



April 2026 Legislative Advocate Report

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CABE Holds Successful Leadership Lobby Day

CABE leadership, including Board President Dr. Aguilera-Fort, Region 4 Representative Dr. Hurtado, Region 3 Representative Trân, and Educational Policy Analyst Fox, joined me at the Capitol on the 21st for a successful and powerful day of advocacy in support of CABE policy and fiscal priorities. These included:

Co-Sponsor - AB 2555 (Patel) English learner reclassification: Updates provisions in law governing the assessment and reclassification of English learners to ensure that English language development assessments and reclassification procedures are implemented consistently and in alignment with current federal requirements.

Support - AB 1904 (Patel): Apprenticeship Programs: Establishes a framework for credentialed educator apprenticeship programs in California.

Support - AB 2332 (González): Dual language immersion coordinator: Would establish a Dual Language Immersion Coordinator within the California Department of Education to serve as a central point of contact for local educational agencies seeking to establish or expand dual language immersion programs and facilitate collaboration and resource sharing across the state.

CABE Budget Priorities:

- **Proposition 98:** Request that the entire \$5.6 billion in maintenance factor funds be paid in 2025-26 in accordance with revenue growth.
- **Master Plan Proposal:** Request that any discussion to solidify responsibilities prioritize support of divisions and programs responsible for serving and supporting California's more than one million English learners, including support for the ELA/ELD Framework, and the English Learner Roadmap.
- **Migrant Education Program:** Urge the allocation of \$125 million in Proposition 98 funding to sustain core MEP and Mini Corps services if the federal government eliminates funding.
- **ELA/ELD Framework:** Recommend that additional systemic investments and accountability be provided to ensure all districts are actively and consistently implementing the ELA/ELD Framework, the Literacy Roadmap, and the English Learner Roadmap.

- **Proposed At-Risk Long-Term English Learner Definition in Education Omnibus Trailer Bill:** Redefines the term as “a pupil who has not attained English language proficiency within six years of initial classification as an English learner.” CABE recommends amending this language to ensure that the identification occurs for students in their fourth through sixth year as English learners when they are not making normative progress.

English Learner Reclassification Legislation Moves to Appropriations Committee

CABE co-sponsored AB 2555 (Patel) received full bipartisan support in the Assembly Education Committee earlier this month. This monumental legislation would establish a transformational and effective method for monitoring and supporting reclassified students and would change the framework for serving California’s English learners by reframing reclassification through the lens of student milestones on their overall journey to biliteracy. AB 2555 is in the Assembly Appropriations Committee, which will hear hundreds of bills in May.

Senate Democrats Issue Budget Priorities

The Senate Democrats unveiled their budget priorities they will seek during budget negotiations once the May Revision is unveiled in mid-May. Overall priorities include strengthening the Rainy Day fund and increasing reserves. For education, priorities include fully funding Proposition 98 in 2025-26 by rejecting the proposed deferral included in the Governor’s January budget. This additionally includes \$5.7 billion, bringing the total 2025-26 Proposition 98 amount to \$11.6 billion. Proposition 98 is also proposed to be increased by an additional \$2 billion in 2026-27, while an additional \$600 million is proposed for the Middle-Class Scholarship. These proposals will shape how the Senate Democrats will enter into negotiations with the Governor and Assembly. The final budget must be passed by June 15th.

LAO States Existing and New Spending is Unsustainable

The Legislative Analyst’s Office recently released a report: [*Understanding \\$100 Billion in Spending Growth: Causes and Fiscal Implications*](#). In it, the report examines the state's structural deficits, which range between \$20 to \$30 billion annually. Most of the growth, approximately 70 percent has been used to provide existing ongoing programs and services that had been created on or prior to 2019-20, while the remaining 30 percent were attributed to new or expanded programs, including \$37 billion to schools and community colleges, \$25 billion to Medi-Cal, \$8 billion to the Department of Developmental Services, \$8 billion to In-Home Supportive Services, \$4 billion to child care, and \$3 billion to universities. Much of the growth in education has been split relatively evenly among existing programs, expansions, and new programs. The LAO highlights the need to create a better balance between spending commitments and revenues, which they argue is unsustainable.

