

■ 2025 EDITION



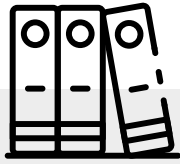
LEGISLATION AND CASE LAW HIGHLIGHTS

Legal Developments of Interest for K-12 School Districts



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LEGISLATION AND CASE LAW HIGHLIGHTS

2025 EDITION



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LET'S ALL SLOW DOWN

BY GREGORY J. DANNIS DANNIS WOLIVER KELLEY PRESIDENT

I refused to believe it could get any worse
Last year we saw two thousand one twenty four
But as I did research for crafting this verse,
I found to my shock that this year there were more!

The bills numbered two thousand three ninety seven
The Assembly alone saw fifteen thirty-three
The Governor must have been in seventh heaven
For just over one-third of all did he see.

He signed nearly 800 that came to his desk
And vetoed the rest with a stroke of his pen
As usual, schools were most often addressed
And thus do our summaries face you again!
There's no single through line to all of these bills
But it is apparent that some thought it prudent
To focus on daunting societal ills
That's why the majority center on students.

No foods can be RSF or UFC
Out of state NPS? There are more rules for you
No smartphones in even emergencies
Do not cyberbully outside of school too.

The students' I.D. cards must now provide
A hotline for LGBTQ+
So Trevor can guide them against suicide
By talking to someone they know they can trust.

And still we must teach against bias and hate
Like holocaust and genocide education.
New statewide officials to coordinate
Prevention of horrible discrimination

Based on gender and race and ethnicity
LGBTQ and the antisemitic
OCR will be tracking such activity
To ensure LEAs take all steps to correct it.

Tribal regalia not just at graduation
Can be worn now without your pre-approval
And so many new laws about immigration!
For protection against any student's removal.

Distribution of workloads in special education,
And something called assessments equity
Why even bother with negotiations
If the State's telling everyone how it should be?

Does the application contain any lies?
The person must list every prior LEA
You must contact all of them for classified
It's now a requirement of hiring foreplay.
Many more now are mandated reporters –
Volunteers, contractors, Board members too!
Policies on the professional borders?

You'd think these adults would already be clued!"

More leaves of absence – do we not have enough?

A new LOA for emergency states

And for families of victims of hideous stuff

One can't disagree we should help with these fates

After almost two decades, if I rightly remember,

Since our constitution created our schools

A mandate for training for all our Board members

On laws setting forth district financing rules

Trustees, be aware of the new conflict codes!

You'd better disclose two thousand or more

If you receive crypto in digital modes

Add this to your Form 700 chore

And superintendents, you've now been selected

To take ethics training; this includes COEs

But home/email address and phones of electeds

On registrar records you'll no longer see

There's more teleconferences in the Act Brown

Board member stipends will rise with inflation

Perhaps no more CEQA the next time around

To build workforce housing and some transportation

Charge costs to maintain and restore and repair

For your Civic Centers (this law had expired!)

And contractor payrolls had better be shared

To prove that those wages prevail as required

There's billions of dollars for Budget Act things

Like ELOP, UTK, teacher prep and PD

Most are one-time and contain all the strings

(I thought categoricals weren't s'posed to be?)

At least there's one bill among all the plenty

The essence of which I believe is profound

The speed around schools shrinks by five to be twenty

The lesson? Let's all just agree to slow down!

Enjoy the summaries!



BOARD ETHICS, TRANSPARENCY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY (BETA)



AB No. 640

Adds Financial Training Requirement for Governing Boards

Assembly Bill No. 640 (Muratsuchi) creates a new requirement for school district, county, and charter school governing board members to receive training on K-12 public education school finance laws. The one-time training requirement will apply to those board members serving after April 1, 2028, and must be completed by current board members by no later than April 1, 2028. (Stats. 2025, ch. 618, effective January 1, 2026.)

AB No. 1029

Expands Disclosable Form 700 Investments to Include Cryptocurrency and Other Digital Financial Assets

Assembly Bill No. 1029 (Valencia) expands the definition of disclosable "investment" under the Political Reform Act to include "digital financial assets," such as cryptocurrency. Starting in 2027, officials must disclose holdings of digital financial assets valued at \$2,000 or more on their Form 700 statements. Updates to conflict-of-interest codes must now include digital financial assets. (Stats. 2025, ch. 85, effective January 1, 2026.)

AB No. 1286

Requires Disclosure of Prospective Employment

Assembly Bill No. 1286 (Boerner) requires officials who manage public investments to disclose any accepted offer of future employment on their Form 700. The new law expands financial disclosure requirements to include the prospective employer's name, address, and business activity, the date the offer was accepted, and the position. (Stats. 2025, ch. 186, effective January 1, 2026.)

AB No. 1390

Increases Amount of Board Member Stipends

Assembly Bill No. 1390 (Solache) increases the maximum amount of monthly compensation that school district and county board of education board members may be provided for serving on governing boards based on tiers tied to the prior year's average daily attendance in the jurisdiction. (Stats. 2025, ch. 639, effective January 1, 2026.)

AB No. 1392

Protects Information of Elected Officials and Candidates

Assembly Bill No. 1392 (Sharp-Collins) protects residence addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses for elected officials and candidates, exempting that information from disclosure on voter registration records, except under specific conditions. Such information must remain confidential until, for an elected official, the official no longer holds the office or, for a candidate, the winning candidate takes office. (Stats. 2025, ch. 300, effective January 1, 2026.)

SB No. 707

Modifies Teleconference and Other Brown Act Provisions

Senate Bill No. 707 (Durazo) amends the Brown Act in several respects. The primary changes for LEAs relate to the authority for the use of teleconference and videoconference for remote appearances during meetings. For more detail on the specific amendments made by SB 707 and new and updated procedures related to remote participation in board meetings, please see our alert. (Stats. 2025, ch. 327, effective January 1, 2026.)

SB No. 827

Expands Ethics Training Requirement to School Administrators

Senate Bill No. 827 (Gonzalez) expands the ethics training requirement imposed on LEA officials to school district superintendents, county superintendents of schools, and chief administrators of charter schools. The new law requires new officials to receive the training within six months of beginning service with the LEA and to post information on its website to assist the public in locating records of such training. (Stats. 2025, ch. 661, effective January 1, 2026.)

LITIGATION

AB No. 561

Streamlines Process for Certain Restraining Orders

Assembly Bill No. 561 (Quirk-Silva) continues efforts to streamline the process for seeking a restraining order for victims of domestic violence, dependent adults experiencing abuse, and elders experiencing abuse. Commencing January 1, 2027, it allows all filings to be completed electronically and court appearances to be conducted remotely. (Stats. 2025, ch. 267, effective January 1, 2026.)

AB No. 1079

Implements Orders During CVRA and FAIR MAPS Act Appeals

Assembly Bill No. 1079 (Ávila Farías) addresses changes to elections during appeals related to the California Voting Rights Act or FAIR MAPS Act. This new law allows the trial court to make findings and implement its order during an appeal to avoid confusion over election procedures during a pending appeal. (Stats. 2025, ch. 178, effective January 1, 2026.)

LABOR, EMPLOYMENT, AND PERSONNEL (LEAP)

AB No. 378

Allows JPAs to Participate in the Classified School Employee Summer Assistance Program

Assembly Bill No. 378 (Valencia) expands the definition of "local educational agency" to allow joint powers authorities and their employees to participate in the Classified School Employee Summer Assistance Program (CSESAP). LEAs that elect to participate in the CSESAP allow eligible classified employees to withhold a portion of their monthly paychecks during the school year, enabling them to receive paychecks during the summer. (Stats. 2025, ch. 258, effective January 1, 2026.)

AB No. 406

Strengthens Workplace Protections for Victims of Violence

Assembly Bill No. 406 (Schiavo) expands employer obligations to support employees who are victims of violence or who have family members who are victims. Currently, employees are provided with protected time off if they or their family member are victims of certain crimes, including domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking crimes. The new law expands the definition of "victim" to include a person who has suffered a violent or serious felony, felony domestic violence, or who suffers direct or threatened physical, psychological, or financial harm as a result of the commission or attempted commission of certain crimes. The law affirms that employers with 25 or more employees may not fire, discipline, or otherwise retaliate against an employee for taking time off to handle matters related to a "qualifying act

of violence," including participation in judicial proceedings. The law also clarifies that employees may use accrued paid leave for these purposes. Enforcement authority for violation of these obligations is shifted from the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement to the Civil Rights Department, which means such complaints will now be processed through the civil rights complaint procedures. AB No. 406 was an urgency bill. (Stats. 2025, ch. 148, effective October 1, 2025.)



AB No. 642

Allows LEAs to Establish Catastrophic Leave Programs for Emergencies Declared by the Governor

Assembly Bill No. 642 (Muratsuchi) allows school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools to establish a catastrophic leave program allowing employees to donate vacation and sick leave credits to colleagues

who have exhausted accrued paid leave and who are impacted by a state of emergency declared by the Governor. This law was enacted in response to the devastating impacts to California communities during the 2024-25 wildfire season and expands the permissible uses of catastrophic leave from prior law. (Stats. 2025, ch. 83, effective July 30, 2025.)



AB No. 753

Authorizes the CTC to Issue Assistant Teacher Permits for Early Childhood Education Programs

Assembly Bill No. 753 (Garcia) is urgency legislation to address staffing shortages in early childhood education (ECE) programs by allowing the hiring of "assistant teachers" to assist in the care, development, and instruction of children. Assistant teachers must be under the supervision of an employee who holds a valid child development permit at the teacher level or higher. The assistant teacher may temporarily supervise children independently for up to 120 minutes per day while the supervising employee leaves the classroom. The ECE program may not assign more than one assistant teacher to each classroom, and the number of assistant teachers employed at one site must not exceed 50 percent of the number of classrooms at the site. The new law outlines the specific requirements for a person to obtain an assistant teacher permit.

The CTC must implement the provisions of the new law by no later than January 30, 2026. The law becomes inoperative on January 1, 2029, or one year after the implementation of the CTC's revised child development matrix, whichever is later. (Stats. 2025, ch. 165, effective October 1, 2025.)

SB No. 848

Strengthens Hiring, Reporting, and Training Practices to Protect Students from Employee Misconduct

Senate Bill No. 848 (Pérez) reforms certain hiring, reporting, and training practices to better protect students from employee misconduct. Notable changes impacting school employees include the following:

Creates Non-Certificated Statewide Database for Egregious Misconduct: Contingent on appropriation of funding by the Legislature, the new law requires the CTC by July 1, 2027, to create a statewide database of non-certificated employees who have substantiated reports of "egregious misconduct" (defined as certain sex, controlled substance, and child abuse and neglect offenses) against them. LEAs will be required to review the database before hiring a non-certificated individual; provide the names, start dates, and end dates when non-certificated employees are hired or leave the LEA or their positions; notify the database of an investigation of egregious misconduct and its results; and inform the database if a non-certificated employee separates from their LEA while an egregious misconduct investigation is pending. Results of an investigation that are unfounded or inconclusive would not be recorded in the database.

Requires Disclosure of Applicant Employment History: To align with recent changes to the certificated hiring process, this new law requires non-certificated applicants to provide the prospective employer with a list of all LEAs they have previously worked for, including private schools and state special schools and diagnostic centers. The prospective employer must contact each LEA on the list to inquire whether the applicant was the subject of any credible complaints, substantiated investigations, or discipline for "egregious misconduct." If egregious misconduct was reported to the CTC, then the previous LEA must disclose this fact to the prospective LEA and provide a copy of relevant information that was used to support a substantiated investigation.

Requires Professional Boundaries Policy: The new law requires school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools to adopt written policies that address appropriate professional boundaries, especially between adults (including employees, volunteers, and contractors) and pupils; and to establish appropriate limitations on out-of-school contact and communications, by July 1, 2026.

Expands the Definition of Mandated Reporter: The new law expands the definition of "mandated reporter" to now include (1) volunteers who are over 18 years of age and who interact with students outside of the supervision of their parent or guardian, or a school employee; (2) all employees and governing board members of a school district, county office of education, and charter school; and (3) public and private contractors whose duties require contact with or supervision of pupils.

Mandates Annual Trainings for Volunteers: The new law requires LEAs to provide annual trainings on mandated reporting and the prevention of child abuse and sexual abuse and assault to volunteers (who are over 18 years of age and who interact with students outside of the supervision of their parent or guardian, or a school employee), beginning July 1, 2026.

Precludes Hiring for Sex Offense Convictions: The new law precludes a school district from hiring or retaining any certificated employee that has been convicted of a "sex offense," even if that offense is not a violent or serious felony. (Stats. 2025, ch. 460, effective January 1, 2026.)

STUDENTS AND SPECIAL EDUCATION



AB No. 49

Prohibits Immigration Enforcement Officer or Employee from Entering School Property without Warrant and Identification

Assembly Bill No. 49 (Muratsuchi) prohibits district employees and all school officials from allowing an officer or employee with immigration enforcement to enter a nonpublic area of a school site without first presenting a valid judicial warrant, subpoena, or court order. District employees, and all school officials, must ask an officer or employee with immigration enforcement seeking to enter a nonpublic area of a school site to provide valid identification. Additionally, district employees are now prohibited from disclosing or providing, either verbally or in writing, a student's educational records, or any other personal information, to any officer or employee with immigration enforcement without written consent from the parent or guardian, or a valid judicial warrant, subpoena, or court order directing the district or employee to do so. (Stats. 2025, ch. 122, effective September 20, 2025.)

AB No. 419

Requires LEAs to Post Specified Information Related to Immigration Enforcement

Assembly Bill No. 419 (Connolly) requires the governing board or body of an LEA to post specified information related to immigration enforcement in the administrative buildings, on the websites of the LEA, and at each of its school sites, as provided. (Stats. 2025, ch. 663, effective January 1, 2026.)

AB No. 542

Authorizes Schedule Changes for Continuation Schools to Implement Youth Workforce Development Programs

Assembly Bill No. 542 (C. Rodriguez) authorizes the governing board of a school district that maintains a continuation high school or continuation education classes to offer a youth workforce development program (YWDP) to pupils one or two weekdays per school week if they are otherwise enrolled in at least 15 hours of class attendance on the remaining days. Eligible schools are authorized to reconfigure their school schedules accordingly, while maintaining the school's average daily attendance funding. A YWDP is defined as a program that enables pupils to earn either academic credit or an industry certificate while engaging in workplace experiences or training, with the goal of providing pupils with necessary skills and experience to obtain employment at a livable wage following graduation. The certificated school personnel in charge of implementing the program and the supervisor of the training site are jointly responsible for supervising the pupils' on-the-job experiences. The district must establish procedures to track pupil attendance and participation in the program. (Stats. 2025, ch. 696, effective January 1, 2026.)



AB No. 560

Establishes Standards for Staffing Levels in Special Education Classes

Assembly Bill No. 560 (Addis) requires LEAs to take all reasonable steps to distribute the workload associated with initial assessments across all resource specialists employed by the LEA in an equal manner, unless otherwise collectively bargained. On or before July 1, 2027, the SPI must recommend a maximum adult-to-pupil staffing ratio for special education classes authorized pursuant to Section 56364.2 for pupils 3 to 22 years of age, inclusive, and post the recommendation on the Department's internet website. (Stats. 2025, ch. 560, effective January 1, 2026.)

AB No. 677**Allows LEAs to Release Directory Information for Homeless Youth to Facilitate an Eye Exam or Oral Health Exam**

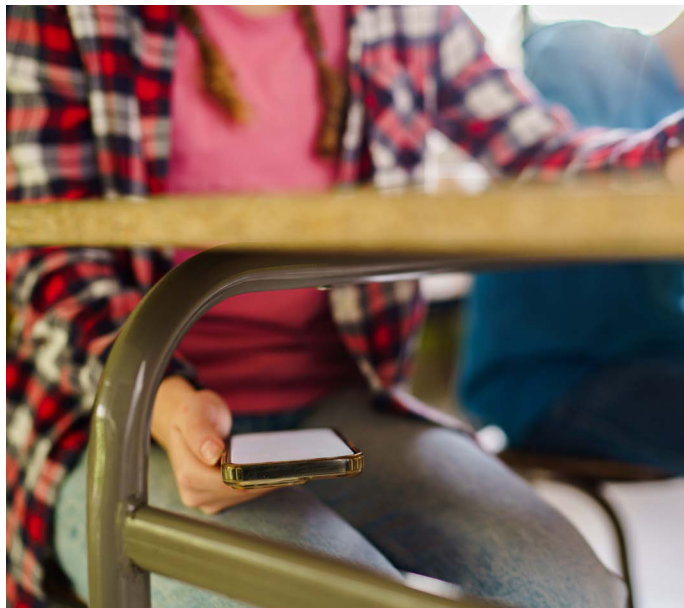
Assembly Bill No. 677 (Bryan) authorizes LEAs to disclose directory information of a pupil identified as a homeless child or youth to facilitate an eye examination or an oral health assessment, unless the parent or student with parental rights has provided written notice that they do not consent to the physical examination. (Stats. 2025, ch. 163, effective January 1, 2026.)

