silva) -- Certificated employees: professional services credential: out-of-state applicants.**

Creates a new pathway for out-of-state school counselors, school psychologists, and school social workers to obtain California credentials. The bill allows the CTC to issue a preliminary professional services credential (valid for 2 years, renewable for 2 more years) to out-of-state applicants who hold a bachelor's degree, possess a valid corresponding credential from another state, and pass California background checks.

AB 959 (Hadwick) -- Teacher credentialing: administrative services credential: internship program.

Expands eligibility pathways for the preliminary administrative services credential by: (1) allowing licensed occupational therapists and physical therapists to qualify as prerequisite credential holders; (2) increasing the required experience from 3 to 5 years of successful full-time work in teaching, pupil services, or as school-based OT/PT; and (3) allowing LEAs to request waivers of up to 2 years of experience for qualified candidates who complete approved programs and hold clear/life credentials.

AB 1009 (Rubio) -- Teacher credentialing: administrative services credential: occupational and physical therapists

Expands pathways to obtain a preliminary administrative services credential by allowing one-year internship programs provided by school districts, county offices of education, or regionally accredited institutions of higher education as an alternative to completing a commission-approved entry-level program. Requires the CTC to examine preservice, professional development, and supervision requirements for these internship programs.

AB 1034 (Avila Farias) -- Teacher credentialing: programs of professional preparation: youth mental health

Requires all programs of professional preparation for preliminary multiple subject, single subject, or education specialist teaching credentials to include training in health education that provides "a basic understanding of youth mental health." This mental health training component becomes part of the mandatory health education experience required before teachers can enter the classroom.

AB 1119 (Patel) -- Teacher credentialing: dual credentialing

Requires the CTC to develop and establish, by March 1, 2027, efficient routes for teachers to obtain dual credentials (both general education and special education credentials). This includes pathways for teacher candidates to earn dual credentials initially, for general education teachers to add special education credentials, and for special education teachers to add general education credentials.

AB 1123 (Muratsuchi) -- Commission on Teacher Credentialing: membership.

Amends the composition of the CTC by adding one early childhood faculty member from higher education institutions and reducing public representatives from three to two. The Governor shall make the initial early childhood faculty appointment upon the first vacancy of a public representative position occurring on or after January 1, 2026.

AB 1306 (Muratsuchi) -- Commission on Teacher Credentialing: membership.

Authorizes the CTC to approve teacher education programs offered by school districts or county offices of education for earning cross-cultural language and academic development certificates, English learner authorizations, or bilingual authorization certificates, including California Teacher of English Learners (CTEL) programs.

EMPLOYEES

AB 91 (Harabedian) -- State and local agencies: demographic data

Requires state and local agencies, including school districts and educational agencies, to collect and report demographic data using separate categories for Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) populations beginning January 1, 2028. Agencies must include this data in demographic reports published on or after January 1, 2029.

AB 288 (McKinnor) -- Employment: labor organization and unfair practices.

This bill establishes state-level labor relations enforcement for private sector workers when federal National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) protections fail. It grants the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) jurisdiction over private sector workers who lose NLRB coverage due to repeal, narrowing, or enforcement delays. The bill does not directly affect K-12 public schools or educational agencies, as public school employees are already covered by state collective bargaining laws under PERB jurisdiction.

AB 339 (Ortega) -- Local public employee organizations: notice requirements.

Requires public agencies, including school districts and county offices of education, to provide recognized employee organizations at least 45 days' written notice before issuing requests for proposals, requests for quotes, or renewing/extending contracts for services within the scope of work of represented job classifications. The notice must include contract duration, scope of work, anticipated cost, draft solicitation, and justification for the contract.

AB 406 (Schiavo) -- Employment: unlawful discrimination: victims of violence

This bill amends California's employment protections for crime victims, expanding leave rights and workplace accommodations. It primarily affects Government Code Section 12945.8 and Labor Code Sections 230-246.5, requiring employers (including school districts and educational agencies) to provide protected leave for employees who are victims of crimes or have family members who are victims, and to provide reasonable workplace safety accommodations. The bill takes effect immediately as urgency legislation, with some provisions phased in through January 1, 2026.

AB 642 (Muratsuchi) -- Emergencies proclaimed by the Governor: school employee catastrophic leave.

Authorizes school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools to establish catastrophic leave donation programs allowing employees to donate vacation and sick leave to colleagues in two circumstances: (1) when an employee or family member suffers a catastrophic illness/injury, and (2) when an employee is impacted by a Governor-proclaimed state of emergency.

AB 962 (Hoover) -- Pupil safety: comprehensive school safety plans: use of smartphones

Requires governing boards of school districts, county boards of education, and charter school governing bodies to develop and adopt a policy by July 1, 2026, to limit or prohibit student smartphone use at schoolsites or under school supervision. Policies must be updated every five years, involve significant stakeholder participation, and promote evidence-based practices supporting student learning and well-being.

AB 1067 (Quirk-Silva) -- Public employees' retirement: felony convictions.

Requires public employers, including school districts and county offices of education, to continue investigations of public employees who retire while under investigation for misconduct if the investigation indicates the employee may have committed a crime. If the investigation indicates criminal conduct, the employer must refer the matter to law enforcement and may close the investigation. Employees convicted of a felony for such conduct forfeit all retirement benefits.

SB 294 (Reyes) -- The Workplace Know Your Rights Act

Adds the "Workplace Know Your Rights Act" to the California Labor Code, requiring all employers (including school districts and educational agencies) to provide annual written notices to employees about their workplace rights, including workers' compensation, immigration-related protections, union organizing rights, and constitutional rights when interacting with law enforcement. Employers must also allow employees to designate emergency contacts for notification in case of arrest or detention at the worksite.

SB 303 (Smallwood-Cuevas) -- Employment: bias mitigation training: unlawful discrimination

Adds Section 12940.2 to the Government Code to protect employers, including school districts and educational agencies, from discrimination claims based solely on employees' good faith participation in bias mitigation training. The bill clarifies that an employee's assessment, testing, admission, or acknowledgment of personal bias during required or solicited bias mitigation training does not, by itself, constitute unlawful discrimination.

SB 513 (Durazo) -- Employment: bias mitigation training: unlawful discrimination

Amends Labor Code Section 1198.5 to expand employee rights to inspect and receive copies of personnel records, including new requirements for employers to maintain education and training records with specific elements (employee name, training provider, duration/date, core competencies, certifications). Applies to all California employers, including school districts and educational agencies as employers of certificated and classified staff.

SB 590 (Durazo) -- Paid family leave: eligibility: care for designated persons

This bill amends the California Unemployment Insurance Code to expand Paid Family Leave (PFL) eligibility. Effective July 1, 2028, it adds "designated person" to the list of family members for whom workers can take up to 8 weeks of paid leave to care for a serious health condition. A designated person is defined as any care recipient related by blood or whose association with the individual is equivalent to a family relationship.

SB 642 (Limon) -- Employment: payment of wages

Amends California Labor Code to expand pay transparency requirements for all employers, including school districts and educational agencies. Key provisions: (1) employers with 15+ employees must include pay scales in all job postings; (2) employers must provide pay scales to current employees upon request; (3) employers must maintain job title and wage rate history records for duration of employment plus 3 years; (4) third-party job posting services must include pay scales provided by employers.

SB 693 (Cortese) -- Employees: meal periods.

Amends Labor Code Section 512 regarding meal period requirements for employees. The bill primarily affects commercial drivers transporting nutrients and byproducts from commercial feed manufacturers, allowing them to commence meal periods after six hours of work under specific conditions. This is a labor law change with minimal direct impact on K-12 educational operations.

