



California Association for Bilingual Education

May 2026 Legislative Advocate Report

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Governor Releases May Revision

The May Revision reflects a now-positive year-end balance for both 2026-27 and 2027-28 and reduces several structural deficits by over half. The overall budget totals \$349.9 billion while the General Fund totals \$246.6 billion in 2026-27. Overall revenues increased by \$16.5 billion over three years due primarily to the artificial intelligence businesses. It includes an operating reserve of \$4.5 billion in 2026-27 and \$2.1 billion in 2027-28, with combined reserves of \$29.9 billion in 2026-27. A total of \$9.7 billion is proposed to be transferred to the Surplus Holding Account for allocation in 2027-28 to address the anticipated fiscal deficit.

A total of \$151.6 billion (\$91.3 billion General Fund and \$60.3 billion from other funds) is provided for TK-12 education. Proposition 98 adjustments include \$124.9 billion in 2024-25, \$125.1 billion in 2025-26, and \$127.1 billion in 2026-27, reflecting a total three-year increase of about \$28 billion. Funding per pupil, including all funding sources, totals \$28,282 per student. Total Proposition 98 funding per pupil includes \$21,013 per student.

A total of \$8.3 billion will be provided to fully fund the maintenance factor payment in 2024-25. A \$3.9 billion “settle-up” amount continues to be included in the May Revision for 2025-26, which would be paid in the 2027 Budget Act should revenues remain at the same or higher levels, essentially creating a continued deferral of money owed to schools.

A super cost-of-living adjustment is proposed in the May Revision, bringing the total funded COLA to 4.31 percent. This reflects the statutory COLA of 2.87 percent, as well as an additional \$906.7 million to increase the total COLA to 4.31 percent. However, the total increase of the super COLA is used to provide the Paid Pregnancy Leave. This would provide up to 14 weeks of paid pregnancy disability leave beginning in 2026-27 to support educators when pregnancy results in temporary disability.

Additional details on the May Revision can be found in [the budget summary](#) provided on May 14th.

LAO Responds to the May Revision

The Legislative Analyst’s Office provided an [initial review](#) of the May Revision, which acknowledges that the May Revision budget proposal addresses half of the fiscal shortfall but scrutinizes it for not addressing the structural deficit. The LAO recommends that the Governor not suspend close to \$7 billion in payments to the Rainy Day Fund and should make a \$20 billion deposit into the Rainy Day

Fund as well as an additional \$4 billion to address the “settle-up” funds owed to Proposition 98 in 2027. The LAO believes there may be a stock market correction regarding artificial intelligence which may significantly reduce state revenues in the future, and should be planned for now.

LAO Responds to Proposition 98 Budget

The LAO responded to the [education budget](#) provided in the May Revision, which notes the Proposition 98 Guarantee is revised up by \$6.4 billion from 2024-25 through 2026-27. The analysis acknowledges the additional payment of \$1.6 billion in “settle-up” payments for 2025-26. An additional \$807 million in unspent funds from previous budgets is being allocated for new priorities.

Assembly Budget Subcommittee Rejects LTEL Definition Change

Earlier this month, the Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 3 on Education Finance rejected the budget trailer bill language that would change the long-term English Learner definition. A number of organizations, including CABE, were listed in opposition to this language. An alternative definition has been proposed by stakeholder organizations, which is still being discussed within the capitol community.

Senate Joint Hearing Scrutinizes Governor’s Master Plan Proposal

The Senate Education Committee and Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 1 on Education held an extensive joint hearing this month to discuss the Governor’s budget proposal to shift the oversight responsibility of the California Department of Education from the Superintendent of Public Instruction to the State Board of Education. Senators expressed skepticism about the proposal and indicated it would continue to be discussed. Senator Pérez, Chair of the Senate Education Committee, noted she would be focusing on how this proposal would provide economies of scale and equity.

Both houses have now had comprehensive hearings on this proposal. It is likely that the fate of this proposal will be decided in final budget discussions between the Governor, Senate Pro Tempore Limón, and Speaker Rivas.

Gubernatorial Appointees Move to Senate Floor

Three CABE-supported gubernatorial appointees to the State Board of Education, Cynthia Glover Woods, Brenda Lewis, and Gabriela Orozco Gonzalez, were approved by the Senate Rules Committee earlier this month. Their appointments will move to the Senate Floor for final confirmation. Upon Senate passage, their appointments will be confirmed for the duration of their terms.

Getting Down to Facts III

Stanford-led [Getting Down to Facts III](#) was released earlier this month and includes a comprehensive review of California’s PreK-12 public educational system, which includes 55 technical reports and 22 research briefs compiled by 112 national education policy researchers. This is the third comprehensive review and includes many recommendations from an academic perspective. Many of these findings offer reflections and will not necessarily have significant influence on policy or fiscal decisions at the

state level. That said, they can offer potentially helpful conversations in some areas, while others may raise perspectives that could be controversial in certain sectors.

Included in these technical reports are perspectives on multilingual learners, including: "[*Multilingual Learners of English: Progress of California's English Learners and the Resources that Support their Educational Achievements*](#)," which reflects on multilingual learners, long-term reforms, long-term English learners, resources, and policy considerations.

English Learner Reclassification Legislation Moves to the Senate

CABE-co-sponsored AB 2555 (Patel) passed Assembly Appropriations Suspense File. 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 Senate Education Committee and will be heard in mid-June.

CABE-Supported Bills

The Senate and Assembly Appropriations Committees heard a total of 969 bills during the Suspense File hearings on May 14th. They held 269 of those bills and amended a number of bills that were released. In order to continue moving forward, all bills must pass off the floor of their initial house by May 29th. The following are CABE-supported bills and their status:

AB 1631 (Muratsuchi): Mandatory kindergarten: Would make kindergarten mandatory beginning in the 2028-29 school year. The bill was held in 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 partner with local educational agencies with capacity and established expertise to provide support for the implementation of integrated, universal social and emotional learning, behavioral health, and restorative practices for K-12 students. The bill is at the Senate Desk.

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 is on the Assembly Floor.

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 was held by 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 is in the Senate Education 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 is in the Senate Education 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 was held in 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 is in the Senate Governmental Organization Committee.

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 is in the Senate Rules 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 is in the Senate Rules 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 is in the Senate Rules Committee.

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.