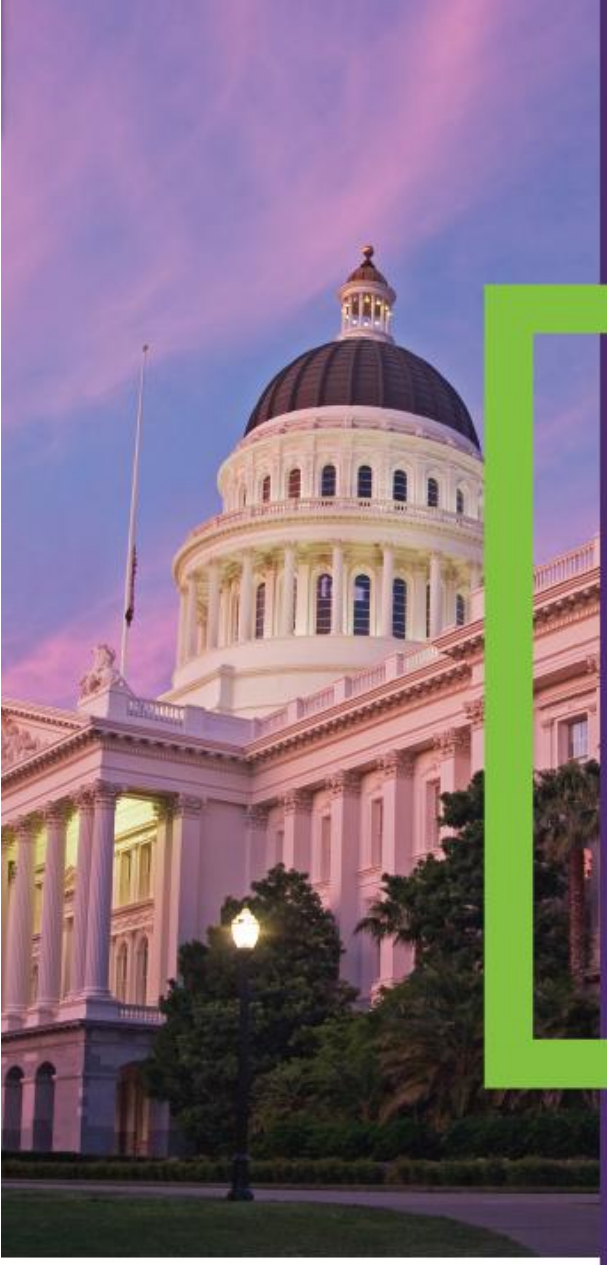

F3 Law

2026

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

California bills and laws affecting public education

- BUSINESS OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES
- LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
- GOVERNANCE
- STUDENTS SERVICES
- HOLIDAYS

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 laws, policies and protocols.

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2026 Legislative Summary

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F3 Law

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of F3 Law and our Next Level Client Services (NLCS) team, I am pleased to share the 2026 Legislative Summary, a joint effort by F3 Law attorneys and NLCS consultants to help public school leaders understand and implement this year's new laws impacting education in California.

Our teams have created a practical guide to help districts turn complex legislative and legal changes into clear actions for daily operations. The guide bridges the gap between law and practice, because 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 areas 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,

Laura Preston
F3 Law Director of Governmental Affairs

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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.

Contact us at marketing@f3law.com | Visit us at f3law.com | Find more information and resources at f3law.com/resources.

F3 Law

Summary of Signed Legislation from the California 2026 Legislative Session

Business Operations and Facilities

AB 1642
Schools: Wildfires Contamination
Operative July 1, 2028

AB 1642 requires the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to develop regulations and guidance pertaining to indoor and outdoor contaminants after a wildfire. DTSC is required to collaborate with the California Department of Education (CDE) to develop advisory, nonregulatory guidance to support schools after a wildfire. This guidance will include information on wildfire hazards and resources that can support recovery.

Practical Pointer
Even though the guidance is nonregulatory, school districts should recognize that complaints and lawsuits regarding health conditions related to outdoor contaminants following a wildfire could be pursued. School districts are advised to consider implications for safety language in union contracts and alignment with mandated illness and injury prevention programs.

AB 1809
Facilities: Public Contracts
Operative January 1, 2027

AB 1809 extends the sunset on the authorization for school districts to use Job Order Contracting (JOC) from January 1, 2027, to January 1, 2037. AB 1809 also clarifies an ambiguity in existing law regarding the relationship between master JOC agreements and the individual job orders issued under these agreements. AB 1809 removes several procedural requirements under current JOC projects.

AB 1838

Facilities: Bidding Contracts Transparency

Operative January 1, 2027

When submitting a bid to a school district for a public works construction project, contractors will now be required to disclose any history of wage-and-hour violations within the previous five years. If there are violations, contractors must provide documentation on how the violations were addressed and how they will prevent future violations. AB 1838 exempts public works projects covered by a project labor agreement, or where a contractor is required to prequalify as a condition of bidding.

Practical Pointer

Make sure your contracts department updates its bid instructions to reference and include these new requirements.

AB 1860

Facilities: Design-Build

Operative January 1, 2027

Under current law, county offices of education are unable to utilize many project delivery tools used across school districts. AB 1860 authorizes county offices of education to use design-build and progressive design-build for their facilities projects.

AB 2067

Facilities: Lease-Leaseback

Operative January 1, 2027

Under current law, school districts are able to choose from a variety of project delivery methods for the construction of school facilities, including lease-leaseback. Supporters of this process cite cost containment and timeliness along with transparency and accountability to the public. AB 2067 extends the authority to utilize lease-leaseback from July 1, 2027 to July 1, 2032.

Practical Pointer

Please refer to our client alert for more information.



