



## March 2024 Legislative Advocate Report

Prepared by Jennifer Baker, CABE Legislative Advocate

### CABE Co-Sponsored Bills Move to Appropriations Committee

Two of CABE's co-sponsored bills were passed by the Assembly Education Committee on March 20<sup>th</sup> and have been sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

**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 Californians Together are co-sponsoring this important measure, which is also a budget priority with a cost of approximately \$30 million. CABE was honored to have Superintendent Elodia Ortiz-Lampkin testify as a witness in support of the bill.

**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. CABE was honored to have CEO Dr. Lampkin as a witness in support of the bill.

The third co-sponsored bill is scheduled to be heard by the Assembly Education Committee on Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>:

**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.

### Science of Reading Mandated in New Legislation

CABE and Californians Together are asking our friends and family to contact members of the Assembly Education Committee to urge them to vote "NO" on AB 2222 (Rubio). This bill would mandate the strict use of the science of reading, focused once again on foundational skills, for all children, including our English learners, from transitional kindergarten through the eighth grade. It would also mandate all professional development for teachers and schools be based solely on the science of reading.

CABE and Californians Together are strongly opposed to the sole use of the science of reading as it is not proven to address the needs of California's Emergent Bilingual/English learner students. We know teaching our students to read and write in English and other languages is a top priority, AND, we

strongly believe our students need other literacy elements beyond the science of reading to become proficient readers. Educators need the professional trust to know how to best teach their students.

Using a one-size-fits-all approach does not provide an equitable path for the success of our Emergent Bilingual/English learners. California can do better. Please contact members of the Assembly Education Committee and urge them to vote NO on AB 2222 (Rubio).

If you have not already contacted members of the Assembly Education Committee, please do so now!

**SAMPLE MESSAGE:**

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am asking you to vote no on AB 2222 by Assembly Member Rubio. This bill would mandate solely the strict use of the science of reading as a one-size-fits-all on foundational skills, for all children, including our English learners, from transitional kindergarten through the eighth grade. All children, including English learners, need more tools to support reading and literacy but it should not be at the expense of those students who are biliterate.

Please vote no on AB 2222 when it is heard in the Assembly Education Committee.

Thank you

**Contact Information:**

Assembly Education Committee Members	Political Party	Phone	Email
Asm. Al Muratsuchi, Chair	D	(916) 319-2066	<a href="mailto:assemblymember.muratsuchi@assembly.ca.gov">assemblymember.muratsuchi@assembly.ca.gov</a>
Asm. Megan Dahle	R	(916) 319-2001	<a href="mailto:assemblymember.dahle@assembly.ca.gov">assemblymember.dahle@assembly.ca.gov</a>
Asm. Dawn Addis	D	(916) 319-2030	<a href="mailto:assemblymember.addis@assembly.ca.gov">assemblymember.addis@assembly.ca.gov</a>
Asm. David Alvarez	D	(916) 319-2080	<a href="mailto:assemblymember.alvarez@assembly.ca.gov">assemblymember.alvarez@assembly.ca.gov</a>
Asm. Mia Bonta	D	(916) 319-2018	<a href="mailto:assemblymember.mbonta@assembly.ca.gov">assemblymember.mbonta@assembly.ca.gov</a>
Asm. Josh Hoover	R	(916) 319-2007	<a href="mailto:assemblymember.hoover@assembly.ca.gov">assemblymember.hoover@assembly.ca.gov</a>
Asm. Kevin McCarty	D	(916) 319-2006	<a href="mailto:assemblymember.mccarty@assembly.ca.gov">assemblymember.mccarty@assembly.ca.gov</a>

**Senate Releases Budget Proposal**

In mid-March, the Senate released their first step of a two-part process to address the budget shortfall. The *Shrink the Shortfall* proposal includes many of the Governor’s January proposals and advocates these solutions be immediately enacted to allow the Legislature and Governor to focus on the remaining budget shortfall. This first step recognizes a projected \$38-53 billion shortfall and includes approximately \$17.1 billion in solutions, leaving a remaining \$9-24 billion to be addressed in the 2024-25 budget. The plan includes the recommended use of the Rainy Day Fund proposed by the Governor,

as well as utilizing overall program reductions, fund shifts, delays, and deferrals. The two proposals included that would impact public education include the Governor's proposal to reduce the School Facility Program by \$500 million. as well as delaying \$550 million for the Preschool, Transitional Kindergarten, and Full-Day Kindergarten Facility Program.

### Asm. Budget Subcommittee 3 on Education Finance Discusses Department of Education

The Budget Subcommittee held a hearing on March 12<sup>th</sup>, which included a discussion on the existing teacher shortage and the need to recruit and retain more teachers. Asm. Muratsuchi brought up the Bilingual Teacher Professional Development Program and its importance to help increase the number of bilingual teachers in California classrooms. He also discussed the importance of implementing the English Learner Roadmap. Chair Alvarez brought up the importance of English Learner advocates at the local level to ensure they are discussing how local education agencies are planning on moving forward with the reading screening program included in last year's budget to ensure it will not impact them in a negative manner.

### CABE Bill Update

The following are CABE-supported bills and their Legislative location:

**AB 1805 (Ta)** – Would require that content standards incorporate the landmark desegregation case, *Mendez v. Westminster*, when they are revised. This bill has been referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

**AB 1821 (Ramos)** – Would ensure California's history is accurately taught, including its treatment of Native Americans with respect to teaching about Spanish missions as well as the Gold Rush Era. The bill was passed by the Assembly Education Committee on March 20<sup>th</sup> and has moved to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

**AB 2226 (Muratsuchi)** – Would expand the minimum day for kindergarten programs to full-time beginning in 2026-27. The bill is scheduled to be heard by the Assembly Education Committee on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

**SB 1056 (Rubio)** – Would expand the minimum day for kindergarten programs to full-time beginning in 2026-27. The bill is scheduled to be heard by the Senate Education Committee on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

**SB 1078 (Min)** – Creates legislative intent to establish an Office of Language Access, which would ensure that California's state agencies are able to provide information to our residents in the languages reflected within California to increase access to services by non-English speakers and equity in existing levels of effectiveness and equity towards all residents. The bill is in the Senate Rules Committee.

### February Revenues Improve

The [Department of Finance](#) released their [March Finance Bulletin](#), reporting that cash receipts for personal income taxes were \$579 million above the February forecast. While corporation tax cash receipts were \$165 million below the February forecast and sales and use tax cash receipts were \$148

million below this forecast, the overall improvement could signal the economy is beginning to level out. U.S. inflation in various sectors continues to fluctuate towards an overall decline, with U.S. Consumer Price Index inflation shifting to 3.2% in February.