SB 848 (Perez) -- Pupil safety: school employee misconduct: child abuse prevention

This comprehensive school safety bill requires California schools to: (1) adopt written policies by July 1, 2026, addressing professional boundaries between adults and pupils, among pupils, and among adults, including limits on electronic communication; (2) adopt policies on facility design to promote safe, easily supervised environments; (3) enhance comprehensive school safety plans with new procedures for child abuse prevention, sudden cardiac arrest response, and opioid overdose protocols; (4) implement new background check and reporting requirements for both certificated and noncertificated employees; (5) establish a statewide data system by July 1, 2027, tracking investigations of egregious misconduct; and (6) expand mandated reporter training to include volunteers and private school personnel beginning July 1, 2026.

1. Requires adoption of professional boundaries policies by July 1, 2026. All school districts, county offices of education, charter schools, private schools, and state special schools must adopt written policies that explicitly address professional boundaries between pupils and school employees/volunteers/contractors, among pupils, and among

adults. These policies must establish appropriate limits on contact via social media, text messaging, and other communications that don't include parents/guardians, with limitations that may vary by pupil age or grade.

2. Mandates facility design policies for supervision. By July 1, 2026, governing boards must adopt written policies regarding school facilities and furnishings that address classroom and nonclassroom environments to promote safe, easily supervised learning environments.
3. Adds procedures for child abuse and sex offense protection by July 1, 2026. Comprehensive school safety plans must include procedures specifically designed to address the supervision and protection of children from child abuse, neglect, or sex offenses when plans are next reviewed and updated, or by July 1, 2026 at the latest.
4. Establishes notification requirements for violent crimes and sex offenses on school grounds. When a principal verifies through law enforcement that a violent crime or sex offense occurred on school grounds, they may send written notice to parents/guardians and school employees describing the occurrence and general nature of the crime, encouraged within two workdays of verification (unless it would hinder an investigation).
5. Creates statewide data system for noncertificated employees by July 1, 2027. The must develop a statewide data system tracking noncertificated employees and private school employees, including their employment history, investigations of egregious misconduct, and substantiated reports. Employers must check this system before hiring and update it within specified timeframes (30 days for new hires, 10 days for investigation starts/completions).
6. Requires comprehensive employment history disclosure and inquiry. Applicants for noncertificated positions at public schools or any positions at private schools must provide a complete list of all previous school employers. Prospective employers must inquire with each previous employer about credible complaints, substantiated investigations, or discipline for egregious misconduct, and previous employers must disclose this information and provide copies of relevant documentation.
7. Prohibits agreements that prevent reporting or expunge misconduct records. Schools cannot enter agreements that would prevent mandatory reporting of egregious misconduct to the CTC or other agencies, nor can they expunge credible complaints, substantiated investigations, or discipline for egregious misconduct from personnel files (except when allegations are determined false, not credible, or unsubstantiated through formal proceedings).
8. Expands mandated reporter training to include sexual abuse and assault prevention. Beginning July 1, 2026, annual training for school employees and volunteers must cover both detection/reporting of child abuse and prevention of abuse (including sexual abuse and assault) of children on school grounds, by school personnel/volunteers, or in school-sponsored programs. Private schools are newly included in this requirement starting July 1, 2026.
9. Expands mandated reporter definition to include school volunteers. Volunteers

over 18 years of age who interact with pupils outside immediate supervision of parents/guardians or school employees are now defined as mandated reporters for school districts, county offices of education, charter schools, and private schools.

10. Authorizes abuse and human trafficking prevention education for pupils. Schools may provide annual instruction to all enrolled pupils using resources developed by the State Superintendent (due by July 1, 2026) on appropriate boundaries, detection of inappropriate behaviors, risk reduction strategies, and reporting options. Instruction must be age-appropriate, differentiated by grade, and delivered by certificated personnel who don't have regular contact with the pupils receiving instruction.

11. Adds immigration enforcement notification procedures by March 1, 2026. Comprehensive school safety plans must include procedures to notify parents, guardians, teachers, administrators, and school personnel when the school confirms the presence of immigration enforcement on the schoolsite, with content and timing considering safety and well-being of pupils and community members.

12. Grants CTC jurisdiction over substantiated reports in new data system. The Committee of Credentials can commence formal review based on records of substantiated reports or investigations followed by employment changes entered into the statewide data system established for noncertificated employees.

SB 853 (Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee) -- Public employees' retirement

This bill makes technical amendments to the California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS) and county retirement systems, primarily affecting retirement system administration rather than K-12 school operations. Key changes include: (1) clarifying definitions of "annualized pay rate," "employer," and "membership" for CalSTRS; (2) modifying reduced workload program requirements; (3) adjusting state contribution formulas and overpayment recovery procedures; and (4) updating Government Code provisions related to pension reform and joint powers authorities.

FACILITIES

AB 382 (Berman) -- Pedestrian safety: school zones: speed limits

This bill amends the California Vehicle Code to establish a 20 miles per hour speed limit in school zones, effective January 1, 2031. It allows local authorities to immediately adopt 20 mph school zone speed limits by ordinance or resolution until 2031 and modifies speed trap definitions and engineering survey requirements for school zones.

AB 503 (Gonzalez) -- School facilities: Civic Center Act: direct costs

Amends Education Code Section 38134 to clarify cost recovery provisions for school districts when nonprofit organizations and youth groups use school facilities. Specifically limits when districts can charge for maintenance, repair, restoration, and refurbishment costs, exempting classroom-based after-school programs, tutoring, child care, and organizations providing instruction during school hours.

AB 629 (Ward) -- School districts: equipment inventory.

Amends Education Code Section 35168 to update equipment inventory requirements for school district governing boards. The bill maintains the \$1,500 threshold for items requiring inventory tracking but adds: (1) requirement to record date and manner of disposal upon disposal; (2) allows districts to use reasonable estimates for original cost if unknown; and (3) requires the State Superintendent to biennially adjust the threshold by LCFF inflation percentage, rounded to nearest \$50, and post updates online.

AB 1021 (Muratsuchi) -- Housing: local educational agencies

Authorizes LEAs to develop affordable housing on their property for teachers, school employees, other public employees, and the general public. The bill: (1) exempts teacher housing projects from certain surplus property disposal requirements; (2) establishes streamlined zoning and development standards for housing projects meeting affordability requirements; (3) provides CEQA exemptions for qualifying affordable housing projects on LEA-owned land; and (4) sunsets January 1, 2036.

AB 1096 (Connolly) -- Water: schoolsites: lead testing

Requires community water systems to collect and report detailed information about lead testing outreach and results for elementary schools and childcare facilities served by the water system. The State Water Resources Control Board must make this information publicly available on its website by June 30, 2028, and water systems must include links to this information in annual consumer confidence reports by December 31, 2028.

1. Requires community water systems, when offering lead sampling to elementary schools and childcare facilities under federal Lead and Copper Rule Improvements, to compile comprehensive information including: names of all schools and childcare facilities served, which were sampled, which declined testing, which did not respond to outreach, and all sampling results.
2. Mandates that community water systems provide elementary schools and childcare facilities that decline lead testing with a standardized list of ten specific reasons for declining, including options such as recent independent testing, existing water quality programs, recent construction or replumbing after January 1, 2010, use of bottled or filtered water, or logistical barriers.
3. Requires community water systems to submit all compiled information and responses about lead testing to the State Water Resources Control Board through a process specified by the board, with exemptions available for systems that receive written waivers from lead sampling requirements.
4. Authorizes the State Water Resources Control Board to implement requirements through a policy handbook that is exempt from the Administrative Procedure Act, and allows the board to add additional reasons for declining testing to the standardized list.
5. Mandates that by June 30, 2028, the State Water Resources Control Board must make all submitted lead testing information publicly available in a searchable format on its website, with specific presentation requirements including: displaying results as specific values rather than "less than" symbols, highlighting results above five parts per billion, and indicating exceedances of federal action levels.
6. Requires the State Water Resources Control Board's website to include educational information explaining health harms from lead in drinking water and that even low blood lead levels can cause lasting cognitive impairment in children.
7. Requires community water systems, by December 31, 2028, to include in their annual consumer confidence reports a written statement about the availability of school and childcare facility lead testing information on the state board's website, along with a direct link to that website.

