

CHANGES IN LAW

2024

A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO NEW LAWS IMPACTING
SCHOOL OPERATIONS



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ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

CHANGES IN LAW
2024



California Department of Education to report on required reports.

When the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) replaced categorical funding, an unexpected benefit was the elimination of numerous reporting requirements tied to various funding streams. However, since that time, the data and other reporting requirements for local educational agencies (LEAs) have steadily increased. The COVID pandemic brought additional state and federal programs and initiatives, which also brought a surge in required plans, data collection, and reports, causing many in the education community to call it the “plandemic.”

Many of the state’s required reports are duplicative, cumbersome, and require educators to divert attention away from services for kids in order to write plans and complete required paperwork, leading many schools leaders to suspect that not all of the information reported is being reviewed or used by the entities requiring it.

In response, Governor Newsom signed [SB 1315](#) by Senator Bob Archuleta (D-Pico Rivera), which requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to produce and present a report and recommendations on which reports could be consolidated, eliminated, or shortened by March 1, 2025. It is a good start, but many in the education community hope that it is only the first step. According to an estimate by Senator Archuleta, school districts throughout the state are required to annually produce 170 reports, nearly equivalent to the statutorily required 180 instructional days in the school year.

ABCs not ELPAC for TK students.

Many lauded the recent expansion of universal pre-K and transitional kindergarten (TK) programs. However, until this school year, because of prior requirements under state and federal law, many of the state’s youngest students were assessed and classified as English learners using the English Language Proficiency Assessments of California (ELPAC) which was not designed for them. The ELPAC, while an important instrument, is not developmentally appropriate, and has not been proven valid and reliable for use with all four-year-olds, as required by state and federal law.

Specifically, federal law requires that states assess students for English language proficiency starting in kindergarten, which typically means children who are five years old. The ELPAC is California’s statewide test for English language proficiency, designed for students in kindergarten through grade 12. The initial ELPAC is given to students who are enrolling in California schools for the first time and whose primary language is not English, as reported by their parents. Students are classified as English learners based on their initial ELPAC results. The summative ELPAC is administered each year

thereafter to assess English learners' progress in developing their English language skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The summative assessment is also used to determine whether an English learner is ready for reclassification as proficient in English. Because California law defines TK to mean the first year of a two-year kindergarten program, the current interpretation of the requirement is to assess students for English language proficiency starting in TK. [AB 2268](#) by Assembly Member Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance), an urgency measure (which means the bill takes effect immediately upon signature) that was approved by the Governor in June in order to be in place for the 2024-25 school year, exempts students from having to take the ELPAC in TK earlier than originally intended. Now, the assessment of an eligible student will occur upon their entry into kindergarten.

The Governor signed the following assessment and accountability bills:

Absenteeism

[AB 1884 \(Ward\) - Pupil attendance: excused absences: uniformed services deployments.](#)

Current law authorizes a pupil's excused absence to spend time with a member of their immediate family who is an active duty member of the uniformed services, and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from, deployment to a combat zone or combat support position. AB 1884 removes the requirement that the deployment be to a combat zone or combat support position.

Chapter 919, Statutes of 2024

[AB 2771 \(Maienschein\) - Pupil attendance: schoolsite absence intervention teams.](#)

This bill requires CDE, by the beginning of the 2026–27 school year, to post information on its website about methods of reducing chronic absenteeism, including through the formation of schoolsite absence intervention teams.

Chapter 154, Statutes of 2024

[SB 1138 \(Newman\) - Pupil attendance: excused absences: military entrance processing.](#)

This bill authorizes a student's absence to be excused for participation in military entrance processing.

Chapter 925, Statutes of 2024

Accountability

[AB 2046 \(Bryan\) - Educational programs: single gender schools and classes.](#)

Current law authorizes, until January 1, 2025, a school district, or a charter school authorized by a school district, with an average daily attendance of 250,000 or more pupils to maintain any single gender schools and classes that were enrolling pupils as of July 1, 2017, if certain requirements are met. This bill extends the authorization through June 30, 2031.

Chapter 373, Statutes of 2024

[SB 1315 \(Archuleta\) - School accountability: local educational agencies: annual reporting requirements.](#)

Requires CDE, on or before March 1, 2025, to provide a report to the SPI, the Governor, and the Legislature on the number and types of reports that school districts, county offices of education (COE), and charter schools are required to annually submit. The report must include the purpose of each report and recommendations for which reports can be consolidated, eliminated, or truncated. The bill also encourages specified committees of the Legislature to hold a hearing, within 30 days of receiving the report from CDE, to allow for the SPI to present the report.

Chapter 468, Statutes of 2024

Assessments

[AB 2268 \(Muratsuchi\) - English learners: initial identification: English language proficiency assessment.](#)

Each school district with pupils who are English learners, and, to the extent required by federal law, each COE and each charter school, must assess the English language development of each pupil in order to determine the pupil's level of proficiency. In California, the assessment given to English learners is the ELPAC. The ELPAC is usually conducted upon the initial enrollment of a pupil however, AB 2268, which took effect upon the Governor's signature in June, exempts students in TK from being assessed for English language development using the ELPAC. The bill also excludes students in TK from being assessed for initial identification as an English learner upon their initial enrollment.

Chapter 15, Statutes of 2024

[SB 1195 \(Limón\) - Assessments: advanced placement examinations: fall testing date.](#)

This bill requires CDE, on or before February 1, 2025, to request the College Board to provide an alternative testing date at the end of the fall semester for all pupils in California whose advanced placement courses conclude in the fall semester, while maintaining the option for those pupils to take the advanced placement examination for those courses during the spring semester, at the discretion of the pupil.

Chapter 885, Statutes of 2024

Data

[AB 2723 \(Irwin\) - The California Cradle-to-Career Data System Act.](#)

Under existing law the California Cradle-to-Career Data System Workgroup is established to assess and recommend data system structural components, processes, and options for expansion and enhancement of data system functionality and to advise ongoing efforts to develop, administer, and enhance the data system. Under existing law, a governing board is established to govern the data system. This bill would dissolve the workgroup.

Chapter 736, Statutes of 2024

Graduation Requirements

[AB 2251 \(Connolly\) - Graduation requirements: local requirements: exemptions.](#)

Current law requires a pupil to complete designated coursework while in grades 9 to 12 in order to receive a diploma of graduation from high school. These graduation requirements include the completion of 3 years of courses in English, 2 years of courses in mathematics, 2 years of courses in science, and 3 years of courses in social studies. The governing board of a school district may also adopt its own additional graduation requirements. AB 2251 simply clarifies that the governing board of a school district is also authorized to adopt a policy to exempt pupils from any additional local graduation requirements.

Chapter 560, Statutes of 2024

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CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

CHANGES IN LAW
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aa/r/r Atkinson, Andelson
Loya, Ruud & Romo

Agreement on Personal Finance Course Requirement Avoids Ballot Showdown

In a dance we're seeing more often, proponents of a ballot measure that would have added a standalone course in financial literacy to the list of graduation requirements leveraged their position to force a legislative deal. The result, [AB 2927](#) (Kevin McCarty, D-Sacramento), requires local educational agencies (LEAs) to offer a single, standalone course in personal finance beginning in the 2027-28 school year (for the 2030-31 graduating class), and allows a pupil that has completed a course in personal finance to elect to be exempt from the requirement to complete a one-semester course in economics. AB 2927 also specifies that an LEA may eliminate one or more locally required courses to allow time in the bell schedule for the new course requirement.

AB 2927 specifies that an individual holding a single subject teaching credential in Social Science, Business, Mathematics, or Home Economics is authorized to teach the personal finance course. The bill also gives the Commission on Teacher Credentialing the authority to establish a supplementary authorization that authorizes individuals holding other single subject teaching credentials to teach the personal finance course.

The bill requires the Instructional Quality Commission (IQC) to develop and recommend to the State Board of Education (SBE) for consideration and adoption, a curriculum guide and resources for a separate, stand-alone one-semester course in personal finance that is not combined with any other course. The SBE will be required to adopt, based on the IQC's recommendation, the curriculum guide and resources on or before May 31, 2026. The bill appropriates \$300,000 to the IQC for this purpose. If the SBE has not adopted the curriculum guide and resources as of May 31, 2026, LEAs, including charter schools, shall locally develop the curriculum and resources to offer a personal finance course meeting the state's requirements, in order to meet the requirement to offer the course as of the 2027-28 school year.

Narrow But Meaningful Change Made to College and Career Access Pathways (CCAPs)

Previous law only allowed a community college to enter into a CCAP agreement with a district or county office of education (COE) outside of its service area under very limited circumstances, often leading to frustration and impasse. Senator Josh Newman (D - Fullerton) authored SB 1244 to broaden those circumstances, stating:

"This jurisdictional limitation has resulted in situations across the state where schools seeking dual enrollment partnerships with neighboring districts have been prevented from doing so because the governing community college district arbitrarily denies the requested approval or simply fails to

take action, which has the same effect. This bill will ensure that students are not denied quality dual enrollment opportunities due to the requirement in current law that gives local community college districts effective veto power over a school district's request to enter into a dual enrollment relationship with a neighboring community college, where such a partnership may not be possible with the community college in which the school is located."

Specifically, SB 1244 allows the governing body of a community college to amend or establish a CCAP agreement with a district or COE outside of their primary service area if the primary college has either declined a request from a district or COE, or has failed to take action with 60 calendar days of a request to amend or establish a CCAP agreement.

Bills Mandates Instruction on Dangers of Fentanyl, Excessive Alcohol Use

Policymakers will often view school curriculum as a straightforward way to address the problems they see students facing. This year, we saw that in both [AB 2429](#) (David Alvarez, D-San Diego) and [AB 2865](#) (Wendy Carillo, D-Los Angeles).

AB 2429 requires a school district or charter school that requires a course in health education for graduation, to include instruction in the dangers of fentanyl use, commencing with the 2026–27 school year. The bill requires this instruction be consistent with the most recent health framework, and be based on information from the National Institutes of Health and the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

This instruction shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following:

- Information on what fentanyl is, including, but not limited to, an explanation of the differences between synthetic opioids, nonsynthetic opioids, and illicit drugs and the variations of fentanyl.
- The differences between the legal and illegal uses of fentanyl.
- The risks of using fentanyl, including, but not limited to, the lethal dose of fentanyl, including comparing that lethal dose of fentanyl to the lethal dose of other drugs, and how often fentanyl is put into illegal drugs without a user's knowledge.
- An explanation of what fentanyl does to a human body and the severity of fentanyl's addictive properties.
- How the consumption of fentanyl can lead to hypoxia and an explanation of what hypoxia is and how it can affect the human body.
- An explanation of the process of adding or mixing fentanyl with other drugs, a process more commonly known as "lacing," and why lacing with fentanyl is common.

- How to detect fentanyl in drugs and how to potentially save a person from a fentanyl overdose, including, but not limited to, how to buy and use fentanyl test strips and how to buy and use naloxone or other opioid antagonists in the form of a prefilled nasal product and an injection.
- How to detect if someone is overdosing on fentanyl.

AB 2865 requires that the currently required instruction on the effects of alcohol also include information about excessive drinking and the short-term and long-term risks of excessive alcohol use. Instruction must include information about excessive drinking, the immediate effects of alcohol that increase the risks of harmful health conditions, and how excessive alcohol use can lead to the development of chronic diseases and other serious problems, including alcohol-related deaths and mental health problems.