AB 2241

Facilities: Inclusive Playgrounds

Operative January 1, 2028

AB 2241 establishes the California Inclusive School Playgrounds Act. An inclusive school playground is designed to enable students with disabilities to play alongside nondisabled students. A Playground Advisory Committee, established within AB 2241, will coordinate with the CDE to develop and publish model guidelines to encourage inclusive playground features.

> Practical Pointer
> *Facilities teams may consider working with student services and IEP teams. School districts may also want to check with their insurers and/or risk management regarding other considerations should improvements to playgrounds be under consideration/necessary.*

AB 2316

Facilities: Charter Schools

Operative January 1, 2028

AB 2316 authorizes the State Allocation Board (SAB) to reduce a charter schools required 50 percent local match under the Charter School Facilities Program (CSFP) when the California School Finance Authority (CSFA) determines the financial obligation would impose an undue financial burden on the charter school. The SAB would increase the state grant amount to reflect this change.

AB 2790

Facilities: CA Teleconnect Fund

Operative January 1, 2027

AB 2790 expands the list of educational facilities eligible for discounted internet rates through the California Teleconnect Fund (CTF). Facilities added under AB 2790 include school districts and county offices of education serving preschools, transitional kindergarten, public libraries, non-instructional facilities operated or contracted by qualifying schools and libraries, including data centers and administrative offices for the eligible educational and library facilities.

SB 959

Attendance: Wildfire Emergencies

Operative September 29, 2026

Under current law, schools may cancel classes without financial penalties when there is an "imminence of a major safety hazard" determined by local law enforcement. Due to the increase in wildfires and their impact on schools and students, SB 959 allows a local fire agency to determine the imminence of a major safety hazard for schools holding ADA harmless for state funding.

SB 1058

Schools: Food Service Contracting

Operative January 1, 2027

The federal government places a number of conditions on school districts for receiving federal funds related to child nutrition programs. Among the restrictions is a requirement that award procurement bids must use price as the primary determining factor. SB 1058 instead allows school districts to let awards to the most responsive and responsible party, without having to consider price as the primary consideration.

SB 1107

Facilities: Shade Structures

Operative January 1, 2027



SB 1107 expands the existing exemption from accessible path-of-travel requirements for free standing, open-sided shade structures to apply to shade structures that are integrated into playground equipment. Projects that are only for the installation of shade structures integrated into playground equipment will be placed on the Division of the State Architect (DSA) approved pre-checked design list. SB 1107 further authorizes a school district, with approval of its governing board, to procure multiple design-build contracts for comparable projects and various sites, to be bundled through a single solicitation.

Practical Pointer

Governing boards must still approve the procurement process for design-build contracts for comparable shade structure projects.

SB 1140

Facilities: Pupil Safety

Operative January 1, 2027

SB 1140 requires the governing board of a local educational agency (LEA) to ensure that a contract(s) for any construction project taking place during school hours includes security provisions that limit access to the construction site and keep unauthorized individuals off school property.

AB 126

Education Omnibus Trailer Bill

Charter Schools: Oversight

Operative July 9, 2026

Every year after the State Budget is passed, a "trailer bill" follows enacting the various statutory provisions contained in the budget. AB 126 is the 2026 Education Omnibus Trailer Bill. The bill is comprehensive and includes many major education reforms including details pertaining to the new 14 weeks of Paid Pregnancy Disability Leave and Community Schools and increases to Special Education funding rates and the Student Support Discretionary Block Grant.

AB 126 also contains significant changes for charter schools and charter school authorizers. Specifically, a charter authorizer will be required to provide each charter school under its authority with feedback on any issues of concern identified in a specified review, and an opportunity to respond. After completing annual financial and compliance audit oversight responsibilities, charter authorizers will also be required to identify and provide notification to each charter school within 60 days of any material concern arising out of the chartering authority's ongoing oversight and monitoring activities.

Starting July 1, 2027, every chartering authority will be required to visit each approved resource center, meeting space, and satellite facility at least once every 2 years and, for each nonclassroom-based charter school under its authority, annually review the charter school's average daily attendance.

Each charter school must also obtain the approval of its governing body for any contract that would cause the charter school to compensate an individual contractor for more than $100,000 in a fiscal year.

AB 126 further requires the State Board of Education to establish criteria to define verified data and identify an approved list of valid and reliable assessments that charter authorizers must use in evaluating charter renewal petitions. The state board is also required to revise the performance standards and procedures for the renewal of charter schools to be effective July 1, 2028.

Practical Pointer

If not already performing such oversight activities, charter authorizers should update board policies and procedures to reflect these enhanced oversight requirements. Please refer to our client alert for more information.

AB 302

Students: Communication

Operative in the 2027-28 School Year

Beginning in the 2027-28 school year, local educational agencies are prohibited from excluding a student from participating in any extracurricular activity, including sports and clubs, due to the student not having or using addictive feeds and using addictive feeds as the only way to contact students or students' parents or guardians. The bill ensures that students can have access to student clubs and activities without having to join specific platforms.

Practical Pointer

LEAs will need to ensure that all new and existing coaches and club advisors are aware of this prohibition and should consider developing uniform communication expectations and guidelines to ensure compliance.

AB 767

Safety: Sexually Violent Predators

Operative January 1, 2027

Under existing law, a sexually violent predator is prohibited from residing within ¼ mile of a public or private K-12 school if the court finds that the person has a "history of improper sexual conduct with children." AB 767 expands this prohibition to apply to a day care center and prohibits a new day care center from opening within ¼ mile of an existing placement location of a sexual predator.