8. Clarifies that this new law does not alter the compliance dates already specified in the federal Lead and Copper Rule Improvements regulations (Sections 141.90(i) and 141.92 of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations).

SB 359 (Niello) -- Use Fuel Tax Law: Diesel Fuel Tax Law: exempt bus operation.

Amends the Mills-Hayes Act to provide diesel fuel tax exemptions for school districts, community college districts, and county superintendents of schools that own, lease, or operate buses for transporting pupils. Also extends the exemption to private entities providing pupil transportation services under contract with these educational agencies.

FINANCE AND BUDGET

AB 116 (Gabriel) -- Budget Act of 2025

This is a comprehensive health care budget bill that primarily affects health care facilities, providers, and Medi-Cal programs. It has minimal direct impact on K-12 schools and educational agencies. The bill includes provisions related to: (1) hospital staffing ratios and quality standards; (2) skilled nursing facility reimbursement and quality measures; (3) pharmacy benefit manager regulation; (4) Medi-Cal eligibility, coverage, and reimbursement; (5) health care service plan requirements including infertility coverage; (6) COVID-19 testing and treatment coverage; (7) mental health and substance use disorder services; and (8) various health care funding mechanisms. The only education-related provisions are indirect references to school-based health services and behavioral health programs that may serve students.

AB 121 (Gabriel) -- Budget Act of 2025

This is the 2025 Budget Act for K-12 education, making numerous appropriations and statutory changes. Key provisions include: (1) Appropriates \$1.7 billion for a Student Support and Professional Development Discretionary Block Grant; (2) Provides \$405 million from the Public School System Stabilization Account for LCFF; (3) Appropriates \$300 million for the Student Teacher Stipend Program; (4) Provides \$215 million for literacy coaches and reading specialists at high-need schools; (5) Appropriates \$200 million for professional development on literacy instruction; (6) Provides \$160 million for universal school meals support; (7) Establishes emergency fiscal intervention for Plumas Unified School District with up to \$20 million in loans; (8) Makes numerous technical changes to Education Code sections governing county office budgets, special education funding, charter schools, attendance accounting, and various grant programs; (9) Extends liquidation authority for prior-year appropriations; (10) Provides property tax backfill for basic aid districts affected by Los Angeles fires.

AB 123 (Gabriel) -- Budget Act of 2025

This omnibus higher education bill makes numerous changes to California's postsecondary education system. Key provisions include: (1) modifying the Higher Education Student Housing Grant Program funding mechanisms; (2) requiring high schools to inform students about the California Kids Investment and Development Savings Program; (3) requiring FAFSA/CADAA completion as a graduation requirement with opt-out provisions; (4) establishing uniform academic standards for dual enrollment courses; (5) modifying Student Tuition Recovery Fund eligibility and processes; (6) establishing the California Career Passport Program; (7) implementing community college apportionment deferrals for 2025-26; (8) appropriating funds for various community college programs including student support, workforce development, and financial aid outreach.

AB 130 (Gabriel) -- Budget Act of 2025

This comprehensive housing bill makes numerous changes to California law to address the housing crisis, but has minimal direct impact on K-12 education. The bill primarily affects: (1) housing development regulations, including accessory dwelling units, builder's remedy projects, and streamlined approval processes; (2) homeowners associations and foreclosure procedures; (3) surplus land disposal requirements; (4) building code standards with a temporary pause on new residential building standards (2025-2031); (5) homeless shelter inspection requirements; (6) affordable housing financing and development programs; (7) CEQA exemptions for certain housing projects; and (8) renter's tax credit increases. Educational agencies are affected only in limited circumstances related to surplus property disposal and potential use of school sites for housing development under specific conditions.

AB 323 (Fong) -- Strong Workforce Program: work-based learning opportunities

This comprehensive housing bill makes numerous changes to California law to address the housing crisis, but has minimal direct impact on K-12 education. The bill primarily affects: (1) housing development regulations, including accessory dwelling units, builder's remedy projects, and streamlined approval processes; (2) homeowners associations and foreclosure procedures; (3) surplus land disposal requirements; (4) building code standards with a temporary pause on new residential building standards (2025-2031); (5) homeless shelter inspection requirements; (6) affordable housing financing and development programs; (7) CEQA exemptions for certain housing projects; and (8) renter's tax credit increases. Educational agencies are affected only in limited circumstances related to surplus property disposal and potential use of school sites for housing development under specific conditions.

AB 361 (Schultz) -- Best value procurement: school districts

Extends and expands the "best value procurement method" for school construction projects over \$1 million, allowing school districts (excluding LAUSD) to select contractors based on a combination of price and qualifications rather than lowest bid alone. Creates a new sunset provision through December 31, 2030, requiring districts to report results to the Legislature by January 1, 2030, with the authorization expiring January 1, 2031.

1. Separates Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) from other school districts by creating two distinct legal frameworks: amends existing sections (20119-20119.6) to apply only to LAUSD, while adding a new article (20119.8-20119.13) that applies to all other California school districts, explicitly excluding LAUSD from the new provisions.
2. Extends best value procurement authorization through December 31, 2030 for non-LAUSD school districts, replacing the previous January 1, 2025 sunset date, with the entire new article set to be repealed on January 1, 2031.
3. Adds new legislative findings citing LAUSD's December 2024 final report documenting that the best value method achieved expected benefits including fewer change orders, less schedule delays, and fewer claims, supplementing the previous November 2019 interim report findings.
4. Establishes comprehensive definitions for the best value process, including specific definitions for "best value score" (bidder's price divided by qualification score), "demonstrated management competency," "financial condition," "labor compliance," and "safety record" with objective measurement criteria.
5. Specifies that "safety record" is deemed acceptable if a contractor's experience modification rate averages 1.00 or less over three years and injury/illness rates don't exceed statistical standards for its business category, or if the bidder participates in an alternative dispute resolution system under Labor Code Section 3201.5.
6. Requires school districts using best value procurement to submit a report by January 1, 2030 to the Legislature's policy and fiscal committees, prepared by an independent third party at the district's expense, detailing projects awarded, contract amounts, contractor names, protests, prequalification processes, evaluation criteria, and project performance assessments.
7. Allows multiple school districts to collaborate on a single joint report reflecting each participating district's use of the best value method, rather than requiring separate individual reports.
8. Maintains skilled and trained workforce requirements for all best value contracts,

requiring entities to commit that they and all subcontractors will use skilled and trained workers for apprenticeable occupations, with exceptions for projects covered by project labor agreements entered into before January 1, 2025 or new agreements binding all tiers.

9. Preserves retention proceeds limitations at 5 percent when performance and payment bonds are required, with corresponding limits flowing down to subcontractor agreements, except when subcontractors refuse or cannot furnish required bonds after proper notice.

AB 378 (Valencia) -- Education finance: Classified School Employee Summer Assistance Program.

Amends Education Code Section 45500 to modify the Classified School Employee Summer Assistance Program, which provides state matching funds (up to \$1 for each \$1) for classified employees who voluntarily withhold up to 10% of monthly pay during the school year to receive during summer recess. The bill adds a provision allowing funds appropriated for the program to be available for encumbrance during both the fiscal year appropriated and the immediately following fiscal year.