School boards must adopt regulations specifying the grades and courses where this instruction will be provided.

New Accommodation from Physical Education (PE) for Religious Fasting

To support students who are fasting in observation of their religion, Assembly Member Luz Rivas (D-Sylmar) carried [AB 2377](#), which grants an accommodation for students in kindergarten through grade 12 in connection with any physical activity components of a PE course upon the written submission of a request from their parent or guardian. Students who are 18 and older may submit the request themselves. Students will be given instructional time credit for the minutes for any time for which they were granted an accommodation, provided the student completes alternative assignments or activities.

The Governor signed the following curriculum and instruction bills:

CTE

[AB 1929 \(McKinnor\) - Career technical education: data collection.](#)

This bill requires that data reported to the state by recipients of the Career Technical Education Incentive Grant and K-12 Strong Workforce Program to be disaggregated by race and gender.

Chapter 145, Statutes of 2024

[AB 3131 \(McCarty\) - Strong Workforce Program: applicants receiving equity multiplier funding.](#)

AB 3131 requires positive consideration for purposes of awarding grants under the K-12 Strong Workforce Program to, among other existing factors, be given to applicants that serve pupils enrolled at LEAs receiving Local Control Funding Formula Equity Multiplier funding.

Chapter 434, Statutes of 2024

[SB 1244 \(Newman\) - Pupil instruction: dual enrollment: College and Career Access Pathways partnerships.](#)

For purposes of College and Career Access Pathways (CCAPs), SB 1244 requires a community college district to allow an existing CCAP partnership to be amended, or a new CCAP agreement to be established with a school district, county office of education (COE), or charter school and a community college district outside of the primary community college district's service area, if the primary community college district has declined a request from the school district, COE, or charter school, or has failed to take action within 60 calendar days of a request by the school district, COE, or charter school to either amend into the existing CCAP partnership the requested courses, or to approve another community college district to enter into a CCAP partnership to offer those courses.

Chapter 789, Statutes of 2024

Curriculum and Instruction

[AB 1796 \(Alanis\) - Pupil instruction: course offerings: parental notification.](#)

AB 1796 requires a school district, COE, or charter school to annually notify the parents or guardians of pupils admitted to, or advancing to, grades 7 to 12, of any dual enrollment or International Baccalaureate courses offered by the LEA, and further requires school districts to provide this notice as part of the annual notifications required at the beginning of a school year.

Chapter 143, Statutes of 2024

[AB 1871 \(Alanis\) - Adopted course of study for grades 7 to 12: social sciences: personal financial literacy.](#)

Current law requires the adopted course of study for grades 7 to 12 to offer courses in specified areas of study, including social sciences, drawing upon anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science, psychology, and sociology. Current law also requires social science instruction to include instruction that provides a foundation for understanding the development of the American economic system, including the role of the entrepreneur and labor. This bill, with respect to the adopted course of study for grades 7 to 12, requires the social sciences area of study to also include instruction on personal financial literacy.

Chapter 810, Statutes of 2024

[AB 2073 \(Quirk-Silva\) - Physical education courses: alternate term schedules.](#)

This bill authorizes the governing board of a school district serving grades 6 to 12 to adopt a policy providing for an alternate term schedule for physical education (PE) courses if (A) pupils in grade 6 receive no fewer than 400 minutes of instruction every 10 days for a semester of not fewer than 18 weeks during the regular school year, for a total of 3,600 instructional minutes for the school year, and pupils in grades 7 to 12 receive no fewer than 800 minutes of instruction every 10 days for semester of not fewer than 18 weeks during the regular school year, for a total of 7,200 instructional minutes for the school year, (B) the PE program is aligned with the PE framework adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE), (C) the PE program complies with regulations regarding the course of study requirements for high school PE programs, and (D) pupils are prepared for, and participate in, required physical performance testing.

Chapter 375, Statutes of 2024

[AB 2377 \(Rivas, Luz\) - Pupil instruction: physical education: accommodation: religious fasting.](#)

AB 2377 requires a student in kindergarten through grade 12 to be granted an accommodation in connection with engaging in any physical activity components of a PE course during a period of religious fasting upon the submission to the school principal of written notification from the pupil's parent or guardian, if the pupil is less than 18 years of age, or from the pupil, if the pupil is 18 years of age or older, that the pupil is participating in religious fasting. For purposes of calculating compliance with PE instructional time requirements, this bill requires a pupil to be credited with instructional time for any time for which the pupil was granted an accommodation in connection with engaging in any physical activity components of a PE course pursuant to that religious exemption process, upon completion of alternative assignments or activities by the student.

Chapter 960, Statutes of 2024

[AB 2429 \(Alvarez\) - Pupil instruction: health education courses: fentanyl.](#)

Beginning with the 2026–27 school year, AB 2429 requires the governing board of a school district or the governing body of a charter school that has elected to require its pupils to complete a course in health education for graduation from high school, to include instruction in the dangers associated with fentanyl use.

Chapter 67, Statutes of 2024

[AB 2865 \(Carrillo, Wendy\) - Pupil instruction: excessive alcohol use.](#)

This bill requires the mandated instruction on the nature and effects of alcohol to include information about excessive alcohol use and the short-term and long-term health risks of excessive alcohol use, and requires this instruction to include information about excessive drinking, the immediate effects of alcohol that increase the risks of harmful health conditions, and how excessive alcohol use can lead to the development of chronic diseases and other serious problems, including alcohol-related deaths and mental health problems.

Chapter 314, Statutes of 2024

[AB 2932 \(Patterson, Joe\) - Pupil instruction: sextortion prevention.](#)

AB 2932 requires the Instructional Quality Commission (IQC), when the health curriculum framework is next revised on or after January 1, 2025, to consider providing for inclusion in that curriculum framework content on sextortion.

Chapter 118, Statutes of 2024

[AB 2999 \(Schiavo\) - Pupil instruction: homework policy.](#)

AB 2999 enacts the Healthy Homework Act, which encourages each school district, COE, and charter school to (1) develop a homework policy for all grades maintained by the LEA by the start of the 2027–28 school year, (2) formally adopt a final homework policy by the start of the 2028–29 school year, and (3) update the adopted homework policy at least once every 5 years. The bill encourages LEAs to annually distribute the adopted or updated homework policy at the beginning of the school year to all certificated staff and administrators, to all pupils and parents or legal guardians, and by publication on the LEA's website and on the websites of its individual schools. For an LEA that formally adopted a homework policy on or before July 31, 2024, the bill encourages that the policy be updated before the start of the 2028–29 school year or within 5 years of its adoption, whichever is later, and to be updated to this bill's provisions. Additionally, the bill authorizes CDE to develop and post on its

website, guidelines for LEAs in developing the homework policy, and encourages those guidelines to be developed and posted by January 1, 2026.

Chapter 751, Statutes of 2024

[AB 3010 \(Bauer-Kahan\) - Pupil instruction: mindfulness, distress tolerance, interpersonal effectiveness, and emotional regulation.](#)

This bill requires, when the health framework is next revised on or after January 1, 2025, the IQC to consider including information on evidence-based schoolwide programs to support pupils in developing skills in mindfulness, distress tolerance, interpersonal effectiveness, and emotional regulation.

Chapter 176, Statutes of 2024

[SB 1277 \(Stern\) - Pupil instruction: genocide education: the Holocaust.](#)

SB 1277 establishes the California Teachers Collaborative for Holocaust and Genocide Education, to be responsible for establishing a statewide teacher professional development program on genocide, including the Holocaust, for school district, COE, and charter school teachers. The Collaborative shall consist of leading genocide and Holocaust education organizations and institutions, genocide survivors, and community leaders, with a mission to ensure that genocide, including Holocaust, education is taught consistent with the content standards, curriculum frameworks, and instructional materials adopted by the SBE in ways that are interdisciplinary and age-appropriate to pupils of different grade levels. The duties of the Collaborative include developing and providing curriculum resources on genocide and Holocaust education, and subject to funding, the bill authorizes other duties including providing annual verbal or written reports to CDE and the Legislature. The implementation of these provisions is contingent upon an appropriation in the state budget for these purposes.

Chapter 890, Statutes of 2024

[SB 1410 \(Ochoa Bogh\) - Pupil instruction: curriculum frameworks: mathematics: algebra.](#)

This bill requires the IQC, when the mathematics curriculum framework is next revised after January 1, 2025, to consider including that students in 8th grade be offered the opportunity to take an Algebra I or Mathematics I course that is aligned to the content standards adopted by the SBE.

Chapter 476, Statutes of 2024

[SB 1471 \(Stern\) - Pupil instruction: quiet reflection.](#)

SB 1471 authorizes an employee at a public school to conduct a brief period of quiet reflection, with the participation of pupils in attendance. The bill prohibits an individual from requiring a pupil to participate in a period of quiet reflection, and prohibits the governing board of a school district, a county board of education, or the governing body of a charter school from requiring a certificated or classified employee at a public school to conduct a brief period of quiet reflection.

Chapter 11, Statutes of 2024

English Learners

[AB 2074 \(Muratsuchi\) - Pupil instruction: English Learner Roadmap Policy: statewide implementation plan.](#)

AB 2074 requires CDE to develop a statewide implementation plan for the EL Roadmap Policy through an advisory committee with representation from specified entities. The plan must include, among other things, clear and measurable statewide goals of implementation and a system of monitoring and accountability of the implementation of the plan. CDE must, on or before November 1, 2026, submit a report with the statewide implementation plan for the EL Roadmap Policy to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature.

Chapter 946, Statutes of 2024

Graduation Requirements

[AB 2927 \(McCarty\) - Pupil instruction: high school graduation requirements: personal finance.](#)

This bill adds the completion of a separate, stand-alone one-semester course in personal finance, that is prohibited from being combined with any other course, to the graduation requirements commencing with pupils graduating in the 2030–31 school year, including for pupils enrolled in a charter school. The bill authorizes, commencing with students graduating in the 2030–31 school year, including students in a charter school, a student who completes a separate, stand-alone one-semester course in personal finance, that is not combined with any other course, to elect to be exempt from the graduation requirement to complete a one-semester course in economics.

Chapter 37, Statutes of 2024

Instructional Materials

[AB 1805 \(Ta\) - Instructional materials: history-social science: Mendez v. Westminster School District of Orange County.](#)

This bill requires the IQC, when the SBE adopts new instructional materials for history-social science on or after January 1, 2025, to consider providing for inclusion, in its evaluation criteria, content on the case of Mendez v. Westminster School District of Orange County, a case which challenged racial segregation in Orange County.

Chapter 302, Statutes of 2024

[AB 1821 \(Ramos\) - Pupil instruction: course of study: social sciences: treatment of Native Americans.](#)

This bill adds instruction that provides a foundation for understanding the Spanish colonization of California and the Gold Rush Era, including the treatment and perspectives of Native Americans during those periods, to the adopted course of study for grades 1 to 6. For social science instruction in grades 7 to 12, to the extent instruction is provided on the Spanish colonization of California or the Gold Rush Era, AB 1821 requires instruction that provides a foundation for understanding the treatment and perspectives of Native Americans during those periods. The bill requires the IQC, when the SBE next revises the history-social science curriculum framework or adopts new instructional materials, on or after January 1, 2025, to consider including content on the treatment and

perspectives of Native Americans during those periods in that curriculum framework or evaluation criteria for instructional materials.