AB No. 715**Creates New Office of Civil Rights Coordinator to Prevent Antisemitism in Schools**

Assembly Bill No. 715 (Zbur) creates a new "Office of Civil Rights and Antisemitism Prevention Coordinator" within CDE to address antisemitism in public schools. The Antisemitism Prevention Coordinator is responsible for developing and providing training on antisemitism to educators and school personnel, advising and supporting LEAs in responding to antisemitism, engaging with community stakeholders, making legislative recommendations, and beginning in 2027, tracking and reporting on complaints related to antisemitism in schools. The Coordinator's work is informed by the United States National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism. The new law also requires that any adopted curriculum be factually accurate and aligned with State-adopted curriculum, ensuring consistency and historical integrity in instructional content. (Stats. 2025, ch. 520, effective January 1, 2026.)

**AB No. 727****Requires Student ID Cards to Include LGBTQ+ Suicide Hotline Information**

Assembly Bill No. 727 (Gonzalez) establishes new requirements for public schools serving students in grades 7 to 12, including charter schools and public institutions of higher education, pertaining to student identification cards. As of July 1, 2026, student identification cards issued by the above schools and institutions must include The Trevor Project's LGBTQ+ suicide hotline phone and text information. (Stats. 2025, ch. 483, effective January 1, 2026.)

**AB No. 772****Requires CDE and LEAs to Develop a Policy on Off-Campus Cyberbullying Occurring After School**

Assembly Bill No. 772 (Lowenthal) requires CDE to, on or before June 30, 2026, develop and post on its website a model policy on how to address reported cyberbullying occurring after school hours, provided that it is sufficiently severe or pervasive to have the actual and reasonably expected effect of creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment. This policy must be distributed to each LEA and clarify that LEAs are authorized, but not required, to address those acts. Additionally, on or before July 1, 2027, every LEA must adopt a new policy or modify an existing policy on how to address reported acts of cyberbullying occurring outside of school hours, provided that, when engaged in outside of the campus, the act is sufficiently severe or pervasive to have the actual and reasonably expected effect of creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment. The adopted policy may be CDE's model policy or a locally developed policy. The LEA must place this policy on its website and on the websites of its school sites. (Stats. 2025, ch. 620, effective January 1, 2026.)

AB No. 784**Requires Districts to Consider All Areas of Special Education and Related Services for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Students**

Assembly Bill No. 784 (Hoover) prohibits districts from including only specialized deaf and hard-of-hearing related services in an IEP. The new law expands on existing law to ensure that for deaf and hard-of-hearing students, a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment considers all related services, not just specialized deaf and hard-of-hearing related services in the IEP. (Stats. 2025, ch. 44, effective January 1, 2026.)

AB No. 821**Allows School Districts to Apply Completion of a CTE Course to Satisfy High School Graduation Requirement**

Assembly Bill No. 821 (Gipson) allows districts to use a CTE course to count toward the outlined high school course requirements. This authorization will sunset on July 1, 2027. (Stats. 2025, ch. 622, effective January 1, 2026.)

AB No. 932**Prohibits LEAs from Discrimination on the Basis of Sex or Gender in Community Youth Athletic Programs or Allocation of School and Recreation Facilities and Resources**

Assembly Bill No. 932 (Irwin) imposes a new duty on LEAs by prohibiting a school district, county office of education, or charter school from discriminating against a person on the basis of sex or gender in the operation, conduct, or administration of community youth athletics programs, or in the allocation of school and recreation facilities and resources that support such programs. The new law further defines terms, including “community youth athletics program” and “school and recreation facilities and resources,” the latter of which includes but is not limited to athletic fields and courts, gymnasiums, recreational rooms, restrooms, concession stands, storage spaces, land accessed through permitting, renting, leasing, or other arrangements, sports and recreation equipment, scoreboards, banners, and advertising, and all moneys used in conjunction with youth athletics. (Stats. 2025, ch. 628, effective January 1, 2026.)

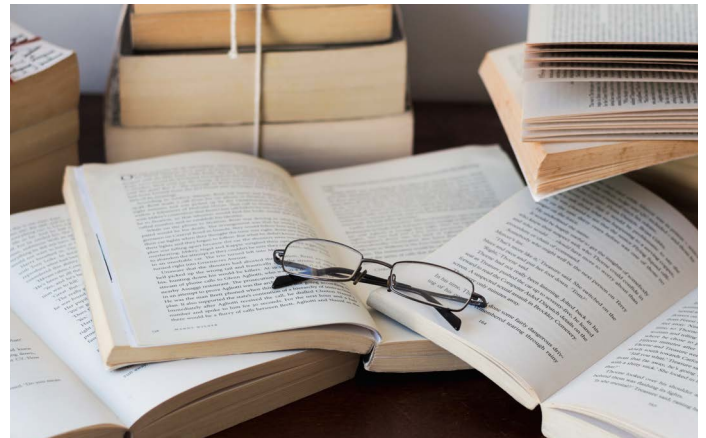
AB No. 962**Allows Governing Bodies to Prohibit Smartphones for Pupils in School Safety Plan**

Assembly Bill No. 962 (Hoover) allows the governing board of a school district, a county board of education, and the governing body of a charter school to prohibit pupils from possessing or using a smartphone, even in the case of an emergency or in response to a perceived threat of danger, if such prohibition is explicitly addressed in the comprehensive school safety plan. The new law does not mandate smartphone restrictions during emergencies. Rather, it creates a permissible exception to mandatory smartphone access requirements if, and only if, the restrictions are explicitly addressed in the school safety plan. (Stats. 2025, ch. 284, effective January 1, 2026.)

AB No. 1230**Expands District Expulsion Rehabilitation Plan Requirements**

Assembly Bill No. 1230 (Bonta) expands the required components for rehabilitation plans developed by school districts for students facing expulsion. Specifically, the new law requires rehabilitation plans to include a preliminary assessment for readmission at least 45 days before the end of the expulsion term. The rehabilitation plan must also be tailored to the individual student’s needs and address the behavior that led to the expulsion.

The new law also requires the governing board of a school district to assist the student in locating opportunities accessible to them that are necessary to complete the rehabilitation plan requirements, and, during review of the plan, must indicate whether or not the student had access to the necessary resources to complete their rehabilitation plan. The law prohibits the governing board from requiring the student or their parent or guardian to pay for any requirements that the governing board determines to be necessary for completion of the rehabilitation plan and prohibits an expelled student from being denied readmission due to financial or transportation barriers or a lack of opportunities to complete a term of the plan. Unless the governing board makes a specific finding that the student has not substantially met the conditions of the rehabilitation plan despite having access to the necessary resources and viable opportunities to complete their plan, or continues to exhibit documented behaviors that the pupil was expelled for, or is found to have committed one or more new acts during the expulsion term such that they are eligible for another expulsion, the governing board must instead readmit the pupil. (Stats. 2025, ch. 294, effective January 1, 2026.)

**AB No. 1255****Encourages Updates to English Language Arts Instruction for Newcomer Pupils**

Assembly Bill No. 1255 (Education Committee) is an urgency measure that requires the Instructional Quality Commission, at the next adoption or follow-up adoption of instructional materials in English Language Arts and English Language Development, to consider including resources to help teachers meet the academic and English language development needs of newcomer pupils in kindergarten and grades 1-8. (Stats. 2025, ch. 185, effective October 1, 2025.)

AB No. 1264**Establishes the “Real Food, Healthy Kids Act” - New Pupil Nutrition Requirements Regarding Restricted School Foods and Ultraprocessed Foods of Concern**

Assembly Bill No. 1264 (Gabriel) creates the “Real Food, Healthy Kids Act” with the legislative goal of reducing student consumption of ultraprocessed foods.

