



F3 Law

2025

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

California bills and laws affecting
public education

- BUSINESS OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES
- LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
- GOVERNANCE
- STUDENTS AND INSTRUCTION

F3 Law Next Level Client Services


This compendium was created as a resource for public education leaders by F3 Law's attorneys and Next Level Client Services team (NLCS).

A team of recently retired senior district leaders from throughout California, NLCS consultants use their vast and varied educational leadership experience to complement the work of F3 Law attorneys to support clients on myriad projects ranging from strategic planning, governance training, superintendent/board evaluations and executive coaching to providing practical tips for implementing new law, policies and protocols.

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2025 Legislative Summary

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Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of F3 Law and our Next Level Client Services (NLCS) team, we are pleased to share the 2025 Legislative Summary, a joint effort put together by F3 attorneys and NLCS consultants to help public school leaders understand and implement this year's new laws impacting education in California.

Our teams have translated complex policy changes into actionable insights relevant to your daily operations creating a guide that bridges the gap between law and practice because, and as you know, understanding what's new is only the first step; knowing how to apply it makes the difference.

How to Use This Summary:

- **Find what matters most.**
Legislation is organized by operational area to help you quickly locate topics relevant to your work/role.
- **Understand the *why* and the *how*.**
Where appropriate, sections combine legal summaries with real-world guidance from our consultants.
- **Put it into action.**
Use the Practical Pointers to plan next steps, anticipate challenges, adjust procedures, and support your teams with confidence.

As always, we are honored to serve those who serve students across California. Thank you for your continued commitment to students, staff, and the communities you serve.

Respectfully,

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This guide is a summary only and not legal advice. We recommend that you consult with legal counsel to determine how this may apply to your specific facts and circumstances.

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Summary of Signed Legislation from the California 2025 Legislative Session



Business Operation and Facilities

AB 130

Construction: CEQA

Operative June 30, 2025

AB 130 was introduced to expedite the construction of affordable housing. However, the bill eliminates two widely used exemptions to the Surplus Lands Act (SLA) for a school district to classify surplus property as "exempt surplus land". The exemptions eliminated are: requiring districts to reassess planned property dispositions and ensuring SLA compliance unless a valid exemption remains.

Practical Pointer

Please refer to [our client alert](#) for more information.



AB 36

Construction: Best Value Procurement

Operative January 1, 2026

Establishes a pilot program authorizing school districts and county offices of education to use best value procurement for construction projects over \$1 million. For those agencies opting to participate, AB 361 outlines the requirements for compliance with the best value procurement process. This pilot program sunsets on December 31, 2030.

Practical Pointer

If in the beginning stages of or considering a new construction project over \$1 million, consider implementing revisions to board policies and administrative regulations to allow for best value procurement. In addition to policies and regulations, consider revising internal documents with guidelines. Note that AB 361 also requires governing boards to adopt and publish fair and impartial procedures and guidelines for evaluating bidder qualifications.



AB 287

Facilities: Polling Places

Operative January 1, 2026

When requested by a local election official, AB 287 requires schools (and other public entity facilities) used for polling places or voting locations, to make available building parking, including curbside parking for voters with disabilities, at no charge to the precinct or vote center board. Buildings utilized for this purpose are also required to provide space for voting operations and storage of supplies. These requirements are in effect 10 days prior to an election through election day.

Practical Pointer

If it is typical for your facilities to be used as polling places or voting locations, consider training on-site personnel to have a plan for ensuring required parking spaces, including accessible parking for voters with disabilities. Consider signage needs and plans for directions for impacted staff or community members (10 days prior to an election through election day). Coordinate specific needs related to parking and accessibility when local elections officials make requests.

AB 503

Facilities: Civic Center Act

Operative October 1, 2025

AB 503 removes the Civic Center Act sunset date of January 1, 2025, and permanently extends its provisions allowing school districts to recover direct costs, including proportional maintenance, repair, restoration, and refurbishment costs, for the use of non-classroom school facilities and grounds by eligible organizations.

AB 1021

Housing: Employee Housing

Operative January 1, 2026

Updates current law that authorizes housing development on any real property owned by an LEA. Among the changes, adds LEA developments to the CA Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) infill exemption, protects against zoning restrictions, revises the height and density limits, and establishes eligibility for housing assistance. It is anticipated that these changes will facilitate additional housing on land owned by LEAs.