Chapter 658, Statutes of 2024

[AB 2053 \(Mathis\) - Pupil instruction: abusive relationships.](#)

The California Healthy Youth Act requires school districts to ensure that all pupils in grades 7 to 12 receive comprehensive sexual health education and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) prevention education. This instruction includes information about adolescent relationship abuse and intimate partner violence. This bill requires the sexual health education and HIV prevention education to also include information about resources available to pupils related to adolescent relationship abuse and intimate partner violence, including the National Domestic Violence Hotline and local domestic violence hotlines.

Chapter 695, Statutes of 2024

[AB 2229 \(Wilson\) - California Healthy Youth Act: menstrual health education.](#)

This bill adds the topic of menstrual health to the definition of “comprehensive sexual health education” within the California Healthy Youth Act.

Chapter 706, Statutes of 2024

[AB 2876 \(Berman\) - Pupil instruction: media literacy: artificial intelligence literacy: curriculum frameworks: instructional materials.](#)

This bill requires the IQC to consider incorporating artificial intelligence (AI) literacy content into the mathematics, science, and history-social science curriculum frameworks when those frameworks are next revised after January 1, 2025. The bill defines AI to mean the knowledge, skills, and attitudes associated with how AI works, including its principles, concepts, and applications, as well as how to use AI, including its limitations, implications, and ethical considerations.

Chapter 927, Statutes of 2024

Special Education

[AB 438 \(Rubio, Blanca\) - Pupils with exceptional needs: individualized education programs: postsecondary goals and transition services.](#)

This bill changes the point at which postsecondary transition planning for students with exceptional needs begins from age 16 to when the student starts their high school experience and not later than when the student is 16. Effective July 1, 2025, an individualized education program (IEP) must include measurable postsecondary goals and transition services, if determined appropriate by a pupil’s IEP team.

Chapter 901, Statutes of 2024

[AB 1938 \(Gallagher\) - Special education: inclusion and universal design for learning.](#)

This bill requires LEAs to consider specified variables for pupils who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind when designing the least restrictive environment (LRE) for students with disabilities and requires CDE to communicate this information to all LEAs and other entities serving pupils who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind.

Chapter 903, Statutes of 2024

October 2024

[AB 2173 \(Addis\) - Special education: emotional disability.](#)

While current federal law defines the term "emotional disturbance" for purposes of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and current state law uses the term "emotional disturbance" for certain purposes relating to the provision of special education services, the term has long been seen as stigmatizing. This bill provides that the term "emotional disturbance" may also be known as "emotional disability" under state law.

Chapter 149, Statutes of 2024

[SB 445 \(Portantino\) - Special education: standardized individualized education program template: translation.](#)

This bill requires CDE, by specified dates, to translate the final draft of the state standardized IEP template developed by the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence, into the top 10 most commonly spoken languages used across the state, make those templates available on its website, and notify LEAs that the template and translations are available.

Chapter 906, Statutes of 2024

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EARLY CHILDHOOD

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Despite deficit, Transitional Kindergarten (TK) rollout continues on schedule

It seems like only yesterday the state initiated the rollout of what would eventually be universally available transitional kindergarten. As Governor Newsom put it at the time, California would be establishing “an entirely new grade” available to all four-year-old children. He also noted that he was committed to funding the expansion by making sure every new TK student would be accounted for. To his and the Legislature’s credit, they have kept their word by “rebenching” the Proposition 98 Guarantee each year to pay for this expansion - this held true even in a year where the state budget faced a considerable deficit.

Rolled out in stages by adding two additional months of age eligibility, the 2024-25 school year is the last year of the phase-in before the state will reach full implementation of the Universal TK program at the beginning of the 2025-26 school year. To be specific, this penultimate year expanded eligibility to all children turning five years old from September 2 to April 2, previously, to between September 2 and June 2, currently. The state also continued to provide additional funding to maintain an average 12:1 student-adult ratio across a schoolsite’s TK classrooms.

One important policy change to note, however, was a full cut to the state’s pot of funding specifically designated for PreK facilities construction. Known as the Preschool, TK, and Full-Day Kindergarten Facilities Grant Program, there was a planned investment of \$550 million for the program slated for 2025-26. You may recall this funding has been kicked down the road a few times once the state knew it may be in for a tight budgetary period. In the final budget that was signed into law, all \$550 million that was planned for the program was cut in an effort to help fill other holes in the state budget. That being said, Proposition 2, which places a \$10 billion school facilities bond before voters on the November ballot, has allowances for the construction of these facilities in its provisions.

We anticipate that the rollout of Universal TK will continue as planned as we look ahead to 2025-26, and that beginning with that school year all four-year-olds will be eligible for TK. There may, however, be discussions in Sacramento about the appropriate timing for shifting to a required 10:1 student-adult ratio in TK classrooms, as well as some of the other programmatic requirements that will go along with full implementation, when the state budget negotiations get underway next year.

The Governor signed the following early childhood bills:

Child Care

[AB 772 \(Jackson\) - Child day care facilities.](#)

Current regulation generally requires child daycare facilities that are licensed by the State Department of Social Services (CDSS) to require proof of each child's immunizations, including tuberculosis testing, and to maintain files of this proof on the premises. This bill would exempt drop-in childcare centers, defined in the bill, from these requirements.

Chapter 933, Statutes of 2024

[AB 1808 \(Nguyen, Stephanie\) - Childcare and development services: eligibility.](#)

This bill establishes a 24-month eligibility period for all income-eligible families within the California Work Opportunities and Responsibility to Kids program (CalWORKs), which aligns it with other subsidized childcare programs.

Chapter 356, Statutes of 2024

[AB 2317 \(Nguyen, Stephanie\) - Child day care facilities: anaphylactic policy.](#)

This bill requires CDSS, in consultation with the California Department of Education (CDE) and the Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA), to establish an anaphylactic policy that sets forth guidelines and procedures recommended for child daycare facility trained staff to prevent a child from suffering from anaphylaxis and to be used during a medical emergency resulting from anaphylaxis. It further requires the director or teacher at each day care center, and each family day care home licensee who provides care, to obtain training in a pediatric first aid or pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) course that includes instruction in the prevention and treatment of anaphylaxis, including the emergency use of epinephrine auto-injectors.

Chapter 563, Statutes of 2024

[AB 2343 \(Schiavo\) - CalWORKs: childcare programs.](#)

Current law provides for the CalWORKs program, under which, through a combination of state and county funds and federal funds received through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, each county provides cash assistance and other benefits to qualified low-income families. This bill provides that nothing shall prohibit an administrator of an alternative payment program or agency administering CalWORKs Stage One or Stage Two programs from utilizing funds for administrative and support services to provide families at risk of homelessness or escaping domestic abuse a referral pathway to secure stable childcare placement.

Chapter 958, Statutes of 2024

[AB 2866 \(Pellerin\) - Pool safety: State Department of Social Services regulated facilities.](#)

This bill requires a licensed child care facility, either a family daycare home or a child day care center, with a swimming pool on the premises to have at least two safety features specified in the Swimming Pool Safety Act.

Chapter 745, Statutes of 2024

[SB 1112 \(Menjivar\) - Childcare: alternative payment programs.](#)

Current federal law requires a portion of Child Care and Development Block Grant funds to be used to disseminate information on existing resources for developmental screenings and descriptions of how a

family may utilize those resources to obtain developmental screenings. This bill states that the costs allowable for administration shall include, but not be limited to, costs associated with disseminating the above-described information.

Chapter 1016, Statutes of 2024

Early Childhood

[AB 51 \(Bonta\) - Early childcare and education: California state preschool program.](#)

This bill requires CDE, subject to an appropriation, to:

1. Provide prospective California State Preschool (CSPP) contractors who have not received a CSPP contract, or have not received a contract within the last five years, an equitable opportunity to establish a trained workforce and administrative systems;
2. Develop early learning resources;
3. Develop guidance related to serving private-pay as well as subsidized children in a universal pre-K system;
4. Develop a three-year plan for outreach, capacity building, training and assistance; and,
5. Create a separate webpage by January 1, 2026 on its website on starting, funding, and operating a CSPP. Also authorizes CDE to modify the CSPP request for application (RFA) requirements to simplify and streamline the application process for prospective contractors.

Chapter 618, Statutes of 2024

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FACILITIES

CHANGES IN LAW
2024



School Facilities Construction Bond heads to November Ballot

After years of delays the Legislature finally, albeit last minute, negotiated and passed a \$10 billion statewide school facilities bond that will appear on the November 5th ballot as Proposition 2.

The Kindergarten Through Grade 12 Schools and Local Community College Public Education Facilities Modernization, Repair, and Safety Act of 2024 provides dedicated funding for community colleges, new construction and modernization projects, career technical education (CTE), charter schools, and lead in water testing and remediation. Prop 2 does not include any funding for CSU and UC. The amounts are broken down as follows:

- Community Colleges: \$1.5 Billion
- New Construction: \$3.3 Billion
- Modernization: \$4 Billion
- Career Technical Education: \$600 Million
- Charter Schools: \$600 Million
- Lead in Water Testing and Remediation: \$115 Million (out of Modernization)

If Prop 2 is passed by voters, the School Facilities Program (SFP) moving forward will include a new sliding scale system that will provide lower wealth school districts with additional state funding for new construction and modernization projects and provide supplemental grants for transitional kindergarten, extreme heat and energy efficiency projects, minimum essential facilities (kitchens, gyms, multipurpose rooms or libraries), and CTE projects.

Prop 2 also includes direct technical assistance for small and priority school districts, increases the maximum level of total bonding capacity that a school district could have and still be eligible for financial hardship from \$5 million to \$15 million, and includes a program for buildings older than 75 years old to receive more new construction funding to demolish or replace the older buildings.

New accountability and transparency requirements, including a five year school facilities master plan, will be part of the new SFP moving forward, which we'll know more details about in the coming months. The Office of Public School Construction is scheduled to submit a plan of action and timeline (which we understand will include opportunities for stakeholder input) to the State Allocation Board at its December meeting.

Developer Fee Collection Delayed under New Law

California continues to struggle with the ability to construct enough housing for its residents. In an effort to make more housing available, [SB 937](#), authored by Senator Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco), defers development related fees until the certificate of occupancy or its equivalent is issued, while also limiting exceptions to the new rule.

Signed into law by the Governor, the bill's impacts on schools is uncertain. According to the Coalition for Adequate School Housing, there are conflicts with current Education Code which requires payment of school impact fees prior to the issuance of building permits. While it is unclear if the author intended to include schools in the provisions of the bill, there may need to be cleanup language next year to clearly exempt schools from the new law.

The Governor signed the following facilities bills:

Facilities

[AB 247 \(Muratsuchi\) - Education finance: school facilities: Kindergarten Through Grade 12 Schools and Local Community College Public Education Facilities Modernization, Repair, and Safety Bond Act of 2024.](#)

AB 247 is the legislation that established Prop 2, the Kindergarten Through Grade 12 Schools and Local Community College Public Education Facilities Modernization, Repair, and Safety Bond Act of 2024. Prop 2 provides \$10 billion to construct and modernize education facilities, including \$8.5 billion for elementary and secondary educational facilities and \$1.5 billion for community college facilities. This bond act would become operative only if approved by the voters.

