



2024

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

California bills and laws affecting
public education

- BUSINESS OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES
- LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
- GOVERNANCE
- STUDENTS AND INSTRUCTION

F3 Law Next Level Client Services

This compendium was created as a resource for public education leaders by F3 Law's Next Level Client Services (NLCS).

A team of recently retired senior district leaders from throughout California, NLCS consultants use their vast and varied educational leadership experience to complement the work of F3 attorneys to support clients on myriad projects ranging from strategic planning, governance training, superintendent/board evaluations and executive coaching to providing practical tips for implementing new law, policies and protocols.

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Summary of Signed Legislation from the California 2024 Legislative Session

California's 2024 legislative work year is now concluded.

The end of the 2024 legislative year also signaled the end of the 2023-24 two-year legislative session. December 2, 2024 will mark the beginning of a new legislative session, and new bills will be introduced. To assist education agencies and officials with the task of figuring out what all the bills mean from a practical/operational sense, we have briefly summarized the applicable bills with our best thoughts concerning implementation as well as impacts on operations that should be considered.



Business Operation and Facilities

AB 1820

School Facilities: Developer Fees

Operative January 1, 2025

AB 1820 was introduced by developers to address, from their perspective, one part of the housing crisis. The bill establishes a process through which developers can request preliminary project fee and exaction estimates when submitting a preliminary application. While much of the bill is aimed at cities and counties, the bill does specify that for development fees imposed by a school district, the developer shall request the good faith estimate of the total amount of all fees and exactions to be imposed by the district that apply to the project. The school district must provide the information within 30 days of the request.

AB 2565

School Facilities: Interior Door Locks

Operative January 1, 2025

Requires a school district, county office of education, or charter school that plans for a modernization project after January 1, 2025, to install interior locks on each door of a room that houses five (5) or more people. Compliance with this new requirement is contingent upon an appropriation from the Legislature.

Practice Pointer

LEAs should take care to ensure that your school facility plans are designed with the ability to accommodate interior door locks if funding is made available.



SB 937

School Facilities: Developer Fees

Operative January 1, 2025

Changes when school districts can collect impact fees until the date of final inspection and certificate of occupancy. School districts can require payment of the fees earlier if a few exceptions are met.

Practice Pointer

Another bill to address affordable housing, SB 937 delays the collection of school impact fees for up to five years and freezes fees to protect developers with discounts on their share of mitigation costs. The bill is poorly drafted, lending itself to different interpretations that can lead to various implications for school districts. It will be important to discuss the impact of SB 937 with your legal counsel to ensure the least disruption to your school building and modernization projects.

SB 956

School Facilities: Design-Build Projects

Operative January 1, 2025

The authority for a school district to utilize design-build contracts was set to sunset on January 1, 2025. SB 956 removes the sunset date and allows the continued use of design-build projects in perpetuity.

SB 1091

School Facilities: Accessible Path of Travel

Operative January 1, 2025

Greening schoolyards and ensuring accessibility for students with disabilities are important objectives but often result in significant tradeoffs from one project vs another. To assist school districts, county offices of education and charter schools to address these costs, SB 1091 limits the cost of accessible path projects approved by the Division of the State Architect to 20% of the cost of a school greening project. The bill sunsets this requirement on January 1, 2032.

AB 2316

Pupil Nutrition: Pupil Meals

Operative December 31, 2027

Prohibits food containing six specified food dye additives from being sold to students by school districts, county offices of education, charter schools and state special schools. This prohibition includes all meals and competitive foods sold to students from midnight the night before to 30 minutes after the end of the school day. Food categories with the highest percentages of the affected foods include sweet bakery items, processed fruit, and chips.

Practice Pointer

To the extent that food manufacturers pass the cost of reformulating certain foods down to LEAs in the form of higher food prices or leave the school food market altogether, this bill could potentially result in additional Proposition 98 General Fund costs. The extent of these costs to LEAs is unknown and could vary.



SB 920

CA Purple Star Designation

Operative January 1, 2025

In 2022, the CA Department of Education (CDE), established Purple Star Schools for those schools that provide support for students in military families. SB 920 places the Purple Star School designation into law and requires CDE to establish an application process that provides annual opportunities for school sites to earn the Purple Star School designation.

SB 1429

School Closures: Snowstorms

Operative January 1, 2025

Adds snowstorms to the list of emergencies a school district, county office of education, or a charter school may receive a waiver of instructional time requirements and have their Average Daily Attendance (ADA) funding held harmless.