The act sets forth the ingredient criteria used to determine whether a food or beverage is an "ultraprocessed food" and requires the State Department of Public Health to adopt regulations on or before June 1, 2028, to further define "ultraprocessed foods of concern" (UFC) and "restricted school foods" (RSF).

Under the Act, schools must begin to phase out RSF and UFC by no later than July 1, 2029. Beginning July 1, 2032, vendors may not offer such foods to a school, and beginning July 1, 2035, school districts, county superintendents of schools, and charter schools serving any of the K-12 grade(s) will be prohibited from offering school breakfast or lunch that includes such foods. Schools operated and maintained by a school district or county office of education will also be prohibited from selling restricted and ultraprocessed foods or beverages except for food items sold as part of a school fundraising event. Foods provided by the United States Department of Agriculture Foods in Schools program are excluded from most of the new law's requirements. (Stats. 2025, ch. 467, effective January 1, 2026.)



AB No. 1412

Clarifies Residency Requirements When a Disabled Student of an Active-Duty Military Parent Transfers to a California District; Sets Forth Requirements of LEAs When a Disabled Student Transfers into a District

Assembly Bill 1412 (Gonzalez) clarifies the process and requirements applicable when a student with an IEP transfers districts as a result of an active-duty military parent's move due to a military order. A receiving district is required to take reasonable steps to obtain the student's records, including special education records. For students of active-duty military parents who transfer due to a military order, this includes accepting unofficial records provided by a parent or guardian, pending receipt and validation of the original records.

The new law further provides that if a student transfers to another district within California during the same year that is not operating under the same local plan as the previous district, the new LEA must provide the student with a free and appropriate public education (FAPE), including services comparable to those described in the previously approved IEP, in consultation with the parents, for a period not to exceed 30 days. After 30 days have elapsed, the LEA must either adopt the previously approved IEP or develop, adopt, and implement a new IEP. If the student was placed and resided in a residential school, then the special education local plan area containing the district that provided the placement shall be responsible for funding the placement, subject to whether the placement is eligible for funding.

If a student with an IEP transfers to another district within California during the same year that is operating under the same local plan as the previous district, the new district must provide, without delay, the same comparable services to those in the approved IEP unless the parent and the local educational agency agree otherwise. If a student with an IEP transfers to another district from outside of California during the same year, the new California district must provide the student with FAPE, including services comparable to those described in the previously approved IEP, in consultation with the parents, until the LEA conducts assessments if determined to be necessary, and develops a new IEP, if needed. Within 30 days of its receipt of the student's records, the LEA must adopt and implement the student's previously approved IEP or develop and implement a new IEP. (Stats. 2025, ch. 453, effective January 1, 2026.)



AB No. 1369

Clarifies and Extends Rights for Students to Wear Adornments at School Graduation Ceremonies

Assembly Bill No. 445 (Ramos) prohibits LEAs from requiring a preapproval process before a student is allowed to wear traditional tribal regalia or recognized objects of religious or cultural significance at school graduation ceremonies, though LEAs retain the right to prohibit an item that is likely to cause a substantial disruption of or material interference with the ceremony. AB No. 445 also clarifies that an adornment is something that is either worn with or worn in place of the graduation cap, or something that is worn with but not replacing the graduation gown. (Stats. 2025, ch. 133, effective January 1, 2026.)

**AB No. 1454****Establishes Standards for Preliminary Services Credential Candidates with a Specialization in Administrative Services; Requires the SBE to Adopt Specific Instructional Materials for K to 8 Students**

Assembly Bill No. 1454 (Rivas) requires the CTC by no later than January 1, 2028, to ensure that its standards of program quality and effectiveness, teaching performance expectations for the preparation of candidates for the reading and literacy leadership specialist credential, and the reading and literacy added authorization, are aligned with specific teaching modules. The CTC must also, by no later than September 1, 2028, ensure that the program standards for the professional preparation of candidates for a preliminary services credential with a specialization in administrative services are aligned with the same specific teaching modules as above. Under the new law, the SBE is required by no later than January 31, 2027, to adopt instructional materials for kindergarten and 1st through 8th grades in English Language Arts and English Language Development that are aligned to the same specific teaching modules as above. Upon adopting instructional materials, the SBE must update the State Guidance for Local Instructional Materials Adoptions to reflect these criteria. LEAs must follow this guidance when adopting instructional materials. When LEAs adopt materials that the SBE has not adopted, the LEA must certify that the materials align with the criteria in AB No. 1454. (Stats. 2025, ch. 471, effective January 1, 2026.)

SB No. 48**Identifies Employee Roles Pertaining to Discrimination Prevention Within the Office of Civil Rights**

Senate Bill No. 48 (Gonzalez) identifies various required employee positions within the newly-created Office of Civil Rights, established pursuant to AB No. 715. The Office of Civil Rights must employ a Religious Discrimination Prevention Coordinator, a Race and Ethnicity Discrimination Prevention Coordinator, a Gender Discrimination Prevention Coordinator, and an LGBTQ Discrimination Prevention Coordinator, each of whom must be appointed by

the Governor and confirmed by the California Senate. This bill was enacted as an urgency measure and was effective immediately on its date of adoption. (Stats. 2025, ch. 429, effective October 7, 2025.)

SB No. 98**Requires Comprehensive School Safety Plans to Include Parent and Guardian Notifications if Immigration Enforcement is on a School Site**

Senate Bill 98 (Pérez) is an urgency measure that requires, by no later than March 1, 2026, all comprehensive school safety plans to include procedures designed to notify parents and guardians of students, teachers, administrators, and school personnel when the school confirms the presence of immigration enforcement at the school site. The new law further allows a chartering authority to deny a petition for a charter school if it does not include these same provisions in its comprehensive school safety plan. Both requirements are in effect until January 1, 2031. (Stats. 2025, ch. 124, effective September 20, 2025.)

**SB No. 373****Enhances Oversight of Nonpublic Schools Serving Students with Disabilities**

Senate Bill No. 373 (Grove) strengthens oversight of nonpublic, nonsectarian schools (NPS) and agencies that serve students with disabilities by requiring the SPI to conduct more comprehensive reviews, including interviews with students, evaluation of restraint and seclusion policies, and to disclose certification information to parents and LEAs.

The new law also requires (1) students, in addition to parents, receive their special education rights and procedural safeguards; (2) use of updated monitoring forms and quarterly unmonitored phone check-ins with students placed in out-of-state NPS settings; and (3) confidential communication between students and IEP team members, including through telecommunications. (Stats. 2025, ch. 579, effective January 1, 2026.)

SB No. 374**Eliminates Requirement to Adopt and Complete an IDEA Addendum to the LCAP**

Senate Bill No. 374 (Archuleta) eliminates a requirement enacted in 2022 and revised in 2024 that would have required the SBE to adopt an IDEA Addendum template to meet oversight and monitoring requirements set forth in the federal IDEA. SB No. 374 also eliminates requirements for LEAs to adopt an IDEA Addendum to their LCAP. (Stats. 2025, ch. 580, effective January 1, 2026.)

**SB No. 389****Authorizes Licensed Vocational Nurses, Under Supervision, to Provide Respiratory Services to Disabled Students Requiring Specialized Health Care Services During the School Day**

Senate Bill No. 389 (Ochoa Bogh) allows Licensed Vocational Nurses, under the supervision of a credentialed school nurse, to provide health care services that include catheterization, gastric tube feeding, suctioning, or other services requiring medically-related training, to students with disabilities who require specialized health care during their day at school. (Stats. 2025, ch. 582, effective January 1, 2026.)

SB No. 472**Establishes Grant Program and Survey Requirements for Holocaust and Genocide Education**

Senate Bill No. 472 (Stern) establishes the Holocaust and Genocide Education Grant Program, which will provide direct funding to LEAs to support instruction and professional development in Holocaust and genocide education. The bill creates the Holocaust and Genocide Education Grant Program Fund in the State Treasury, which will be used to fund grants upon appropriation by the Legislature. The new law also requires CDE to notify schools serving grades 7 through 12 about the requirements for Holocaust and genocide instruction. Additionally, it authorizes CDE to issue a survey to LEAs two years after the notice is issued regarding the status of such instruction. (Stats. 2025, ch. 412, effective January 1, 2026.)

