



## **January 2025 Legislative Advocate Report**

**Prepared by Jennifer Baker, CABE Legislative Advocate**

### **CABE Supports Newly Introduced Legislation**

While the deadline to introduce legislation is not until February 21<sup>st</sup>, hundreds of bills have been introduced by the California Legislature. CABE had begun taking position on bills that have been introduced thus far and will continue to take positions on newly introduced legislation as additional bills are introduced. CABE has taken a support position on the following recently-introduced bills:

**AB 49 (Muratsuchi): Immigration Enforcement:** Would prohibit local educational agency school officials and employees from allowing federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials from entering a school site for any purpose without providing valid identification, a written statement of purpose, a valid judicial warrant, as well as receiving approval from the superintendent of the district, the county, or the principal of the charter school or their designee. Further requires the LEA to limit access to school facilities.

**AB 243 (Ahrens): Student Financial Aid Dependency Status:** Would require financial administrators of the California community colleges, California State University, or University of California, or the Student Aid Commission, to accept a sworn statement signed under penalty of perjury by a representative of a LEA, county welfare department, or probation department as sufficient document for student aid.

**SB 12 (Gonzalez): Immigrant and Refugee Affairs Agency:** Would create the Immigrant and Refugee Affairs Agency headed by a secretary appointed by the Governor, subject to Senate confirmation who would reduce obstacles and enhance immigration integration into California.

**SB 48 (Gonzalez): Immigration Enforcement at School Sites: prohibitions on access, sharing information, and law enforcement collaboration:** Would prohibit school districts, county offices of education, or charter schools and their personnel from allowing Immigration and Customs Enforcement to access a school campus without a judicial warrant. To the extent possible, would require local education agencies and their personnel to deny access and documentation, or disclosing or providing education records about a pupil, pupil's family, school employees, or teachers, without a judicial warrant.

### **CABE Holds Leadership Lobby Day**

On January 29<sup>th</sup>, CABE held a Lobby Day with key leaders of the Newsom Administration as well as both Senate and Assembly Leadership to convey CABE budget and legislative priorities. The priorities included the support of AB 49 (Muratsuchi), AB 243 (Ahrens), SB 12 (Gonzalez), and SB 48 (Gonzalez). CABE additionally conveyed support for budget priorities, including supporting immigrant communities, support to fully fund the implementation of AB 2074 (Muratsuchi 2024), and to provide

additional funding to continue the Educational Workforce Investment Grants. CABE attendees included: Dr. Edgar Lampkin, CABE Chief Executive Officer, CABE President-Elect; Dr. Lettie Ramírez, Director of Secondary & IHE Affairs; Mary Helen Ybarra, CABE Director of State/Legislative Affairs; Martha Zaragoza, CABE Senior Advisor; Dr. Annie BichLoan Duong, Region I Representative; Sally Fox, CABE Educational Policy Analyst; and Charles Bacon, CABE Legislative/Policy Coordinator Apprentice.

## **Newsom Introduced 2025-26 Budget Proposal**

Governor Newsom released his 2025-26 budget proposal January 10<sup>th</sup>. The overall budget totals \$322.2 billion, including \$228.9 billion in the General Fund. Reserves total \$16.9 billion, allocated as follows: \$10.9 billion in the Rainy Day Fund, \$1.5 billion in the Public School System Stabilization Account, and \$4.5 billion in the Special Fund for economic insecurities. Overall revenues have increased by \$16.5 billion but are still significantly impacted by revenue volatility due to California's progressive tax structure. The Governor also noted education will receive \$118.9 billion in TK-16 Proposition 98 funding for 2025-26, which includes \$24,764 in per pupil funding for 2025-26, with \$18,918 coming from Proposition 98. Additionally, a 2.43 percent cost-of-living adjustment is included in the proposed education budget.

CABE is appreciative that the Governor included the following literacy Instruction proposal: The budget recognizes investments in evidence-based literacy and professional learning to support the implementation of the English Language Arts/English Language Development (ELA/ELD) Framework. To provide local education agencies with instructional materials reflecting current research, to support current and future educators, and to implement the ELA/ELD Framework, the Literacy Roadmap, the English Learner Roadmap, and to assist LEAs in providing evidence-based literacy instruction to diverse learners, the following priorities are proposed:

- \$500 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund for TK-12 Literacy and Mathematics Coaches, building and expanding existing Literacy Coaches and Reading Specialists Grant Program. The new funding reflects an augment to \$500 million provided for Literacy Coaches in 2022 and 2023.
- \$40 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund in 2025-26 to support costs, such as screening materials and training for educators to administer literacy screenings. The 2023 budget required LEAs to begin reading screening for students in kindergarten through second grade for risk of reading difficulties, including dyslexia, by 2025-26.
- \$5 million Proposition 98 General Fund annually through 2029-30 to launch a Literacy Network within the Statewide System of Support to utilize as a clearinghouse for state-developed literacy resources, as well as to highlight high performing districts and best practices, while providing support to LEAs undergoing performance challenges.
- The Instructional Quality Commission is directed to initiate a follow-up adoption for ELA/ELD instructional materials while providing \$300,000 on-time non-Proposition 98 General Fund in 2024-25 for the Commission to develop a curriculum guide and resources in personal finance to implement AB 2927 (2024).
- Funds from the \$1.8 billion Student Support and Discretionary Block Grant will be available to provide professional development for teachers regarding the ELA/ELD Framework and the Literacy Roadmap.