SB 98

School Funding: Enrollment-Based Funding Report

Operative January 1, 2025

Requires the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO), to prepare a report to the Legislature on the effects of changing the pupil count methodology from average daily attendance to pupil enrollment. The report must be submitted to the Legislature by January 1, 2026.

Practice Pointer

While the report isn't due to the Legislature for another year, it may be prudent to start running numbers to determine what the impact of changing to enrollment funding would mean for your schools. Depending on the results of the study, the Legislature could introduce legislation to change the funding formula, and LEAs will want to be prepared to respond to potential changes.



AB 960

School Safety: Web-Based or App-Based Safety Programs

Operative by July 1, 2030

To modernize school safety, AB 960 authorizes each public school, including charter schools, with an enrollment of 100 students or more, to implement a web-based or app-based school safety program. The bill highlights numerous program parameters including remote access to school site surveillance systems and when school staff and administrators may request help from law enforcement.

Practice Pointer

Before deciding to adopt a web-based or app-based program, be sure to read the provisions of AB 960 closely in order to ensure compliance with its numerous parameters. Those include, but are not limited to, protecting the security and data of all pupils and staff listed within the program, the ability for school administrators to know the location and condition of pupils and staff through an information relay built into the application in order to account for students and staff, and a multilayered digital map of the school site that contains detailed building floor plans, gate locations, first aid equipment locations, and more.

AB 1858

School Safety: Active Shooter Drills

Operative June 15, 2025

Prohibits the practice of high-intensity active shooter or other armed assailant drills and the use of real weapons, gunfire blanks, or explosions. The bill further requires a trauma-informed approach to the design and execution of any drill. On or before June 15, 2025, the CDE is required to post on its internet website best practices pertaining to school shooter or other armed assailant drills including guidance for age-appropriate and developmentally appropriate content and staff training tools.

AB 2887

Comprehensive School Safety Plans: Medical Emergency Procedures

Operative July 1, 2025

When comprehensive school safety plans are updated after July 1, 2025, the plan must include procedures to respond to incidents involving someone experiencing a life-threatening medical emergency such as sudden cardiac arrest.

Practice Pointer

LEAs should consider the involvement of local medical services personnel when developing the procedures. Consider identifying CPR external defibrillator trained staff to assist in updating the plan.



AB 2968

Comprehensive School Safety Plans: Evacuation Plan

Operative 2026-27 fiscal year

Beginning in the 2026-27 fiscal year, schools in a high or very high fire severity zone are required to include in their comprehensive school safety plan a communication, refuge and evacuation plan for all students and staff to be used in the event of an evacuation order.

Practice Pointer

Consider checking your country fire zone maps to identify, if any, school sites within your district that fall into a high or very high fire severity zones. Consultation and coordination with local fire and emergency officials will also be critical.

AB 2998

School Safety: Opioid Reversal Medication

Operative January 1, 2025

Prevents school districts, county offices of education, or charter schools from preventing a student 12 years of age or older from carrying or administering an over-the-counter opioid reversal medication. The bill also waives liability for students who administer the opioid reversal medication. In addition, employees cannot be subject to professional review or liable for a student who administers the opioid reversal medication.

SB 997

School Safety: Possession of Opioid Antagonists

Operative January 1, 2025

Prevents school districts, county offices of education, or charter schools from prohibiting students in middle school, junior high schools, high schools, or adult schools, from carrying fentanyl test strips or an over-the-counter opioid antagonist while at school or participating in school activities.





Labor and Employment

AB 1997

CalSTRS: Creditable Compensation

Operative January 1, 2025

California State Teachers Retirement System (CalSTRS) staff have met with various member and employer groups to identify the biggest challenges associated with creditable compensation and creditable service laws and regulations. AB 1997 addresses many of the issues raised relating to compensation and service requirements to attain more consistent reporting with fewer errors and a reduction in benefit overpayments and underpayments. CalSTRS will determine when the system has the capacity to implement the bill's changes but no later than July 1, 2027.

AB 2534

Certificated Employees: Egregious Misconduct

Operative January 1, 2025

Any certificated employee applying for a job at a new school district, county office of education, charter school, or state special school, must disclose their previous employment history and requires the hiring educational entity to contact all prior employers about any credible complaints, investigations, or disciplinary actions related to egregious misconduct that were required to be reported to the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC). Egregious misconduct is defined as sex offenses, controlled substance offenses, and child abuse and neglect offenses. The prior public-school employer is required to provide a copy of all relevant information it is still in possession of that was reported to the CTC, to the hiring public school employer.

Practice Pointer

Human Resource administrators should begin training on the process to follow to comply with this measure, ensuring that the definition of serious egregious misconduct is understood as well as the process for notifying the CTC. Consider working with your legal counsel to ensure the process developed meets legal standards.

AB 2245

ROC/P: Permanent Status

Operative July 1, 2025

Beginning July 1, 2025, teachers at a Regional Occupational Center or Program (ROC/P) operated by a single school district will be eligible for permanent status.

AB 2123

Leave: Paid Family Leave

Operative January 1, 2025

After January 1, 2025, an employer can no longer require an employee to use two weeks of vacation leave prior to accessing benefits under California's Paid Family Leave program.



AB 2499

Protected Leave: Victims of Violence

Operative January 1, 2025

Expands the list of crimes an employee may take protected leave for if he/she is a victim of or has a family member who has been a victim of a crime. Permits the use of sick leave for this purpose and allows an employer to limit the total leave to 12 weeks. The bill further requires notice of their leave rights to be given in writing to every employee when hired and once a year for all other employees.

Practice Pointer

Hiring and onboarding materials should be updated immediately. Also consider reviewing and updating employee leave request forms, as necessary.

AB 938

Staff: Salary Reports

Operative January 1, 2025

By July 1, 2025, CDE is required to update their Salary and Benefits Schedule for the Certificated Bargaining Unit (Form J-90) to include salary data collection for classified staff. By January 31, 2026, and annually thereafter, all school districts, county offices of education, and direct-funded charter schools must submit the Salary and Benefits Schedule for the Bargaining Units (Form J-90) to CDE.

AB 1913

Staff: Child Abuse Training

Operative January 1, 2025

The Child Abuse Prevention Act was introduced to strengthen the child abuse prevention segment of the existing annual Mandated Reporter training for school personnel. Beginning July 1, 2025, the measure enhances the ability of mandated reporters to prevent harm by providing more information on the subtle signs of grooming.

Practice Pointer

Make sure your mandated reporting training is updated by July 1, 2025, to include the new child abuse component.



AB 2134

Staff: Transfer of Sick or Injury Leave

Operative January 1, 2025

Any certificated or classified employee who leaves his/her job after at least one year and accepts a certificated or classified job with another school district, county office of education, state special school or community college district is allowed to transfer their sick or injury leave to the new employer. The bill requires the hiring employer to accept the leave in days, not hours. The former school employer is required to provide specified information to the new employer including, but not limited to, all the contact information for the employee, the time period of service, and the number of days of leave based on the former employing entity's workday.

Practice Pointer

Consideration should be given to a retroactive accounting of sick leave to alleviate any potential reporting errors.

AB 2345

Staff: CPR Certification

Operative July 1, 2025

There is a gap in our existing framework for CPR certification. This bill attempts to close that gap by requiring after July 1, 2025, a new applicant for a Career Technical Education (CTE) credential to be certified in CPR. The bill also prohibits a school district, county office of education, charter school, or state special school from hiring any person for a short-term staff permit, provisional internship permit, or a teaching permit for statutory leave, without CPR certification.

SB 399

Staff: Freedom from Intimidation

Operative January 1, 2025

Prohibits an employer, including school districts, from disciplining an employee who chooses not to attend an employer-sponsored meeting or who declines to participate or listen to any communication from the employer who wishes to discuss their opinion about politics and religion, or constitutionally protected rights while on the job.

AB 1870

Workers' Compensation: Notices

Operative January 1, 2025

Requires employers to include an employee's right to consult an attorney in their workers' compensation rights notice.





AB 2905

AI: Automatic Dialing

Operative January 1, 2025

While introduced to try and raise awareness about the use of AI in robo calls by scam artists, AB 2905 does apply to school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools. If a school is using an AI device to notify parents and students with a pre-recorded message, the message must include a statement that AI is being used.

SB 1445

Boards: Student Board Members Expulsion Hearings

Operative January 1, 2025

Authorizes a school district governing board, a charter school governing body, or an entity managing multiple charter schools, to allow student board members to make restorative justice recommendations that may be considered by the board or body in closed session expulsion hearings. If the board/body chooses to include a student board member in this discussion, the board/body is required to obtain consent from the student involved in the expulsion case or their parent/guardian prior to releasing any limited information to the student board member.