AB 1296 (Bonta) -- Local educational agencies: reserve funds

Requires the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to create a voluntary notification system for LEAs interested in developing housing on LEA-owned property. HCD must provide technical assistance to participating LEAs for predevelopment activities related to housing projects on school property.

SB 105 (Wiener) -- Budget Acts of 2021, 2023, 2024, and 2025

This is the California Budget Act of 2025, which appropriates funds for the 2025-26 fiscal year across all state agencies and programs. For K-12 education specifically, the bill: (1) Appropriates \$4.6 billion for the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program to provide before/after school and intersessional programs, (2) Provides \$90 million for the Classified School Employee Summer Assistance Program, (3) Appropriates \$118.5 million for CDE operations, including positions for various programs, (4) Allocates \$1.8 billion for California State Preschool Programs (both LEA and non-LEA) 5. Includes various federal fund appropriations for Title I, Title II, Title III, Title IV, special education (IDEA), and other federal programs, (5) Provides funding for student assessments, career technical education, nutrition programs, and other categorical programs, (6) Appropriates funds for higher education (UC, CSU, community colleges) and student financial aid, and (7) Contains numerous provisions affecting education funding formulas, reporting requirements, and program implementation.

SB 119 (Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee) -- Public social services trailer bill

This comprehensive budget bill makes numerous changes across multiple social services programs. For California schools and educational agencies, the primary impacts are: (1) Expands the list of mandated reporters of child abuse to include human resource employees and adult supervisors of minors in businesses employing minors, with new training requirements; (2) Requires schools to provide mandated reporter training using a new standardized curriculum by March 1, 2030; (3) Establishes requirements for educational services and educational rights holders in child welfare proceedings; (4) Creates new reporting requirements for educational information in foster care cases.

SB 147 (Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee) -- Education finance: education omnibus trailer bill

This comprehensive education budget bill addresses multiple areas: (1) Establishes literacy professional development criteria and funding for TK-5 teachers by September 2026; (2) Adjusts Proposition 98 calculations for 2022-23 fiscal year due to tax filing extensions; (3) Requires salary/benefits data collection for certificated and classified employees starting July 2026; (4) Appropriates \$300M for Student Teacher Stipend Program; (5) Extends Classified School Employee Summer Assistance Program to JPAs; (6) Expands Expanded Learning Opportunities Program requirements and funding; (7) Creates attendance recovery programs to address chronic absenteeism; (8) Adjusts TK entrance age and credentialing requirements; (9) Modifies Golden State Teacher Grant Program; and (10) Provides funding for IEP digitization, universal school meals, secondary school redesign pilot, and literacy screenings.

SB 595 (Choi) -- Local government: investments and financial reports

This bill amends Government Code Section 53601 to modify investment authority for local agencies, including school districts and county offices of education. The bill makes two primary changes: (1) removes the 40% commercial paper investment limit for local agencies with \$100 million or more in investment assets, reducing it to 25% for all non-county local agencies; and (2) allows local agencies to invest in securities issued by public banks as defined in Section 57600. The bill also extends sunset dates for certain investment provisions to January 1, 2031, and modifies penalties for late filing of financial reports.

SB 631 (Richardson) -- Charter School Revolving Loan Fund

Amends the Charter School Revolving Loan Fund provisions to: (1) extend priority loan eligibility through July 1, 2029, for charter schools damaged, destroyed, or closed for 10+ days due to state-declared emergencies; (2) allow these emergency-affected charter schools up to 8 years (instead of 5) to repay loans and to delay repayment start until after their first full year of operation; and (3) require the California School Finance Authority to report by October 1, 2029, on how charter schools spent loan funds issued on or after July 1, 2026.

GOVERNANCE

AB 94 (Bennett) -- Recall elections: successors.

Amends the Elections Code to change recall election procedures for local and state officers. For local officers (including school board members), eliminates the successor election and creates a vacancy to be filled according to law when recalled. For state officers, retains the current system where a successor is elected simultaneously with the recall vote.

AB 640 (Muratsuchi) -- Local educational agencies: governance training.

Requires all local educational agency (LEA) officials—including school district board members, county board of education members, and charter school governing body members—to complete training in K-12 public education school finance laws. Officials serving as of April 1, 2027 must complete training by April 1, 2028; new officials must complete training within one year of starting service.

AB 1029 (Valencia) -- Statements of financial interest: digital financial assets.

This bill amends the Political Reform Act to expand the definition of "investment" to include digital financial assets (such as cryptocurrency) for purposes of conflict of interest disclosure requirements. Beginning January 1, 2027, public officials and designated employees—including school board members, superintendents, and other district officials subject to conflict of interest codes—must disclose digital financial asset holdings valued at \$2,000 or more on their Statements of Economic Interests (Form 700).

AB 1390 (Solache) -- Public school governance: board member compensation.

Amends Education Code sections 1090 and 35120 related to the compensation of members of city or county boards of education and the governing boards of school districts by increasing the authorized compensation to instead not exceed a specified amount between \$600 and \$4,500 per month, based on the average daily attendance for the prior school year in the jurisdiction of the governing board for the prior school year.

SB 827 (Gonzalez) -- Local agency officials: training.

Expands ethics training requirements for school board members and educational agency officials **specifically including school superintendents**, and creates new fiscal and financial training requirements for local agency officials. The amended law: (1) Requires all school board members (district, county, and charter) to receive ethics training regardless of whether they receive compensation; (2) Shortens the initial training deadline from one year to six months for officials starting service on or after January 1, 2026; (3) Requires local agencies to post training records request information on their websites by July 1, 2026.

IMMIGRATION

AB 49 (Rodriguez) -- Schoolsites: immigration enforcement

The California Safe Haven Schools Act strengthens protections for immigrant students and families by restricting immigration enforcement activities at schools. The bill: (1) prohibits school officials from allowing immigration enforcement officers onto non-public school areas without a valid judicial warrant, subpoena, or court order; (2) restricts disclosure of student and family information to immigration authorities; (3) requires LEAs to adopt model policies limiting immigration enforcement assistance by March 1, 2026; and (4) mandates reporting of immigration enforcement requests to governing boards.

1. Strengthens warrant requirements for immigration enforcement access to schools. Amends Education Code Section 234.7 to explicitly prohibit school officials from allowing immigration enforcement officers to enter nonpublic areas of any schoolsite without a valid judicial warrant, judicial subpoena, or court order—expanding beyond just collecting information to restricting physical access.
2. Expands definition of protected "schoolsites" locations. Defines "schoolsites" to include not only individual school campuses but also areas where school-sponsored activities are currently being held and school buses or other school-provided transportation, creating broader protection zones where immigration enforcement access is restricted.
3. Mandates Attorney General to update model policies by December 1, 2025. Requires the Attorney General to revise the existing model policies (originally created in 2018) to align with the new prohibition on immigration enforcement access to nonpublic school areas and other updated requirements in this act.
4. Requires all LEAs to update their policies by March 1, 2026. Schools must adopt the updated model policies or equivalent policies that comply with the strengthened protections, replacing their 2018 policies with versions that reflect the new access restrictions and requirements.
5. Adds state monitoring and auditing authority. Authorizes the CDE to monitor and audit LEAs to ensure compliance with policy adoption and maintenance requirements, creating an enforcement mechanism that did not previously exist.
6. Clarifies parental notification requirements for warrant-based disclosures. Specifies that any disclosure of student education records pursuant to a valid warrant, subpoena, or court order must comply with federal parent notification requirements under 34 CFR 99.31(a)(9)(ii).

