



September 2023 Legislative Advocate Report

Prepared by Jennifer Baker, CABE Legislative Advocate

CABE/Californians Together Co-Sponsored Legislation Pass Legislature

All three co-sponsored bills passed the Legislature and are on the Governor's desk for consideration:

Bilingual Teacher Professional Development Program: AB 1127 (Reyes)/Budget – Would conform to existing law and clarify that participants currently enrolled or who have completed a program to support bilingual teacher education in languages reflective of those in California's educational system shall be eligible for professional development services. CABE believes this change will further enhance California's vision and support for the BTPDP and will help to expand the number of bilingual teachers trained to support our students.

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.

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.

Continued Positive Economic Indicators

The Department of Finance recently released its September [Finance Bulletin](#), which includes a mixed bag of inflation. While U.S. headline inflation and gasoline inflation accelerated, core inflation and shelter inflation decreased. California export trade was down in both June and July. Cash receipts are 11.1 percent higher than forecast in August, totaling \$1.344 billion. The first two months of the 2023-24 fiscal year are 0.3 percent higher than forecast. Personal income tax receipts were \$416 million higher than forecast in August at \$7.298 billion, corporation tax cash receipts were \$102 million above the forecast of \$384 million, and sales and use tax cash receipts were \$441 million above the forecast of \$3.557 billion. While the higher-than-forecasted amounts are not extremely significant, these are a

positive indicator that the economy may be improving somewhat, which could lead to a smaller-than-forecasted shortfall in next year's budget.

CABE-Supported Legislation on Governor's Desk

The Legislature adjourned for the year late in the night on September 14th, sending hundreds of additional bills to the Governor. This year, the Legislature introduced a ten-year high of more than 2,600 bills. The Governor has until October 14th 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 are additional CABE-supported bills on the Governor's desk:

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 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.

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.

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 was signed by the Governor on August 29th.

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 increase, schools play an increasingly important role in bridging that hunger gap for children.