Chapter 81, Statutes of 2024

[AB 1864 \(Connolly\) - Pesticides: agricultural use near schoolsites: notification and reporting.](#)

Current law allows county agricultural commissioners to adopt regulations that supplement those of the Director of Pesticide Regulation, governing pest control operations and their associated records. These regulations restrict certain pesticide applications within 1/4 mile of schools, focusing on timing, notification, and methods of application. AB 1864 requires the Department of Pesticide Regulation to assign a separate site identification number for agricultural fields within 1/4 mile of schoolsites. It also mandates detailed reporting for permit applications, notices of intent, and pesticide use reporting forms concerning restricted materials. Specifically, the bill requires reporting on application methods, dates, and times for pesticides used near schools and has the director assess county enforcement programs for their effectiveness in regulating pesticide use near schoolsites.

Chapter 552, Statutes of 2024

[AB 2565 \(McCarty\) - School facilities: interior locks.](#)

Contingent upon an appropriation, AB 2565 requires a charter school, school district, or county office of education serving pupils in kindergarten through grade 12, that undertakes an addition, alteration, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or retrofit of a school building, to install interior locks on each door of any room with an occupancy of 5 or more persons in that school building. Doors that are locked from

the outside at all times, doors with locks that lock from the inside, and pupil restrooms are exempt from this requirement.

Chapter 531, Statutes of 2024

[AB 2729 \(Patterson, Joe\) - Development projects: permits and other entitlements.](#)

The Planning and Zoning Law requires counties and cities to adopt comprehensive long-term general plans, including a mandatory housing element. The Permit Streamlining Act mandates that lead agencies approve or disapprove development projects within specified timeframes. Current law has already extended the expiration of certain housing entitlements issued before March 4, 2020, for 18 months. This bill extends that period by an additional 18 months for housing entitlements issued before January 1, 2024, expiring before December 31, 2025, with certain exceptions. Furthermore, the bill would pause this extension during any legal challenges to the housing entitlement.

Chapter 737, Statutes of 2024

[SB 867 \(Allen\) - Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024.](#)

The proposed Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024, if approved by voters, Prop 4 would authorize the issuance of \$10 billion in bonds to finance projects aimed at ensuring safe drinking water, enhancing drought, flood, and water resilience, promoting wildfire and forest resilience, supporting coastal resilience, mitigating extreme heat, and advancing biodiversity and nature-based climate solutions. Additionally, the act would fund climate-smart, sustainable farms and ranches, park creation, outdoor access, and clean air programs. Schools and schoolyards are eligible for some of the funding.

Chapter 83, Statutes of 2024

[SB 937 \(Wiener\) - Development projects: fees and charges.](#)

With certain exceptions, limits the ability of local agencies to collect developer fees until the date the first certificate of occupancy or temporary certificate of occupancy is issued, whichever is first.

Chapter 290, Statutes of 2024

[SB 956 \(Cortese\) - School facilities: design-build contracts.](#)

Current law authorizes a school district, with the approval of the governing board of the school district, to procure design-build contracts for public works projects in excess of \$1,000,000, awarding the contract to either the low bid or the best value until January 1, 2025. This bill removes the sunset date, thereby extending this authority indefinitely.

Chapter 177, Statutes of 2024

[SB 1091 \(Menjivar\) - School facilities: school projects: accessible path of travel requirements.](#)

The California Building Standards Code requires that buildings and facilities be accessible to individuals with disabilities, including providing an accessible path of travel during alterations or additions. This bill allows, for school construction projects approved by the Division of the State Architect (DSA) on or before December 31, 2030, exempts certain school ground construction projects from the accessible path of travel requirements if the cost would exceed 20% of the project's total construction costs.

Chapter 1014, Statutes of 2024

Transportation

[AB 1953 \(Villapudua\) - Vehicles: weight limits.](#)

Current federal law sets the maximum gross vehicle weight for natural gas or electric-powered vehicles at 82,000 pounds. State law allows near-zero or zero-emission vehicles to exceed weight limits by up to 2,000 pounds on the power unit, if federally permitted. This bill clarifies that these vehicles can exceed gross weight limits by up to 2,000 pounds and confirms that the overall maximum weight remains 82,000 pounds.

Chapter 219, Statutes of 2024

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GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONS

CHANGES IN LAW
2024



Governor Signs Bipartisan Smartphone and Social Media Bills.

Building off existing law which permits local educational agencies (LEAs) to regulate the use of smartphones, Governor Newsom signed [AB 3216](#) (Hoover, R-Folsom), which requires the governing body of a school district, county office of education (COE), or charter school to adopt a policy limiting or prohibiting the use of smartphones on campus by July 1, 2026. The new law also requires boards to update their policies every five years. The legislation states that the goal of the policy, “shall involve significant stakeholder participation in order to ensure that the policies are responsive to the unique needs and desires of pupils, parents, and educators in each community. The policy may also include enforcement mechanisms that limit access to smartphones.”

As you recall, prior to the beginning of the 2024-25 school year, the Governor issued a letter to superintendents urging districts to restrict smartphone use in classrooms. In that letter, he acknowledged his ongoing work with the legislature to “further limit student smartphone use,” so his signing of this bill came as little surprise. In authoring the bill, Assembly Member Josh Hoover organized an impressive and bipartisan group of co-authors, including Assembly Education Committee Chair Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance) and Chair of the Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Education, David Alvarez (D-San Diego).

While the bill specifically targets smartphone use, it’s clear that the Administration and many legislators were using that as a proxy to also curtail use of and addiction to social media apps, which have come under heavy fire for being harmful and purposefully addictive, especially to young people. In response, the Governor also signed [SB 1283](#) by Senator Henry Stern (D-Los Angeles), which authorizes governing boards to adopt policies to limit or prohibit the use of social media while students are at school, or under the supervision of an employee of the LEA. Given the implications that LEAs could theoretically engage in content monitoring and regulation, the American Civil Liberties Union initially raised privacy concerns with the bill. However, in its final form, the bill makes clear that “... this section does not authorize monitoring, collecting, or otherwise accessing any information related to a pupil's online activities.”

California Racial Mascots Act Expanded.

Since 2017, California law has prohibited public schools from using the term Redskins for their school or athletic team name, mascot or nickname. [AB 3074](#) (Schiavo, D-San Fernando Valley), expands that law to also ban public schools from using any derogatory Native American term, beginning on July 1, 2026. The bill defines “derogatory Native American term” to include, but not be limited to, Apaches, Big Red, Braves, Chiefs, Chieftains, Chippewa, Comanches, Indians, Savages, Squaw, and Tribe.

Schools may continue to use their current names past July 1, 2026 if all the following conditions are met:

- Selection of a new mascot
- The school refrains from purchasing or acquiring, for the purpose of distribution or sale to pupils or school employees, any uniform that includes or bears the derogatory Native American term. Before January 1, 2028, a school using uniforms that bear the derogatory Native American term may purchase or acquire a number of uniforms equal to up to 20% of the total number of uniforms used by a team or band during the 2025–26 school year for the purposes of replacing damaged or lost uniforms.
- The school refrains from purchasing or acquiring, for the purpose of distribution or sale to pupils or school employees, any yearbook, newspaper, program, or other similar material that includes or bears the prohibited school or athletic team name, mascot, nickname, or related title in its logo or cover title.
- The school refrains from purchasing or constructing a marquee, sign, gymnasium floor, or other new or replacement fixture that includes or bears the prohibited school or athletic team name, mascot, or nickname. This requirement applies to facilities that bear the prohibited school or athletic team name, mascot, or nickname, in which case the school must remove the prohibited name, mascot, or nickname no later than the next time the associated part of the facility is replaced in the normal course of maintenance.

The bill also states the intent of the Legislature that the purchase or replacement of materials or fixtures due to implementation of a new school or athletic team name, mascot, or nickname under the California Racial Mascots Act occur before the 2028–29 school year.

There are a few exceptions. Schools operated by an Indian tribe or tribal organization are exempt, as are schools that receive written consent from a local federally recognized tribe.

Governor Newsom signed AB 3074 as part of a package of legislation during the state's commemoration of Native American Day on September 25th. As part of his bill signing, the Governor released the following statement:

"I'm proud of the progress California has made to reckon with the dark chapters of our past, and we're committed to continuing this important work to promote equity, inclusion and accountability for Native peoples. As we celebrate the many tribal communities in California today, we recommit to working with tribal partners to better address their unique needs and strengthen California for all."

Suspensions Now Prohibited if a Student Voluntarily Discloses Use of an Illicit Substance.

In response to research suggesting that punishment for drug use is ineffective, Assembly Member James Ramos (D-Highland) authored [AB 2711](#) to rethink how schools handle drug and alcohol related disciplinary issues. As signed, this bill prohibits the suspension of students who voluntarily disclose

their use of a tobacco product, controlled substance, alcohol or other intoxicant in order to seek help through services or supports.

In its original form, this bill would have prohibited the suspension or expulsion of students for possessing illicit substances on campus, unless several conditions were met. Despite the strong support this bill garnered early on from groups like the ACLU, Children Now, and the National Center for Youth Law, concerns about the implications of allowing students to violate the laws around drug free school campuses were enough to force negotiations, ultimately resulting in the final bill language.

Following a Student Death, Governor Signs Total Ban on Prone Restraint.

Following the lead of several other states, Senator Dave Cortese (D-Santa Clara), authored [SB 483](#) to implement a full ban on prone restraints, including prone containment. Known as Max Benson's law, the Senator ran the bill after Max, a 13-year old student at a school in El Dorado County, passed away after being held in prone restraint for over 90 minutes.

After the bill was signed, Max's mother, Stacia Langley, issued the following statement:

Today, California joins the majority of states in the Union in declaring that our children are too vulnerable and too precious to be subjected to dangerous and at times deadly restraints. Although it is too late to save my son and spare our family the grief of having lost him, this law will protect countless children in the future and ensure that Max's death was not in vain.

The Governor signed the following governance and operations bills:

Brown Act

[AB 2302 \(Addis\) - Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences.](#)

For local agency legislative bodies using alternative teleconferencing, this bill revises the number of times a member can participate remotely based on how often the legislative body meets, as follows: twice per year, if the body meets once per month or less; five times per year if the body meets twice per month, and seven times a year if the body meets more than three times per month. The bill also clarifies that meetings that commence on the same day shall be considered one meeting.

Chapter 389, Statutes of 2024

[AB 2715 \(Boerner\) - Ralph M. Brown Act: closed sessions.](#)

This bill authorizes a legislative body to hold a closed session with other law enforcement or security personnel and to hold a closed session on a threat to critical infrastructure controls or critical infrastructure information relating to cybersecurity.

Chapter 243, Statutes of 2024

District Boundaries/Student Transfers

[SB 897 \(Newman\) - Pupil attendance: interdistrict attendance: school districts of choice.](#)

This bill makes various changes to the school district of choice program, including extending the program indefinitely and prohibiting school districts of choice from targeting their communications to individual parents or residential neighborhoods on the basis of a pupil's or pupils' actual or perceived proficiency in English, family income, or characteristic that is contained in the definition of a hate crime. The bill also places additional requirements on the program's 10% cap requirement and subjects the program requirements to the annual audit.

Chapter 865, Statutes of 2024

Elections

[AB 453 \(Cervantes\) - District-based elections.](#)

AB 453 requires any public hearing concerning district-based elections that is consolidated with a meeting of the governing body of the political subdivision that includes other substantive agenda items begin at a fixed time regardless of its order on the agenda. The bill also requires the governing body to provide notice of the hearing to the public.