SB No. 510**Requires Consideration of African American Contributions in Early California History Curriculum**

Senate Bill No. 510 (Richardson) requires the Instructional Quality Commission, when revising the history-social science curriculum framework or adopting new instructional materials after January 1, 2026, to consider including the historical contributions of African Americans in early California history, including the Spanish colonial period, the Gold Rush, and the Antebellum period. The new law expands the types of historical perspectives required for consideration in California's history-social science curriculum to promote a more inclusive understanding of California's development. (Stats. 2025, ch. 100, effective January 1, 2026.)

SB No. 568**Revises and Expands the Requirements for Emergency Epinephrine Delivery**

Senate Bill No. 568 (Niello) expands existing law to require LEAs to furnish and maintain an appropriate number of epinephrine delivery systems at each school site and each state or federally subsidized childcare program operated by or under contract with the LEAs. Childcare employees who have met certain training and liability limitation criteria, school nurses, and trained personnel are authorized by the legislation to use the epinephrine delivery systems to administer emergency medical aid to persons suffering, or reasonably believed to be suffering, from an anaphylactic reaction. The legislation expands existing law—which authorized only "auto-injector" devices—to authorize the use of prescription, disposable epinephrine delivery systems that are designed to deliver a premeasured dose in response to a life-threatening allergic reaction. (Stats. 2025, ch. 322, effective January 1, 2026.)

**SB No. 848****Updates the Requirements for School Safety Plans**

Senate Bill No. 848 (Pérez) updates the requirement for school safety plans, including those of charter schools, to include procedures specifically designed to address the supervision and protection of children from child

abuse or neglect and sex offenses. Such updates must be made by no later than July 1, 2026. The legislation expands the definition and reporting responsibilities of mandated reporters to explicitly include specified school volunteers, governing board members, and private school employees. SB No. 848 also requires annual mandated reporter training covering child abuse reporting, grooming behavior identification, and maintaining professional boundaries. (Stats. 2025, ch. 460, effective January 1, 2026.)

SB No. 862**Appropriates Funding for Mental Health Services**

Senate Bill No. 862 (Committee on Health) appropriates \$5,000,000 from the General Education Fund to the SPI on a one-time basis for the School Health Demonstration Project. This is a pilot project created to expand comprehensive health and mental health services to public school students. (Stats. 2025, ch. 243, effective January 1, 2026.)

CHARTER SCHOOLS

One of the challenges that charter authorizers face is determining which legal code sections do and do not apply to charter schools, in light of the Education Code waiver. This legislative session yielded little in the way of change to the Charter Schools Act, but many new laws were enacted outside of the Charter Schools Act that apply to charter schools as well as to districts and other LEAs. **Please see summaries elsewhere** in this bulletin for a complete description of the following bills that apply in whole or in part to charter schools: Assembly Bill Nos. [642](#), [677](#), [932](#), [962](#), [1264](#), and [1369](#); Senate Bill Nos. [98](#), [374](#), [568](#), and [848](#).

**BUSINESS, PROPERTY,
AND CONSTRUCTION****AB No. 121****Amends Existing Law to Implement Certain Provisions of the 2025-26 State Budget**

Assembly Bill No. 121 (Committee on Budget) is an Education Omnibus Budget Trailer Bill and makes the following key changes in education law in furtherance of implementing the fiscal year 2025-26 State Budget:

County Office of Education Budget. AB No. 121 requires the SPI to, in addition to examining the budget of a county office of education, review and consider studies, reports, evaluations, or audits that contain evidence that the county office of education is showing fiscal distress. AB No. 121 also authorizes the Superintendent to conditionally approve or disapprove a budget that does not provide adequate assurance that the county office of education will meet its current and future obligations and resolve any problems identified.

California Prekindergarten Planning and Implementation Grant Program. Existing law appropriates \$300,000,000 from the General Fund to the State Department of Education in fiscal years 2021-22 and 2022-23 for allocation to local educational agencies as base grants, enrollment grants, and supplemental grants. AB No. 121 extends the periods for those grant funds.

California Universal Preschool Planning Grant Program. Existing law requires the SPI to develop and administer a grant process and award grant funds to each county that applies for funding to expand access to preschool programs. AB No. 121 extends the expenditure period for those grant funds.



Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program. Existing law appropriates \$250,000,000 from the General Fund for allocation to LEAs for the purpose of increasing access to inclusive early care and education programs, with up to \$50,000,000 to address State-level systems building and align local practices. AB No. 121 reduces the \$50,000,000 allocation to \$10,000,000.

County School Lease Purchase Funds. AB No. 121 provides that all funds, including any interest earned on funds, in a county's school lease-purchase fund for a school district that remain in the fund on and after January 1, 2026, may not be reported or returned to the State and would authorize the interest to be used by the school district for capital outlay expenditures for school construction.

The Leroy F. Greene School Facilities Act of 1998. Under existing law, a school district is eligible for health and safety funding to replace, reconstruct, or construct new classrooms and related facilities if the school district demonstrates there is a threat to the health and safety of pupils. AB No. 121 separately authorizes a school district to apply for hardship assistance in cases of extraordinary circumstances.

Learning Recovery Emergency Fund. Existing law appropriates \$6,345,405,000 from the General Fund for transfer to the Learning Recovery Emergency Fund, created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. AB No. 121 appropriates an additional \$378,650,000 from the General Fund for transfer to the Learning Recovery Emergency Fund, to be allocated by the SPI to those LEAs operating in the 2025–26 fiscal year.

In-Service Professional Development. AB No. 121 requires, by no later than September 30, 2026, SBE to approve and CDE to post on its internet website criteria and guidance for the selection or development of in-service professional development programs for effective means of teaching literacy. AB No. 121 appropriates \$200,000,000 from the General Fund to make available to LEAs to expend from fiscal years 2026–27 through 2029–30.

Accounting of Expenditures for Legal Matters. AB No. 121 requires the accounting system used to record the financial affairs of any LEA to be designed to provide a separate accounting of expenditures related to actual payments of legal settlements, judgments, or special assessments by a joint pooling arrangement, as a result of specified childhood sexual assault claims and a separate accounting of expenditures that are a result of all other civil claims.

Audit Timing Requirements. Existing law requires, by not later than May 1 of each fiscal year, the governing board of an LEA to provide for an audit of the books and accounts of the LEA or make arrangements with the county superintendent of schools having jurisdiction over the LEA to provide for that auditing. AB No. 121 requires an extension granted by a county superintendent of schools to be the shortest amount of time reasonable, be in increments of no longer than 45 calendar days, and, collectively, not exceed a total of 90 calendar days from the due date established.

Notification of Severe Fiscal Impact. AB No. 121 requires the county superintendent of schools to provide notification if a school district experiences a significant fiscal event that the county superintendent of schools determines will have an immediate severe fiscal impact that will cause a school district to be unable to meet its financial obligations for the current or subsequent fiscal year.

LCAP Requirement. AB No. 121 prohibits a county superintendent of schools from making an apportionment of state, local, or county moneys for a school district or charter school if such entity neglects or refuses to adopt an LCAP or an annual update to an LCAP.

Salary and Benefit Data Collection. AB No. 121 requires by July 1, 2026, the creation of a data collection system for salary and benefits data for represented certificated and classified nonmanagement employees. The data collected must include salary, benefits, and full-time equivalent employee counts for certificated employees and for specified classified bargaining unit classifications. By August 31, 2026, and by July 1 annually thereafter, school districts, county offices of education, and direct-funded charter schools must complete the data collection process and report the data to the State Department of Education.

Local Control Funding Formula Base Grant. Existing law, commencing with fiscal year 2022–23, requires the State Superintendent to compute an additional add-on for school districts and charter schools of \$2,813 for transitional kindergarten, and requires the add-on to be annually adjusted for inflation commencing with the 2023–24 fiscal year. AB No. 121, commencing with fiscal year 2025–26, increases the transitional kindergarten add-on to be \$5,545 and would require that increased add-on to be annually adjusted for inflation commencing with the 2026–27 fiscal year.





Unduplicated Count. AB No. 121 expands the definition of “pupils eligible for free or reduced-price meals” to also include pupils determined to meet federal income eligibility criteria through a federal Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer for Children (Summer EBT) - compliant Universal Benefit Application.

Education Protection Account. AB No. 121 requires, if in any fiscal year, a decline in Education Protection Account revenue results in a non-transfer of funds into the Education Protection Account fourth-quarter payment, the State Superintendent must recover an LEA's overpayment of Education Protection Account funds from the current year's second principal apportionment payment.

