



February 5, 2024

The Honorable Assembly Member Juan Carrillo
State Capitol
1021 O Street, Suite 4320
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 2071 (J. Carrillo)
Position: Co-Sponsor

Dear Assembly Member Carrillo:

The California Association for Bilingual Education (CABE) and Californians Together are pleased to co-sponsor AB 2071 (J. Carrillo), which would establish the English Learner Roadmap Implementation Grant Program to spur local education agency (LEA) implementation of the California English Learner Roadmap Policy and would create an English Learner Roadmap Parent Toolkit.

California currently enrolls 1.1 million English learner (EL) students in TK-12. Across the State, 60% of young children have a home language other than English. For these students, academic gaps persist, too many never achieve English proficiency, and academic outcomes still need to be higher.

In 2017 the State Board of Education unanimously adopted a new, comprehensive, assets-oriented, and research-based *California English Learner Roadmap* policy superseding the 1998 English learner policy which was based upon Proposition 227. This policy explicitly focuses on ELs in the context of the state's efforts to improve the educational system, the quality of teaching and learning, and educational outcomes – and its purpose is to support LEAs as they incorporate EL education into local programs, policies, and services.

The first five years of CA EL Roadmap policy implementation have produced some bright spots due to the effectiveness of the Educator Workforce Investment Grants, but that program alone is not enough to move the needle for systemic and broad change across the state. Recent findings from the field have documented, among major barriers to implementation of the EL Roadmap, a widespread lack of awareness, understanding and capacity among district staff and administrators related to building coherent and aligned systems and mechanisms to ensure that the promise of the EL Roadmap reaches all ELs in California.

AB 2071 (J. Carrillo) will create the necessary incentives and supports needed to facilitate the engagement of LEAs in embracing and further implementing the EL Roadmap.

Local District Incentive Grants for Comprehensive EL Roadmap Implementation

AB 2071 will ensure California is actively implementing the EL Roadmap in a more comprehensive and systematic manner by providing 25 three-year incentive and support grants to high-EL impact LEAs to engage in local planning and implementation efforts to enact the EL Roadmap.

Specifically, this measure would:

- Develop local comprehensive EL Roadmap implementation plans with clear and measurable goals (focusing on the four principles of the EL Roadmap);
- Align local policies and guidance to the EL Roadmap (e.g., EL master plans, district vision and goal statements, etc.);
- Build shared understanding and ownership across multiple roles, departments and stakeholders related to applying the vision and principles of the EL Roadmap;
- Create coherent district systems to support instructional improvement for ELs consistent with the EL Roadmap;
- Establish or strengthen progress monitoring and data systems for continuous improvement on programs and services aligned to EL Roadmap principles and goals;
- Build capacity and institute aligned professional learning across multiple roles for implementing evidence-based practices for EL success aligned to the EL Roadmap (including a TK-12 specific focus on the implementation of integrated and designated ELD, and bilingual/dual language pathways);
- Align resources with the EL Roadmap implementation plan to enact the principles of the EL Roadmap (e.g., LCAP alignment, hiring, materials);
- Engage technical assistance and professional learning services to bring EL/dual language expertise, and to provide facilitation support as needed for the LEA planning and implementation process;
- Require grantees to be equipped to serve as demonstration sites to model how a successful EL Roadmap implementation process looks, sounds, and works.

Priority focus for services under these grants would be LEAs in California with the greatest number of ELs, and the greatest concentration of ELs. The grantees must commit to serve as a resource for LEAs with smaller numbers or concentrations of ELs.

The California Department of Education would also be directed to convene a Community of Practice of leaders across the grantee districts for purposes of sharing lessons learned, models, and any materials/tools/resources that may be developed in the course of the planning and implementation phases.

EL Roadmap Parent Toolkit

California does not have a parent toolkit that could serve as a guide to help districts implementing the CA EL Roadmap, as well as those that plan to integrate it into their LEAs in the future. LEAs lack the necessary guidance to ensure parents and families of

ELs play an integral role in guiding their children to linguistic fluency and academic success in English and other languages.

The EL Roadmap is a comprehensive plan for LEAs that requires a multi-year implementation period. To achieve this goal, parents need a clear guide that breaks down ways they can engage in the implementation process for each principle. By requiring a toolkit that parents can use to understand what each principle offers, and what questions to ask, LEAs will be better aligned to fully achieve the implementation of the EL Roadmap.

To assist districts with this process, AB 2071 would require the State Board of Education to create and adopt a “California English Learner Roadmap: Parent Toolkit,” by December 31, 2025, which would be available to LEAs to assist them as they implement the CA EL Roadmap.

This solution would allow parents and community leaders to forge a common language and understanding of the CA EL Roadmap principles and its elements to value students’ native languages, thereby promoting bilingualism. It will additionally raise educational expectations for all students, and foster ELs’ equitable access to quality teaching and learning.

With such a significant number of ELs in California’s schools, it is imperative that the State not only lead the nation with a strong policy but that it take proactive measures to ensure this policy is being actively implemented in schools across the state. AB 2071 will ensure California’s ELs receive the support by providing their parents and families guidance through the EL Roadmap Parent Toolkit.

CABE and Californians Together thank you for your continued support and leadership to support California’s English learners. Should you have any questions regarding our requests, feel free to reach out to CABE’s Legislative Advocate Jennifer Baker at jbaker@m-w-h.com, or Californians Together’s Legislative Advocate Cristina Salazar at cristina@californianstogether.org.

Sincerely,



Dr. Edgar Lampkin
CABE Chief Executive Officer



Martha Hernandez
Californians Together, Executive Director