Practical Pointer

If governing boards have considered and rejected employee housing solutions, consider reviewing the new allowances and potential new options for employee housing (AB 1021) and teacher housing (AB 1296). Please refer to [our client alert](#) for more information.



AB 1296

Housing: Teacher Housing

Operative January 1, 2026

On or before January 1, 2027, the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) is required to provide technical assistance to LEAs for housing predevelopment activities on LEA property.



AB 1264

Pupil Meals: Processed Food

Operative January 1, 2026

Establishes the Real Food, Healthy Kids Act to reduce the consumption of ultra-processed foods (UPFs) intended to be sold or served in CA schools. By July 1, 2026, the CA Department of Public Health is required to determine which UPFs are of concern and are to be phased out of schools. AB 1264 prohibits vendors from offering harmful UPF food to a school beginning January 1, 2032, and schools are prohibited as of July 1, 2035, from serving or selling the identified food products.

Practical Pointer

To the extent that food manufacturers pass the cost of reformulating certain foods down to the LEAs in the form of higher food prices, or leave the school food market altogether, this bill could potentially result in additional General Fund costs. The extent of these costs to LEAs is unknown and could vary. Plans for new approaches and equipment needed for nutrition services will require development and funding.

AB 629

Schools: Equipment Inventory

Operative January 1, 2026

Raises the threshold amount from \$500 to \$1,500 per item for the requirement that school districts establish and maintain a historical inventory of each item of equipment acquired with that current market value. The equipment inventory includes a description of the item, its name, original cost, date of acquisition, location of use, and time and mode of disposal. The \$500 value threshold was established in 1984 and had never been adjusted for inflation.

AB 1096

Schools: Lead Testing

Operative January 1, 2026

On or before June 30, 2028, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is required to publicly post on its website information collected and submitted to the State Water Systems (CWSs) by community water systems, regarding lead testing in elementary schools and childcare facilities. Elementary schools and childcare facilities that either do not respond to or denied a request for sampling must have an opportunity to provide information about their reasons for declining the test. The State Water Board is required to provide elementary schools and childcare facilities options and rationale for declining testing.

Practical Pointer

Work directly with legal counsel if considering not responding to or denying requests of the State Water Resources Control Board for water sampling in elementary schools or childcare facilities.



AB 962

School Safety: Smartphone Plans

Operative January 1, 2026

In order to avoid potential confusion between board-adopted smartphone policies and a school safety plan that addresses the use of smartphones in an emergency, AB 962 clarifies that if a school safety plan does not address the use of a smartphone in an emergency, the board policy must apply.

Practical Pointer

Review School Safety Plans to ensure alignment to board-adopted policies related to smartphone use.

SB 568

School Safety: Epinephrine Delivery Systems

Operative January 1, 2026

Updates the reference "epinephrine auto-injectors" to "epinephrine delivery systems," which is a broader term than the shot-only pen, for purposes of what LEAs are required to store, have trained volunteers to administer epinephrine to students suffering from anaphylaxis, and for students to carry and self-administer medication. Further, the requirement to provide emergency epinephrine and associated responsibilities has been broadened to apply to any state or federally subsidized childcare program operated by or under contract with the LEA.

Practical Pointer

Update Board Policies and Administrative Regulations, review any collective bargaining agreement language related to administration of medication that may need updating, and consider training all staff. Ensure all necessary staff understand how the new epinephrine systems work. Consider educating staff on alternative systems to ensure ease of application should a student be in need or is carrying a different product other than an "epi-pen".





Labor and Employment

AB 606

Certificated: Out-of-State Applicants

Operative January 1, 2026

Requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) to issue a preliminary professional services credential with a specialization in pupil personnel services (PPS) to out-of-state applicants who meet the standards outlined in the bill. An out-of-state applicant must provide a valid out-of-state credential, background check, and LEA-determined progress standards for renewal. The out-of-state preliminary professional services credential may be renewed once, for an additional two years.

Practical Pointer

Human Resources administrators should ensure appropriate staff training on the processes to follow to comply with this measure, particularly in the context of paper screening applications for positions requiring PPS credentials.