AB 1939

Boards: SARB Student Consultation

Operative January 1, 2025

Requires state or local school attendance review boards (SARB), to consult with students from the schools they serve at least once annually about attendance and behavior challenges students may be facing. The goal of the consultation is to gather feedback from students in order to help the boards understand and propose interventions for attendance or behavioral issues that students face.

AB 1955

Boards: The SAFETY Act

Operative January 1, 2025

Sponsored by the Legislature's LGBTQ+ Caucus, the Support Academic Futures and Educators for Today's Youth Act, SAFETY, requires the CDE to develop resources and strategies to support LGBTQ+ students and their families. The Act prohibits an employee, contractor, or governing board or body, of a school district, county office of education, charter school, or state special school from retaliating against any employee on the basis that the employee supported a student by providing instruction consistent with the CA Healthy Youth Act. The SAFETY Act further prohibits schools from enacting or enforcing any policy, rule, or administrative regulation requiring an employee or contractor to disclose information related to a student's gender identity/expression/orientation without the student's consent.



AB 2073

Boards: Alternate PE Schedule Policy

Operative January 1, 2025

Schools that utilize block scheduling are compelled to seek a state waiver from the State Board of Education for the requirement to offer PE regularly every 10 days. Under this bill, a governing board of a school district serving grades 6 to 12, may instead adopt a policy for an alternate term schedule for PE courses while allowing the schools to meet the annual required number of PE minutes. The bill outlines the specific requirements, by grade, that must be met and/or included in the alternate schedule.

AB 2251

Boards: Graduation Requirement Exemptions

Operative January 1, 2025

To meet the needs and circumstances of individual students, AB 2251 authorizes a school district governing board to adopt a policy to exempt students from additional coursework requirements established by the board in excess of the state graduation requirement(s). The Legislature included legislative intent language in the bill that the policy includes a consultation with the student and the educational rights holder for the student regarding any impact of not fulfilling locally required coursework on the student's ability to access an institution of higher education.

AB 2631

Boards: Ethics Training

Operative January 1, 2025

The bill requires the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) to provide and make available an ethics training course to local officials. Local governing boards are already required to receive ethics training. The purpose of the bill is to ensure training is available for free and that the training is offered by the FPPC, the body that oversees required political reporting.

AB 2999

Boards: Homework Policy

Operative for the 2027-28 School Year

Introduced by an assemblymember who watched her child struggle with the volume of homework in high school, AB 2999 creates the Healthy Homework Act. The Act encourages school districts, county offices of education, or charter schools to develop a homework policy for all grades by the start of the 2027-28 school year and fully adopt the homework policy by the 2027-28 school year. Should a homework policy be adopted, the measure outlines items to consider during its development.



AB 3216

Boards: Cellphone Use Policy

Operative July 1, 2026

The Phone-Free Schools Act requires the governing body of a school district, county office of education (COE), or charter school to develop and adopt a policy by July 1, 2026, to limit or prohibit the use of smartphones by students while they are at school or under the supervision and control of an employee of the district, county office of education or charter school. Once adopted, the policy must be updated every five years.

Practice Pointer

Although the requirement is not effective until July 1, 2026, LEAs may want to begin engaging their community and other stakeholder groups as necessary in the development of this policy.

SB 897

Boards: District of Choice

Operative January 1, 2025

Eliminates the sunset date for the District of Choice (DOC) program permitting the program to go on indefinitely. Changes to DOC under SB 897 include, but are not limited to, the requirement that DOC's accept student transfers for foster youth and homeless youth, require an annual audit of the DOC, and authorizes a school district of residence to stop transfers if the school district receives a qualified budget certification. Upon request of a district of residence, the county office of education may determine the percentage of pupils who transfer out of the district of residence for the duration of the program.

SB 1248

Boards: Extreme Heat Protocols

Operative July 1, 2026

Subject to an appropriation by the Legislature, this bill requires by January 1, 2026, that the CDE compile and post on its website standardized guidelines that would modify student physical outdoor activities during extreme weather conditions. By July 1, 2026, school districts, county offices of education and charter schools are to develop and implement extreme weather protocols based on the guidelines established by CDE. The protocols are to be reviewed annually. The physical activity protocols do not include athletic programs administered by CIF.