7. Establishes practical identification verification procedures. Requires school officials to request valid identification from immigration enforcement officers seeking to enter nonpublic school areas "to the extent practicable," while preserving schools' right to consult counsel or challenge warrants in court.
8. Enacted as urgency statute with immediate effect.

AB 419 (Connolly) -- Educational equity: immigration enforcement

Strengthens protections for students and families regarding immigration enforcement at California schools by: (1) prohibiting school officials from allowing immigration enforcement officers to enter nonpublic school areas without a valid judicial warrant, subpoena, or court order; (2) restricting disclosure of student and family information to immigration enforcement without parental consent and valid legal process; (3) requiring the Attorney General to update model policies by December 1, 2025; and (4) requiring all LEAs to update their immigration enforcement policies by March 1, 2026.

1. Prohibits school officials from allowing immigration enforcement officers to enter nonpublic areas of school campuses without a valid judicial warrant, judicial subpoena, or court order, and requires school personnel to request valid identification from such officers to the extent practicable.
2. Restricts disclosure of student information to immigration enforcement by prohibiting LEAs and their personnel from providing education records or any information about a pupil, their family, household, teacher, or school employee to immigration enforcement officers without parental consent or a valid judicial warrant, subpoena, or court order.
3. Expands the definition of "schoolsite" to include not only individual school campuses but also areas where school-sponsored activities are currently being held and school buses or other transportation provided by the LEA.
4. Defines "immigration enforcement" comprehensively to include all efforts to investigate, enforce, or assist in the investigation or enforcement of federal civil immigration law and federal criminal immigration law that penalizes a person's presence, entry, reentry, or employment in the United States.
5. Requires the Attorney General to update model policies by December 1, 2025 to align with the new prohibitions on allowing immigration enforcement access to nonpublic school areas and the restrictions on disclosing student information.
6. Mandates LEAs to update their immigration enforcement policies by March 1, 2026 to align with the new requirements, including the Attorney General's updated model

policies.

7. Establishes new compliance monitoring requirements by authorizing the CDE to monitor and audit LEAs to ensure compliance with policy adoption and maintenance requirements.
8. Requires LEAs to maintain their adopted policies and make them available to the CDE upon request.
9. Adds federal law compliance provision clarifying that the section does not prohibit governmental entities from exchanging citizenship or immigration status information with federal immigration authorities as permitted under federal law (8 U.S.C. Sections 1373 and 1644).

AB 495 (Rodriguez) -- Family Preparedness Plan Act of 2025.

The Family Preparedness Plan Act of 2025 strengthens protections for students and families facing immigration enforcement by: (1) enhancing school policies limiting immigration enforcement access and information sharing; (2) requiring schools to exhaust emergency contact information before contacting Child Protective Services when parents are unavailable; (3) expanding caregiver authorization affidavits and guardianship options for families; (4) mandating distribution of Attorney General guidance on family safety planning and emergency contacts; and (5) extending similar protections to licensed child daycare facilities.

1. Strengthens school protections against immigration enforcement by prohibiting school officials from allowing immigration enforcement officers to enter nonpublic areas of school sites without a valid judicial warrant, subpoena, or court order, and requiring schools to request valid identification from such officers.
2. Restricts disclosure of student information by prohibiting schools from disclosing education records or information about students, their families, employees, or teachers to immigration enforcement without parental consent or a valid judicial warrant, subpoena, or court order, with parent notification required when records are disclosed.
3. Defines key terms by adding definitions for "immigration enforcement" (efforts to investigate or enforce federal civil or criminal immigration laws), "local educational agency," and "schoolsite" (including school campuses, school-sponsored activities, and school transportation).
4. Requires Attorney General to update model policies by December 1, 2025, to align with new prohibitions on immigration enforcement access and information disclosure, with LEAs required to update their policies by March 1, 2026.

5. Mandates posting of educational rights guide requiring schools to post the "Know Your Educational Rights" guide developed by the Attorney General in administrative buildings and on websites in all available languages, with updates required the school year following any Attorney General revisions.
6. Encourages schools to exhaust emergency contact information before child protective service agencies when parents are unavailable.
7. Expands caregiver authorization affidavit authority by clarifying that relative caregivers who complete the full affidavit have the same rights as guardians to authorize medical and dental care, including mental health treatment subject to Probate Code limitations.
8. Extends immigration protections to child daycare facilities by prohibiting licensed child daycare facilities and license-exempt California state preschool programs from collecting immigration status information and requiring them to report immigration enforcement requests to the State Department of Social Services and Attorney General.
9. Requires Attorney General to develop child daycare model policies by April 1, 2026, in consultation with stakeholders, addressing immigration enforcement access procedures, with all California state preschool programs required to adopt these policies by July 1, 2026.
10. Authorizes joint guardianships for temporarily unavailable parents by allowing courts to appoint a custodial parent and their nominee as joint guardians when the parent is temporarily unavailable due to serious medical conditions, military service, incarceration, or immigration-related actions, with a presumption favoring termination when the parent becomes available again.
11. Establishes confidentiality for joint guardianship records by making all court records, petitions, and orders related to joint guardianships confidential and accessible only to parties served in the proceeding, with disclosure to law enforcement or immigration enforcement prohibited without a court order.

AB 1261 (Bonta) -- Immigration: immigrant youth: access to legal counsel.

Adds Section 13300.5 to the Welfare and Institutions Code to provide state-funded legal counsel to immigrant youth in California. The bill directs the California Department of Social Services to contract with qualified nonprofit legal services organizations or county public defender offices to provide legal representation in immigration proceedings, state court matters related to immigration remedies, and related appeals.

SB 98 (Perez) -- Elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education: immigration enforcement: notification.

This bill requires K-12 schools (districts, county offices, and charter schools) to add immigration enforcement notification procedures to their comprehensive school safety plans by March 1, 2026. It also requires California higher education institutions to notify campus communities when immigration enforcement is confirmed on campus. The bill creates safe and inclusive campus environments by ensuring transparency about immigration enforcement presence while protecting student and staff privacy.

1. Requires comprehensive school safety plans to include procedures for notifying parents, guardians, teachers, administrators, and school personnel when immigration enforcement presence is confirmed on school grounds, with implementation deadline of March 1, 2026. Notifications must consider safety and well-being when determining timing and method, may include hyperlinks to educational rights resources and support services, and cannot include personally identifiable information.
2. Defines "immigration enforcement" comprehensively to include "any and all efforts to investigate, enforce, or assist in the investigation or enforcement of any federal civil immigration law" and federal criminal immigration laws that penalize presence, entry, reentry, or employment in the United States.
3. The immigration enforcement notification procedures are incorporated into existing comprehensive school safety plan requirements under Education Code Section 32282, alongside other safety topics including active shooter protocols, earthquake procedures, fire evacuation plans, cardiac emergency response, and opioid overdose protocols. Charter schools must also comply through amendments to Education Code Sections 47605 and 47605.6.

SB 580 (Durazo) -- Attorney General: immigration enforcement policies.

Requires the Attorney General to publish model policies by July 1, 2026, for state and local agencies (including schools and districts) regarding interaction with immigration authorities. State and local agencies must implement the model policy or equivalent by January 1, 2027. Also requires AG to publish guidance on database governance to limit information availability for immigration enforcement purposes.

1. Requires the Attorney General, by July 1, 2026, to publish model policies for state and local agencies regarding interaction with immigration authorities, developed in consultation with stakeholders and consistent with federal and state law.

2. Mandates that all state and local agencies implement either the Attorney General's model policy or an equivalent policy by January 1, 2027.
3. Requires the Attorney General, by July 1, 2026, to publish guidance, audit criteria, and training recommendations for government databases (including those maintained by private vendors) to limit information availability for immigration enforcement purposes to the fullest extent practicable under law.

