



## August 2023 Legislative Advocate Report

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### Senate Confirms State Board of Education Members

The State Senate recently confirmed the appointments of Dr. Linda Darling-Hammond, Dr. José Francisco Escobedo, and Ms. Alison Yoshimoto-Towery to the State Board of Education (BOE). CABE testified in support of all three BOE appointees during their hearing with the Senate Rules Committee. State Board President Darling-Hammond and Dr. Escobedo's terms will finish on January 15, 2027. Ms. Yoshimoto-Towery's term will end on January 15, 2025. Additional information about these appointees can be found on the BOE [website](#).

### Budget Update

The Senate and Assembly Budget Committees met on August 30<sup>th</sup> to hear final budget changes and related budget trailer bills. Included in this package is [AB 141](#), which includes an amendment that changes the long-term English learner (LTELs) reporting requirement from five to seven years. The intent of this change is to reduce the likelihood of overidentifying LTELs. CABE supported amendments led by Californians Together which sought to roll back a recent change in definition to LTELs that was included in [SB 114, the education omnibus trailer bill](#) which was included in the main budget package signed earlier this summer. While the final language included in AB 141 did not revert back to the initial definition of LTELs, CABE believes this is a step in the right direction.

The final budget bill junior and its associated budget trailer bills will now head to the floor of each house and will be taken up for votes in prior to September 14<sup>th</sup>.

### Senate Leadership Transitioning

Senate President pro Tempore Toni Atkins (D-San Diego) announced that she will be replaced in 2024 by Senator Mike McGuire (D-Healdsburg). President pro Tempore Atkins has been the first woman to hold this prestigious leadership position. As her successor, Senator McGuire will likely change both the chairs and the committee membership for Senate committees, which means both houses of the Legislature will likely be facing significant changes in leadership simultaneously.

## CABE/Californians Together 2023 Co-Sponsored Legislation Update

**Bilingual Teacher Professional Development Program: AB 1127 (Reyes)/Budget** –The funding and continuation of the Bilingual Teacher Professional Development Program (BTPDP) become law through SB 114, also known as the Education Omnibus Trailer Bill in early July. CABE, Californians Together, and Superintendent of Instruction Tony Thurmond, continue to collaborate with Asm. Reyes to move a modified version of AB 1127 (Reyes) forward. The bill is in the process of being amended to mirror current statute, while clarifying that participants who support bilingual teacher education in a multitude of languages, will be eligible to participate in the BTPDP. This bill is on the Senate Floor.

**AB 370 (Addis): State Seal of Biliteracy** – Would update the criteria required to obtain the State Seal of Biliteracy in order to make it equitable for all students to obtain and create a better understanding for all participating local educational agencies as to its implementation. This important measure is on the Senate Floor.

**AB 393 (L. Rivas): Child Care: Dual Language Learners** – Would expand asset-based dual language learner identification to general child care programs to help California achieve the goals of the Master Plan to support these students. This legislation will require the Department of Social Services, in consultation with the Department of Education, to create a process with the necessary guidelines and requirements regarding information to coordinate data collection for these students. This bill is on the Senate Floor.

## CABE-Supported Legislation Moving Forward

The Legislature returned from Summer Recess on August 14<sup>th</sup> and immediately got to work moving bills through the Appropriations Committees and finalizing negotiations on controversial bills. Legislation that did not pass out of the Appropriations Committees will become two-year bills. The last day for the Legislature to pass bills this year will be September 14<sup>th</sup>. The Legislature will begin its Interim Recess on September 14<sup>th</sup>.

Bills are beginning to move to the Governor's desk. Once a bill reaches his desk, he has 30 days to sign, veto, or take no action. If he takes no action, after 30 days, the bill will become law. Most bills that become law will go into effect on January 1, 2024.

Below, is a status update on recent action taken on CABE-supported bills:

**Support:** 

**AB 506 (Fong): Ethnic Studies** - Would create a seamless process to ensure that students who take an ethnic studies course within the community college system would be able to successfully transfer that course to the California State University (CSU) System. This process would be created through a collaboration between the CSU, the Community College Chancellor, and the CSU Council on Ethnic Studies. This bill was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File and is now a two-year bill.

**AB 714 (McCarty): Newcomer Pupils** - Would direct both the California Department of Education and California Department of Social Services to work collaboratively to create and provide instructional guidance to school districts to help to support newcomer students. The number of newcomer students who speak languages other than English is increasing, leaving a gap of need for families that require additional support and resources. This bill is on the Senate Floor.

**AB 1096 (Fong): Language of Instruction** – Would allow a community college to offer courses taught in languages other than English without requiring students enrolled in one of these courses to be concurrently enrolled in an English as a Second Language course. This bill was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File and is now a two-year bill.

**AB 1106 (Soria): PK-3 Early Childhood Education Specialist Credential** - Would create a grant program to increase the development and support for the PK-3 Early Childhood Education Specialist Credential pathway. This measure would provide an additional pathway to address this area of the teacher gap. CABE is particularly supportive of the work and support that are included in AB 1106, which will include increasing this support to bilingual authorization programs. This bill was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File and is now a two-year bill.

**AB 1354 (Fong): Curriculum** - Would ensure that when the Instructional Quality Commission next revises the history-social science curriculum framework they consider including the contributions made by Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, as well as highlight racism, discrimination, and violence that have been perpetrated against these critical communities. This bill passed the Legislature and signed by the Governor and will become law on January 1, 2024.

**SB 348 (Skinner): Pupil Meals** - Would require local educational agencies to provide free meals to students, including both breakfast and lunch, beginning with the 2024-25 school year. As poverty rates and family hunger increases, schools play an increasingly important role to bridge that hunger gap for children. This bill is on the Assembly Floor.

## Department of Finance Reports Moderate Changes

In the August [Finance Bulletin](#), released by the Department of Finance, moderate changes continued with slight downturns. The U.S. year-over-year headline inflation increased slightly from 3% to 3.2% in July, which was primarily due to gas prices.

Adjusting for delays and late tax returns, it appears the State General Fund revenues are relatively on track. Preliminary General Fund cash receipts in July were \$1.269 lower than the 2023-24 Budget Act, while July sales tax receipts did not include over \$650 million in receipts that shifted from July to August which means the total reflected may be softened. In addition, some of the July shortfall included \$404 million in personal income withholding. However, the overall cashflow continues to reflect the delay to file taxes until mid-October.

If the state has narrow now gaps in receipts compared to what was forecasted in budget projections, the state may have reduced fiscal gaps next year. If the economy continues to do well it is possible the projected fiscal gap may be smaller than anticipated.