Practice Pointer

LEAs will want to consider initiating discussions now regarding how they will address heat protocols in anticipation of a legislative appropriation. Items to consider include facility and employee contract issues.



SB 1283

Boards: Social Media Policy

Operative January 1, 2025

Authorizes the governing body of a school district, county office of education, or charter school to adopt a policy to limit or prohibit students from using social media while at school or under the supervision of an employee.

SB 1318

Boards: Suicide Policy

Operative July 1, 2026

By July 1, 2026, requires CDE to update their model suicide prevention policy to address crisis intervention protocols. School districts, county offices of education, state special schools, and charter schools are further required to review and update their suicide policies to include crisis prevention protocols developed by CDE on or after July 1, 2026, or during the next scheduled review of their suicide prevention policies after that date.

AB 2302

Brown Act: Teleconferences

Operative January 1, 2025

There has been some confusion about the use of teleconferences post COVID-19 to attend local meetings. AB 2302 makes changes to the use of teleconference flexibility by a local governing body by limiting them to two (2) meetings per year if the legislative body regularly meets once per month or less; five (5) meetings a year if the legislative body regularly meets twice per month; or seven (7) meetings per year if the legislative body regularly meets three (3) or more times per month. The bill clarifies the definition of a meeting for counting how many times a member uses their teleconference flexibility so multiple meetings on the same day count as one (1) meeting.

Practice Pointer

Board Bylaws should be updated to reflect this change, with LEAs considering the inclusion of a tracking system for individual board members' use of teleconferences.

AB 2350

Brown Act: Emergency Notifications

Operative January 1, 2025

AB 2350 authorizes school district governing boards that hold emergency meetings required by the Brown Act to send notifications by email instead of telephone, to all local newspapers, radio and television stations that have requested notification.

Practice Pointer

Board Bylaws should be updated to reflect this change.



AB 2715

Brown Act: Closed Session

Operative January 1, 2025

Due to the increase of threats to local governmental entities, including schools, this bill expands the ability for a legislative body to discuss public security issues during closed session to include a threat to critical infrastructure controls or information relating to cybersecurity. In addition, legislative bodies may include law enforcement or security personnel in their closed session discussions.

Practice Pointer

This change in closed session meetings maintains current posting requirements.

AB 453

Elections: District-Based

Operative Immediately

Requires school districts and other political subdivisions set a specific time when holding a public hearing to receive input on the drawing of new trustee district lines. A governing body is able to conclude an item being discussed or acted upon, including public comment, even if the set time for the new district lines has arrived before moving to the next item.

AB 2041

Elections: Use of Campaign Funds

Operative January 1, 2025

AB 2041 expands the use of campaign funds to costs related to security to protect the candidate, elected official, or a member of their immediate family or staff. There is a \$10,000 lifetime cap on funds that may be used. If a candidate wishes to spend campaign funds for security expenses, a form must be sent to the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC), signed under penalty of perjury, that describes the threat or potential threat necessitating the use of these funds.

AB 1796

Parental Notification: Course Offerings

Operative January 1, 2025

For students advancing to or in grades 7 to 12, this bill adds to the annual parental notification requirements from school districts, county offices of education, or charter schools any dual enrollment or International Baccalaureate opportunities offered.

AB 2690

Parental Notification: Synthetic Drugs

Operative January 1, 2025

Adds to the annual parental notification requirements from school districts, county offices of education or charter school information on the dangers associated with using synthetic drugs not prescribed by a physician, such as fentanyl and the risk that social media platforms are being used to market and sell these products.



AB 2179

Parental Notification: Apprenticeships

Operative January 1, 2025

For students advancing to or in grades 11 and 12, LEAs must add to the annual school district parental notification requirements information on local apprenticeship programs and pre-apprenticeship programs.

SB 691

Parental Notification: Truancy

Operative July 1, 2025

Beginning July 1, 2025, school districts are required to notify a student's parent or guardian if their student is classified as truant. The notification must include information on school personnel available to support the student and the family.

AB 1785

Public Records Act: Home Address Privacy

Operative January 1, 2025

To help ensure the safety of elected or appointed officials, a public entity is prohibited from publicly posting both the name and assessor parcel number associated with their home address on the internet without first obtaining approval from the individual. The provisions of the bill do not prohibit a state or local agency from posting legally required notices or publications of an elected or appointed official.