AB 1578

Governing Boards: Anti-Hate Speech Training

Operative January 1, 2028

Under existing law, local agency officials who receive a salary, stipend, or any type of compensation or reimbursement for actual expenses, are required to receive ethics training and sexual harassment prevention training. Local officials, including school boards, must receive this training within one year of their start date and repeat every two years. Beginning January 1, 2028, AB 1578 requires the inclusion of anti-hate speech training as a component of the sexual harassment training for all locally (and state) elected officials.

AB 1821

Public Records: Timeline

Operative January 1, 2027

To assist local agencies with timeline compliance for responding to requests for information under the California Public Records Act, AB 1821 changes the initial determination response deadline from 10 calendar days to 10 business days. AB 1821 also extends the timeline to 14 days to provide an initial response for unusual circumstances.



AB 1943

Parental Notification: Firearm Storage

Operative July 1, 2027

At the beginning of the school year, local educational agencies (LEAs) are required to notify parents or guardians on a myriad of topics, including the secure storage of firearms. AB 1943 places additional responsibilities on the CDE in consultation with the California Department of Justice (DOJ) to update their model content language to reflect changes placed on the CDE website. The bill further encourages LEAs to adopt a policy and practice providing the Secure Firearm Storage Notification to parents, guardians, or caregivers when providing notice of disciplinary actions or support related to threats against other students or self-harm.

AB 1961

Safety: Restraining Orders

Operative January 1, 2028

Existing law establishes that school districts and other employers are limited to filing a restraining order against an individual who is threatening another individual or employee in a work setting. In response to the increased threats aimed at school sites, school classrooms and school districts, AB 1961 allows an employer (school district) to seek a workplace restraining order on behalf of all employees at a workplace or location if harassment, unlawful violence, or a credible threat of violence is directed at an employer's workplace or location where a group of employees perform their primary duties.

AB 2242

Safety: Pupil Sextortion Poster

Operative in the 2027-28 School Year

Beginning in the 2027-28 school year, local educational agencies (LEAs) serving students in grades 7-12, will be required to place a poster in at least one men's bathroom, one women's bathroom, and one all-gender bathroom with an age-appropriate description of sextortion. The CDE is tasked with the development of information to be posted on their website to aid LEAs in the development of the posters.

AB 2248

Parental Notification: CA College Guidance Initiative

Operative January 1, 2027

AB 2248 adds another notice to the annual list of parental notification requirements provided at the beginning of the school year. Parents or guardians of students admitted to or advancing to grades 7-12 must be provided information on any dual enrollment or International Baccalaureate courses offered by the district, the benefits of the California College Guidance Initiative (CCGI), and encourage the creation of parent accounts. Parent accounts under the CCGI are free and a one-stop resource to help students prepare for college or career after finishing high school.



AB 2440

Proposition 28: Arts and Music in Education

Operative September 27, 2027

AB 2440 makes various changes to the Arts and Music in Schools Funding Guarantee and Accountability Act (Proposition 28). Among the many provisions outlined in the bill, local educational agencies (LEAs) are allowed to pool allocated funds across school sites. AB 2440 also creates a methodology for demonstrating compliance with the supplement-not-supplant requirement; expands the definition of an arts education program to include curriculum, instructional materials, and professional development; and requires the annual governing board approved Proposition 28 Report to be submitted and posted on or before September 30.

AB 2467

Boards: Contractors

Operative September 28, 2026

AB 2467 is the annual K-12 omnibus bill to clean up and clarify non-controversial revisions throughout the Education Code. One of the revisions addresses contracted services. On or before July 1, 2027, the governing board of a school district, an educational joint powers authority, or charter school, and the superintendent of a county office of education, are required to adopt a policy by which they will evaluate and approve contractors. AB 2467 outlines what must be included within the policy, including, but not limited to a requirement that public funds only be expended on nonsectarian programs and activities; a prohibition on the expenditure of public funds for a contract that pays for tuition or fees for a student in a private school (exception for students with an IEP); and a ban on any payment or gift to a student, prospective student, student's parent or guardian to recruit refer or retain a student.

AB 2726

Surplus Technology Property: Disposal

Operative January 1, 2027

AB 2726 authorizes school districts and county offices of education to establish streamlined processes for the disposal of surplus technology property. Disposal can be through online sales, buyback programs, negotiated sales, and donations. As a precondition of such disposal, governing boards are required to develop policies and procedures addressing competition, data security, and environmentally responsible disposal practices.

SB 994

Governing Boards: Nondisclosure Agreements

Operative January 1, 2027

SB 994 prohibits a local government official (governing board member) when acting in their official capacity, from entering into or requesting another individual enter into a nondisclosure agreement (NDA) relating to public business that precludes their ability to share information with fellow officials serving on the same board. The bill further voids any NDA entered into before January 1, 2027.

SB 1082

Attendance: Interdistrict Policies

Operative January 1, 2027

On or after January 1, 2027, SB 1082 authorizes a school district to begin review of an interdistrict transfer request upon receipt, if a parent or guardian submits an interdistrict transfer request concurrently to the school district of proposed enrollment and the school district of residence. SB 1082 further requires that if either school district determines the request for transfer is incomplete, the district must notify the parent within 30 days of receipt of the application and identify the missing information needed to process the request. SB 1082 also requires governing boards of a school district that has entered an interdistrict agreement to post the policy on the district's website.

SB 1128

Students: School Issued Technology Equipment

Operative in the 2027-28 School Year

Beginning in the 2027-28 school year, local educational agencies (LEAs) are prohibited from requiring a student enrolled in kindergarten to take home a school issued electronic device. Exceptions to this prohibition include if such device is required by an individualized education plan (IEP), the student is part of an independent study program, and if a local or state emergency interferes with the ability of a student to attend class in person.

SB 1159

Artificial Intelligence: Public Engagement & Documents

Operative January 1, 2027

SB 1159 amends the Administrative Procedures Act, the California Public Records Act, the Ralph M. Brown Act, the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, the California Environmental Quality Act, and the California Coastal Act of 1976, to define the term "person," "interested person," "participant," and "member of the public" to not include artificial intelligence systems (AI), autonomous agents, and robots in regard to those who are authorized to engage with governmental agencies. SB 1159 authorizes agencies to use disclosure verification tools to determine whether AI is present. SB 1159 further prohibits a person from knowingly using artificial intelligence to falsely engage with a governmental agency.

Practical Pointer

A real person can use AI, autonomous agents, or robots to facilitate their engagement with a governmental agency, including through the use of assistive technologies, provided the volume and frequency of the engagement are consistent with ordinary participation by a natural person. As such, agencies should consult with IT professionals to consider the need for, value and availability of, and related costs associated with implementation of disclosure verification tools.





Labor and Employment

AB 959

Credentialing: Administrators

Operative January 1, 2027

Under current law, candidates for the professional preparation requirement for a preliminary administrative services credential can participate in a Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) approved program or a one-year internship. Unlike the teacher internship program, current law does not explicitly authorize a school district or county office of education to offer these internships. As a result, the CTC has mostly approved programs offered by institutions of higher education and limited approval for programs offered by school districts or county offices of education. AB 959 clarifies that school districts or county offices of education may offer a one-year internship program approved by the CTC, to meet requirements of the administrative services credential.

Practical Pointer

Based on need, LEAs should consider whether to offer administrative credential internship programs to provide an alternative pathway to developing school leaders. Board action will be required and careful consideration given to whether the LEA has the capacity to meet credential program requirements.

AB 1009

Credentialing: Occupational and Physical Therapists

Operative January 1, 2027

AB 1009 authorizes occupational therapists (OTs) and physical therapists (PTs) to be eligible for a preliminary administrative services credential. AB 1009 also requires five years of experience as a school-based OT or PT to satisfy the existing experience requirements. This measure states that an OT or PT who obtains a preliminary administrative services credential shall not supervise or evaluate teachers, unless the local educational agency determines the candidate has prior teaching experience.

AB 1331

Employees: Workplace Surveillance

Operative January 1, 2027

AB 1331 prohibits a public and private employer from using a workplace surveillance tool to monitor or surveil employees in a workplace bathroom.

AB 1381

Employment: Unprofessional Conduct

Operative January 1, 2027

Existing law requires applicants for certificated and noncertificated positions to disclose all their prior school employers. Prospective school employers are required to contact all prior school employers regarding credible complaints, substantiated investigations, or discipline involving egregious misconduct. AB 1381 states that failure to comply by either a teacher for failure to disclose, or a superintendent of a school district or county office of education, a chief administrator of a charter school or private school, for not conducting background checks on certificated and noncertificated applicants, will be considered unprofessional conduct and may result in an adverse action by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC).

Practical Pointer

Ensure clear and consistent processes are in place for both conducting and documenting completion of the required background checks.

AB 1626

Coaches: Behavioral and Mental Health Training

Operative July 1, 2027

AB 1626 and AB 1665 are companion measures. Beginning July 1, 2027, AB 1626 requires trainings for a coach of a California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) sports program, non-interscholastic athletic program, and youth sports organization, cover behavioral and mental health challenges specific to student-athletes and sudden cardiac arrest training. By September 1, 2027, the CDE is required to identify existing training or develop a model youth athletics behavioral and mental health training for both recreational and competitive league youth coaches.

AB 1665

Coaches: Behavioral and Mental Health Training

Operative in the 2027-28 School Year

AB 1665 and AB 1626 are companion measures. Beginning in the 2027-28 school year, a school district, county office of education, or charter school that elects to offer athletic programs, other than interscholastic athletic programs, shall ensure that the athletic program's coaches complete a training every two years that covers youth athletics behavioral and mental health training and sudden cardiac arrest.

AB 1803

Employees: Anti-Hate Speech Training

Operative January 1, 2028

Under existing law, employers with over five employees are required to provide at least two hours of classroom or other effective interactive training and education regarding sexual harassment prevention to all supervisory employees, and at least one hour for nonsupervisory employees. Beginning January 1, 2028, anti-hate speech training is required to be added to the existing training. The anti-hate speech training shall provide supervisors and employees with practical guidance on recognizing, reporting, and confronting workplace speech that is identified as hate-speech.



AB 1883

Employees: Workplace Surveillance

Operative January 1, 2027

AB 1883 prohibits employers, including school districts, from using a workplace surveillance tool that uses artificial intelligence that collects neural data or recognizes an individual's emotional state. AB 1883 defines neural data as information that is generated by measuring the activity of an employee's central or peripheral nervous system, and that makes inferences or predictions about an individual's emotional state.

AB 2490

Substitute Teachers: Emergency Career Sub Permit Alternative Issuance and Renewal Pathways

Operative January 1, 2027

AB 2490 provides an alternative pathway for individuals to obtain and renew an emergency career substitute teaching permit, for general and special education classroom assignments. It requires completion of at least five hours of focused general education or special education professional development, specified orientation training, and mentoring, rather than prior substitute teaching experience. AB 2490 also allows substitute teachers possessing an emergency career substitute teaching permit to serve up to 70 days in a single classroom, including special education classrooms. New and renewed credentials are valid for 12 months, and first-time renewals require verification of an additional 30 hours of specified professional development. AB 2490 also requires local educational agencies (LEAs) to notify parents or guardians within 10 schooldays when students are assigned to a permit holder qualifying through the alternative pathway. LEAs are required to annually report to their governing boards and to the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) the number of assignments filled by permit holders qualifying through the alternative pathway.

Practical Pointer

Associated costs and benefits of providing professional development, training, and mentoring to substitutes should be considered if offering a program to support substitutes in obtaining and renewing emergency career substitute teaching permits. Partnerships with other area LEAs and county offices should also be considered.

AB 2519

CalSTRS: Charter Schools

Operative January 1, 2027

In 2024, AB 1997 was signed into law. Among other items, it defined "position subject to membership" into CalSTRS. While trying to resolve administrative complexity, AB 1997 excluded some positions within a charter school from participating in CalSTRS. AB 2519 corrects the prior unintended consequence by clarifying that a charter school employee who holds a valid credential, license, permit, or certificate authorized by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) or the State Department of Health Care Services, qualifies for CalSTRS eligibility.



SB 577

Public Entities: Childhood Sexual Assault Claims

Operative January 1, 2027

SB 577 attempts to mitigate the fiscal impact of childhood sexual assault claims against public entities, including schools. Among the changes are: eliminating treble damages from being imposed against a public entity; shortening the window for claims before January 1, 2024 from 5 years to 3 years; increasing the burden of proof to claims as proof by clear and convincing evidence that the public entity knew of the misconduct; providing alternate methods for paying damages; establishing accountability for attorneys who submit fraudulent claims; requiring a governing board to adopt codes of conduct and sexual assault prevention plans; and adding grooming behavior and sexual abuse risks to mandated reporter training.

Practical Pointer

Ensure the governing board as well as risk managers are aware of these changes and that boards have adopted the required codes of conduct and sexual assault prevention plans. And while SB 577 is a step forward towards aiding public entities with the financial impact of childhood sexual assault claims, school advocates do not think it goes far enough.

SB 947

Employees: Automated Decision Systems

Operative January 1, 2028

SB 947 regulates the use of automated decision systems (ADS) by employers, including schools. Among the regulations is the prohibition that an employer relies solely on an ADS when making discipline or termination decisions. If an employer utilizes an ADS, a human reviewer is required to conduct an independent investigation and collect information to confirm the decision.

SB 1038

CalPERS: Audits

Operative January 1, 2027

SB 1038 expands CalPERS notification requirements in the event of an audit. Prior to initiating an audit, SB 1038 requires CalPERS to notify the subject of the audit in writing of the scope and purpose of the audit. After providing notice, CalPERS is required to post on its website the school employer that is subject to the audit and the purpose and scope of the intended audit. Within 10 days of receiving the audit notice, the school employer is required to forward the intended audit information to the appropriate exclusive representative, if any, of their member(s) affected by the audit. The school employer must communicate to CalPERS that notice was provided. SB 1038 provides additional notice requirements upon receipt of the final audit report.

Practical Pointer

Consider verifying with any exclusive representatives the manner and method of providing the notices required by SB 1038, including identification of notice recipient(s).



SB 1149

Employees: Bereavement Leave

Operative January 1, 2027

SB 1149 adds a designated person to the list of family members who can take bereavement leave to include any individual related to the employee by blood or whose relationship to the employee is the equivalent to a family relationship. The leave can be limited to one designated person per employee within a 12-month period.

Practical Pointer

LEAs should review existing collective bargaining agreements and consider updating language to reflect the addition of a designated person to the list of authorized family members for whom leave can be taken.

SB 1412

Parents: Teacher Meetings

Operative January 1, 2027

SB 1412 states that a parent, guardian, or educational rights holder of a student has the right to communicate with their child's teacher by telephone or a school-approved web conferencing platform, if the parent, guardian, or educational rights holder is unable to attend a meeting in person with the teacher.

Practical Pointer

Ensure classroom teachers are appropriately notified of parent/guardian alternative right to communicate via telephone or web conferencing platform in lieu of in person meeting(s).



AB 1159

Privacy: Student Data

Operative January 1, 2027

Technological advances are outpacing the legal protections in the K-12 Pupil Online Personal Information Act (KOPIPA) and the Early Learning Personal Information Protection Act (ELPIPA) leaving students and early learners vulnerable to the collection, usage, and disclosure of their data. AB 1159 modifies KOPIPA and ELPIPA by regulating the use of student data in artificial intelligence (AI) systems. This measure prohibits operators from using covered information to train or develop AI systems unless the use is to further K-12 school purposes, or for the use and benefit of the school and teacher, student, or parent. AB 1159 adds additional protections for data privacy.

Practical Pointer

Consider working with your legal counsel to ensure legal compliance and student safety in any third-party vendor agreements, including specific contract language addressing these changes.

AB 1412

Special Education: Pupil Transfers

Operative January 1, 2027

Under existing law, a student with an individualized education program (IEP) who transfers to a new school within California, is entitled to immediately receive comparable services to the previously approved IEP for 30 days. After 30 days, the new school must adopt the previously agreed to IEP or adopt a new IEP. AB 1412 applies this same requirement for students transferring to California from out of state. Upon notification that a student may be eligible for services under the IDEA, a school district shall promptly coordinate with the student's parents and prior school to facilitate the timely exchange of records to reduce any delay. Within 30 days of receiving official or unofficial records for the student, the school district is required to develop, adopt, and implement a new IEP. AB 1412 requires the receiving school to accept unofficial records provided by a parent or guardian, pending receipt and validation of official records.

AB 1586

Safety: School Resource Officers

Operative in the 2027-28 School Year

AB 1586 establishes the School Safety and Opioid Overdose Prevention Act. Beginning in the 2027-28 school year, AB 1596 requires school resource officers who are assigned to a school site to complete an opioid overdose recognition and response training, to be repeated every two years. The training must be approved by the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training, or the Board of State and Community Corrections. There are reporting requirements by school resource officers to the State Department of Public Health pertaining to the types of opioid antagonists used and how often.

Practical Pointer

School districts should confer with local law enforcement to ensure that assigned SROs are in compliance with this new training requirement. For those school districts with their own police departments, they should ensure that these training and reporting requirements are incorporated into job descriptions and the impacts/effects are appropriately addressed through collective bargaining, as necessary.

AB 1659

Students: Juvenile Court Schools

Operative January 1, 2027

AB 1659 requires school districts in a juvenile court school (JCS) student's community, to assign a school district staff member to serve as the district's point person for transition liaison responsibilities. School districts are required to notify the county office of education and county probation department of the staff person's name and contact information. AB 1659 outlines the duties of the point person, including the timely transfer of complete and accurate education records, placement in an appropriate school, and acceptance of appropriate course credits.

AB 1763

Students: Excused Absences

Operative January 1, 2027

AB 1763 requires a student be excused from school when the absence is for the observance of a holiday or ceremony of the student's religion. The bill removes the requirement that the student's absence be requested in writing by a parent and approved by the principal.



AB 1871

Students: Dual Enrollment

Operative January 1, 2027

AB 1871 changes the College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) dual enrollment program. The changes include removing the requirement that participating students obtain a principal recommendation.~~,~~ AB 1871 requires CCAP agreements to establish protocols authorizing students to complete a single community college application for the duration of their attendance as a special part-time student. It further eliminates the existing limitation that restricts CCAP students enrolled under the 15-unit exception to no more than four community college courses per term and retains the 15-unit maximum per term for participating students.~~,~~ The annual state reporting requirement~~s~~ is amended to emphasize student outcomes.

Practical Pointer

Districts operating CCAP dual enrollment programs should review and revise CCAP agreements with their higher ed partners to ensure alignment with these statutory changes.

AB 1969

Community Schools: Promise Neighborhoods

Operative January 1, 2027

Under the existing California Community Schools Partnership Program (CCSPP), local educational agencies (LEAs) can retain up to 10% of funds awarded each year for its eligible school sites. The funds must be used to administer community schools established in the eligible school sites, manage professional learning networking, and coordinate services and funding streams for those community schools. AB 1969 strengthens coordination between LEAs, community-based organizations, county offices of education, and Promise Neighborhoods. The bill allows LEAs to use existing administrative funding to serve as a network lead for multiple community school sites within a Promise Neighborhood.

AB 2003

Students: Suicide Prevention

Operative July 19, 2026

Under current law, the CDE identifies suicide prevention trainings for school staff, students, parents and guardians, and caregivers. AB 1871 instead requires the Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (BHSOAC) to develop evidence-based online training that is accessible, free of charge, and available statewide to train school staff who work with K-12 students, students 13 years of age and older, parents and guardians, and caregivers of students in K-12. Local educational agencies (LEAs) who elect to conduct suicide risk screenings must report to the CDE by June 30, 2027, and June 30th annually thereafter, the number of students screened, and which screening instruments were used.

AB 2107

Students: Expanded Learning Opportunities Program

Operative January 1, 2027

AB 2107 clarifies that school districts and charter schools participating in the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP), that have an unduplicated pupil percentage (UPP) of 55 percent or higher, must prioritize offering ELOP access to unduplicated students.



AB 2332

Students: Dual Immersion Coordinator

Operative January 1, 2027

On or before July 1, 2027, the CDE is to designate a Dual Language Immersion Coordinator. The role of the Coordinator is to share resources and knowledge on dual language immersion programs between LEAs.

AB 2555

Students: English Language Learners

Operative July 1, 2027

AB 2555 reforms reclassifying English learners as English proficient. The 2026-27 school year is considered a transition year towards the reforms. Beginning July 1, 2027, AB 2555 implements a new permanent statewide reclassification system. Among the changes, AB 2555 requires school districts to assess the English language development (ELD) of each English learner (EL) student with the new reclassification system to be approved by the State Board of Education (SBE). AB 2555 clarifies when ELs are to be assessed, eligibility for the alternate English language proficiency assessment, parental notification, reclassification, alternate reclassification for students with disabilities, and student monitoring consistent with federal law.

Practical Pointer

Please refer to our client alert for more information.

SB 685

Special Education: Nonpublic Schools

Operative January 1, 2027

SB 685 revises the requirements governing nonpublic schools (NPSs) and nonpublic agencies (NPAs) by permitting qualified sectarian entities to be certified as NPSs and NPAs. Public funds paid by an LEA are prohibited from being used for religious instruction and require a master contract, individual service agreement, or IEP, to incorporate language into nonsectarian and nondiscrimination requirements. AB 2555 requires the state adopted curriculum be offered and provides additional CDE oversight. Beginning January 1, 2027, NPS employees are required to undergo fingerprint-based state and national criminal history background clearances and requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) to verify that owners, operators, employees and contractors have received successful criminal background clearances and subsequent arrest notification services. Additional conditions are added for waivers involving placement in a noncertified NPS, or waiver of specified NPS or NPA certification requirements. Beginning July 1, 2027, SB 685 requires noncredentialled staff and noncredentialled administrators to hold a Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) certificate of clearance. Beginning January 1, 2028, certificated NPS staff serving CA students must satisfy specified CA credentialing requirements.

Practical Pointer

LEAs should ensure that all new and existing agreements with NPAs and NPSs include or are amended to include confirmation of NPA/NPS adherence to all new statutory requirements.

SB 845

Students: Career Technical Education

Operative January 1, 2027

SB 845 authorizes K-12 students enrolled in a community college as part of a dual-enrollment program to participate in and receive credit for work-based learning activities. The bill further authorizes local educational agencies (LEAs) and state special schools, rather than only school districts, to offer work experience education (WEE). SB 845 expands the WEE program to include work-based learning activities occurring in career technical education (CTE) and early college credit programs. It also requires the governing board of an LEA or state special school offering a WEE program, to allow students in grade 10 to receive credit for satisfactorily completing a WEE program.

Practical Pointer

For LEAs offering work experience, the governing board will need to pass a resolution allowing students in grade 10 to receive credit for completion of a WEE program. Work with your local business community, local workforce development boards, and community colleges to ensure work-based learning aligns with regional needs.

SB 998

Schools: Discrimination Prevention Coordinators

Operative January 1, 2027

Last year, AB 715 was passed into law to establish the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) within the new Government Operations Agency (GovOps) and created an Antisemitism Coordinator position within that office. SB 48, a companion measure, established disability coordinators for race/ethnicity, religion, LGBTQ+ and gender within this new OCR. The duties of those coordinators were not established in the prior legislation. SB 998 was introduced this year to establish the duties and responsibilities for the coordinators to provide technical assistance to address discrimination or disability within California schools. Their roles include providing resources and training to staff, tracking and reporting to the State Board of Education (SBE) complaints and resolutions or lack of a resolution of complaints in all LEAs serving TK-12th grade students.

Practical Pointer

LEAs will want to keep updated on the oversight responsibilities developed and for clarification and information regarding available resources and training.

SB 1017

Foster Youth: Pupil Records

Operative January 1, 2027

SB 1017 requires school districts to provide foster youth 14 and older with access to their student records.



SB 1067

Students: Math Assessments

Operative July 31, 2027

Under SB 1067, beginning in the 2028-29 school year, local educational agencies (LEAs) will be required to screen all K-2 students annually for early math difficulties. By July 31, 2027, the CDE will post on its website criteria and guidance for selecting evidence-based, culturally, linguistically, and developmentally appropriate math screening diagnostic assessments. By June 30, 2028, governing boards, at a public meeting, must select the diagnostic assessment. LEAs are not required to use the assessments listed by CDE but will need to self-certify their assessment tool meets the required criteria outlined in SB 1067. Annual parental notification is required to provide information about the assessment. The results of the assessments must be made available to parents or guardians along with information on how to interpret the results. Students who have been screened and identified as experiencing math difficulties must be provided with appropriate supports and services. LEAs are required to annually report data to the CDE related to the number of students identified with math difficulties.

Practical Pointer

LEAs should ensure that board action on the math assessment to be used, including board self-certification if choosing an assessment not on CDE's list, is calendared and completed prior to the deadline. Annual parental notification documents will also need to be updated to reflect math assessment information. LEAs will also need to consider what supports and services may be included for students experiencing difficulties.

SB 1347

Safety: Emergency Stock Inhalers

Operative January 1, 2027chool districts, county offices of education, and charter schools currently are authorized to provide and administer emergency stock albuterol inhalers. SB 1347 extends this authority to childcare programs operated by school districts.

Practical Pointer

LEAs should determine where and how inhalers are to be stored and when they can be used. Appropriate training for childcare program staff members will also need to be addressed.

SB 1381

Special Education: State Special Schools

Operative in the 2027-28 School Year

By July 1, 2027, SB 1381 requires the CDE to provide local educational agencies (LEAs) with information about the California School for the Deaf and the California School for the Blind. Beginning in the 2027-28 school year, LEAs are required to provide parents and guardians of students who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, visually impaired, or deaf-blind, information about state special schools provided by CDE. Notification can be provided through annual parental notification or during an individualized education program (IEP) process.



AB 395

Holiday: Scheduling

Operative in the 2027-28 School Year

Beginning in the 2027-28 school year, school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools are required by AB 395 to make every effort to avoid scheduling the first day of school and high school graduation on dates that conflict with any observance of a religious, cultural, or ancestral holiday. In addition, when considering and deciding which dates to avoid, school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools are required to actively seek input from the affected communities and other relevant sources, to ensure inclusive participation.

Practical Pointer

Governing boards may wish to adopt a resolution or policy outlining the preferred methods for community outreach. As AB 395 will impact school calendar development, district leaders will also need to ensure that calendar negotiations are discussed with all labor partners.

AB 1841

Holiday: Native American Day

Operative January 1, 2027

Upon appropriation by the Legislature, AB 1841 entitles state employees to a holiday on the fourth Friday of September designated as Native American Day, in lieu of a personal holiday.

Practical Pointer

AB 1841 applies to state employees only. It does not entitle school employees to an additional paid holiday. However, it is important to be aware of this legislation should your union wish to discuss the same holiday with you.

AB 2017

Holiday: Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha

Operative January 1, 2027

AB 2017 adds Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha to the list of state holidays. State employees will be allowed to exchange their personal holiday credit for time off during these observances. AB 2017 further authorizes public schools to close on the first day of the month of the Islamic lunar calendar for Eid al-Fitr and the 10th day of the month of the Islamic lunar calendar for Eid al-Adha. In addition, the bill encourages public schools to incorporate exercises celebrating the meaning and importance of these dates.

Practical Pointer

Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha are two religious holidays celebrated by Muslims around the world. The dates of both holidays are determined by the Islamic lunar calendar, and their dates vary from year to year. Governing boards may wish to discuss whether schools will close on these days and/or consider celebration activities. Consideration of celebration activities should include bargaining implications, calendaring issues, and board resolutions.

AB 2294

Holiday: Sylvia Mendez Day

Operative January 1, 2027

AB 2294 establishes a state holiday on April 14th as Sylvia Mendez Day. In 1946, the case Mendez v. Westminster led to one of the earliest school desegregation cases in the nation. Just months after the ruling, the Governor of California signed legislation ending statutory school segregation in California.

Practical Pointer

AB 2294 does not create a new school holiday nor specifically authorize schools to close in observance; however, LEAs should carefully review collective bargaining agreement language regarding observance and identification of paid holidays to determine any obligations to close schools and/or compensate employees at premium pay rates.

SB 1394

Holiday: Farmworkers Day

Operative January 1, 2027

SB 1394 removes reference to Cesar Chavez Day on March 31st and replaces it with Farmworkers Day on April 10th and authorizes public schools to close. To the extent this change conflicts with a collective bargaining agreement; the change in dates will not apply until the expiration or renewal of that collective bargaining agreement.

Practical Pointer

Prior to considering any changes in date, labor negotiators should be contacted to discuss employee preferences along with consideration of existing calendar. Governing boards should decide whether to continue with the existing March 31st date or close schools on April 10th.



AB 387

Safety: Youth Sports

Operative January 1, 2028

Beginning on January 1, 2028, AB 387 revises the existing requirement that youth sports organizations ensure athletes have access to an automated external defibrillator (AED) during an official practice or match. Specifically, any public or private local facility with a permanent sports infrastructure who maintains an AED, will need to make the AED available to youth sports organizations. If there is no AED available, the youth sports organization will need to ensure there is access to one. A local educational agency (LEA) is not deemed to have procured or maintained an AED unless the AED is in the same common area of a building or outdoor field where the official practice or match is taking place or is attached externally to a building with reasonable access to where the practice or match is taking place. LEAs are not required to have staff remain onsite to provide access to the AED.

Practical Pointer

LEAs should consider reviewing how community youth athletics programs, including those run by third parties or local leagues, use district facilities and where AEDs are available/accessible. Update standard facility use agreements to address youth sports organization AED access and consider adding language related to indemnification and liability of contracting third party organizations for damage/misuse. Update board policies and regulations as needed.

AB 1569

Safety: E-Bikes

Operative March 1, 2028

On or before March 1, 2028, AB 1569 requires the CDE to consult with the Department of Highway Patrol (CHP), to develop a standardized electric bicycle safety and training program for students in grades 7-12. The training program shall include an online component and encourages local educational agencies and/or parent organizations, to offer training on electric bicycle safety demonstrations in person to students and parents.

Practical Pointer

LEAs should consider working with their local parent organizations to offer e-bike training programs that include both students and their parents. Consider collaborating with local law enforcement and/or local governmental entities that have already developed e-bike training programs. If training is offered, consider potential liability issues associated with student injuries or fatalities arising from e-bike use. Also consider working with local traffic enforcement to enforce local ordinances regarding youth and e-bikes.

AB 2007

Youth Safety: Parental Notification

Operative January 1, 2027

AB 2007 prohibits youth-focused programs from making a youth's enrollment or participation contingent upon a parent or guardian consenting to the use of the youth's personal information. The youth-focused programs must receive a parent or guardian's express written consent before the information can be used. Examples of covered programs include, but are not limited to, extracurricular, after-school programs, educational enrichment or athletics, primarily offered outside of school hours, and not operated by a public or private school.

Practical Pointer

While AB 2007 doesn't apply directly to programs offered by public or private schools, awareness is advised in order to reduce any confusion about programs operating on or in collaboration/partnership with schools.

AB 2455

Instruction: Bruce Lee Day

Operative January 1, 2027

AB 2455 designates May 17th of each year as Bruce Lee Day. All public schools are encouraged to conduct exercises remembering the life of Bruce Lee.

Practical Pointer

Governing Boards should consider if they wish to participate in this annual May 17th celebration. Boards may want to consider types of celebration activities schools may be interested in. Consider including your labor leaders in the discussion of potential changes. Include your curriculum and instruction teams in the development of activities and learning opportunities.

AB 2503

Athletic Safety: Heat Illness Guidelines

Operative July 1, 2027

By July 1, 2027, AB 2503 requires the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) to review and update the guidelines, procedures, and safety standards for the prevention and management of heat illness. The CIF is directed to consider the various regions of the state with higher average temperatures.

Practical Pointer

School schedules, practice hours, and working conditions such as providing proper hydration and first aid training, and whole-body cooling for heat illness should be considered when reviewing recommendations by the CIF. School districts in higher temperature regions may see a more significant impact due to new recommendations. Could impact labor agreements, training requirements, and information to coaches.



SB 930

Student Privacy: Student Test Takers

Operative July 1, 2027

SB 930 is another step to protect student privacy by requiring a business that provides exam proctoring services to local educational agencies to use end-to-end encryption for online assessments. SB 930 defines proctoring to include any business that observes, monitors, or administers an exam in grades Kindergarten-12th grade.

Practical Pointer

Districts should carefully review the terms of all existing and new contracts to ensure that all third-party vendors are in compliance when SB 930 goes into effect.

SB 1048

Climate Pathway: State Seal of Climate Literacy

Operative January 31, 2029

SB 1048 establishes the State Seal of Climate Literacy (SSCL), a voluntary program where local educational agencies create pathways towards climate literacy disciplines. The State Board of Education is required to adopt criteria, by January 31, 2029, for awarding the SSCL to students who have demonstrated mastery in climate literacy disciplines, green skills, or technical green schools.

Practical Pointer

Governing Boards will need to decide if they wish to participate in the State Seal of Climate Literacy program. SB 1048 establishes several requirements to be implemented including student notification, a process for determining if a student has met the necessary criteria and adhere the State Seal to a student's diploma who has completed the program.

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