

MURDOCH WALRATH & HOLMES

MEMORANDUM

Date: October 17, 2026

To: CABE Board Members
Cynthia Vasquez Petit, CABE Interim CEO

From: Jennifer Baker, Legislative Advocate

Subject: Sacramento Update

CABE had a very successful year in terms of both policy and fiscal actions taken by the Legislature and Governor. Given that the state may be in a stronger fiscal position next year and will likely have the first Latino governor elected since 1875, as well as a historic first: a Latino governor, Senate pro tempore, and Assembly speaker serving at the same time, the time will be ripe for advancing broader goals of importance to CABE.

In addition to the gubernatorial election, voters will decide on 14 ballot propositions. While political consultants have already expressed their worry about voter fatigue, this election is far from the most crowded proposition ballot in history. In fact, California remains far from matching its previous record of 48 measures on the November ballot in 1914. At the time, Governor Hiram Johnson had championed the 1911 Reform Movement, which had amended the state constitution to create the initiative, referendum, and recall process. This led to 27 initial initiatives passing, including the repeal of a constitutional provision that required a two-dollar poll tax on male residents between 21 and 60 years of age and a ban on poll taxes in California.

I will be providing a detailed briefing on ballot propositions during my presentation to the Board, as well as a summary of legislative victories and strategies for consideration for next year.

CABE/Californians Together LTEL Reclassification Measure Is Signed by the Governor

Thanks to more than 850 letters of support from CABE and Californians Together members, the Governor signed CABE-co-sponsored AB 2555 (Patel) on September 27th. The measure transforms and modernizes California's reclassification process and provides ongoing monitoring and support for English learners. The significance of this achievement is monumental and will provide new opportunities for multilingual learners to reclassify more efficiently and improve their educational outcomes. Thank you to everyone who sent letters of support and helped make this achievement possible.

Lawsuit Over Proposition 98 Funding

The California Teachers Association (CTA) has [filed a lawsuit](#) over the state's continued withholding of the \$3.9 billion Proposition 98 settle-up amount for 2025-26, as reflected in [the final budget](#) earlier this

year. Although the budget included language indicating the Legislature's and the Administration's intent to include payment in the 2027 Budget Act, there is no guarantee it will happen, prompting the lawsuit.

Arguing that the Governor and Legislature violated the constitutional funding guarantee created by Proposition 98, CTA is asking the court to require the state to fully fund the \$3.9 billion owed to schools for 2025-26, declare that a \$1.9 billion reduction in 2024-25 Proposition 98 funding was unconstitutional, and create protections against similar actions in the future. To complement CTA's action, the California Federation of Teachers has [announced](#) they will be joining CTA's lawsuit. Additionally, the California School Boards Association (CSBA) has also [filed a lawsuit](#) against the state regarding the withheld funds. Should CTA and CSBA prevail in their lawsuits, the ruling could not only provide additional Proposition 98 funding to schools but also constrain the state's ability to use similar budget actions in the future.

Governor Finalizes Legislative Activity

The Governor had until September 30th to sign or veto bills sent to him by the Legislature. The Legislature is adjourned until December 7th when the Legislature reconvenes. All non-urgency bills that have been signed will become law beginning on January 1st. The bill list below includes the final actions and status of bills supported and monitored by CABA.

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 Legislature and was signed by the Governor on September 30th.

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 signed by the Governor on August 24th.

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 Legislature and was signed by the Governor on September 27th.

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 was signed by the Governor on September 27th.

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 was passed by the Legislature and was signed by the Governor on September 27th.

AB 2467 (Committee on Education): A K-12 omnibus bill, which includes a number of technical revisions to education policy. CBE supports the inclusion of a delay in the transitional kindergarten multilingual learner screening timeline by one year, which includes field testing and statewide screening, as well as an extension of the utilization of the existing \$10 million appropriation for this use until June 30, 2029. The measure additionally allows a student to demonstrate proficiency in Spanish for the State Seal of Biliteracy by achieving Level 3 on the high school California Spanish Assessment. The bill was signed by the Governor on September 27th.

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 was passed by the Legislature and was signed by the Governor on September 27th.

Legislative Calendar

November 3 – General election.

December 7 – 2027-28 Regular Session of the Legislature convenes.

January 1 – New statutes take effect.

January 4 – Legislature returns from winter break.

January 10 – Deadline for Governor to release proposed budget.