Chapter 195, Statutes of 2024

[SCA 1 \(Newman\) - Elections: recall of state officers.](#)

SCA 1 puts a measure before the voters at the next statewide election which asks if they think California should eliminate the successor election for a recalled state officer and instead provide, in the event an officer is removed in a recall election, that the office will remain vacant until it is filled in accordance with the Constitution and statute. The measure, if approved by voters, would repeal the prohibition against the officer subject to the recall being a candidate to fill the office in a special election, but would prohibit the appointment of the officer subject to the recall election to fill the vacancy. SCA 1 is slated to appear on the November 3, 2026 statewide ballot.

Chapter 204, Statutes of 2024

Governance/Operations

[AB 1939 \(Maienschein\) - Pupil attendance: county and local school attendance review boards: pupil consultation.](#)

This bill requires each county school attendance review board and each local school attendance review board to, at least annually, consult with specified pupils for the purpose of soliciting input that will assist board members in gaining a better understanding of, and proposing interventions for, pupil attendance challenges and behavioral challenges.

Chapter 13, Statutes of 2024

[AB 2350 \(Hoover\) - Open meetings: school boards: emergencies: notifications by email.](#)

This bill authorizes a school board holding an emergency meeting to fulfill its preempting requirement to notify certain press outlets by email instead of by telephone. If the internet and telephone services

are not functioning, the bill waives the premeeting notification requirement and instead requires a postmeeting notification as soon as possible.

Chapter 565, Statutes of 2024

[AB 2631 \(Fong, Mike\) - Local agencies: ethics training.](#)

AB 2631 requires the Fair Political Practices Commission, in consultation with the Attorney General, to create, maintain, and make available to local agency officials an ethics training course.

Chapter 201, Statutes of 2024

[AB 3074 \(Schiavo\) - School or athletic team names: California Racial Mascots Act.](#)

The California Racial Mascots Act prohibits public schools from using the term Redskins as a school or athletic team name, mascot, or nickname. This bill exempts public schools operated by an Indian tribe or a tribal organization from this prohibition. AB 3074 also prohibits, beginning July 1, 2026, public schools, except for public schools operated by an Indian tribe or tribal organization, from using any derogatory Native American term as a school or athletic team name, mascot, or nickname.

Chapter 665, Statutes of 2024

[AB 3216 \(Hoover\) - Pupils: use of smartphones.](#)

AB 3216 requires the governing body of a school district, a COE, or a charter school to, by July 1, 2026, develop and adopt, and to update every 5 years, a policy to limit or prohibit the use by its pupils of smartphones while the pupils are at a schoolsite or while the pupils are under the supervision and control of an employee or employees of that school district, COE, or charter school.

Chapter 500, Statutes of 2024

[SB 920 \(Seyarto\) - California Purple Star School Designation Program.](#)

This bill codifies the California Purple Star School Designation Program (CPSSDP) within the California Department of Education (CDE) to reduce the burden on military-connected pupils and their families and to publicly recognize and designate public schools that meet certain requirements related to supporting military-connected pupils and their families' unique needs. SB 920 requires CDE to develop an annual application process and adopt application criteria for the CPSSDP, and requires schools that earn the award to apply for recertification every 3 years.

Chapter 923, Statutes of 2024

[SB 991 \(Gonzalez\) - School districts: Los Angeles Unified School District: inspector general.](#)

This bill extends the authority of the inspector general of the Los Angeles Unified School District indefinitely, and requires the inspector general to submit an annual report to the Legislature on or before July 1 of each year.

Chapter 871, Statutes of 2024

[SB 1283 \(Stern\) - Pupils: use of social media.](#)

This bill explicitly authorizes the governing board of a school district, a county board of education, or the governing body of a charter school to limit or prohibit the use by its pupils of social media while the pupils are at a schoolsite or while the pupils are under the supervision and control of an employee or employees of that school district, COE, or charter school.

Chapter 891, Statutes of 2024

[SB 1440 \(Laird\) - School operations: 4-day school week.](#)

SB 1440 authorizes, commencing with the 2025–26 school year, the Stony Creek Joint Unified School District to operate one or more schools in the district on a 4-day school week in accordance with certain requirements. Stony Creek Joint Unified School District will also be required to (1) include in its plan an annual school calendar with at least 5 additional days of instruction than is otherwise needed to meet the minimum instructional minute requirements in the event that one or more of the schools in the school district is prevented from operating for specified reasons and (2) make a nutritionally adequate breakfast, and a nutritionally adequate lunch, available 5 days per week to any pupil who requests a meal, free of charge, and without consideration of the pupil's eligibility for federally funded free or reduced-price meals.

Chapter 478, Statutes of 2024

[SB 1445 \(Cortese\) - Governing boards: pupil members: expulsion hearing recommendations.](#)

This bill authorizes school district governing boards, charter school governing bodies, and the governing bodies of entities managing multiple charter schools to allow each of their respective pupil members to make restorative justice recommendations that would be considered in closed session expulsion hearings. The bill requires, if these governing boards authorize those pupil member recommendations, limited case information that pertains to those closed session items to be disclosed to each pupil member, subject to pupil and parental consent.

Chapter 327, Statutes of 2024

PRA/Gov. Code 1090

[AB 1785 \(Pacheco\) - California Public Records Act.](#)

The California Public Records Act prohibits a state or local agency from posting the home address or telephone number of any elected or appointed official on the internet without first obtaining the written permission of that individual. AB 1785 instead prohibits a state or local agency from publicly posting the home address, telephone number, or both the name and assessor parcel number associated with the home address of any elected or appointed official on the internet without first obtaining the written permission of that individual.

Chapter 551, Statutes of 2024

[SB 1034 \(Seyarto\) - California Public Records Act: state of emergency.](#)

The California Public Records Act requires state and local agencies to provide public access to records, with some exceptions. Currently, agencies must determine if requested records are disclosable and notify the requester within 10 days, with a possible extension of up to 14 days under certain "unusual circumstances." This bill would expand those "unusual circumstances" to include the need to search for, collect, and appropriately exam records during a state of emergency, where the agency's ability to respond is impacted by staffing shortages or facility closures.

Chapter 161, Statutes of 2024

State Board of Education

[SB 691 \(Portantino\) - Pupil attendance: truancy notifications.](#)

Commencing July 1, 2025, SB 691 amends the pieces of information that are included in the notification sent to the parent or guardian of a student designated as truant. On that date, the notification must include that mental health and supportive services may be available to the pupil and the family and that school personnel are available to meet with the pupil and family to develop strategies to support the pupil's attendance at school.

Chapter 863, Statutes of 2024

Student Discipline

[AB 2711 \(Ramos\) - Suspensions and expulsions: voluntary disclosures.](#)

This bill prohibits the suspension of a pupil who voluntarily discloses their use of a controlled substance, alcohol, intoxicants of any kind, or a tobacco product, solely for that disclosure, in order to seek help through services or supports.

Chapter 840, Statutes of 2024

[SB 483 \(Cortese\) - Pupil rights: prone restraint.](#)

SB 483 prohibits the use of prone restraint, defined to include prone containment, by an educational provider, defined to mean a person who provides educational or related services, support, or other assistance to a pupil enrolled in an educational program provided by a LEA or a nonpublic school or agency.

Chapter 857, Statutes of 2024

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HUMAN RESOURCES

CHANGES IN LAW
2024

 CAPITOL
ADVISORS

 Atkinson, Andelson
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In what seems to be a break in the trend of the past few years, the majority of the HR bills we identified this year that would have imposed burdensome and costly new procedures on schools failed to even make it to the Governor's desk. This includes a bill that would have entitled school employees to 14-weeks of paid pregnancy-related leave, which stalled on the Senate floor, as well as bills whose previous iterations had made it to the Governor's desk, like efforts to make striking workers eligible for unemployment benefits and protect sympathy strikes.

Governor vetoes classified vacancies bill for second time after another strong advocacy effort by school employers.

For the second year in a row, a bill to establish a classified employee right-of-first-refusal was a priority opposition bill for school employers throughout the legislative session. [AB 2088](#) by Assembly Member Kevin McCarty (D-Sacramento) was largely similar to last year's AB 1699, which the Governor vetoed, but did include some changes in an attempt to address the concerns raised about the policy in the Governor's veto message for AB 1699. While the bill would still have required TK-14 school employers to offer with priority any part-time or full-time vacancies to current classified employees for at least 10 business days, it limited the right-of-first-refusal to those classified employees who meet the minimum qualifications at the time of applying (versus by the start date of the position, which would have been allowed under AB 1699). This year's version also added language stating that, "It is the intent of the Legislature that educator employers and exclusive bargaining representatives bargain in their collective bargaining agreement whether they wish to create or explicitly waive a right of first refusal for classified employees." However, in communications with the Governor's Office, school employers emphasized that not only is legislative intent language non-binding, it is also incredibly difficult to collectively bargain something that has already been codified in law, as AB 2088 would have done.

Like its predecessor, AB 2088 was opposed by a broad coalition of school management groups, including the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA), the California School Boards Association (CSBA), the Small School Districts' Association (SSDA), the School Employers Association of California (SEAC), and the California County Superintendents, as well as a number of individual school and community college districts. The coalition argued, among other things, that even with the changes made to AB 2088, the bill would still prohibit LEAs from establishing the best hiring practices for their schools and have detrimental impacts on students and classrooms. The Governor seemed to agree, writing in his veto message:

This bill is significantly similar to Assembly Bill 1699 of 2023, which I vetoed, and several of the same concerns remain. In particular, like Assembly Bill 1699, this bill may have unintended

consequences that are not in the best interest of students. As noted previously, this issue is already bargainable and several local bargaining agreements have such provisions in place. Placing specific requirements in statute - as this bill does - may make it more difficult for local processes to develop an alternative that best meets the needs of the district, employees, and students.

Again backed by the California School Employees Association (CSEA), the California Federation of Teachers (CFT) and the Service Employees International Union, California (SEIU), if the sponsors want to renew this effort in 2025, they will have to find a new legislative champion. Assembly Member McCarty, who authored both AB 1699 and AB 2088, is termed out this year.

New law expands duties of school employers related to former and prospective employees.

[AB 2534](#) by Assembly Member Heath Flora (R-Modesto) builds on the current requirement that LEAs disclose certain employee information to an LEA considering the employee for employment, if the hiring LEA inquires. Specifically, beginning January 1, 2025, the bill places the following new requirements on applicants, former employers, and prospective employers:

1. **Applicants applying for a certificated position at a school**: Must provide a complete list of every LEA, defined as a school district, county office of education (COE), charter school, and state special school, of which the applicant was previously an employee.
2. **Hiring LEAs**: Must inquire with each LEA that previously employed an applicant, based on the list provided by the applicant, to see if, when employed at the previous LEA, the applicant was the subject of any credible complaints of, substantiated investigations into, or discipline for, egregious misconduct, that were required to be reported to the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC).
3. **Previous Employer LEAs**: Along with disclosing any reports made to the CTC, must also now provide the inquiring hiring LEA with a copy of all relevant information that was reported to the CTC within its possession.

The Senate Education Committee wrote this about AB 2534 in its [analysis](#) of the bill, “By preventing educators with a history of egregious behavior from being hired without full disclosure, the measure aims to enhance the safety and integrity of educational environments.” That same analysis also noted that the bill “may require additional administrative resources and training to ensure that the process is thorough...” and that it “may also result in longer hiring processes and potential challenges in filling vacancies, as schools navigate the complexities of thoroughly vetting candidates.” Despite these likely impacts, and no real formal support beyond the California Charter School Association (CCSA), the bill passed through both the Assembly and Senate with no “no” votes from lawmakers.

While AB 2534 will no doubt increase administrative burdens on schools, the bill is also somewhat narrowly tailored. For one, the bill is clear that the requirement for a prospective employer to inquire with an applicant’s previous school employers is limited to the list of employers disclosed by the applicant. A hiring LEA is not required to verify that the list provided is exhaustive/accurate or determine if there are additional employers not included on the list to which they would also need to

reach out. Additionally, the bill does not require a prospective employer to repeatedly inquire with a former employer until they get a response. However, it should also be noted that, while the requirement under AB 2534 is that the hiring LEA inquire at least once, the current law requirement that an LEA that formerly employed the applicant must disclose to an inquiring LEA any reports of egregious misconduct made regarding the applicant still applies.

LEAs will soon be required to annually report employee salaries.

On or before January 31, 2026, and annually thereafter, [AB 938](#) by Assembly Member Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance) will require school districts, COEs, and direct-funded charter schools to complete the Salary and Benefit Schedule for the Bargaining Units (Form J-90) for classified and certificate staff assigned to a schoolsite or sites and report the Form J-90 to CDE. For a locally funded charter school, the school district that is the chartering authority or designated oversight agency of the charter will be required to complete the J-90 for the school.

Framed by the author as a way of helping address the workforce shortage by creating transparency around school staff salaries, the bill's findings and declarations state:

It is the intent of the Legislature to establish a public education transparency and accountability lens to better inform the members of the Legislature as to the impacts of the state budget on the pay and benefits of the education workforce by reporting salary and benefits data of certificated and classified employees and the impacts on the professional respect and competitiveness of pay and benefits for classified and certificated employees.

To prepare for this new data reporting requirement, the bill also requires CDE, by July 1, 2025, to update the Form J-90 to include salary data for specific classified classifications, including, secretaries and administrative assistants, custodians, bus drivers, school food service workers, and instructional aides. CDE will also be required, beginning August 31, 2025, and annually thereafter, to report to the Legislature on the progress of LEAs in increasing salaries for classified and certificated staff assigned to a school site. This annual report must include the changes in salary rates of classified and certificated staff as compared to prior fiscal years, salary rate changes year over year, the rate of salary change compared to the rate of yearly elation, and the rate of total compensation changes year over year.

The signed version of AB 938 is a somewhat watered down version of the bill's original intent. When first heard during last year's legislative session, the bill looked to also increase base targets under the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and declared the Legislature's intent that LEAs use the additional LCFF dollars to increase certificated and classified salaries. While legislative intent language is not binding, that the bill was trying to tie funding increases directly to staff salaries was concerning. This early version of the bill ultimately made it all the way to the Senate Floor last year before being placed on the Senate Inactive File, a place where bills on the floor are moved after an author decides to no longer pursue it. The bill would remain on the Inactive File for much of this year's session and appeared effectively dead with just over a week left in the legislative year, until it was unexpectedly moved back to the floor. In an example of just how fast legislation can move, the bill was moved off

the Inactive File and amended to remove all but the reporting language on August 23, passed by the Senate on August 27, and passed by the Assembly and on its way to the Governor on August 28.

State takes steps to help with impact of childhood sexual assault cases.

This year, the Governor signed two bills that look to address the impact of recent changes to the statute of limitations (SOL) for childhood sexual assault claims. AB 218 (Gonzalez) from 2019 extended the SOL in suits for damages arising from childhood sexual assault, in most cases, to 40 years of age while AB 452 (Addis) from last year, removed the SOL entirely for claims arising out of childhood sexual assaults that occurred on or after January 1, 2024. The enactment of these bills, particularly AB 218, has resulted in a resurrection of decades old claims and a rise in judgements, many in the multi-millions, against LEAs.

In its annual update to the Legislature on the State of School Fiscal Health, the Fiscal Crisis & Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) listed the “significant increase in liability claims against LEAs as AB 218 deadline approached” as a current trend that could impact school solvency. And while the full impact of AB 218’s changes on schools is not yet measurable, we are already seeing school risk pools being impacted and insurance rates going up. A coalition of school risk pools and education management groups has been meeting regularly over the past year to discuss and explore ways the state can help schools weather these increased costs, which are manifested as current dollars being diverted from classrooms to pay judgements and settlements against employees that are often long gone.

The first bill signed [SB 153](#), the K-12 Education Omnibus Budget Trailer Bill (TBL), also has the state looking at ways to mitigate these cost impacts. Among other things, SB 153 requires FCMAT, on or before February 1, 2025, to provide recommendations to the Legislature and the Department of Finance on new, existing, or strengthened funding and financing mechanisms to finance judgments of settlements arising from claims of childhood sexual abuse, to be utilized by local agencies. FCMAT must consult with subject matter experts, including experts on risk management and public finance, and limit its recommendations to financing, securitization, and funding of claims. The bill is clear that any recommendations cannot impact current judgments or settlements from these claims, limit the rights of child sexual abuse survivors to file actions or applicable damages, or grant immunity to local agencies.

Where the provisions in SB 153 are aimed at addressing the impact of past claims on schools, the second bill signed by the the Governor focuses on how to prevent the occurrence of any new claims. [AB 1913](#) by Assembly Member Dawn Addis (D-Morro Bay), will require LEAs, beginning July 1, 2025, to include in its annual mandated reporter training, training on the prevention of abuse, including sexual abuse, of children on school grounds, by school personnel, or in school-sponsored programs. LEAs are already encouraged to include this training in their mandated reporter training, which a number of LEAs have already done, but this bill now makes it a required part of the training. According to the author, requiring training on the prevention of child abuse, “will protect children by providing mandated reporters with important education so that they can recognize the signs of grooming and potential

abuse before it occurs. School professionals are on the front lines of ensuring children have a safe environment to learn, it's critical they possess the right knowledge to do this.”

For LEAs that do not already include child abuse prevention in their training, the bill requires CDE to develop appropriate means for instructing school personnel on the issue. Additionally, while AB 1913 adds additional topics to be covered in mandated reporter training, it also acknowledges that the bill's intent is that the provision of this new information will not add to duration of the training required, just alter what is included in the training.

The bill also requires CDE to develop and disseminate information regarding the prevention of child abuse to all school districts, COEs, state special schools and diagnostic centers operated by CDE, and charter schools. This replaces the previous requirement for CDE to develop best practices to prevent child abuse and post links on its website to existing training resources.

State continues piecemeal approach on policy changes to address educator shortage.

As LEAs continue to face staffing shortages in the classroom, Governor Newsom signed [AB 1930](#) by Assembly Member Eloise Gómez Reyes (D-Colton) and [SB 1263](#) by Senator Josh Newman (D-Fullerton), two bills aimed at helping schools meet their their teacher needs.

AB 1930, which was sponsored, in part, by the California County Superintendents, the Los Angeles County Office of Education, and Head Start California, requires the CTC, on or before April 30, 2025, to authorize a holder of a Child Development Associate Teacher (CDAT) Permit to be able to renew their permit without a limitation on the number of renewals. Under current law, CDAT Permit holders are only allowed to renew their permit once, hold the permit for no more than 10 years, and upon expiration of the renewed permit, be able to meet all requirements for the Child Development Teacher Permit or lose their permit. The hope is that removing these restrictions on a CDAT Permit will allow early learning and care programs to better meet their staffing needs using our existing teacher supply. The change also means that CDAT Permit holders will no longer be forced into a Child Development Permit if that is not what they want to do. However, in order to be able to continually renew a CDAT permit, the permit holder must complete “specified hours of professional growth activities,” which will be determined by the CTC.

While AB 1930 is a somewhat immediate fix, AB 1263 is a little more of a long-term solution to the barriers deterring interested teacher credentialing candidates. Like with AB 938 (see above), the signed version of SB 1263 is significantly more narrow than its original vision. Sponsored by the California Teachers Association (CTA) and CFT, the introduced version of the bill would have completely done away with the requirement for credentialing program leading to a multiple subject, single subject, or education specialist credential to included a TPA. In support of the early version, CTA wrote that the TPA “is an onerous portfolio assessment that detracts from teacher candidates’ ability to focus on applying the concepts and skills of teacher preparation coursework...” TPAs have also been cited as a barrier to credentialing candidates entering the teaching field, particularly candidates of color.

The CTC had also raised concerns with the early version of the bill, writing, “While recognizing the need for improvements to the current implementation of the [TPA], removing the requirement from statutes eliminates a consistent standard for the teaching profession as well as critical state levers for improving preparation program quality and assuring candidate readiness.” Taking an “oppose unless amended” position on the bill, the CTC instead recommended that the bill be amended to instead require the appointment of an expert panel to review the current implementation of TPAs and make recommendations to the CTC.

The CTC’s concerns were ultimately persuasive, and the bill was amended to instead require the CTC to convene a workgroup to assess the design and implementation of the state’s current TPAs in order ensure they are “valid and authentic, formative in nature, embedded in preparation, and inform program improvement through, the accreditation system.” SB 1263 requires that at least one-third of the workgroup members be classroom teachers in California public schools and prohibits the appointment of anyone with a financial interest in any teacher licensing assessment. The workgroup is required to develop and present recommendations on how to modify and improve the current TPA structure to the CTC by March 1, 2025 and the CTC is required to adopt a set of recommendations by July 1, 2025. The CTC is then required to implement the adopted recommendations by July 1, 2028, reporting annually to the Legislature on its progress towards implementation. The workgroup has already been assembled and its work is underway.

New laws changes how employers handle certain unused leave.

In response to claims from school employees that they are having issues transferring leave when moving from one district to another, [AB 2134](#) by Assembly Member Muratsuchi seeks to clarify and streamline the process by requiring school districts, COEs, and state special schools to accept a transfer of sick leave for a certificated or classified employee at any time during their employment with the LEA. Under current law, if a school employee had been terminated with accumulated sick leave, the employee seems to have had to be employed at another district within a year of that termination in order to be entitled to a transfer of their leave. AB 2134 eliminates this lack of clarity by removing this time limit.

With regards to transferring certificated employees, the bill also extends the requirement to accept a leave transfer to COEs and state special schools and clarifies that the leave must be transferred in days, not hours. The latter aligns school policies with the California State Teachers Retirement System (CalSTRS), which accepts unused sick leave in days, and prevents the employee from losing leave because of differences in an employer’s length of workday.

Additionally, current law had tasked the State Board of Education (SBE) with adopting rules and regulations prescribing how the previous employing district must certify to the new employer the amount of leave to be transferred. AB 2134 removes that requirement and instead establishes in code the information that a former employer must provide in response to a request to transfer accumulated sick leave:

- The name and identification number for the employee requesting the transfer

- The contact information for the former employing entity
- The time period of service, including the start and end dates, for the employee requesting the transfer
- The total amount of sick leave to be transferred based on the former employer’s workday (provided in the form of days for a certificated employee)
- The contact information for the new employer
- The signature of the person completing and verifying the accuracy of the information provided, including the person’s name, title, and contact information

The Governor also signed [AB 2123](#) by Assembly Member Diane Papan (D-San Mateo), which removes the ability of an employer to require an employee to take up to two weeks of earned but unused vacation leave before the employee can access benefits under the state’s Paid Family Leave program. The bill applies to disability periods that begin on or after January 1, 2025. By removing this authority, an employee will be able to access PFL right when they become eligible but also allows the employee to still choose to use their paid vacation before accessing PFL, if they want to. As noted by the bill’s author, “These updates will allow workers to access the support they need without placing any additional requirements on California employers.”

The Governor signed the following human resources bills:

California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC)

[AB 1930 \(Reyes\) - Teaching credentials: Child Development Associate Teacher Permit: renewal.](#)

Current law allows a Child Development Associate Teacher Permit to only be renewed once. This bill instead requires the CTC, on or before April 30, 2025, to authorize a holder of a Child Development Associate Teacher Permit to renew their permit without a limit on the number of renewals, provided they complete the specified hours of professional growth activities, as determined by the CTC.

Chapter 687, Statutes of 2024

[AB 2345 \(Patterson, Jim\) - Short-term staff permits: provisional intern permits: teaching permits for statutory leave: designated subjects career technical education teaching credentials: cardiopulmonary resuscitation \(CPR\) certification.](#)

This bill, commencing July 1, 2025, adds certification in CPR that meets the standards established by the American Heart Association (AHA) or the American Red Cross (ARC) to the minimum requirements for the 3-year preliminary designated subjects career technical education (CTE) teaching credential and the 5-year clear designated subjects CTE teaching credential. The bill also prohibits, beginning July 1, 2025, a school district, COE, charter school or state special school from hiring a person for purposes of a short-term staff permit, provisional internship permit, or a teaching permit for statutory leave, unless that person has a certification in CPR that meets the standards of the AHA or the ARC.

Chapter 65, Statutes of 2024

[SB 1263 \(Newman\) - Teacher credentialing: teaching performance assessment: workgroup.](#)

AB 1263 requires the CTC to convene a workgroup to assess the current design and implementation of the state's TPAs. The workgroup must develop recommendations to be presented to the CTC by March 1, 2025, and the Commission must vote to adopt a set of recommendations by July 1, 2025. The adopted recommendations then have to be implemented by July 1, 2028. The bill also requires the CTC to report to the Legislature annually, beginning October 15, 2025, and through October 15, 2028, on the progress of the workgroup in making its recommendations and actions taken by the CTC to implement the adopted recommendations.

Chapter 889, Statutes of 2024

Health Care

[SB 729 \(Menjivar\) - Health care coverage: treatment for infertility and fertility services.](#)

This bill requires large and small group health care service plan contracts and disability insurance policies issued, amended, or renewed on or after July 1, 2025, to provide coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of infertility and fertility services. The bill also revises the definition of infertility, removes the exclusion of in-vitro fertilization from coverage, and prohibits a health care service plan or disability insurer from placing different conditions or coverage limitations on fertility medications or services, or the diagnosis and treatment of infertility and fertility services, than would apply to other condition. The bill's requirements are inapplicable to a health care benefit plan or contract entered into with the Board of Administration of the Public Employees' Retirement System (until July 1, 2027), as well as religious employers.

Chapter 930, Statutes of 2024

Human Resources

[AB 938 \(Muratsuchi\) - Education finance: classified and certificated staff salaries.](#)

AB 938 requires CDE, by July 1, 2025, to update the Salary and Benefits Schedule for the Certificated Bargaining Unit (Form J-90) to include salary data collection for classified school staff assigned to a schoolsite, in the same manner as collected for certificated staff assigned to a schoolsite, for secretaries or administrative assistants, custodians, bus drivers, school food service workers, and instructional aides. The bill then requires, beginning January 31, 2026 and annually thereafter, LEAs to submit certificated and classified staff salary data using the Form J-90 to CDE. The bill also requires, beginning August 31, 2026 and annually thereafter, CDE to report the changes in school staff wages over time to the Legislature.

Chapter 345, Statutes of 2024

[AB 1913 \(Addis\) - Pupil safety: child abuse prevention: training.](#)

Current law requires LEAs to provide annual training to their employees and contractors who are mandated reporters on the mandated reporting requirements related to child abuse and encourages that training to include training on the prevention of abuse of children on school grounds by school personnel or in school-sponsored programs. This bill, beginning July 1, 2025, requires LEAs to include child abuse prevention in the existing annual mandated reporter training requirement. The bill also requires CDE to develop and disseminate information to all LEAs regarding the prevention of abuse,

including sexual abuse, of children on school grounds, by school personnel, or in school-sponsored programs.

Chapter 814, Statutes of 2024

[AB 2123 \(Papan\) - Disability compensation: paid family leave.](#)

AB 2123 sunsets the authorization for an employer to require an employee to take two weeks of earned but unused vacation leave before, and as a condition of, accessing benefits under California's Paid Family Leave (PFL) program, making the authorization and related provisions inapplicable to any disability period commencing on or after January 1, 2025.

Chapter 949, Statutes of 2024

[AB 2134 \(Muratsuchi\) - School employees: transfer of leave of absence for illness or injury.](#)

This bill makes changes to existing law related to the transfer of accumulated sick leave by certificated and classified employees between their local public education employers, including requiring the second school district employer to honor a request by a certificated employee to transfer the total sick leave accumulated at the first LEA employer at any time during the employee's employment with the second LEA.

Chapter 381, Statutes of 2024

[AB 2245 \(Carrillo, Juan\) - Certificated school employees: permanent status: regional occupational centers or programs operated by single school districts.](#)

AB 2245 requires, beginning July 1, 2025, service by a person as an instructor in classes conducted at a regional occupation center or program operated by a single school district to be included in computing the service required as a prerequisite to the attainment of, or eligibility for, classification as a permanent employee of the single school district.

Chapter 956, Statutes of 2024

[AB 2299 \(Flora\) - Labor Commissioner: whistleblower protections: model list of rights and responsibilities.](#)

Current law requires an employer to prominently display a list of employees' rights and responsibilities under the whistleblower laws. This bill requires the Labor Commissioner to develop a model list of employees' rights and responsibilities under the whistleblower laws. The bill also provides that an employer that posts the model list shall be deemed in compliance with the requirement to prominently display the list of employees' rights and responsibilities under the whistleblower laws.

Chapter 105, Statutes of 2024

[AB 2499 \(Schiavo\) - Employment: unlawful discrimination and paid sick days: victims of violence.](#)

The bill prohibits an employer with 25 or more employees from discharging or in any manner discriminating or retaliating against an employee who is a victim or who has a family member who is a victim, for taking time off work for a prescribed purpose relating to a qualifying act of violence. The bill permits an employer to limit the total leave taken pursuant to these provisions. The bill also requires an employer to inform each employee of their rights under the bill as well as provide the information to new employees upon hire, to all employees annually, at any time upon request, and any time an employee informs an employer that the employee or the employee's family member is a victim. The bill

requires the Civil Rights Department to develop and post, on or before July 1, 2025, a form that an employer may use to comply with this notice requirement.

Chapter 967, Statutes of 2024

[AB 2534 \(Flora\) - Certificated employees: disclosures: egregious misconduct.](#)

The bill requires a person applying for a certificated position at a new school district, COE, charter school, or state special school to provide the prospective employer with a complete list of every LEA that the applicant has previously been an employee of and requires the prospective employer to inquire with all previous employing LEAs whether the applicant had credible complaints of, substantial investigation into, or discipline for, egregious misconduct that were required to be reported to the CTC.

Chapter 570, Statutes of 2024

[AB 3234 \(Ortega\) - Employers: social compliance audit.](#)

This bill requires an employer who has voluntarily subjected itself to a social compliance audit, whether the audit is conducted in part, or in whole, to determine if child labor is involved in the employer's operations or practices, to post a clear and conspicuous link on its website to a report detailing the findings of its compliance with child labor laws. The bill defines the term "social compliance audit" to mean a voluntary, nongovernmental inspection or assessment of an employer's operations or practices to evaluate whether the operations or practices are in compliance with state and federal labor laws, including wage and hour and health and safety regulations, including those regarding child labor.

Chapter 438, Statutes of 2024

[AB 3235 \(Bryan\) - Fingerprint rollers and custodians of records.](#)

Current law requires the Department of Justice (DOJ) to refuse to certify or confirm a fingerprint roller or custodian of records, or revoke their certification or confirmation, upon, among other things, their conviction for a felony offense. Current law also requires the DOJ to refuse to certify an individual as a fingerprint roller, or to suspend or revoke that certification, upon the revocation, suspension, restriction, or denial of a professional license for specific reasons. AB 3235 instead gives the DOJ discretion to refuse to certify or confirm a fingerprint roller or custodian of records, or to revoke their certification or confirmation. The bill also makes the same change with relation to the revocation, suspension, restriction, or denial of a professional license for fingerprint rollers.

Chapter 254, Statutes of 2024

[SB 399 \(Wahab\) - Employer communications: intimidation.](#)

This bill, except as specified, prohibits an employer from subjecting, or threatening to subject, an employee to discharge, discrimination, retaliation, or any other adverse action because the employee declines to attend an employer-sponsored meeting or affirmatively declines to participate in, receive, or listen to any communications with the employer or its agents or representatives, the purpose of which is to communicate the employer's opinion about religious or political matters. The bill also requires an employee who refuses to attend such a meeting to continue to be paid and imposes a civil penalty of \$500 on an employer who violates these provisions.

Chapter 670, Statutes of 2024

[SB 1090 \(Durazo\) - Unemployment insurance: disability and paid family leave: claim administration.](#)

SB 1090 authorizes workers to file a claim for State Disability Insurance or Paid Family Leave benefits up to 30 days in advance of the first compensable day of disability and requires the Employment Development Department (EDD) to issue payment on those claims within 14 days of receipt or as soon as eligibility begins for the claimant, whichever is later. The bill makes these changes operative when these changes are incorporated in the EDD's integrated claims management system as part of the EDDNext project.

Chapter 876, Statutes of 2024

Retirement/CalSTRS/CalPERS

[AB 1246 \(Nguyen, Stephanie\) - Public employees' retirement: Public Employees' Retirement System optional settlements.](#)

This bill, commencing January 1, 2026, permits a member of the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) who divorces after retirement and subsequently remarries to elect to designate their new spouse as a beneficiary of the retiree's post-divorce retirement settlement irrespective as to whether the member received 100 percent of their retirement allowance in the divorce settlement. The bill also provides that a member may elect this option only once, precludes elections that would be in derogation of the former spouse's interest in the retirement system, and precludes elections that would result in additional employer costs.

Chapter 350, Statutes of 2024

[AB 1997 \(McKinnor\) - Teachers' Retirement Law.](#)

Current law requires employers and employees to make contributions to the California State Teacher Retirement System (CalSTRS) based on the member's creditable compensation and defines "annualized pay rate" to mean the salary or wages a person could earn during a school term for an assignment if creditable service were performed for that assignment on a full-time basis. This bill redefines "annualized pay rate" to mean the salary a person could earn during a school term in a position subject to membership if creditable service were performed for that position on a full-time basis, to be determined pursuant to a publicly available pay schedule. This bill would make these changes effective upon a date determined by the CalSTRS Board but no later than July 1, 2027.