SB 670 (Cervantes) -- Adult Education Program: immigrant integration.

Amends the definition section of the Adult Education Program statute (Education Code Section 84901) to add a new definition for "immigrant integration." This definition describes immigrant integration as a two-way process involving immigrants and receiving society working together to build inclusive communities through culturally relevant and linguistically accessible programs and services.

PUPILS

AB 243 (Ahrens) -- Postsecondary education: student financial aid dependency status: juveniles

Requires financial aid administrators at California public higher education institutions to accept sworn attestations from LEAs, county child welfare departments, or probation departments as sufficient documentation when students apply for dependency status adjustments due to unusual circumstances (inability to contact parents or risk from contact). Authorizes county child welfare, probation, and LEA personnel to provide these attestations and verification information to higher education institutions upon student request.

AB 313 (Ortega) -- Student financial aid: application deadlines: extension

Authorizes the California Student Aid Commission to grant up to 30 additional calendar days beyond application deadlines for state financial aid programs when qualifying events (natural disasters, states of emergency, FAFSA delays, or labor actions) adversely affect students' ability to submit applications. Extensions apply to all applicants in affected districts or regions and require formal requests from superintendents or college presidents, submitted within 15 business days of the qualifying event.

AB 349 (Dixon) -- Foster care supplement

This bill amends Section 11465 of the Welfare and Institutions Code to adjust foster care payment rates for children living with teen or nonminor dependent parents. Specifically, it: (1) adjusts the monthly supplement for care and supervision of children by the California Necessities Index beginning July 1, 2026; and (2) establishes an expectant parent payment for pregnant minors or nonminor dependents for the three months prior to birth.

AB 373 (Rubio) -- Dependency proceedings: counsel

Amends Section 317 of the Welfare and Institutions Code regarding appointment of counsel in juvenile dependency proceedings. The bill primarily affects county agencies and courts, not schools directly, but has indirect implications for educational agencies working with foster youth and children in dependency proceedings.

AB 461 (Ahrens) -- Truancy

Repeals Section 270.1 of the Penal Code, which currently criminalizes willful failure to provide necessary care for a child. This bill is titled the "More Help Not Less Act of 2025" and removes criminal penalties related to child neglect from the Penal Code.

AB 562 (Bryan) -- Foster care: placement: family finding

This bill, known as the "Justice through Placing Foster Children with Families Act," amends California's Welfare and Institutions Code to strengthen requirements for placing foster children with relatives and family members. It requires county welfare departments to: (1) conduct enhanced family finding investigations within 30 days of removal; (2) annually review and compare their relative placement rates against statewide averages starting January 1, 2027; and (3) communicate with the Center for Excellence in Family Finding if their placement rates fall below state averages. The bill primarily affects county child welfare agencies but has limited direct impact on educational agencies.

AB 677 (Bryan) -- Pupil records and health: pupils experiencing homelessness: directory information and reporting

Amends Education Code sections regarding student privacy protections and health screenings for homeless students. Specifically: (1) Requires written parental consent before releasing directory information for homeless students, with an exception allowing disclosure to facilitate free eye exams and oral health assessments unless parents opt out; (2) Encourages schools to use alternative communication channels (not mail) when reporting oral health and eye examination results to parents/guardians of homeless students.

AB 715 (Addis) -- Educational equity: discrimination: antisemitism prevention

This bill establishes comprehensive requirements to prevent and address antisemitism and discrimination in California schools. Key provisions include: (1) prohibits adoption of instructional materials that subject pupils to unlawful discrimination; (2) requires investigation and remediation when discriminatory materials or actions are identified; (3) creates an Office of Civil Rights under the Government Operations Agency with an Antisemitism Prevention Coordinator; (4) establishes complaint procedures allowing direct filing with the State Superintendent; (5) mandates annual notifications to parents about protections and responsibilities; and (6) authorizes financial penalties and corrective actions for violations.

AB 727 (Gonzalez) -- Pupil and student safety: identification cards.

Requires public schools (including charter schools) serving grades 7-12 that issue student ID cards to print The Trevor Project's LGBTQ+ suicide hotline (phone: 1-866-488-7386 and text: START to 678-678) on ID cards beginning July 1, 2026. This requirement is in addition to existing mandates for the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and National Domestic Violence Hotline.

AB 890 (Lee) -- Nonminor dependents: county of residence

This bill amends provisions in the Welfare and Institutions Code related to determining county of residence for minors and nonminor dependents in foster care and dependency proceedings. It establishes new pathways for nonminor dependents (foster youth ages 18-21) to transfer their dependency case to a new county based on their physical presence and intent to remain, or upon request if the transfer is in their best interest. The bill also adds requirements for juvenile court review hearings to address whether nonminor dependents request transfer of jurisdiction to a new county.

AB 896 (Elhawary) -- Foster care: placement transition planning

This bill amends the Welfare and Institutions Code to strengthen protections and transition planning for children in foster care. It: (1) adds new rights for foster children including placement transition planning and participation in case planning; (2) requires social workers/probation officers to develop placement preservation strategies before changing placements; (3) mandates 14-day written notice to specified parties before placement changes; (4) prohibits unplanned placement changes between 9 p.m. and 7 a.m. unless all parties agree; and (5) requires counties to adopt placement transition planning policies in consultation with foster youth, caregivers, and tribes.

AB 898 (Bryan) -- The Family Urgent Response System

This bill amends the Welfare and Institutions Code to establish and refine the Family Urgent Response System (FURS), which includes a statewide 24/7 hotline and county-based mobile response systems to support foster children, youth, and their caregivers during moments of instability. The system is designed to prevent placement disruptions through crisis intervention, deescalation, and stabilization services. While primarily focused on child welfare and foster care systems, this bill has limited direct impact on K-12 schools but may affect foster youth services coordination.

AB 932 (Irwin) -- Community youth athletics programs: sex or gender discrimination

Amends Government Code Section 53080 to prohibit discrimination based on sex or gender in community youth athletics programs operated, conducted, administered, supported, or enabled by LEAs, as well as cities, counties, and special districts.

1. Expands the prohibition against sex and gender discrimination in community youth athletics programs to explicitly include "local educational agencies" (defined as school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools) alongside cities, counties, and special districts that were already covered.
2. Adds a new definition of "school and recreation facilities and resources" that mirrors the existing definition for parks and recreation facilities, specifically including athletic fields, courts, gymnasiums, restrooms, concession stands, storage spaces, lands accessed through permitting or leasing arrangements, sports equipment, promotional devices, and all moneys used in conjunction with youth athletics.

3. Requires courts evaluating discrimination claims to consider access to lands and areas obtained through permitting, leasing, or other land use arrangements as a specific factor when determining whether discrimination exists in community youth athletics programs.
4. Clarifies that officiation standards (factor for courts to consider) must specifically involve umpires, referees, or judges who have met training and certification standards, adding specificity to the existing provision.
5. Authorizes enforcement actions against LEAs through civil actions for injunctive relief or damages, extending the same enforcement mechanisms that already applied to cities, counties, and special districts.
6. Maintains the existing two-prong test for determining whether athletic interests and abilities of both genders are effectively accommodated, now explicitly applicable to LEAs: either providing opportunities substantially proportionate to community demographics, or demonstrating that the underrepresented gender's interests and abilities have been fully accommodated.

AB 1216 (Assembly Education Committee) -- Elementary and secondary education: omnibus

This bill makes three primary changes to California education law: (1) Amends eligibility requirements for California state preschool programs, including provisions for two-year-olds, children with exceptional needs (5% enrollment set-aside), and income-based eligibility with 24-month recertification periods; (2) Requires school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools to adopt policies by July 1, 2026, limiting or prohibiting smartphone use by students at school sites, with updates every five years; (3) Modifies physical education instructional minute requirements for grades 6-12, allowing alternate term schedules and establishing complaint procedures; (4) Expands authorization options for single subject and multiple subject teaching credentials to include coursework from community colleges.

