California Department of Education memo-exec-gad-jun25item01

Executive Office

SBE-002 (REV. 11/2017)

# MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** June 13, 2025

**TO:** MEMBERS, State Board of Education

**FROM:** TONY THURMOND, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT:** State Legislative Update, Including, but not Limited to, Information on the 2025–26 Legislative Session

# Summary of Key Issues

The California Department of Education (CDE) Government Affairs Division has identified bills that may affect policy related to the State Board of Education (SBE). The inclusion in this list does not constitute an SBE or State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SSPI) position for the legislation.

# Attachment(s)

Attachment 1: Legislative Update (11 pages)

# Attachment 1: Legislative Update

**These bills address relevant policy areas and/or impact the role of the State Board of Education (SBE). The inclusion in this list does not constitute an SBE or State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SSPI) position for the legislation.**

**The status of each bill is provided as of June 9, 2025.**

## **Accountability and Assessment**

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

This bill would extend the time by which a county superintendent of schools must perform the required inspection for the 2024-25 fiscal year list of schools eligible for monitoring pursuant to the settlement of Williams v. State of California (William’s list) from the first four weeks of the school year to the first eight weeks of the school year. The bill takes effect immediately as an urgency measure.

Location: Senate

**SB 835 (Ochoa Bogh) Pupil instruction: Cambridge International Education programs.**

This bill would (1) explicitly add the Cambridge International Level examinations to the list of authorized assessments that may be used to measure pupil academic growth for a principal evaluation and (2) expand the scope of an educational counseling program to explicitly include encouraging participation in Cambridge International programs for the purposes of college preparedness. The bill would also establish the intent of the Legislature that, for any privately developed program, curriculum, or examination to be identified by name in statute, the Legislature shall ensure that the program, curriculum, or examination meets specified criteria.

Location: Assembly

## **Charter Schools**

**AB 84 (Muratsuchi) School accountability: Office of the Education Inspector General: school financial and performance audits: charter school authorization, oversight, funding, operations, networks, and contracting: data systems: local educational agency contractor background checks.**

This bill would establish new requirements for charter schools in the areas of auditing and accounting standards, the funding determination process, contracting process, authorization of NCB charters by small districts, and the authorizer oversight responsibilities. This bill would also increase the oversight responsibilities for charter school authorizers and establish the Charter Authorizing Support Team at the Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT).

Location: Senate

SB 414 (Ashby) **School accountability: school financial and performance audits: chartering authorities: tort liability: educational enrichment activities: flex-based instruction.**

The bill would make changes to charter school law related to audit procedures, financial oversight, governance, and funding determinations, including expanding charter authorizer oversight duties, and requiring charter school governing boards to publicly review annual audit findings. It would also establish vendor contracting rules, direct the SBE to revise its funding determination process for charter schools, replaces references to “nonclassroom-based” charter schools with “flex-based” charter schools in statute and defines charter schools as public entities under the Government Claims Act.

Location: Assembly

## **College and Career**

**AB 500** (**Quirk-Silva**) **University of California: admissions changes.**

This bill would state the intent of the Legislature for a University of California proposal that would change the conditions for undergraduate admissions, to become operative only after certain actions have been taken, including providing the proposal to the official student organization representing the student body of the University of California, the SBE, and California State University for consideration, as well as the SBE and California State University Trustees have identified the proposal as an item for discussion and discussed the proposal at a meeting of each of these boards.

Location: Senate

**AB 731 (Fong) Pupil instruction: dual enrollment: College and Career Access Pathways partnerships.**

This bill would make changes to the College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) partnership to align with best practices, to streamline access to dual enrollment for high school students throughout the state.

Location: Senate

**SB 638 (Padilla) California Education and Workforce Development Coordinating Entity: Career Technical Education and Career Pathways Grant Program.**

This bill would create the Career Technical Education and Career Pathways Grant Program, administered by the SSPI, to support local educational agencies (LEAs) serving high-need areas. This bill would also establish the California Education and Workforce Development Coordinating Entity within the Government Operations Agency to serve as the statewide planning and coordinating body for career technical education (CTE), career pathways, and workforce development.

Location: Assembly

## **Curriculum and Instruction**

**AB 86 (Boerner) Instructional materials: health education.**

This bill would require the SBE to adopt instructional materials for health education by July 1, 2028, for grades kindergarten through 8.

Location: Senate

**AB 279 (Patel) School libraries: model library standards.**

This bill would require the SSPI to consider recommending to the SBE revisions to the standards for school library services.

Location: Senate

**AB 347 (Kalra) Pupil instruction: animal dissection.**

This bill would require a teacher to provide an alternative assignment for any student who chooses to refrain from participating in the dissection of animals beginning in the 2026-27 school year. The California Department of Education (CDE) will be required to develop a template for students to use to opt-out and make compliance with opt-out requirements subject to the Uniform Complaint Procedures.

Location: Senate

**AB 422 (Jackson) State Seal of Civic Engagement.**

This bill would require the SSPI to recommend revised criteria during the next update of the State Seal of Civic Engagement, to be approved by the SBE, that include a demonstrated understanding of the importance of preserving democracy and its vital institutions.