Public School System Stabilization Account. AB No. 121 appropriates, for fiscal year 2025–26, \$405,291,000 from the Public School System Stabilization Account to the State Superintendent for allocation for the local control funding formula.

Reading Instruction Competence. AB No. 121 establishes that an applicant for a preliminary multiple subject teaching credential or a preliminary education specialist instruction credential holds a passing reading instruction competence assessment score prospectively if, within the 10 calendar years following the date the score was earned, the applicant has achieved specified reading instruction competence assessment examination scores.

National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification Incentive Program. AB No. 121 appropriates \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2025–26 from the General Fund to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification Incentive Program and for covering National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification fees.

Teacher Residency Grant Program. AB No. 121 appropriates \$70,000,000 from the General Fund to augment the Teacher Residency Grant Program to support teacher residency programs that recruit and support the preparation of teachers.

Multilingual Learners. AB No. 121 requires the State Superintendent, by no later than March 31, 2026, to select a list of screening instruments that meet

specified requirements to support the identification of multilingual learners enrolled in transitional kindergarten. AB No. 121 appropriates \$10,000,000 from the General Fund to acquire the selected screening instruments and any training materials.

Staffing Ratios for Transitional Kindergarten. For the 2025–26 school year, and for each school year thereafter, AB No. 121 requires the State Superintendent to withhold a portion of a school district's or charter school's local control funding formula entitlement if the school district or charter school fails to comply with maintaining an average of at least one adult for every 10 pupils for transitional kindergarten classrooms at each schoolsite.

Funding for English Learners. Contingent upon specified federal funding appropriated in the Budget Act of 2025 not being available, for the 2025–26 fiscal year, AB No. 121 would appropriate \$2,000,000 from the General Fund to award to county offices of education serving as regional English learner lead agencies. Commencing with fiscal year 2026–27, AB No. 121 appropriates \$2,000,000 from the General Fund each fiscal year for such purposes.

Developer Fees and Charges. Existing law, for designated residential development projects, prohibits a local agency from requiring payment of fees or charges on the residential development for the construction of public improvements or facilities until the date the first certificate of occupancy or first temporary certificate of occupancy is issued. Existing law authorizes the local agency to require the payment of those fees or charges at an earlier time if certain conditions are met, including, among other things, that the local agency determines that the fees or charges will be collected for public improvements or facilities including, among other things, the construction and rehabilitation of school facilities, if a school district has a 5-year plan. AB No. 121 instead requires, for the construction and rehabilitation of school facilities, the school district governing board to have approved a 5-year school facilities master plan.

Clean Energy Job Creation Fund. The Budget Act of 2017 appropriates \$376,200,000 from the Clean Energy Job Creation Fund and provides that those funds shall be available for encumbrance or expenditure until June 30, 2019. AB No. 121 extends that deadline to June 30, 2026.

California Collaborative for Educational Excellence. The Budget Act of 2021 appropriates \$50,000,000 through fiscal year 2025-26 for the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence to administer professional education for educators that can support learning acceleration for California's diverse pupil population. AB No. 121 extends the time the funds appropriated are available to be used until January 1, 2028.

LGBTQ+ Cultural Competencies. The Budget Act of 2024 appropriates \$130,339,000 and makes \$770,000 of that amount available on a one-time basis to support costs associated with developing an online training delivery platform and curriculum to support LGBTQ+ cultural competencies for teachers and other certificated employees in grades 7 through 12 by July 1, 2025. AB No. 121 extends the period that the latter amount is available for encumbrance or expenditure to instead be through June 30, 2030.

Mathematics Instructional Added Authorization and Reading and Literacy Supplementary Authorization Incentive Grant Program. AB No. 121 increases the award amount a participating teacher is eligible to receive, reduces the local match requirements of the program, and extends the date the funds are available for encumbrance to instead be June 30, 2030.

Proposition 98 Funding Requirement. AB No. 121 requires the Director of Finance, as part of the budget submitted to the Legislature by January 10, 2026, to (a) provide an updated estimate of the Proposition 98 funding requirement for fiscal year 2024-25 and the sum of all previous appropriations counting toward that requirement, (b) identify the additional amount required to meet the Proposition 98 funding requirement in fiscal year 2024-25 and propose a plan for appropriating that amount, and (c) account for that amount that is available to support school programs before making any reduction otherwise allowed by law.

Los Angeles County State of Emergency. AB No. 121 extends for the 2025-26 school year, certain provisions of executive orders issued by the Governor as a result of a state of emergency that was declared in January 2025, including provisions relating to the use by school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools in the County of Los Angeles of temporary facilities located outside of district boundaries, the collection of average daily attendance for those pupils served outside of district boundaries, the suspension of provisions relating to the leasing of LEA property to impacted LEAs in the County of Los Angeles, the authorization of a site-based charter school within the County of Los Angeles whose schoolsite was damaged or is inaccessible due to the emergency to establish an alternative site anywhere within the County of Los Angeles, and the suspension of any requirement that a classroom-based charter school that provides independent study programs due to facility inaccessibility, damage, or destruction, or pupil displacement, as a result of the emergency, submit a funding determination, pursuant to specified law, and any requirement to obtain a material revision from the chartering authority of the charter school to offer nonclassroom-based instruction.

Basic Aid Districts and Decrease in Property Tax Revenue. AB No. 121 requires a basic aid school district that experiences a decrease in local property tax revenues as a result of the Eaton and Palisades Fires in the County of Los Angeles in January 2025 to be reimbursed from the General Fund for losses experienced in fiscal years 2024-25 and 2025-26.

Universal School Meals Support Grant. AB No. 121 appropriates, for fiscal year 2025-26, \$160,000,000 from the General Fund to establish the Universal School Meals Support Grant.

Student Support and Professional Development Discretionary Block Grant. AB No. 121 appropriates \$1,696,718,000 from the General Fund to establish the Student Support and Professional Development Discretionary Block Grant for discretionary purposes, including providing standards-aligned professional development for teachers on the English Language Arts/English Language Development Framework, the Literacy Roadmap, and the Mathematics Framework for California Public Schools.

Secondary School Redesign Pilot Program. AB No. 121 establishes the Secondary School Redesign Pilot Program to develop and identify effective models of middle and high school redesign and appropriates \$10,000,000 from the General Fund.

Literacy Screenings. AB No. 121 appropriates, for fiscal year 2025-26, \$40,000,000 from the General Fund for allocation to local educational agencies that administer literacy screenings to pupils in kindergarten and grades 1 and 2 for risk of reading difficulties.

Literacy Coaches and Reading Specialists Grant Program. AB No. 121 appropriates, for fiscal year 2025-26, \$215,000,000 from the General Fund to augment the previously established Literacy Coaches and Reading Specialists Grant Program.

California Collaborative for Educational Excellence. AB No. 121 appropriates for fiscal year 2025-26, \$15,000,000 from the General Fund to allocate to the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence to convene a Statewide Literacy Network and a Statewide Mathematics Network.

Dyslexia Funding. AB No. 121 appropriates \$10,000,000 from the General Fund to allocate to the county office of education selected to administer the California Dyslexia Initiative to contract with the University of California, San Francisco Dyslexia Center to continue to expand the capacity of a certain reading difficulties screening tool for California's diverse pupil population.

(Stats. 2025, ch. 8, effective June 27, 2025.)



**AB No. 130****Eliminates 7-11 Committee and Property Exchange Exemptions from the Surplus Land Act, Extends SB 330 (Builder's Remedy), and Exempts Certain Housing Developments from CEQA Review**

Assembly Bill No. 130 (Wicks) removes from the definition of "exempt surplus land" under the Surplus Land Act land both district property exchanges and property dispositions for which a school district appoints a district advisory committee (7-11 Committee). Additionally, this bill removes all 2030 sunset dates from the Housing Accountability Act, making indefinite certain provisions related to treatment of preliminary and complete housing development applications. Finally, the legislation exempts certain aspects of a housing development project from CEQA provisions related to permits, approvals, and public improvements based on the development's size, location, urban use, zoning, and density, among other qualifications, which may be available to qualifying workforce housing developments. (Stats. 2025, ch. 22, effective June 30, 2025.)