AB 1230 (Bonta) -- Pupil discipline: expulsions: procedures

Amends California Education Code sections governing student expulsion procedures to strengthen rehabilitation requirements and readmission processes. Key changes include: (1) requiring districts to assist expelled students in accessing rehabilitation plan opportunities and prohibiting districts from charging families for required services; (2) establishing that incomplete rehabilitation plans due to financial, transportation, or access barriers cannot be the sole basis for denying readmission; (3) requiring districts to document whether students had access to necessary resources during expulsion reviews; and (4) mandating county plans include transition support strategies for readmitted students.

AB 1376 (Bonta) -- Wards: probation

This bill establishes a 12-month maximum probation period for youth adjudicated as wards of the court under Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 601 or 602, with extensions requiring noticed hearings and proof by preponderance of evidence that extension serves the ward's and public's best interest. The bill emphasizes evidence-based, community-based interventions prioritizing youth development over correctional models and requires courts to minimize probation duration and system involvement for youth in the delinquency system.

SB 638 (Fong) -- California Education Interagency Council: California Career Technical Education Incentive Grant Program

Amends the California Career Technical Education Incentive Grant Program. Key changes include: (1) Expands eligibility criteria to prioritize areas with high poverty rates in addition to high unemployment; (2) Adds new data reporting requirements including dual credit enrollment, work-based learning participation, and service learning; (3) Requires applicants to demonstrate involvement of employers, wraparound services, and alignment with labor market demand; (4) Expands the California Education Interagency Council's duties to include evaluating workforce demand, developing career pathway recommendations, and coordinating education-to-career efforts; (5) Encourages programs in emerging sectors like green technology, health care, information technology, education, and artificial intelligence.

SB 640 (Cabaldon) -- Public postsecondary education: admission, transfer, and enrollment

Establishes the CSU Direct Admission Program to automatically admit eligible California high school seniors to CSU campuses based on their transcript data through grade 11. LEAs that offer transcript-informed pupil accounts on CaliforniaColleges.edu must participate, with eligible 12th graders receiving direct admission letters before fall application deadlines.

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AB 369 (Rodriguez) -- Emergency services: liability

Provides civil and criminal liability protection for persons who administer anti-seizure rescue medication in good faith during an emergency, as long as their conduct is not grossly negligent or willful misconduct. Explicitly excludes school sites from this protection, requiring schools to continue following existing Education Code requirements for administering anti-seizure medication to students.

AB 653 (Rubio) -- Child abuse: mandated reporters: talent agents, managers, and coaches

The Child Abuse Mandated Entertainment Reporter Act (CAMERA) expands California's mandated reporter requirements under Penal Code Section 11165.7 to include talent agents, talent managers, and talent coaches who provide services to minors. These entertainment industry professionals must report known or suspected child abuse or neglect to appropriate authorities.

1. Adds entertainment industry professionals as mandated reporters: Creates new category (paragraph 50) requiring talent agents, talent managers, and talent coaches who provide services to minors to report suspected child abuse or neglect, expanding California's mandated reporter law to cover key adults working with child performers.
2. Establishes formal title for the legislation: Names this act "The Child Abuse Mandated Entertainment Reporter Act (CAMERA)" to identify this specific expansion of mandated reporter requirements.
3. Provides multiple operative versions to coordinate with other pending legislation: Includes four different versions (Sections 2, 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3) that will become operative depending on whether Senate Bills 402 and 848 are also enacted, ensuring this bill's changes integrate properly with other simultaneous amendments to the same Penal Code section.
4. Maintains existing mandated reporter framework: Does not alter the existing duties, training requirements, or reporting procedures for the 49 other categories of mandated reporters already established in law, only adds the new entertainment industry category.

5. Clarifies no state reimbursement required: Specifies that local agencies and school districts are not entitled to reimbursement for any costs incurred, as the act relates to crime definitions rather than creating new state-mandated local programs.

AB 741 (Ransom) -- Department of Justice: child abuse reporting

Amends Penal Code Section 11105.04 to enhance background check requirements for Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs. Requires CASA programs to request subsequent arrest notifications and Child Abuse Central Index monitoring for all employees and volunteers, with ongoing verification requirements every six months.

AB 772 (Lowenthal) -- Cyberbullying: off-campus acts: model policy

Requires the CDE to develop a model policy by June 30, 2026, on addressing cyberbullying that occurs outside school hours when it creates an intimidating or hostile educational environment. Requires all LEAs to adopt or modify policies on off-campus cyberbullying by July 1, 2027, and post them on their websites.

AB 951 (Ta) -- Health care coverage: behavioral diagnoses

Amends Health and Safety Code Section 1374.73 and Insurance Code Section 10144.51 to prohibit health care service plans and health insurers from requiring individuals previously diagnosed with pervasive developmental disorder or autism to receive a rediagnosis to maintain coverage for behavioral health treatment, effective January 1, 2026. Explicitly protects existing IEP obligations and clarifies that this does not affect or reduce services under IDEA or individualized education programs.

AB 1005 (Davies) -- Drowning prevention: public schools: informational materials

Authorizes drowning and injury prevention organizations to provide water safety informational materials to California public schools (K-12), which schools may then distribute to parents and caregivers. Requires the CDE to gather and post school-based water safety and drowning prevention resources on its website. Authorizes the State Department of Public Health to review existing drowning prevention regulations for updates.

AB 1264 (Gabriel) -- Pupil nutrition: restricted school foods and ultraprocessed foods of concern: prohibition

The Real Food, Healthy Kids Act restricts ultraprocessed foods in California schools through a phased approach: (1) bans six artificial food dyes in competitive foods, beverages, and school meals by December 31, 2027; (2) prohibits "restricted school foods" and "ultraprocessed foods of concern" in competitive foods and school meals by July 1, 2035; (3) requires vendors to report food product information annually from 2028-2032; and (4) directs the Department of Public Health to define restricted foods and ultraprocessed foods of concern by June 1, 2028.

AB 1412 (Gonzalez) -- Special education: pupil transfers: residency requirements: records

Amends Education Code sections 48204.3 and 56325 to strengthen enrollment and special education transition requirements for military-connected students. Specifically: (1) requires districts to accept electronic enrollment applications from students whose parents are transferring to California military installations; (2) establishes timelines for providing proof of residence (10 days after arrival); (3) mandates prompt coordination to ensure timely exchange of special education records and comparable services for students with IEPs, IFSPs, or 504 plans; and (4) requires acceptance of unofficial records pending validation.

SB 68 (Menjivar) -- Major food allergens

Amends the Health and Safety Code to add sesame to the list of major food allergens and requires food facilities (including school cafeterias and food service operations) to provide written notification of major food allergens in menu items, effective July 1, 2026.

SB 389 (Ochoa Bogh) -- Pupil health: individuals with exceptional needs: respiratory services: licensed vocational nurses.

Authorizes licensed vocational nurses (LVNs) to perform basic respiratory services for students with exceptional needs in schools under the supervision of a credentialed school nurse. This amends the Business and Professions Code and Education Code to allow LVNs to provide suctioning and other basic respiratory tasks during the regular school day.

SB 862 (Senate Health Committee) -- Health

This omnibus bill amends multiple California codes with provisions affecting education agencies in limited ways: (1) Requires the CDE to develop and post model policy and resources on body shaming for K-12 schools by June 30, 2025, with LEAs encouraged to inform staff, parents, and pupils about these resources; (2) Continues the School Health Demonstration Project to help LEAs maximize Medi-Cal reimbursement for health and mental health services provided to students; (3) Requires annual behavioral health and wellness screening notices for children 8-18 from health insurers. Most provisions address health facilities, insurance, behavioral health systems, and state agencies with minimal direct impact on K-12 operations.