SB 1034

Public Records Act: State of Emergency

Operative January 1, 2025

The increase in natural disasters occurring throughout the state often makes it difficult for PRA requests to be responded to in the legal timeframe. SB 1034 adds another unusual circumstance under which the initial response time to a PRA request may be extended by up to 14 days. The extension includes the need to search for, collect, and appropriately examine records during a state of emergency proclaimed by the Governor where the agency is located. The bill specifically states that this exemption only applies to records that are not related to the state of emergency.

AB 2165

Students: Financial Aid Opt-Out

Operative January 1, 2025

Under existing law, every student in the 12th grade must be given a FAFSA or CA Dream Act, (CDAA) application and instructions on how to complete it. As a result of this recent law, application rates have increased to over 61%. To push for a higher completion rate, AB 2165 requires additional information to be provided to a student and the student's parent/guardian prior to granting an exemption to filling out the application. A school district, county office of education, or charter school must provide the purpose and benefits of the FAFSA/CDAA and the consequences of not filling out the application to the student through a meeting with their school counselor, or if there is no school counselor, another school employee. If the student is exempted from filling out the application, the local agency shall complete and submit the opt-out form on the student's behalf and notify the parent/legal guardian of the exemption.



SB 1063

Students: ID Cards

Operative July 1, 2025

Beginning July 1, 2025, requires all public and private schools serving students in grades 7-12 that issue ID cards, to print on their ID cards the Uniform Resource Locator, URL, for the local county mental health agency's website. Schools do not have to comply with this provision until they have depleted their current stock of ID cards.





Students and Instruction

AB 1113

CALPADS: ELOP Reporting

Operative 2025-26 School Year

Beginning in the 2025-26 school year, CDE will add annual student data for each student enrolled in an expanded learning program including, but not limited to, the Expanded Learning Opportunity Program (ELOP) the After School Education and Safety Program (ASES), and the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) to the CALPADS reporting requirement. This data is to be collected and integrated into the reporting requirements for CALPADS.

SB 1504

Cyberbullying: Cyberbullying Protection Act

Operative January 1, 2025

The Student Cyberbullying Protection Act requires media platforms to disclose all cyberbullying reporting procedures in its term of service. SB 1504 extends the Act's definition of cyberbullying to include acts committed by any person directed toward one or more minors. The bill outlines the social media platform's process and timeline for reporting and responding to cyberbullying. In addition to a parent or legal guardian, school site administrators are granted the ability to file a civil action on behalf of the student.

Practice Pointer

Social media platform contracts are typically approved at the district level. The Terms of Service provided by the social media company must include the process and timeline for reporting incidents of cyberbullying. LEAs should develop a process for identifying the Terms of Service and sharing the reporting process and timelines with site administrators.

AB 1884

Excused Absences: Uniformed Deployment

Operative January 1, 2025

Allows a student an excused absence for spending time with a member of their immediate family who is an active-duty member of the military and has been called to duty, is on leave, or has immediately returned from deployment including in a non-combat zone.

SB 1138

Excused Absences: Military Entry Processing

Operative January 1, 2025

Allows a student an excused absence due to participation in military entrance processing.



AB 2927

Instruction: Personal Finance

Operative 2030-31 School Year

Earlier this year, voters in California gathered enough signatures to place a personal finance course requirement for high school students on the November 5, 2024, ballot. Setting a precedent for voters to direct curriculum in our public schools raised many concerns from educators and policy makers. As a result, the Legislature placed the requirement in law instead of a ballot initiative. Beginning in the 2030-31 school year, a stand-alone personal finance semester course will become a high school graduation requirement. The Instructional Quality Commission (IQC) is required to develop curriculum and resources by May 31, 2026, followed by approval by the State Board of Education.

SB 1244

Instruction: Dual Enrollment

Operative January 1, 2025

A governing board of a community college district is currently authorized to enter into a College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) partnership with a governing board of a school district within their service area. A service area is generally agreed to be the K-12 district(s) located within the district boundaries of a community college district. SB 1244 extends the ability for school districts to partner with a community college district outside of their service area if the service area community college district has declined or failed to act within 60 days of a request to enter into a CCAP agreement from a K-12 district, or, the service area community college district has declined or failed to act on a request from a K-12 district to approve another community college district to enter into a CCAP partnership.

AB 1938

Special Education: Inclusion and Universal Design for Learning

Operative July 1, 2025

Requires school districts, county offices of education, or charter schools, to consider when implementing inclusion and universal design for learning initiatives and when developing specified plans for placement of deaf, hard of hearing, visually impaired, or deaf-blind students, be placed in settings that provide full access to language and specialized services in a least restrictive environment.