Location: Senate

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

This bill would eliminate the sunset on the authorization to use completion of a course in CTE to fulfill a course requirement to graduate from high school.

*Co-Sponsored by SSPI Thurmond*

Location: Senate

**AB 865 (González, Mark) Dual language immersion programs: instructional materials: grants.**

This bill would establish the Dual Language Immersion Education Instructional Materials Grant Program, to be administered by the SSPI, for purposes of providing one-time grants of $100,000 to school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools to increase available instructional materials in partner languages for dual language immersion programs at one or more school sites. The bill would make implementation of these provisions contingent upon an appropriation by the Legislature for these purposes in the annual Budget Act or another statute.

Location: Senate

**AB 887 (Berman) Pupil instruction: high schools: computer science courses: implementation guide.**

This bill would require the governing boards of school districts and charter schools with students in grades 9 to 12 to adopt a plan by January 1, 2027, to offer courses in computer science with all high schools in the district or charter offering at least one course by the 2029–30. It would also require the CDE to collect data on computer science course enrollment and develop computer science implementation guide.

Location: Senate

**AB 908 (Solache) Sex discrimination: social sciences instruction: compliance review.**

This bill would require the SSPI to include inclusive instruction in social sciences in the annual Coordinated Compliance Review Manual and require compliance monitoring of this instruction.

Location: Senate

**AB 1005 (Davies) Drowning prevention: public schools: informational materials: swim lesson vouchers and swim lesson directory.**

This bill would require the CDE to gather and post on its website school-based water safety and drowning prevention education resources and curriculum for public school use.

Location: Senate

**AB 1454 (Rivas) Pupil literacy: administrative services credential program standards and professional development: instructional materials.**

This bill would require the CDE to identify and post on its website a list of in-service professional development programs for effective means of teaching literacy for training teachers in transitional kindergarten through 5th grade. It would also require the SBE to conduct a follow-up instructional materials adoption for English language arts and English language development.

Location: Senate

**SB 334 (Reyes) Pupil instruction: sexual harassment, sexual assault, and sexual abuse prevention: safety.**

This bill would require the Instructional Quality Commission to consider including in the next revision of the Health Education Framework information on procedures for complaints and investigations relative to sexual harassment and abuse and encourage school districts to provide, as part of sexual health education, instruction that includes information on procedures for complaints and investigations relative to sexual harassment and abuse. This bill would also require the CDE to review, by January 1, 2028, the existing “California School Climate, Health, and Learning Survey System” to identify areas of the surveys where age-appropriate questions related to sexual harassment, sexual assault, and sexual abuse safety can be incorporated in order to ensure a safe campus climate.

Location: Assembly

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

This bill would require the Instructional Quality Commission to consider including content on the historical, social, economic, and political contributions of African Americans during the Spanish colonization of California, the Gold Rush Era, and Antebellum periods, when the SBE next revises the history-social science curriculum framework or adopts new instructional materials on or after January 1, 2026.

Location: Assembly

**SB 745 (Ochoa Bogh) American government and civics: curriculum guide: State Seal of Civic Engagement.**

This bill would require the CDE and SBE, to contract with a county office of education (COE), or a consortium of COEs, to develop a curriculum guide for the one-year course in American government and civics. This bill would also require school districts participating in the State Seal of Civic Engagement to deem the completion of a one-year course in American government and civics as satisfying a specified criterion for receiving the seal.

Location: Assembly Education

**SB 845 (Pérez) Pupil instruction: career technical education, career education, and apprenticeships.**

This bill would require revisions to the process for updating model CTE curriculum standards by requiring consultation with CTE teachers and labor representatives; establish an interagency workgroup to develop occupational frameworks for youth apprenticeships; and the CDE must collect data on work-based learning participation.

Location: Assembly

## **Educator Preparation, Retention, and Support**

**AB 291 (Gipson) Teachers: credentialed educator apprenticeship programs.**

This bill would require the Commission on Teacher Credentialing and the Division of Apprenticeship Standards to partner in the dissemination, approval, and monitoring of credentialed educator apprenticeship programs in California, and to communicate apprenticeship requirements to professional preparation programs, local educational agencies, and other potential sponsors of educator apprenticeship programs.

Location: Senate

**AB 833 (Alvarez) Teachers: exchange programs: local educational agencies: sponsors.**

This bill would authorize LEAs, in addition to the CDE, to sponsor teachers from Mexico under the federal exchange visitor visa program known as J-1 visa, for placement in California LEAs.

Location: Senate

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

This bill would authorize a COE, a school district, or a regionally accredited institution of higher education to offer a one-year internship program for candidates for preliminary administrative credentials.

Location: Senate

**AB 1034 (Ávila Farías) Teacher credentialing: programs of professional preparation: youth mental health.**

This bill would require health education experience required as part of a teacher preparation program for a multiple or single subject credential to include a basic understanding of youth mental health.

Location: Senate

**AB 1119 (Patel) Teacher credentialing: dual credentialing: workgroup.**

This bill would require the CTC, by July 1, 2026, to convene a workgroup to recommend measures to develop and establish efficient routes for teacher candidates and existing teachers to obtain credentials authorizing them to teach students with and without disabilities, known as dual credentialing.