CABE-Supported Bills

AB 1631 (Muratsuchi): Mandatory kindergarten: Would make kindergarten mandatory beginning in the 2028-29 school year. The bill passed the Assembly Education Committee and has been referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 1851 (Gipson): Pupil health: social-emotional, behavioral, and mental health supports:

Would require the State Department of Education (CDE) to develop and publish guidance, resources, and technical assistance to support local educational agencies in implementing an integrated, universal Tier 1 approach to social and emotional learning, behavioral health, and restorative practices for K-12 students. School districts and county offices of education would be required and charter schools authorized to implement the guidance from the CDE, to the extent of available funding. The bill passed the Assembly Education Committee and has been referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 1904 (Gipson): Teachers: credentialed educator apprenticeship programs: Would establish a statewide framework for credentialed educator apprenticeship programs by requiring the Commission on Teacher Credentialing and the Division of Apprenticeship Standards to jointly approve, oversee, and support these programs. The bill authorizes the issuance of apprenticeship certificates or permits to educator candidates while they complete paid, on-the-job training aligned with credentialing requirements. The bill passed the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee and has been referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 2019 (Gipson): Deported or detained faculty at community colleges: Requires community colleges to allow deported faculty to teach and perform professional duties using distance education. The bill passed the Assembly Higher Education Committee and has been referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 2056 (Alvarez): Teacher exchange programs: Revises teacher exchange programs through the CDE and federal government by: 1) Eliminating the use of the regulatory process by the State Board of Education; 2) Eliminating the administration of the program by the CDE; 3) Expressly allowing for exchanges with Mexico; 4) Expanding authorized exchanges to include both county offices of education and charter schools; 5) Eliminating the one-year time limit on exchanges, and; 6) Should regulations be adopted, would require them to authorize specific visa sponsors designated by the United States Department of State to sponsor teachers from Mexico for placement in California schools. The bill passed the Assembly Floor on consent and has been referred to the Senate Rules Committee.

AB 2107 (Pellerin): Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP): unduplicated pupils: Would require local educational agencies (LEAs) with the ability to utilize ELOP to prioritize offering access to unduplicated pupils. The bill passed the Assembly Floor on consent and has been referred to the Senate Rules Committee.

AB 2114 (Bryan): Nonresident tuition fee exemption: educational asylum program: Would allow California public educational systems, including public schools and institutions of higher education, to grant educational asylum status to a transfer student and would exempt these students, beginning with the 2027-28 school year, from paying nonresident tuition. The bill passed the Assembly Higher Education Committee and has been referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 2294 (Ta): State holiday: Sylvia Mendez Day: Would declare April 14th as Sylvia Mendez Day in honor of the landmark Mendez v. Westminster school desegregation case. The bill passed the Assembly Governmental Organization Committee and has been placed on the Assembly Consent Calendar.

AB 2325 (Alvarez): Bilingual Teachers: Pathways to Bilingual Teaching Program: Would establish the Pathways to Bilingual Teaching Program and require the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to

develop and implement a program to award grants to consortia of local educational agencies, community colleges, and higher education institutions to establish or expand pathways to bilingual teaching. The bill passed the Assembly Education Committee and has been referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 2332 (González): Dual language immersion coordinator: Would require, prior to July 1, 2027, that the CDE designate a Dual Language Immersion Coordinator (DLIC) to assist in the coordination between LEAs, by providing resources and knowledge on dual language immersion programs. The DLIC would be the primary contact between the CDE and LEAs to assist with creating new or expanding existing dual language immersion programs, as well as to create, publish, and maintain a directory of operative dual language immersion programs on the CDE's website by 2028. The bill passed the Assembly Education Committee and has been referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 2468 (Patel): School accountability: students with disabilities: Contingent upon an appropriation, beginning in the 2027-28 school year, would require the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence to administer the Supporting Inclusive Practices project, as well as to expand the project and build on its alignment and partnerships with statewide improvement initiatives. This would include improving student outcomes by increasing opportunities for students with disabilities to access education in general education settings, as well as supporting the educator workforce. The project would be required to provide technical assistance to LEAs and charter schools focused on supporting evidence-based practices to increase access by students with disabilities in general education settings and to support progress toward a high school diploma. The bill passed the Assembly Education Committee and has been referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Legislative Calendar

- May 1 – Last day for policy committees to hear non-fiscal bills.
- May 8 – Last day for policy committees to meet prior to June 1.
- May 15 – Last day for fiscal committees to hear bills introduced in their house. Last day for fiscal committees to meet prior to June 1.
- May 25-29 – Floor session only.
- May 29 – Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house.
- June 1 – Committee hearings may resume.
- June 15 – Budget bill must be passed by midnight.
- June 25 – Last day for a legislative measure to qualify for the November election.
- July 2 – Last day for policy committees to meet. Legislative Summer Recess begins.
- August 3 – Legislature reconvenes from Summer Recess.
- August 14 – Last day for fiscal committees to meet.
- August 17-31 – Floor Session only.
- August 31 – Last day for each house to pass bills. Final recess begins upon adjournment.
- September 30 – Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills.