



July 2026 Legislative Advocate Report

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Budget Trailer Bill Benefits Multilingual Students

The Governor signed the Education Omnibus Trailer bill on July 9th, which includes a number of significant CABE-supported priorities. These include:

- A 4.31 percent cost-of-living adjustment;
- The rejection of the proposed language which would have changed the definition for long-term English learners;
- \$5 billion for the Student Support and Discretionary Block Grant;
- \$100 million for the California New Americans in Schools Program;
- \$1 billion for Community Schools;
- \$50 million for the Math Professional Learning Partnership;
- \$250 million for teacher residency programs; and
- \$75 million for the Dream Resource Center Grant Program.

Duties Shift for the SPI

Under California's new education governance law, signed in July 2026, the role of the elected Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) shifts away from managing the day-to-day operations of the California Department of Education and toward serving as California's chief advocate for public education. Rather than acting as the executive administrator of the department, the SPI's duties will now focus on representing the interests of students, families, educators, and local school districts; promoting educational equity and student achievement; communicating with the public and the Legislature; and serving as an independent statewide voice on education policy from transitional kindergarten through higher education. The SPI also becomes a voting member of the State Board of Education under the new governance structure.

Significant administrative responsibilities previously carried out by the Superintendent are now transferred to the State Board of Education and the newly created Education Commissioner, who will be appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The State Board of Education will now oversee the California Department of Education through a newly created Education Commissioner. The Board will continue to adopt academic standards, curriculum frameworks, instructional materials, and statewide regulations, while the Education Commissioner assumes responsibility for implementing Board policies, managing department staff and operations, administering programs, approving grants and contracts, and carrying out the executive and administrative functions that were formerly performed by the SPI.

Current SPI Tony Thurmond has been a vocal critic of the new governance structure, which is also being challenged in court by SPI candidate Sonia Shaw.

CABE/Californians Together LTEL Reclassification Measure Moves Forward

CABE-co-sponsored AB 2555 (Patel) 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 Appropriations Committee and will be heard on August 3rd. It is expected to be placed on the Suspense File where it will be taken up in mid-August.

CABE-Supported Bills

The Legislature returns to Sacramento on August 3rd and will finish the legislative session on August 31st. All bills must pass the legislative process by the 31st or they will need to be reintroduced during a future legislative session. The following are CABE-supported bills moving forward and their status:

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 the 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 in the Senate 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 is in the Senate 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 and Spain; 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 other countries, including Mexico and Spain, for placement in California schools. The bill was passed by the Senate and has been sent back to the Assembly Floor for concurrence in the Senate amendments.

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 on the Senate Floor.

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 has been placed on the inactive file on the Senate Floor.

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 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 is in the Senate 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 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 for students with disabilities in general education settings and to support progress toward a high school diploma. The bill is in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Legislative Calendar

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.

November 3 – General Election.