Location: Senate

**AB 1128 (Muratsuchi) California Student Teacher Support Grant Program.**

This bill would establish the California Student Teacher Support Grant Program, under the administration of the CTC, to award grants to teaching credential candidates to compensate the candidates while they perform the required student teaching. The bill would also require stipends for each student teacher to be equal to the daily substitute teacher rate for the applicant LEA.

Location: Senate

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

This bill would require the SSPI to establish the Holocaust and Genocide Education Grant Program to provide direct allocations to LEAs for the purposes of providing Holocaust and genocide education and professional training. This bill would require the CDE to issue a notice to LEAs serving pupils in grades 7 to 12, clarifying, that social science instruction is designed to provide a foundation for the understanding of human rights issues with particular attention to the study of the inhumanity of genocide, slavery, and the Holocaust. The bill would also authorize CDE to issue a survey to LEAs, no more than two years after the notice, on the status of Holocaust and genocide instruction at their schools.

Location: Assembly

## **Equity and Inclusion**

**AB 715 (Zbur) Educational equity: discrimination.**

This bill would prohibit the governing board of a school district, charter school, or a county board of education from allowing the use of any curriculum or instructional materials if it would subject a student to unlawful discrimination; changes the definition of nationality and religion for purposes of prohibitions on discrimination in public schools. The bill would also state the intent of the Legislature to strengthen protections against discrimination.

Location: Senate

## **Health and Wellness**

**AB 322 (Ward) Pupil health: school-based health services and school-based mental health services.**

This bill would require the CDE to encourage LEAs to participate in programs that offer reimbursement for school-based health and mental health services.

Location: Senate Education

## **Nutrition**

**AB 1264 (Gabriel) Pupil nutrition: particularly harmful ultraprocessed food: prohibition.**

This bill would require schools to begin to phase out particularly harmful ultraprocessed (UPF) foods by January 1, 2028; prohibit schools from selling particularly harmful UPFs to students beginning July 1, 2035.

Location: Senate

## **School Climate and Safety**

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

This bill would require the CDE to develop, post on its website, and distribute to LEAs, a model policy on how to address acts of cyberbullying occurring outside of school hours by June 30, 2026. LEAs would be required to adopt the model policy by July 1, 2027, and provide copies to staff, students, and parents.

Location: Senate

**AB 1230 (Bonta) Pupil discipline: expulsions: procedures.**

This bill would require a school district to develop a rehabilitation plan for a student who has been expelled from a school district and to include an assessment for readmission at least 45 days before the end of the expulsion term.

Location: Senate

## **School Finance**

AB 477 (Muratsuchi) **Local control funding formula: base grants: funding targets.**

This bill would establish Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) funding target levels for the 2036-37 fiscal year for the purpose of increasing school site employee salaries.

Location: Senate

SB 743 (Cortese) **Education finance: Education Equalization Act: Equalization Reserve Account.**

This bill would establish the Equalization Reserve Account in the General Fund. The funds in the account would be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to increase per-pupil funding in non-basic aid school districts, defined as school districts that received the above-described apportionment of LCFF funds in any of the preceding three fiscal years, in a manner prescribed by the Legislature.

Location: Assembly

## **Special Education**

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

This bill would require the SSPI to establish maximum recommended adult-to-student staffing ratios for special day classes for students with disabilities ages three to 22 by July 1, 2027. The bill would also require LEAs to take all reasonable steps to distribute workload associated with initial assessments across all resource specialists.

Location: Senate

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

This bill would clarify that the provision of special education and related services within a student’s individualized education program (IEP) may include only deaf and hard-of-hearing related services.

Location: Senate

**AB 1412 (Gonzalez, Jeff) Special education: pupil transfers: residency requirements: records.**

This bill would require a LEA, within 30 days of receipt of official records or specified unofficial records, to either adopt and implement the IEP previously adopted for the student or develop, adopt, and implement a new IEP that is consistent with federal and state law.

Location: Senate

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

This bill would eliminate the requirement that the SBE adopt an Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Addendum relating to improvements in services for individuals with exceptional needs. This bill would also extend by one year the sunset date on the requirement for the CDE to provide a report to the SSPI, the Governor, and the Legislature on the number and types of reports that LEAs are required to annually submit.

Location: Assembly

## **Other Notable Bills**

**AB 65 (Aguiar-Curry) School and community college employees: paid disability and parental leave.**

This bill would expand maternity leave for school employees, granting up to 14 weeks of leave with full pay when an employee is experiencing or has experienced pregnancy, miscarriage, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, or recovery from those conditions.

*Co-Sponsored by SSPI Thurmond*

Location: Senate

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

This bill would extend a pupil’s authorization to wear an adornment to school events that are related to graduation. The bill would clarify that what constitutes traditional regalia or recognized objects of religious or cultural significance is to be determined by the pupil and the pupil’s family and prohibits a preapproval process for a pupil to exercise their rights to wear an adornment and for a pupil to wear a cap if the cap is incompatible with the adornment.

Location: Senate Education and Judiciary