AB No. 287**Imposes Additional Requirements When Public Buildings Serve as Polling Places or Vote Centers**

Assembly Bill No. 287 (Lackey) requires public buildings that are approved to serve as polling places or vote centers to provide an adequate amount of space for voting operations and storage of associated supplies to allow the precinct board or vote center to operate the public building as a polling place or vote center without impeding, interfering, or interrupting the normal process of voting. Additionally, beginning 10 days before the election and continuing through election day, the public building being used as a polling place or vote center must make building parking available at no charge to the precinct or vote center board and voters, if requested by the elections official. (Stats. 2025, ch. 253, effective January 1, 2026.)

AB No. 361**Expands "Best Value" Procurement Authority for School Districts**

Assembly Bill No. 361 (Schultz) expands to all school districts in California the authority to use the "best value" procurement method, as opposed to using the lowest bidder method, for Design-Bid-Build projects exceeding \$1 million. The legislation makes this authority permanent for Los Angeles USD and extends authority for its use by other districts until December 31, 2030. The legislation also makes conforming changes to ensure that districts establish objective evaluation procedures for best value selection. (Stats. 2025, ch. 144, effective January 1, 2026.)

AB No. 382**Reduces Speed Limits in School Zones**

Assembly Bill No. 382 (Berman) reduces the school zone speed limit from 25 mph to 20 mph beginning January 1, 2031. The reduced speed applies if there is a flashing "speed limit 20 when flashing" sign or a "children are present" sign and children are present, or during specific hours as noted on the school speed limit sign. (Stats. 2025, ch. 555, effective January 1, 2026.)

AB No. 503**Restores Expanded Definition of Direct Costs Under the Civic Center Act**

Assembly Bill No. 503 (González) amends the Civic Center Act to expand the definition of "direct costs" to include a proportional share of the costs for maintenance, repair, restoration, and refurbishment of school facilities or grounds. School districts were previously authorized to charge facility users these so-called capital costs under prior legislation that expired on

December 31, 2024. AB No. 503 restores school districts' ability to pass on these costs through facility use fees. Funds collected for maintenance, repair, restoration, and refurbishment are required to be deposited into a special fund, to be used only for those specified purposes. AB No. 503 was enacted as an urgency measure, which took effect immediately upon the Governor's signing the bill into law. (Stats. 2025, ch. 156, effective October 1, 2025.)

AB No. 538

Requires Contractors to Provide Certified Payroll Records to Awarding Bodies

Assembly Bill No. 538 (Berman) requires contractors and subcontractors that are awarded public works projects to provide certain certified payroll records, including those related to the payment of prevailing wages, within 10 days of receipt of a written request submitted by the public through the awarding body. Awarding bodies must notify the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement (DLSE) if contractors or subcontractors do not meet the 10-day deadline. The legislation authorizes DLSE to impose penalties on a contractor or subcontractor that fails to comply with the awarding body's request and requires the awarding body to withhold imposed penalties from progress payments. (Stats. 2025, ch. 616, effective January 1, 2026.)



AB No. 629

Updates Equipment Inventory for School Districts

Assembly Bill No. 629 (Ward) raises from \$500 to \$1500 the value threshold at which school districts must keep an inventory of equipment. The legislation also mandates a biennial inflation adjustment of that threshold. By raising and indexing the threshold, the legislation reduces the administrative burden associated with tracking lower-value items while ensuring the standard remains aligned with current economic conditions. (Stats. 2025, ch. 62, effective January 1, 2026.)



AB No. 712

Entitles a Prevailing Party Applicant to Attorney's Fees in Cases Involving Housing Reform Law Against Public Agencies

Assembly Bill No. 712 (Wicks) entitles a housing development project applicant to reasonable attorney's fees and costs if they are the prevailing party in their case against a public agency to enforce the agency's compliance with a housing reform law. This legislation also prohibits the public agency from requiring the housing development project applicant to indemnify, defend, or hold harmless the public agency in the housing reform law action. This may impact school districts if a dispute arises concerning the collection of school impact fees. (Stats. 2025, ch. 496, effective January 1, 2026.)

AB No. 818

Exempts Certain Projects from Developer Fees During Local Emergencies

Assembly Bill No. 818 (Ávila Fariás) exempts from developer fees certain residential rebuild or repair projects for homes affected by a natural disaster. The exemption is part of a larger permit streamlining measure for properties affected by disasters or emergencies. Specifically, this exemption applies if projects are initiated during periods of local emergency, as declared by the governing body of a city, county, city, and county, or by an official designated by ordinance, unless the resulting structures would be deemed substandard buildings. This exemption is similar to an existing exemption applicable to school district impact fees on properties affected by disasters, as set forth in Education Code section 17626. (Stats. 2025, ch. 534, effective January 1, 2026.)

AB No. 927

Lengthens Timeline and Establishes Prioritization for County Superintendent Inspection of Schools

Assembly Bill No. 927 (Sharp-Collins) revises the deadlines and procedures for county superintendent inspections of school facilities and instructional materials under the Williams settlement statutes. Existing law requires county

superintendents to complete annual visits to certain schools by the fourth week of the school year to determine the sufficiency of instructional materials, adequacy of facilities, and levels of teacher vacancies and misassignments. The new legislation now requires county superintendents to complete those visits by the eighth week of the school year for schools appearing on the list compiled in 2024–25, and it directs the county superintendent to prioritize visits during that period to schools identified as lacking sufficient textbooks or having facilities that pose an emergency or safety risk. The legislation also requires quarterly reporting of visit results to local governing boards and public posting of reports when facilities are found to be in emergency or unsafe condition. (Stats. 2025, ch. 45, effective January 1, 2026.)

AB No. 1021**Streamlines Requirements to Develop Workforce Housing on School District-Owned Property**

Assembly Bill No. 1021 (Wicks) revises the requirements for a school district to streamline the development of workforce housing on its property, including removing the requirement that school workforce housing be located on an infill site, increasing height limits, and modifying affordability restrictions. Additionally, the legislation authorizes a school governing board to elect not to appoint an advisory committee for sale, lease, or rental transactions involving workforce housing. Finally, AB No. 1021 adds qualifying school workforce housing projects to the list of affordable housing projects that are eligible for certain CEQA exemptions. (Stats. 2025, ch. 503, effective January 1, 2026.)

**AB No. 1296****Requires the Department of Housing and Community Development to Provide Technical Assistance to LEAs Regarding Housing Projects**

Assembly Bill No. 1296 (Bonta) requires the Department of Housing and Community Development to make available on its website, on or before January 1, 2027, a form that enables an LEA to notify the department of its interest in using its real property for a housing project, and to provide technical assistance to those agencies that submit the form. The technical assistance is

advisory in nature and for the purpose of supporting predevelopment activities related to the housing project, which may include information and guidance on Surplus Land Act requirements, local land use regulations, available funding sources, project feasibility analysis, regulatory processes related to planning, zoning, and environmental review, draft agreements with housing developers, and external experts with specialized knowledge to support predevelopment activities. (Stats. 2025, ch. 508, effective January 1, 2026.)

AB No. 1516**Expands and Extends Certain Property Tax Exemptions for School Districts**

Assembly Bill No. 1516 (Committee on Revenue and Taxation) makes changes to property tax exemptions for school districts. Under existing California property tax law, real property used by public schools for educational purposes is exempt from taxation; however, no exemption is provided from supplemental property tax assessment if a school district acquires exempt property before the next lien date. AB No. 1516 extends this exemption from supplemental property tax (or penalty or interest) to school districts and further permits school districts to apply for a refund for taxes paid on exempt property. If a school district sells or otherwise transfers the property, the exemption ceases on the date of sale or transfer, but the new owner may apply for an exemption, if applicable. (Stats. 2025, ch. 72, effective January 1, 2026.)

SB No. 71**Extends Exemptions from CEQA for Certain Transit-Related Projects**

Senate Bill No. 71 (Wiener) extends until 2040 certain CEQA exemptions for specified public transportation projects, including those related to pedestrian and bicycle facilities and zero-emission public transit buses, among others, and those which combine such projects with housing development. A public school district or community college district may qualify for some of these categories, such as pedestrian and bicycle facilities installed on campus. (Stats. 2025, ch. 742, effective January 1, 2026.)

SB No. 147**Implements 2025-26 State Budget with Financial and Policy Changes to Education Law**

Senate Bill No. 147 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review) is another Education Omnibus Trailer Bill and makes the following key changes in education law in furtherance of implementing the fiscal year 2025-26 State Budget:

Professional Development for Literacy Instruction. Existing law requires, by no later than September 30, 2026, the SBE to approve guidelines for the selection or development of in-service professional development programs for teaching literacy. SB No. 147 requires professional development providers to declare their intent to submit a program for review and authorizes the State Department of Education to assess a fee in an amount no more than \$10,000 for each program submitted for review.

Reduction of Minimum Funding Guarantee for Fiscal Year 2022-23. The Classroom Instructional Improvement and Accountability Act (Proposition 98) sets forth a formula for computing the minimum amount of revenues that the State is required to apply for the support of school districts and community college districts. SB No. 147 reduces the allocation to school districts and charter schools in fiscal year 2022-23 for specified apportionments by \$20,000,000.

Data Collection System. Existing law requires the State Department of Education, by July 1, 2026, to create a data collection system for salary and benefits data for represented certificated and classified nonmanagement employees. SB No. 147 requires the State Department of Education to make the data submitted by school districts, county offices of education, and direct-funded charter schools publicly available in a downloadable open file data format.

Student Teacher Stipend Program. For fiscal year 2025-26, \$300,000,000 is appropriated to support the Student Teacher Stipend Program.

Classified School Employee Summer Assistance Program. SB No. 147 requires, commencing with fiscal year 2023-24, appropriations made in the annual Budget Act for purposes of the Classified School Employee Summer Assistance Program to be available for encumbrance during both the fiscal year in which the funds are appropriated and the immediately following fiscal year.

Attendance Recovery Programs. Existing law authorizes a school district, county office of education, or charter school, beginning July 1, 2025, to implement attendance recovery programs for pupils to make up lost instructional time and offset absences. For the purposes of computing average daily attendance for these programs, existing law prescribes general minimum daily instructional minute requirements on all local educational agencies. SB No. 147 instead applies the instructional minute requirements that are applicable to opportunity schools.

Golden State Teacher Grant Program. Existing law provides one-time grants of up to \$5,000 to each student enrolled in a professional preparation program, subject to certain conditions, from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025. SB No. 147 extends the availability of the grants until June 30, 2026.

Count of English Learner Pupils. For purposes of the local control funding formula for fiscal years 2025-26 and 2026-27 only, existing law requires the count of English learner pupils enrolled in transitional kindergarten to be equal to the count of English learner pupils enrolled in kindergarten. SB No. 147 instead requires a proxy count of English learner pupils enrolled in a transitional kindergarten that is based upon the percentage of English learners enrolled in kindergarten who are either not eligible for free or reduced-price meals or not a foster youth.

Universal School Meals Support Grant. Existing law appropriates, for fiscal year 2025-26, \$160,000,000 to establish the Universal School Meals Support Grant. SB No. 147 requires \$5,000,000 of that funding to be made available to the Marin County Office of Education for a study of ultra-processed foods.

(Stats. 2025, ch. 744, effective October 13, 2025.)

SB No. 302

Excludes Specified Federal Environmental Tax Credits from Taxpayer Gross Income

Senate Bill No. 302 (Padilla) conforms State law to the federal exclusion and deduction provisions of Sections 6417 and 6418 of the Internal Revenue Code relating to clean energy tax credits. The federal Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-169) created additional tools (direct pay and transferability) for clean energy tax credits in an effort to expand and increase investment in the clean energy sector. SB No. 302 conforms State law by excluding refund payments made for specified federal environmental tax credits, including payments received for transferring such credits, from taxpayer gross income. Due to the incentives provided under SB No. 302, investment in clean energy projects could increase over the next five years, allowing school districts the opportunity to partner with clean energy project investors. This legislation was enacted as an urgency measure and was effective immediately on its date of adoption. (Stat. 2025, ch. 215, effective October 1, 2025.)

Lawsuit to Strike Down NEM 3.0 Tariff Scheme on Solar Panels Is Revived

In *Center for Biological Diversity v. Public Utilities Commission* (2025) 18 Cal.5th 293, the California Supreme Court left open the chance that Net Energy Metering (NEM) 3.0 may be struck down. The Court changed the type of judicial review applied to a California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) decision on repayments to solar panel owners, holding that the Court of Appeal must afford less deference to PUC decisions, effectively making them more likely to be struck down. The PUC had issued a new tariff scheme (known as NEM 3.0) for customer-generators of solar panels, reducing the amount of compensation paid to them for excess electricity they had produced by as much as 30%. The case will now return to the lower courts where, with the Supreme Court's instructions, the challenger now has a higher likelihood of striking down NEM 3.0, which may result in higher payments made to solar panel customer-owners like school districts with solar energy systems.

Developer Fee Survives Constitutional Takings Analysis

In *Sheetz v. County of El Dorado* (2025) 113 Cal.App.5th 113, the Court of Appeal reexamined and affirmed the constitutionality of developer fees imposed on a residential development intended to offset traffic impacts resulting from the development. The Court of Appeal held that a sufficient nexus existed between the County's legitimate interest in reducing traffic congestion from new development and the permit condition requiring Plaintiff to pay a fee to mitigate or offset the traffic impacts from his proposed development project. The Court further found that the County's determination of the fee rate was factually supported in the administrative records and reflected a reasonable proportionality between the effects of new development on traffic congestion and the amount of the challenged impact fee. If you would like more information about how this case affects your LEA, please contact us.

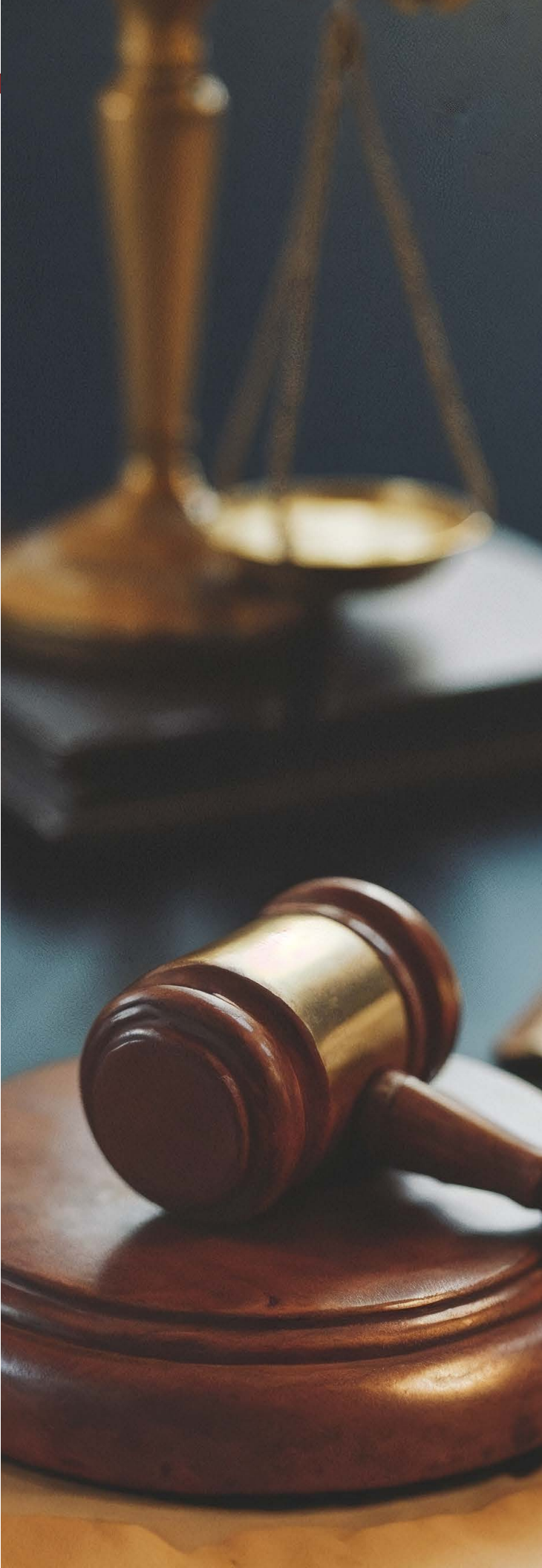
GLOSSARY OF TERMS

CDE:	California Department of Education
CEQA:	California Environmental Quality Act
CTC:	Commission on Teacher Credentialing
IEP:	Individualized Education Program
LEA:	Local Educational Agency
SPI:	Superintendent of Public Instruction



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