<p style="text-align: center;">SPECIAL EDUCATION</p>

AB 560 (Addis) -- Special education: resource specialists: special classes

This bill makes three key changes to special education programs: (1) caps resource specialist caseloads at 28 pupils maximum; (2) requires LEAs to distribute initial assessment workload equally across resource specialists unless collectively bargained otherwise; and (3) requires the State Superintendent to recommend maximum adult-to-pupil staffing ratios for special classes by July 1, 2027, after extensive consultation.

AB 784 (Hoover) -- Special education: specialized deaf and hard-of-hearing services

Clarifies that specialized deaf and hard-of-hearing related services may be provided as standalone services without requiring placement in a special day class or core academic instruction from a special education teacher. Allows these services to be contracted through certified nonpublic, nonsectarian agencies when delivering related services rather than core instruction.

SB 373 (Grove) -- Special education: nonpublic, nonsectarian schools or agencies

The California Accountability for Placements in Education Act strengthens oversight and accountability for nonpublic, nonsectarian schools (NPS) and agencies serving students with disabilities, particularly those located outside California. The bill: (1) enhances certification requirements including mandatory staff training on behavioral interventions and administrator qualifications; (2) expands monitoring requirements for both the CDE and LEAs, including mandatory onsite visits, pupil interviews, and quarterly check-ins for out-of-state placements; (3) requires disclosure of NPS certification status and compliance findings to parents during IEP placement decisions; (4) strengthens behavioral intervention protections and abuse/neglect reporting protocols; and (5) clarifies corporal punishment prohibitions and child find requirements for foster youth in NPS settings.

**SB 374 (Archuleta) -- Local educational agencies: annual reporting requirements:
IDEA Addendum**

Existing law created annual state reporting requirements regarding all annual reports that LEAs must submit, with recommendations for consolidating, eliminating, or shortening reports. This law changed the sunset date for this law to January 1, 2027. This law also repeals Education Code Section 52064.3 regarding addendums to IDEA relating to improvements in services for individuals with exceptional needs.

Miscellaneous

AB 268 (Kalra) -- State holidays: Diwali

This bill adds Diwali (the 15th day of the month of Kartik in the Hindu lunar calendar) as an optional holiday for California public schools, community colleges, and state employees. Schools and community colleges may close on Diwali if agreed upon through collective bargaining. Classified employees may receive paid holiday for Diwali if negotiated. Schools remaining open may include exercises acknowledging and celebrating the meaning and importance of Diwali, with the SBE authorized to adopt a model curriculum guide.

AB 287 (Lackey) -- Elections: polling places and vote centers.

Amends Elections Code Section 12283 to strengthen requirements for school districts and other public entities to provide buildings for use as polling places or vote centers. When a city or county elections official specifically requests use of a school building, the governing body must allow its use for up to 10 days before election day through election day, including for drop-off, set-up, and pick-up of materials.

AB 320 (Bennett) -- Public social services: eligibility: income exclusions.

Exempts compensation paid to student board members serving on school district governing boards and county boards of education from being counted as income or resources when determining eligibility and benefit amounts for means-tested programs (CalWORKs, General Assistance, Medi-Cal, CAPI) and college scholarships (Cal Grant, Chafee grants, Middle Class Scholarship, California College Promise Grants, CSU EOP, Community College EOPS, UC/CSU grants).

AB 370 (Carrillo) -- California Public Records Act: cyberattacks

Amends the California Public Records Act to allow public agencies, including school districts and educational agencies, to extend the response deadline for public records requests when a cyberattack prevents access to electronic servers or systems, or during a Governor-proclaimed state of emergency that affects staffing or facility access.

AB 525 (Lackey) -- Basic Inspection of Terminals program: agricultural vehicles

This bill amends the California Vehicle Code to expand the definition of "agricultural vehicle" to include vehicles operated by credentialed agriculture instructors as part of instructional programs at the high school, community college, or university level. The exemption applies to vehicles with a gross combination weight rating of 26,000 pounds or less used exclusively in agricultural operations, not for hire, and operated solely in intrastate commerce. These provisions remain in effect until January 1, 2031.

AB 538 (Berman) -- Public works: payroll records

Amends Labor Code Section 1776 regarding certified payroll records for public works projects. Clarifies procedures for requesting and obtaining certified payroll records, including a 10-day compliance timeline for contractors/subcontractors when awarding bodies request records on behalf of the public, and specifies that awarding bodies must notify the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement if contractors fail to comply.

AB 927 (Sharp-Collins) -- County superintendent of schools: inspection of public schools

Amends Education Code Section 1240 to modify county superintendent school inspection requirements. Key changes: (1) extends the 3-year school inspection list established in 2021-22 through 2023-24, with reestablishment in 2024-25; (2) advances textbook/instructional materials review deadline from fourth week to eighth week for schools on the 2024-25 list; (3) maintains annual inspections of low-performing schools and those with 15%+ under-credentialed teachers.

AB 935 (Ransom) -- State agencies: complaints: demographic data

Requires the CDE and the Civil Rights Department (CRD) to collect demographic and case information on discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying complaints, and to publish annual summary reports beginning July 1, 2027. The bill protects complainant privacy while requiring public reporting of deidentified data.

AB 979 (Irwin) -- California Cybersecurity Integration Center: artificial intelligence

Amends Government Code Section 8586.5 to require the California Cybersecurity Integration Center (Cal-CSIC) to develop a California AI Cybersecurity Collaboration Playbook by January 1, 2027. The playbook will facilitate information sharing on AI-related cyber threats and vulnerabilities, with mandatory reporting mechanisms for state contractors/vendors providing AI services and voluntary mechanisms for other entities. School districts, county offices of education, and charter schools are explicitly included as coordinating partners with Cal-CSIC.

AB 1079 (Avilas Farias) -- Civil appeals: stay of enforcement

Amends California Code of Civil Procedure to prevent automatic stays of trial court judgments when appeals are filed in cases involving violations of the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) or FAIR MAPS Act. School districts and community college districts with at-large elections found to violate CVRA or with district boundaries violating FAIR MAPS must implement court-ordered remedies immediately, even during appeals, unless the Secretary of State certifies a stay is necessary.

AB 1098 (Fong) -- California Education Interagency Council

Establishes the California Education Interagency Council in the Government Operations Agency to coordinate education and workforce development across K-12, postsecondary education, and employers. The Council includes leaders from SBE, CDE, UC, CSU, community colleges, and workforce agencies to align educational pathways with workforce needs and economic goals.

SB 19 (Rubio) -- Crimes: threats

Adds Penal Code Section 422.3 to criminalize willful threats to commit crimes resulting in death or great bodily injury at specific locations including schools, daycares, and universities. Threats made via any means, including internet postings, that cause sustained fear are punishable by up to one year in county jail or state prison. Minors under 18 are referred to diversion services if eligible; otherwise charged with misdemeanor.

SB 446 (Hurtado) -- Data breaches: customer notification

Amends Section 1798.82 of the Civil Code to strengthen data breach notification requirements for any individual or business conducting business in California that owns or licenses computerized data containing personal information. Requires breach notifications within 30 calendar days of discovery, mandates specific formatting and content requirements including plain language and standardized headings, expands the definition of personal information to include biometric data, genetic data, and automated license plate recognition data, and requires businesses to provide at least 12 months of free identity theft prevention services when social security numbers or driver's license numbers are breached.



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