## **CABE Advocates Budget Priorities**

Following the release of Governor Newsom's 2025-26 budget proposal, CABE shared CABE's budget priorities with both the Governor's office as well as legislative leadership in both the Senate and Assembly. CABE's fiscal priorities for 2025-26 include the request for policy and fiscal support for California's immigrant communities from Immigration and Customs Enforcement; both support and funding to ensure the full implementation of the ELA/ELD Framework and English Learner Roadmap; support of Governor Newsom's Literacy Instruction package with the recommendation that it specifically include biliteracy/multiliteracy; full funding the implementation of AB 2074 (Muratsuchi and Alvarez 2024); and funding to provide an additional \$20 million to continue the Educator Workforce Investment Grant.

## **Assembly Committee Chairs/Members Announced**

In late January, Speaker Rivas (D-Hollister) announced the committee members for the 2025 legislative year. A number of committees have increased the number of legislators included in the committee roster. Committee chairpersons yield a significant amount of influence and are often the most significant gatekeepers of bills under their jurisdiction. The most notable committeepersons that will impact education-related bills are:

### **Assembly Appropriations Committee**

Chair Buffy Wicks (D-Oakland); Asm. Kate Sanchez, Vice Chair; (R-Rancho Santa Margarita); Asm. Joaquin Arambula (D-Fresno); Asm. Lisa Calderon (D-Whittier); Asm. Jessica Caloza (D-Los Angeles); Asm. Diane Dixon (R-Newport Beach); Asm. Sade Elhawary (D-South Los Angeles); Asm. Mike Fong (D-Alhambra); Asm. Mark González (D-Los Angeles); Asm. Heather Hadwick (R-Redding); Asm. Gregg Hart (D-Santa Barbara); Asm. Blanca Pacheco (D-Downey); Asm. Gail Pellerin (D-Santa Cruz); Asm. José Solache (D-Lynwood); Asm. Tri Ta (R-Westminster).

### **Assembly Budget Committee**

Chair Jesse Gabriel (D-Encino); Asm. Heath Flora, Vice Chair, (R-Ripon); Asm. Dawn Addis (D-Morro Bay); Asm. Patrick Ahrens (D-Silicon Valley); Asm. David Alvarez (D-San Diego); Asm. Steve Bennett (D-Ventura); Asm. Mia Bonta (D-Alameda); Asm. Damon Connolly (D-San Rafael); Asm. Carl DeMaio (R-San Diego); Asm. Mike Fong (D-Alhambra); Asm. Heather Hadwick (R-Redding); Asm. Matt Haney (D-San Francisco); Asm. Gregg Hart (D-Santa Barbara); Asm. Corey Jackson (D-Moreno Valley); Asm. Tom Lackey (R-Palmdale); Asm. Alex Lee (D-Milpitas); Asm. Alexandra Macedo (R-Visalia); Asm. Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance); Asm. Liz Ortega (D-Hayward); Asm. Darshana Patel (D-San Diego); Asm. Joe Patterson (R-Rocklin); Asm. Cottie Petrie-Norris (D-Irvine); Asm. Sharon Quirk-Silva (D-Fullerton); Asm. James Ramos (D-San Bernardino); Asm. Chris Rogers (D-Santa Rosa); Asm. Pilar Schiavo (D-Santa Clarita Valley); Asm. Nick Schultz (D-Burbank); Asm. LaShae Sharp-Collins (D-San Diego); Asm. José Solache (D-Lynwood); Asm. David Tangipa (R-Fresno); Asm. Greg Wallis (R-Bermuda Dunes); Asm. Christopher Ward (D-San Diego); Asm. Lori Wilson (D-Suisun City).

## **Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 3 on Education Finance**

Chair David Alvarez (D-San Diego); Asm. Mike Fong (D-Alhambra); Asm. Heather Hadwick (R-Redding) Asm. Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance); Asm. Darshana Patel (D-San Diego); Asm. Gerg Wallis (R-Bermuda Dunes); Asm. Jesse Gabriel – Democratic Alternate, (D-Encino); Asm. Heath Flora – Republican Alternate, (R-Ripon); Assembly Education Committee; Chair Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance); Asm. Josh Hoover, Vice Chair, (R-Folsom); Asm. Dawn Addis (D-Morro Bay); Asm. David Alvarez (D-San Diego); Asm. Mia Bonta (D-Alameda); Asm. Leticia Castillo (R-Corona); Asm. Robert Garcia (D-Rancho Cucamonga); Asm. Josh Lowenthal (D-Long Beach); Asm. Darshana Patel (D-San Diego).

## **Assembly Higher Education**

Chair Mike Fong (D-Alhambra); Asm. Carl DeMaio, Vice Chair, (R-San Diego); Asm. Tasha Boerner (D-Encinitas); Asm. Bill Essayli (R-Corona); Asm. Jeff Gonzalez (R-Coachella); Asm. Corey Jackson (D-Moreno Valley); Asm. Maggy Krell (D-Sacramento); Asm. Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance); Asm. Darshana Patel (D-San Diego); Asm. Celeste Rodriguez (D-Arleta); Asm. LaShae Sharp-Collins (D-San Diego).

## **Legislative Calendar**

February 21 – Last day for bills to be introduced.

April 1 – CABA Lobby Day.

May 2 – Last day for policy committees to hear fiscal bills.

May 9 – Last day for policy committees to hear nonfiscal bills.

May 16 – Last day for policy committees to meet prior to June 9.

May 23 – Last day for fiscal committees to hear Floor bills introduced in their house.

June 2-6 – Floor session only.

June 6 – Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house.

June 9 – Committee meetings may resume.

June 15 – Budget bill must be passed by midnight.

July 18 – Last day for policy committees to hear bills. Summer Recess begins.

August 18 – Legislature reconvenes from Summer Recess.

August 29 – Last day for fiscal committees to hear bills.

September 2-12 – Floor session only.

September 5 – Last day to amend a bill on the Floor.

September 12 – Last day for each house to pass bills. Interim Recess begins.