



February 2024 Legislative Advocate Report

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CABE Co-Sponsored Bills Introduced

AB 2071 (J. Carrillo): Would establish the English Learner Roadmap Implementation Grant Program to assist in the implementation of the California English Learner Roadmap Policy. The State Board of Education would also be tasked with creating a California English Learner Roadmap: Parent Toolkit by 2025. CABE and Californias Together are co-sponsoring this important measure, which is also a budget priority with a cost of approximately \$30 million.

AB 2074 (Muratsuchi): Would task the California Department of Education (CDE) with creating an implementation plan for the California English Learner Roadmap Policy and also requires designated staff at CDE to serve as a point of reference to ensure the implementation plan that is created roles out and gets to all the school districts; these staffers would serve as a point of reference and assistance. Californians Together and CABE are co-sponsoring this bill, which is also a budget priority. The total costs of the bill are still unknown but will be incorporated into CABE's budget priorities.

AB 2268 (Muratsuchi): Would exempt transitional kindergarten students from the administration of the English Language Proficient Assessments for California. Early Edge, Californians Together, and CABE are co-sponsoring this much-needed measure.

Bills may not be amended or moved to a policy committee until after they have been in print for 30 days. These bills will all be heard in the Assembly Education Committee on March 20th. As details emerge, CABE will send out Legislative Alerts for support from CABE members.

Science of Reading Mandated in New Legislation

Assembly Member Rubio introduced AB 2222, which would create a statewide framework for all reading instruction to adhere to the "science of reading (SOR)". Sponsored by EdVoice, Families in Schools, and Decoding Dyslexia CA. This bill would mandate all future reading literacy instruction and professional development for that instruction through the 8th grade to be based upon the SOR, which has not been proven to be beneficial for California's English Learners (ELs). CABE strongly opposes this one-size-fits-all approach and urges opposition from all CABE members. The bill will likely be heard on either April 10th or 24th in the Assembly Education Committee. Once CABE knows when this hearing will take place, we will send out a Legislative Alert to our members to join us in Sacramento to oppose this bill.

LAO Recommends Additional Proposition 98 Decreases

The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) released their overview of the Governor's proposed budget, titled [*The 2024-25 Budget: Proposition 98 and K-12 Education*](#), which recommends additional cuts to Proposition 98 in 2023-24 and 2024-25, while planning for further reductions in the future should revenues not improve. The LAO notes that according to their forecast earlier this month, Proposition 98 has \$5.2 billion less than what is contemplated in the Governor's proposed budget in 2023-24 and \$2.5 billion less in 2024-25.

The LAO recommends rejecting the Governor's funding mechanism to protect Proposition 98 from cuts this year as it will cause additional funding limitations in the future. They additionally recommend rejecting the proposed cost-of-living adjustment, as well as a number of additional one-time increases.

While the LAO does make a number of recommendations that would be fiscally and politically difficult for schools, it does not mean that the Legislature or Governor will support or enact these recommendations. Their advice is meant to spur conversation about what fiscal tools the Legislature may use when putting together both short and long-term solutions to address the current fiscal shortfall. That said, it is likely additional cuts, on top of what was proposed in the Governor's budget, could likely materialize when the Governor issues his May Revision of the budget.

Senator McGuire, New Senate Pro Tempore

Senator McGuire from Santa Rosa was sworn in as the new Senate Pro Tempore on the 5th. Pro Tempore McGuire comes from a family of prune and grape farmers and has significant experience in governance through his work as a local school board trustee, city council member, and member of the board of supervisors. He has a strong educational background and served on the Senate Education Committee for numerous years. His wife, Erika, is an elementary school principal.

New Senate Committee Chairs and Members

The following are the primary Committee Chairs and Committee Members with purview over CABE priorities:

Senate Appropriations Committee: Senator Caballero (D-Merced), (Chair), Senator Jones (R-San Diego), (Vice-Chair), Senator Ashby (D-Sacramento), Senator Becker (D-Menlo Park), Senator Bradford (D-Gardena), Senator Seyarto (R-Murrieta), and Senator Wahab (D-Hayward). Senator Caballero will assume her position on March 11th.

Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee: Senator Wiener (D-San Francisco), (Chair), Senator Niello (R-Fair Oaks), (Vice-Chair), Senator Skinner (D-Berkeley), (Chair Emeritus), Senator Allen (D-Santa Monica), Senator Becker (D-Menlo Park), Senator Blakespear (D-Encinitas), Senator Dahle (R-Bieber), Senator Durazo (D-Los Angeles), Senator Talamantes Eggman (D-Stockton), Senator Grove (R-Bakersfield), Senator Laird (D-Santa Cruz), Senator Menjivar (D-San Fernando Valley), Senator Min (D-Irvine), Senator Newman (D-Fullerton), Senator Padilla (D-San Diego), Senator Roth (D-Riverside), Senator Seyarto (R-Murrieta), Senator Smallwood-Cuevas (D-Los Angeles), Senator Wahab (D-Hayward), and Senator Wilk (R-Santa Clarita).

Budget Subcommittee #1 on Education: Senator Laird (D-Santa Cruz), (Chair), Senator Min (D-Irvine), and Senator Wilk (R-Santa Clarita).

Senate Education Committee: Senator Newman (D-Fullerton), (Chair), Senator Ochoa Bogh (R-Yucaipa), (Vice-Chair), Senator Cortese (D-San Jose), Senator Glazer (D-Contra Costa), Senator Gonzalez (D-Long Beach), Senator Smallwood-Cuevas (D-Los Angeles), and Senator Wilk (R-Santa Clarita).

Asm. Budget Subcommittee 3 on Education Finance Starts First Hearing on Higher Education

New Chair, Asm. Alvarez shared his background as a child of immigrants who attended public schools. He was an Extended Opportunities Programs and Services student as well as an English learner. He noted the Assembly will be focusing their discussions on long-term fiscal solutions as they deal with the budget shortfall. He would like to discuss the concept of a higher education reserve as a long-term option for California's community colleges, the California State University, and the University of California.

Opportunities vs. Reduced Revenues

This month, the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) released [Key Fiscal and Policy Issues Facing California](#), which provides a macro resource for understanding how and what they research. The report begins with a comprehensive approach to understanding how economic inequality impacts different populations within California, as well as how this can impact upward mobility, then takes a look at the business climate across the state and its impact on California's economic competitiveness and job creation.

When reviewing California's educational system, the LAO reflects on how access and outcomes impact various educational segments. While Latino students make up the largest student population in the state, they graduate high school and attend the University of California at a lower rate than other student populations.

In addition to this macro report, the LAO also updated their ["Big Three" Revenue Outlook](#), which projects an estimated \$24 billion overall reduction across 2022-23 through 2024-25, below what is projected in the Governor's proposed budget. This has the possibility of resulting in lower overall revenues and funding in the May Revision, including CABE budget priorities.

Cash Receipts Continue to Decline

The [Department of Finance](#) issued their [February Finance Bulletin](#), which noted U.S. real GDP remains relatively strong, growing at 3.3% in the fourth quarter of 2023. U.S. headline inflation continues to decelerate down to 3.1%, with core inflation holding at 3.9%.

Cash receipts are \$5.9 billion below the Governor's 2024-25 budget projections due to weaker personal income tax estimated payments, reflecting a total of \$4.6 billion below forecast expectations. Corporate tax cash receipts are also coming in lower than projected by \$980 million, as well as sales and use tax cash receipts, which were \$53 million below the January forecast.

As revenues continue to come in lower than projected, the likelihood that additional overall cuts to the Governor's proposed budget becomes more likely. It will be important to pay attention to the actual tax returns that will be reflected on April 15th to get an idea of how it will likely shape the Governor's May Revision.