AB 2173

Special Education: Emotional Disability

Operative January 1, 2025

The term emotional disturbance as defined in federal law and used throughout state law is considered by many as outdated and inappropriate. AB 2173 specifies that the term "emotional disturbance" may also be known as "emotional disability" while keeping the criteria for accessing services unchanged in both federal and state law.



SB 445

Special Education: IEP Template

Operative January 1, 2027

SB 445 requires the CDE to translate the final draft of the state standardized individual education program, IEP, template into the top 10 most spoken languages used across the state, other than English, by January 1, 2027, or no later than 18 months after the final draft is converted to a digital platform. The templates must be made available on the CDE website, and school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools are to be notified when the templates are available.

AB 438

Students: Higher Education Transition Plan

Operative July 1, 2025

Over half of the states start their postsecondary transition plans for students with exceptional needs at age 14. California has lagged behind when identifying students with exceptional needs with a postsecondary transition plan at the age of 16. Beginning July 1, 2025, AB 438 changes the age from 16 to when the student starts high school and not later than the first IEP to be in effect when the student is 16 years of age.

AB 1984

Students: Transfer Report for Discipline

Operative 2026-27 School Year

Beginning in the 2026-27 school year, school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools are required to report to CDE data on student transfers due to disciplinary reasons, including whether the student was transferred to an alternative school based on a referral by the school. The CDE is required to post the information on their website.

AB 2137

Students: Homeless and Foster Youth

Operative January 1, 2025

This bill eliminates the school district waiver that currently allows school districts to shift the provision of direct services for foster youth to the Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program (FYSCP). AB 2137 eliminates the reference to school districts entering into a temporary agreement with FYSCPs and specifies that the FYSCPs foster youth educational services coordinator, rather than the school district, is to determine if the program's coordinating services are unable to secure, instead of provide tutoring, mentoring or counseling services. Authorizes the program to directly provide those services to the student.

AB 2181

Students: Juvenile Court Schools

Operative January 1, 2025

This bill aligns exemptions from local graduation requirements for juvenile court students with those for students in foster care, students who are homeless, former students at a juvenile court school, child of a military family, or a migrant student. Conditions for a juvenile court student to be exempt from local high school graduation requirements include the student transfers into a juvenile court school after the completion of a student's second year of high school; the student is in their third or fourth year of high school, or the county office of education does not make a finding that the student is reasonably able to complete the local graduation requirements in time to graduate from high school by the end of the student's fourth year of high school.



AB 2268

Students: English Language Proficiency Assessment

Operative Immediately

This bill exempts students in transitional kindergarten (TK), from being assessed for English language development using the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California. Excludes TK students from being assessed for initial identification as an English learner upon their initial enrollment. The bill became law when it was signed on June 15, 2024.

AB 2630

Students: Oral Health

Operative January 1, 2025

This bill expands the Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment to include both kindergarten students and transitional kindergarten students. A student only has to show proof once upon first enrollment during the two-year kindergarten program.

AB 2711

Students: Suspensions and Expulsions

Operative January 1, 2025

If a student voluntarily discloses their use of a controlled substance, alcohol, tobacco product, or intoxicant of any kind in order to seek help through services or support, he/she shall not be suspended or expelled solely for disclosing their need for help.

SB 483

Students: Prone Restraint

Operative January 1, 2025

This bill eliminates the use of prone restraint by school districts, county offices of education, charter schools, state special schools, and nonpublic schools and agencies located within or out of the state of CA. SB 483 defines prone restraint "to include the application of a behavioral restraint on a student in a facedown position for any period of time, including the procedure known as prone containment.





Miscellaneous

SB 1288

AI: Education Work Group

Operative January 1, 2025

Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to convene a working group on artificial intelligence, AI, comprised of current elementary and secondary teachers, classified public school staff, school site administrators, school district or county office of education administrators, university and community college faculty, representatives of private sector business with expertise in AI, and public-school students. By January 1, 2026, the working group is charged with developing guidance on the safe use of AI in education. By July 1, 2026, the group is charged with developing a model policy on the safe and effective use of AI in schools. The guidance and policy recommendations are to be posted on the CDE website.