AB 1009

Certificated: Administrative Services Credential

Operative January 1, 2026

Adds a valid occupational therapy (OT) license or a physical therapy (PT) license as a pathway to qualify for a preliminary administrative services credential. AB 1009 specifies that a preliminary administrative services credential based on this bill shall not authorize the supervision or evaluation of teachers unless the LEA makes a specified determination. Five years of experience as a school-based OT or PT satisfies the existing experience requirement for a preliminary administrative services credential.

Practical Pointer

OTs and PTs are the only Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) mandated professionals not provided with the opportunity to obtain an administrative services credential. The original law pertaining to administrative credentialing pathways was written prior to enactment of the IDEA and district hiring of OTs and PTs. This bill provides new opportunities for OTs and PTs to obtain administrative services credentials for which they were previously ineligible.



AB 1306

Certificated: Teacher Preparation Program

Operative January 1, 2026

Authorizes the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) to approve local teacher preparation programs operated by school districts or county offices of education that lead to an English learner-related authorization, specifically a Cross-cultural Language and Academic Development (CLAD) certificate, English Learner Authorization (ELA), or bilingual authorization.

Practical Pointer

CA has faced a shortage of teachers authorized to serve English learners. AB 1306 will hopefully expand the number and geographic distribution of potential training options without altering minimum credentialing requirements and competencies.

AB 378

Classified: Summer Assistance Program

Operative January 1, 2026

Joint Powers Authorities (JPAs) were previously prohibited from participating in the Classified School Employee Summer Assistance Program. AB 378 expands the definition of a LEA to specifically include JPAs so as to allow their participation in the summer assistance program.

AB 560

Staff: Resource Specialists

Operative January 1, 2026

Requires LEAs to take all reasonable steps to distribute the workload associated with initial special education assessments among all resource specialists in an equal manner, unless a collective bargaining agreement states otherwise. AB 560 further requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI), on or before July 1, 2027, to recommend a maximum adult-to-pupil staffing ratio for special classes serving students with disabilities ages 3-22.

Practical Pointer

Administrators overseeing special education programs should review policies and practices related to the distribution of workload associated with initial special education assessments to ensure that they are reasonably equal among resource specialists. Consider time-tracking and claiming state program mandate reimbursement. AB 560 explicitly states the recommended maximum adult-to-student ratios for special day classes are truly recommendations but will likely be presented in negotiations as rationale for related contract language.



AB 642

Staff: Catastrophic Leave

Operative July 1, 2025

Sponsored by the Los Angeles County Office of Education, this bill amends Education Code 44043.5 to allow, but not mandate, school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools, to establish or amend existing catastrophic leave programs to allow employees to donate eligible leave credits to other employees impacted by a state of emergency declared by the Governor.

Practical Pointer

Work directly with legal counsel if considering adoption or expansion of an existing catastrophic leave policy which should include ensuring compliance with collective bargaining obligations.

SB 294

Staff: Workplace Know Your Rights Act

Operative January 1, 2026

On or before February 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, an employer shall provide a stand-alone written notice to each employee and the employee's authorized representative, informing them of their rights, including civil rights, under state and federal law. This notice shall be given to each new employee when hired. By March 30, 2026, all existing employees must be given the opportunity to identify an emergency contact in case of their arrest or detention during workday or work activities. Upon hire, all new employees must be provided with the opportunity to designate an emergency contact person. Written notice is to be provided in a manner the employer normally uses to communicate employment-related information. A collective bargaining agreement can supersede the requirements of SB 294.

Practical Pointer

SB 294 outlines what must be included in the notification. There are financial penalties if an employer violates the bill. Hiring and onboarding materials, along with annual employee notifications, should be reviewed and updated immediately to ensure compliance with this new law.



SB 513

Staff: Personnel Records

Operative January 1, 2026

Employees in many professions are undertaking new education and training to secure their place in the ever-changing work environment. SB 513 expands the scope of personnel records that a current or former employee or their representative has a right to inspect and receive a copy of, to include education and training records. An employer who maintains education or training records is required to ensure that the records include the name of the employee, name of the training provider, core competencies of a training, and any certification or qualifications obtained. This bill applies to a variety of employers, including schools.

Practical Pointer

LEAs should consider developing processes for consistently maintaining training records to include the name of the employee that received the training, the name(s) of training provider(s), core competencies of training, and any certification or qualifications obtained. HR administrators should consider training processes that connect training records with personnel files in accordance with the new law.

SB 848

Safety: School Employee Misconduct

Operative January 1, 2026

Establishes new requirements to improve pupil safety by addressing school employee misconduct and clarifying professional boundaries. By July 1, 2026, all school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools must adopt written policies that promote a safe school environment consistent with the provisions of SB 848. School Safety Plans need to be updated to include procedures for supervision to prevent child abuse and require training employees and volunteers on plan protocols. The annual child abuse prevention training requirements are expanded to include grooming behavior identification and maintaining professional boundaries. SB 848 also broadens the definition of mandated reporters to include specified school volunteers, governing board members, and private school employees, and requires enhanced employment screening for certificated and classified employees to inquire about prior credible allegations or substantiated misconduct investigations during hiring. By July 1, 2027, a statewide data system managed by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) will be created to track substantiated investigations of classified and certificated employee misconduct accessible to all LEAs for employment screening. In addition, this bill prohibits LEAs from entering into any agreement designed to conceal or remove credible allegations of employee misconduct from personnel records.

Practical Pointer

SB 848 has been introduced to advance recommendations by the Fiscal Crisis & Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) in its AB 218 (childhood sexual assault) report released in January 2025. LEAs must adopt written policies by July 1, 2026, and consider revising board policies, administrative regulations, and School Safety Plans to address procedures and training on appropriate interactions with an emphasis on identification of grooming behaviors and maintaining professional boundaries between school employees, board members, volunteers, contractors, and pupils.





Governance

AB 640

Boards: Governance Training

Operative January 1, 2026

By April 1, 2028, LEA governing board members shall receive training in K-12 school finance and accountability laws to support student learning and achievement and the fiscal penalties for non-compliance with statutory requirements. The Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) is responsible for developing the training curriculum required for compliance with this law. Governing board members that have completed the CA School Boards Association's Master's in Governance program are exempt from this new training requirement. Each governing board member is required to take this training at least once during their tenure.

Practical Pointer

Consider encouraging board members to attend the CA School Boards Association's Master's in Governance program until the FCMAT training becomes available. Consider revising board governance handbooks as appropriate and revising board policies and administrative regulations as appropriate. Prepare documentation for each participant's training. Be prepared for implementation by April 1, 2028.

AB 715

Boards: Discrimination/Antisemitism

Operative January 1, 2026

AB 715 is aimed at combating antisemitism in schools. This measure establishes an Office of Civil Rights (OCR) in California's Governmental Operations Agency (GovOps) and establishes an Antisemitism Prevention Coordinator within OCR. The responsibilities of OCR include providing education and educational resources to identify and prevent antisemitism and other forms of discrimination and bias in schools. AB 715 requires that all instruction be factually accurate, aligned to the state curriculum, and consistent with accepted standards of professional responsibility. AB 715 prohibits the State Board of Education and any governing board from adopting textbooks or other instructional materials that contain any matter reflecting adversely upon persons based on race or ethnicity, gender, religion, disability, nationality, or sexual orientation. The bill outlines a complaint procedure and corrective action requirements should an LEA violate any of the provisions of AB 715 and expands annual notifications to parents to include notice of protections and guarantees timely parental access to materials.



Practical Pointer

AB 715 is a companion measure to SB 48. Implementation of AB 715 will involve many LEA departments and systems. LEAs are advised to wait until the new OCR and CDE provide guidance and recommendations for reviewing instructional and professional development materials, providing assistance for teachers and administrators, etc. Consider involving educational services teams now to understand the need for heightened sensitivity regarding professional responsibility. Prioritize emphasis on curriculum and instruction that is factually correct and aligned to standards and ensure that processes and procedures are in alignment with expected conduct.

Consider working with your legal counsel sooner to address potential curriculum disputes and related issues at governing board meetings. Update Board Policies, Administrative Regulations, and Bylaws quickly and be aware of updates to the law as they are made available. Supporters of the bill have recognized that there are areas in the language that need additional work and are committed to legislative clean-up next year.

AB 772

Boards: Off-Campus Cyberbullying Policy

Operative January 1, 2026

On or before June 30, 2026, the CA Department of Education (CDE) is required to adopt a model policy on how to address cyberbullying that occurs outside of school hours. LEAs are then required to adopt the resulting policy, or a similar policy developed with local input. For purposes of AB 772, cyberbullying is defined as "sufficiently severe or pervasive to have the actual and reasonably expected effect of creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment."

Practical Pointer

LEAs should consider revising cyberbullying policies or consider adopting the model CDE policy or a similar policy developed with local input. Consider revision of content contained in school handbooks, safety manuals, annual notifications, digital citizenship curriculum, etc.

AB 1390

Boards: Compensation

Operative January 1, 2026

AB 1390 increases the maximum monthly compensation of school district and county office of education governing board members who attend all meetings. Before increasing compensation, a governing board must first discuss and vote for it in a public meeting.



Practical Pointer

If considering increasing board member stipends, remember that such conversations must take place in public meetings with plenty of opportunity for community input. Superintendents should consider the opportunity to remind board members of the prohibitions against serial meetings. Also consider reviewing Board Policies, Administrative Regulations, and Bylaws to ensure consistency. Advantages to considering increases in board member compensation include making board service more accessible, recognizing the increasing responsibilities and personal costs to board members, and possible improvement in recruitment and retention. Concerns may include the associated additional cost to districts/taxpayers as well as increasing financial expenditures voiced by unions and community members.

SB 48

Boards: Discrimination

Operative January 1, 2026

SB 48 requires the newly established Office of Civil Rights (OCR) within the Governmental Operations Agency (GovOps) to employ a Religious Discrimination Prevention Coordinator, a Race and Ethnicity Discrimination Prevention Coordinator, a Gender Discrimination Prevention Coordinator, and an LGBTQ Discrimination Prevention Coordinator.

Practical Pointer

Continue to focus efforts on the identification and prevention of religious, race and ethnicity, gender and LGBTQ discrimination. SB 48 is a companion measure to AB 715. The responsibilities of the OCR include providing education and educational resources to identify and prevent antisemitism and other forms of discrimination and bias, and share laws and regulations with educational state agencies, LEAs, and community stakeholders.

SB 827

Boards: Fiscal and Financial Training

Operative January 1, 2026

Under existing law, all members of a legislative body, including LEAs, are required to take ethics training every two years. SB 827 makes changes to the existing ethics training for local agencies by adding any department heads or similar administrative officers to the list of local officials that must complete the training. For LEAs, a department head or similar administrative officer means the superintendent of a school district, county superintendent of schools, or the chief administrator of a charter school. Beginning on July 1, 2026, LEAs that maintain a website shall post clear instructions and contact information to request fiscal and financial training records.



Practical Pointer

SB 827 is a companion measure with AB 640 ensuring fiscal training is applicable to school finance laws. LEAs should revise Board Policies, Administrative Regulations, and Bylaws to include department heads or similar administrative officers to the list of officials required to complete ethics training. In addition, create appropriate content for the LEA's website with clear instructions and appropriate contact information to request training records and create systems for regular participation in ethics training (including when there are personnel changes), training records collection and storage, and communications to update website.

AB 268

Holidays: Diwali

Operative January 1, 2026

Authorizes but does not require the governing boards of K-12 public schools to close on the 15th day of the month of Kartik in the Hindu lunar calendar of each year, Diwali, and to provide public school employees with a paid holiday for that day. AB 268 further lists Diwali as a state holiday.

Practical Pointer

Consider the holiday calendar and the impacts of adding an additional paid holiday for employees, including costs, bargaining with labor partners as required.

AB 49

Immigration: Safe Schools Act

Operative September 20, 2025

AB 49 limits how schools respond to federal immigration enforcement inquiries. This measure prohibits immigration enforcement officers from entering non-public areas of a school site without providing a valid judicial warrant, subpoena, or court order. It also declares that student records may not be released to immigration authorities unless a valid court order is presented or with parental or guardian written consent and that schools must further notify affected students and families of any requests for records or information, unless prohibited by law. By March 1, 2026, LEAs must adopt written procedures guiding administrators and staff in response to immigration-related requests and provide training on the procedures and protocols.

Practical Pointer

Please refer to [our client alert](#) for more information.



AB 419

Immigration: Posting Guidance

Operative January 1, 2026

Requires school district governing boards to provide information to parents and guardians relating to the Immigration-Enforcement Actions at California Schools Guide for Students and Families developed by the CA Attorney General. This information is to be included in the annual notification to parents or guardians or by any other cost-effective means. AB 419 requires LEAs to post the “Know Your Educational Rights” Guide in the administrative building of each school site and to post the guide on its website and the websites of each school site in every language that the CA Attorney General provides.

Practical Pointer

Verify that the Know Your Educational Rights Guide is posted in each school office, district administration office, on the district website, and on each school site website to ensure compliance with the bill. Include the Know Your Educational Rights Guide in the annual parental notification information. The Know Your Educational Rights Guide information must be updated the following year after any updates to the Guide are made.

SB 98

Immigration: Notifications

Operative September 20, 2025

Expands California’s “sensitive location” protections from immigration enforcement activities. LEAs are required when their next school safety plan is updated on or before March 1, 2026, to include procedures for notifying parents and all school personnel when the presence of immigration enforcement is confirmed on a school site. In addition, a chartering authority may deny a charter school petition that does not include a school safety plan containing the same procedures and policies. These requirements are in place March 1, 2026-2031.

Practical Pointer

Please refer to [our client alert](#) for more information.



AB 1005

Parental Notification: Drowning Prevention

Operative January 1, 2026

Requires drowning or injury prevention organizations that produce informational materials to provide, if a school district requests, their informational materials. AB 1005 further requires the organizations who choose to provide this information, to provide it for free, in English, and are encouraged to also provide it in the most commonly spoken languages of the students attending school. Schools are encouraged to share this information with students, parents, and guardians.



AB 370

Public Records: Cyberattacks

Operative January 1, 2026

Existing law requires agencies to provide requestors with an initial determination as to whether the agency has disclosable public records responsive to their request within 10 days. Under unusual circumstances, the deadline for the initial response can be extended up to 14 days. This bill adds cyberattacks that prohibit access to electronic servers or systems to search for and obtain a record, to the list of unusual circumstances under which the initial determination deadline may be extended for up to an additional 14 days.

Practical Pointer

LEAs should consider revising appropriate Board Policies and Administrative Regulations and train staff involved in addressing and responding to Public Records Requests. LEAs should consider regular reminders about the importance of timely responses to requests for public records, particularly initial determination letters, if responses are coordinated in a centralized manner.

AB 461

Students: Truancy

Operative January 1, 2026

Under current law, the parents of a student in grades K-8 who is a chronic truant, are guilty of a misdemeanor with a fine up to \$2,000 or imprisonment in a county jail for up to one year, or both. AB 461 deletes the criminal penalties levied on families of students who are truant in grades K-8.

AB 495

Students: Family Preparedness Act

Operative January 1, 2026

AB 495 enacts the Family Preparedness Act by amending the Caregiver Authorization Affidavit. The Caregiver Affidavit authorizes a child's relative to make educational decisions or medical decisions that pertain to the educational setting when a child's parents are not available or are otherwise incapacitated. AB 495 modifies the definition of "relative" for purposes of the Caregiver's Affidavit to mean an adult who is related to the child by blood, adoption, or affinity within the fifth degree of kinship, including stepparents, stepsiblings, and all relatives whose status is preceded by the words "great", "great-great", or "grand" or the spouse of any of the persons specified in this definition. This provision applies even if a marriage has been terminated by death or dissolution. AB 495 requires all LEAs to revise their policies, if necessary, to be consistent with any revisions developed by the Attorney General.



Practical Pointer

AB 495 was introduced largely in response to concerns over a child's parent(s) being detained by immigration enforcement. There was no known opposition to AB 495 until a month prior to the end of session when the bill was highlighted on social media and opposition to the bill exploded. The bill was mischaracterized as creating a loophole in CA law by granting broad authority over children to unvetted adults, opening the door to abuse or trafficking. Governing boards need to be aware that this opposition could continue with community members at board meetings if and when policies are updated, or over concern about the language in the bill. It is advised that you understand the process for verifying caregiver affidavits in order to respond to any concerns presented to the governing board.

AB 727

Students: ID Cards

Operative January 1, 2026

Beginning July 1, 2026, schools serving students in grades 7-12 that issue identification cards are required to include printed contact information on the Trevor Project's LGBTQ+ suicide hotline on the ID cards.

AB 1255

Students: Migrant Regions

Operative October 1, 2025

Clarifies the definition of migrant regions related to services for migrant children to be comprised of county offices of education rather than geographical counties, a combination of school districts within a county instead of a combination of counties, or a combination of county offices of education and public or private nonprofit agencies meeting migrant education services criteria.

AB 959

Administrator Prep Program: Internship Programs

Operative January 1, 2026

Authorizes a school district, county office of education, or regionally accredited institution of higher education (IHE) to offer a one-year internship program approved by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) to meet requirements for the preliminary administrative services credential. AB 959 aligns the administrative credentialing pathways more closely to those available to aspiring teachers.

Practical Pointer

Existing law did not explicitly authorize LEAs to offer an administrative credential internship pathway. The result is that the CTC primarily approves pathways for IHEs and not LEAs. AB 959 clarifies/confirms the CTC's authority to approve internship programs run by LEAs.



AB 1306

Teacher Prep Program: English Learners

Operative January 1, 2026

Authorizes the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) to approve local teacher preparation programs operated by school districts or county offices of education that lead to an English learner-related authorization. AB 1306 specifically highlights the Cross-cultural Language and Academic Development (CLAD) certificate, the English Learner Authorization (ELA), and Bilingual authorization.

AB 927

Williams Case Textbook Inspection

Operative July 15, 2025

Extends the timeline in which a County Superintendent of Schools must visit, and complete textbook and instructional material for review of schools identified for inspection under the Williams Settlement. For schools identified on the Williams list in the 2024-25 fiscal year, and only in years in which that list is used, the review may occur within the first 8 weeks of the school year, instead of the original first 4 weeks. AB 927 requires the county superintendent to prioritize review within the first 4 weeks of the school year, where practicable, of schools that have complaints or information from other reliable sources that the school does not have sufficient textbooks, or that a facility of the school poses an emergency or urgent threat to the health or safety of students or staff, or is not in good repair.

Practical Pointer

LEAs with schools identified for inspection under the Williams Settlement must adjust their planning, documentation and readiness for county office visits. Consider preparing board members for extensions and revising board meeting content calendars.





Students and Instruction

AB 542

Instruction: Workforce Development

Operative January 1, 2026

Authorizes school districts operating continuation high schools or continuation education classes, to offer youth workforce development programs on one or two weekdays per week, provided the student is enrolled in at least 15 hours of class attendance per week. AB 542 defines a youth workforce development program as one implemented under the supervision of a certificated employee that enables students to earn academic credit or an industry certificate while participating in workplace experiences or training. AB 542 designates school district partnerships to include a community college, an adult education program, a regional occupational program or center, a workforce development program, or an organization offering industry-recognized certifications.

AB 821

Instruction: Graduation Requirements

Operative January 1, 2026

Eliminates the sunset date on the existing authorization for career technical education (CTE) courses to be used to satisfy the visual and performing arts or world language graduation requirements. By eliminating the sunset date, the ability to use CTE courses for this purpose will go on in perpetuity.

SB 472

Instruction: Holocaust and Genocide

Operative January 1, 2026

Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) to establish the Holocaust and Genocide Education Grant Program to provide resources directly to LEAs serving grades 7-12 to provide Holocaust and genocide education and professional training. The SPI is directed to establish regulations for the grant program in the State Treasury to be administered by the SPI if funds are allocated by the Legislature to fund the program.

SB 374

LCAP: IDEA Addendum

Operative January 1, 2026

Eliminates the requirement that by January 31, 2027, the State Board of Education adopt an IDEA Addendum relating to improvements in services for individuals with exceptional needs.

Practical Pointer

School districts are now required to include data on all student subgroups that are in red on the state's Dashboard report, including special education students, making the IDEA report redundant.



AB 784

Special Ed: Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Services

Operative January 1, 2026

Clarifies that specialized deaf and hard-of-hearing services may be the only services included in a student's individualized education program (IEP) without the need for additional special education instruction. These services may include, but are not limited to, sign language instruction, auditory training, and communication support.

AB 1412

Special Ed: Pupil Transfers

Operative January 1, 2026

Expedites records of transfer and timely implementation of an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504, for students with disabilities who transfer into California schools. Requires an LEA within 30 days of receiving official or unofficial records for a student transferring into CA from another state, to either adopt and implement the student's existing IEP or develop, adopt, and implement a new IEP. AB 1412 specifically highlights students of military parents transferred or pending transfer to a military installation within CA while on active military duty.

Practical Pointer

LEAs should consider involving the special education and school administrators leading the work to create collaborative systems that result in timelier requests for and receipt of student records. Consider informing all impacted staff of changes in the law and updating special education handbooks.

SB 373

Special Ed: NPS Oversight

Operative January 1, 2026

Beginning in the 2026-27 school year, this bill expands annual state certification requirements for nonpublic, nonsectarian schools (NPSs) located outside of CA serving California students with disabilities. SB 373 requires LEAs which have placed students at NPSs outside of CA to conduct annual in-person interviews with students to evaluate their health and safety and requires LEAs to report additional, specified information to the CA Department of Education (CDE) on a form developed by the CDE for this purpose.

Practical Pointer

Although the bill becomes law on 1/1/26, the new requirements are effective July 1, 2026, for the 26-27 school year. As such, it is recommended that special education administrators inform staff likely responsible for students in NPS placements located outside of CA of the new requirements and update special education handbooks, board policies and administrative regulations related to out of state travel.



SB 389

Special Ed: Respiratory Services

Operative January 1, 2026

Authorizes a licensed vocational nurse (LVN) to provide basic respiratory services, under the supervision of a credentialed school nurse, to a student with exceptional needs requiring health care services during the school day. This provision ensures that LVNs are able to continue to work in educational settings regardless of any changes in law impacting the profession outside of educational settings.

AB 677

Students: Homeless Students Directory Information

Operative January 1, 2026

Authorizes the directory information of a homeless student or youth to be disclosed to facilitate an eye examination by a nonprofit eye-examination provider or free oral health assessment hosted by schools, unless the parent or student with parental rights has provided written notice to the school that they do not consent to these examinations. The disclosure of directory information must be authorized by a school district policy. When possible, reports made to a parent, guardian, or caregiver of a homeless student should be made by alternative communication channels rather than mail.

AB 1230

Students: Expulsions

Operative January 1, 2026

Requires the governing board of a school district to recommend a plan of rehabilitation for a student at the time of an expulsion order that includes an assessment for readmission at least 45 days before the end of the expulsion term. AB 1230 outlines the details to be included within the plan, as well as the requirements for board action, data collection, and reporting.

Practical Pointer

LEAs should consider revising existing systems for plan development, data collection, and reporting for student transitions after an expulsion order. Decisions need to be made for current students as well as future students. Consider revision of board policies and administrative regulations as needed.



AB 1369

Students: Graduation Adornments

Operative January 1, 2026

Authorizes students and their families to determine what adornments are deemed to be traditional tribal regalia or recognized objects of religious or cultural significance at school graduation ceremonies. AB 1369 removes the preapproval process to determine the significance of the adornment or whether to wear a graduation cap if it is incompatible with the specified adornment.

Practical Pointer

LEAs should consider initiating training on the processes school administrators are expected to follow to comply with the new law before graduation season in order to identify potential issues, create opportunities to seek clarification, and to answer frequently asked questions with scenarios. Consider revision of board policies and administrative regulations and staff handbooks.





Miscellaneous

AB 932

Discrimination: Youth Athletics

Operative January 1, 2026

Under existing law, any city, county, city and county, or special district, is prohibited from discriminating against anyone based on sex or gender in the “operation, conduct, or administration of” community youth athletic programs or when allocating park and recreation facilities and resources. AB 932 extends these same provisions in youth sports to also apply to LEAs and to school and recreation facilities and resources.

Practical Pointer

LEAs should consider reviewing how community youth athletics programs, including those run by third parties or local leagues, use district facilities. Consider an inventory of facility and resource allocations (fields, gym time, courts, etc.) between boys' and girls' programs and all gender identities. Consider examining policies for facility scheduling, equipment availability, etc. for implicit advantages to one gender over another and ensure all programs conform to the law. Update board policies and regulations as needed.

AB 382

Safety: School Zone Speed Limits

Operative January 1, 2026

Authorizes a local authority, by ordinance or resolution, to set a speed limit of 20 miles per hour in a school zone until January 1, 2031. Beginning January 1, 2031, the speed limit permanently changes to 20 miles per hour in a school zone.

SB 19

Safe Schools and Places of Worship Act

Operative January 1, 2026

This measure creates a new crime for anyone who threatens to commit a crime that will result in great bodily harm or death while on the grounds of a school, daycare, university, medical facility, or place of worship. The crime applies when the threat is credible, even if there is no intent to carry it out. The penalty of committing this crime is punishable as a felony or misdemeanor.





NOTES

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.