AB 3074

Athletics: CA Racial Mascot Act

Operative July 1, 2026

By July 1, 2026, all public K-12 schools will be prohibited from using any derogatory Native American term for school or athletic team names, mascots, or nicknames. Schools operated by an Indian tribe or tribal organization are exempted from the provisions of this bill. Public schools may continue to use uniforms or other materials bearing a derogatory Native American term if they were purchased before July 1, 2026, and the school selects a new school or athletic team name, mascot, or nickname.

Practical Pointer

If you are a school that falls under the provisions of AB 3074, please read the bill closely.

There are several more requirements that must be followed in order to be eligible to continue the use of uniforms and equipment purchased prior to July 1, 2026.

AB 2377

Physical Education: Religious Fasting

Operative January 1, 2025

Students in grades K-12 are to be granted accommodation in connection with any PE course during a period of religious fasting. A student's parent or guardian is required to submit written notification to the school principal that the student is participating in religious fasting. The bill requires a student to be credited with instructional time for any time the student is excused for this purpose and upon completion of alternative assignments or activities.



AB 1971

Privacy: Student Testing Information

Operative January 1, 2025

Vendors of standardized assessments can collect and retain a great deal of information about students who use their products. Even with enacted student privacy laws, gaps still exist. Proponents of AB 1971 believe California's Student Online Personal Information Protection Act (SOPIPA) contains ambiguity related to the entities SOPIPA applies to. Many standardized testing organizations have determined that the protections SOPIPA gives students does not apply to personal information they are collecting on students. AB 1971 enhances student privacy protection related to national assessment providers clarifying that a national assessment provider shall not knowingly disclose covered information.

SB 1315

Reports: Annual Reporting Requirements

Operative January 1, 2025

Mandated state and federal reporting requirements are numerous and often duplicative, redundant, and cumbersome. The surge of state and federal funding during the pandemic resulted in the proliferation of new programs and applications accompanied by even more reports, plans, data submission and more. The bill requires CDE to conduct a report on the number and types of reports school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools are required to submit on an annual basis. Included in this report will be recommendations for which reports can be eliminated and consolidated. The report is to be submitted to the Governor, Legislature and the Superintendent of Public Instruction by March 1, 2025.

AB 2481

Social Media: Threats

Operative January 1, 2026

Noting the increase in threats to schools and students through social media, AB 2481 requires large social media platforms to develop a mechanism for verified reporters to report social media-related threats. Verified reporters are defined as a school principal or a position of similar responsibility and a CA licensed mental health professional who provides mental health services to minors in the state. Large social media platforms must establish an internal process to receive and respond within 72 hours, or within 24 hours if the report is of a severe risk. A severe risk is a social media-related threat that more than likely will cause serious bodily or mental harm to a child. The mechanisms outlined in this bill must be in place by January 1, 2026.

Practice Pointer

While AB 2481 does not place a new mandate on schools, principals and school psychologists are given authority as a verified reporter to make a report of a threat. The employees authorized to make a threat report should be provided with training on the bill and the reporting process since they are a verified reporter under the law.



SB 976

Social Media: Social Media Addiction Act

Operative January 1, 2027

A recent advisory from the U.S. Surgeon General on the impact of social media on children's mental health, highlights that 95% of 13–17-year-olds and nearly 40% of youth ages 8-12 report using a social media platform with one-third saying they use social media almost constantly. This bill seeks to regulate how social media companies can use certain addictive design feeds to children by requiring parental consent and prohibits sending notifications to minors between the hours of 12 a.m. and 6 a.m. and between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. without parental consent. This bill requires operators to make available to parents protective measures for controlling access to features of the platform for their children.

Practice Pointer

SB 976 does not place a new mandate on schools, but the social media prohibition is in effect when minors are in school. It is likely that technology companies will sue to prevent the new law from taking effect.



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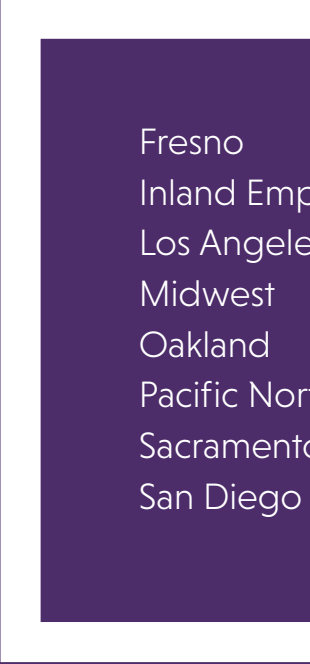
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