Chapter 690, Statutes of 2024

[AB 2770 \(Committee on Public Employment and Retirement\) - Public employees' retirement.](#)

AB 2770 makes technical, non-substantive amendments to clear up and clarify specified portions of the Education and Government Codes regulating the CalSTRS, CalPERS, and the County Employees Retirement Law of 1937 (CERL) retirement systems, including requiring a CalSTRS member to sign and return a completed statement of contributions and interest required from CalSTRS to purchase service credit at a specific cost no later than 35 calendar days from the date of the offer.

Chapter 117, Statutes of 2024

[AB 3025 \(Valencia\) - County employees' retirement: disallowed compensation: benefit adjustments.](#)

This bill establishes processes and procedures in the CERL, administered by CERL systems, relating to earnable compensation, disallowed compensation, and the recovery of overpayments, including requiring counties operating employee retirement systems under CERL to reimburse those systems for

pension overpayments made to employees and also pay those retirees a lump sum amount equal to 20 percent of the actuarial equivalent present value of a retiree's "lost" pension going forward due to the benefit recalculation.

Chapter 427, Statutes of 2024

Teacher Shortage

[AB 2967 \(Ting\) - Teacher Housing Act of 2016: nonprofit organization employees.](#)

The Teacher Housing Act of 2016 authorizes a school district to establish and maintain programs that address the housing needs of teachers and school district employees who face challenges in securing affordable housing. AB 2967 expands the authority provided under the Act to include programs that address the housing needs of nonprofit organization employees who face challenges in securing affordable housing. The bill defines "nonprofit organization employee" for these purposes to include employees of a nonprofit organization operating early childhood, prekindergarten, or schoolage childcare, classrooms, or programs, or expanded learning classrooms and programs, on school district property with funding from CDE, the federal Head Start program, or other public funding targeted to children from families of low and moderate income. The bill also provides that teachers, school district employees, and nonprofit organization employees shall have a right of first refusal to occupy housing acquired, constructed, rehabilitated, or preserved under the Act, with teachers and school district employees being prioritized before nonprofit organization employees.

Chapter 748, Statutes of 2024

Workers Compensation

[AB 1239 \(Calderon\) - Workers' compensation: disability payments.](#)

Current law allows an employer to commence a program under which disability indemnity payments are deposited in a prepaid card account for employees, until January 1, 2025. This bill extends this authorization until January 1, 2027.

Chapter 806, Statutes of 2024

[AB 1870 \(Ortega\) - Notice to employees: legal services.](#)

Current law generally requires employers who are subject to the workers' compensation system to keep posted in a conspicuous location frequented by employees and easily read by employees during the hours of the workday, a notice that includes, among other information, to whom injuries should be reported, the rights of an employee to select and change a treating physician, and certain employee protections against discrimination. This bill requires the notice to also include information concerning an injured employee's ability to consult a licensed attorney to advise them of their rights under workers' compensations laws.

Chapter 87, Statutes of 2024

Capitol Advisors Group has produced a set of comprehensive client briefs detailing new education laws that were passed by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Newsom in 2024. Each brief is organized by subject area and includes an executive summary highlighting major changes we think you should know about. Bills signed by the Governor take effect on January 1, 2025, unless the bill specifically states otherwise.

SCHOOL FINANCE

CHANGES IN LAW
2024

 CAPITOL
ADVISORS

 *aalrr* Atkinson, Andelson
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Debate over Enrollment-Based Funding Continues

For several years, the issue of switching from attendance-based funding to enrollment-based funding has been debated in the Legislature. Because a truly helpful switch that doesn't create winners and losers would cost the state north of \$3 billion, the Legislature and Governor agreed to pass [SB 98](#), by Senator Anthony Portantino (D-Pasadena) to require the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) to report to the Legislature by January 1, 2026 on the effects of changing the pupil count methodology of the local control funding formula (LCFF) from average daily attendance (ADA) to pupil enrollment. This report must include a review of research regarding evidence-based approaches to improving pupil attendance and the extent to which a state's method of funding affects pupil attendance rates, the fiscal, programmatic, and administrative impacts of changing the pupil count methodology of the LCFF from ADA to pupil enrollment, and the potential impacts on pupil attendance of changing the pupil count methodology to an enrollment-based model.

2024-25 Budget Act Protects Schools in Time of Slow Revenue Growth

The 2024-25 Budget Act was a big win for schools, largely thanks to a deal between Governor Newsom and the California Teachers Association (CTA) pertaining to the Proposition 98 Guarantee. That deal included an obligation to make Prop 98 whole in the future, and higher revenue estimates used in final budget that significantly increase the Prop 98 base for budget and future years.

While the budget included a rare suspension of the Prop 98 Guarantee and several unusual deferrals, state education spending fully funds ongoing K-14 programs with LCFF and categorical programs receiving a 1.07% cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA). The budget also attempted to address an operating deficit in 2025-26 as revenue estimates at the time saw trouble ahead if revenues failed to meet budget projections over the next couple of years.

Not surprisingly, the budget suspended the August 15, 2024 layoff window for school staff.

Our budget perspectives workshop PowerPoint highlighting the important components of the state budget can be found [here](#).

Budget makes changes to Independent Study Requirements

We also want to call special attention to some changes to Independent Study (IS) embedded in the State Budget that affect all school agencies. While the changes are mostly helpful and minor, they

require schools to update IS board policies and written agreements. As a matter of practice, we recommend schools annually review their IS board policies and written agreements for compliance with the most recent changes in law. Since these changes were included as part of the budget, they took effect immediately upon being signed into law and, therefore, are in place starting with the 2024-25 school year.

Attendance Accounting: Deletes Three-Day Requirement

The budget removes the requirement that a student's attendance in an IS program in a school district or county office of education can only be counted after the student has participated in the program for three or more consecutive school days. As a result, IS attendance (short- and long-term) can now be accrued from the student's first day of IS participation.

New Pupil Work Product and Time Accounting Flexibility

The budget includes language to provide LEAs additional flexibility in how they document and track the time value of pupil work product. Specifically, pupil work product has been expanded to include "the daily time value spent by a pupil engaged in asynchronous instruction, including work completed on an online or computer-based instructional activity, regardless of whether pupil work products are produced, if the computer program documents pupil participation."

This expanded definition does not change how traditional pupil work product is valued, and the inclusion of asynchronous instruction as pupil work product is entirely voluntary for an LEA. However, the budget did include language that requires an LEA to maintain documentation of hours or fraction of an hour of both pupil work products and the time that the pupil engaged in asynchronous instruction. This language is being interpreted as applying even if an LEA does not include asynchronous instruction through a computer program as part of a pupil's work product.

This marks a change to how the time value of student work product has historically been documented and requires LEAs to put in place a new process for documenting the time value of traditional work product that will not be fully clarified until the audit guide is updated in the Spring of 2025. In addition to being incredibly high stakes for funding purposes, we also know the lack of clarity is disruptive for students, families, and teachers.

Short-Term Independent Study Expansion and Signature Requirement

There had been a push by Governor Newsom to eliminate the distinction between short-term and long-term independent study, as part of his proposal around Instructional Continuity Programs. However, the final budget retains short-term independent study but does make the following changes:

- Short-Term Independent Study is now defined as an independent study program that is scheduled for 15 schooldays or fewer (previous definition was an IS program that is scheduled for less than 15 schooldays.)

- Short-Term IS agreements may be signed at any time during the school year in which the IS program takes place (previous language required the agreement to be signed within 10 schooldays of the commencement of the student’s first day of enrollment in IS.)

Synchronous Instruction Definition Clarification

For purposes of demonstrating a student’s participation in synchronous instruction, the budget added “documentation that the pupil participated in an instructional period either visually or verbally,” to the list of possible evidence. This clarifies that students engaged with a teacher over the phone, or a non-video Zoom setting (for example), still meet the requirements under the law.

CDE has published updated FAQs to help schools implement these changes, which are available [here](#).

The Governor signed the following school finance bills:

Attendance Accounting

[SB 1429 \(Ochoa Bogh\) - Education finance: emergencies: snowstorms.](#)

This bill adds snowstorms to the list of emergencies for which LEAs may receive a waiver of instructional time requirements and have the ADA of the LEA used for state funding purposes held harmless.

Chapter 477, Statutes of 2024

Public Contracts

[SB 1162 \(Cortese\) - Public contracts: employment compliance reports: apprenticeship programs.](#)

This bill requires a contractor, bidder, or other entity to include the full name of, and identify the apprenticeship program name, location, and graduation date of, all workers in existing monthly compliance reports made to the public entity or other awarding body for projects with a skilled and trained workforce requirement. This bill also requires the Division of Apprenticeship Standards (DAS) to, on or before July 1, 2025, create and maintain a public online database to verify that a worker graduated from a California apprenticeship program.

Chapter 882, Statutes of 2024

School Finance

[SB 98 \(Portantino\) - Education finance: local control funding formula: enrollment-based funding report.](#)

This bill requires the LAO to submit a report to the Legislature, on or before January 1, 2026, on the effects of changing the pupil count methodology of the LCFF from ADA to pupil enrollment. The report must include a review of research regarding evidence-based approaches to improving pupil

attendance and the extent to which a state's method of funding affects pupil attendance rates, the fiscal, programmatic, and administrative impacts of changing the pupil count methodology of the LCFF from ADA to pupil enrollment, and the potential impacts on pupil attendance of changing the pupil count methodology to an enrollment based model.

Chapter 442, Statutes of 2024

[SB 1303 \(Caballero\) - Public works.](#)

This bill requires a private labor compliance entity to disclose potential conflicts of interest to a body awarding a public works contract, as specified, and if conflict exists, prohibits the entity from entering into a contract with an awarding body. Additionally, this bill requires a private labor compliance entity to take certain steps before and after withholding funds from a contractor or subcontractor who violates public works law. These violations include providing a venue for a contractor or subcontractor to respond to alleged violations.

Chapter 991, Statutes of 2024

State Budget

[AB 176 \(Committee on Budget\) - Education finance: education omnibus trailer bill.](#)

The Early Education Act, until July 1, 2027, authorizes a California state preschool contractor operating a part-day, full-day, or both part- and full-day California state preschool program to enroll interested eligible 2-year-old children, as defined. The act, on or after July 1, 2027, prohibits a contractor from serving any 2-year-old children, unless the contractor was serving those 2-year-old children before July 1, 2027, as provided. The act requires the Superintendent to develop guidance for contractors to follow when enrolling 2-year-old children. The act requires each applicant or contracting agency to give priority for services for part-day and full-day California state preschool programs according to a specified priority order. This bill would, until July 1, 2027, revise and recast the priority order for 2-year-old children, as specified. The bill would, until July 1, 2027, require the Superintendent's guidance to be developed in consultation with the State Department of Social Services and include guidance for safe, age-appropriate diapering and toilet training, as specified. The bill would authorize the State Department of Education, for purposes of expediting the implementation of state or federal legislation to expand preschool services, to use an alternative application process and waive certain regulations.

Chapter 998, Statutes of 2024

[SB 153 \(Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review\) - Education finance: education omnibus budget trailer bill.](#)

The Safe Place to Learn Act requires the State Department of Education, as part of its regular monitoring and review of a local educational agency, to assess whether the local educational agency has, among other things, adopted a policy that prohibits discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying based on specified protected characteristics. This bill would require the department to assess whether the local educational agency has provided certificated schoolsite employees who serve pupils in any of grades 7 to 12, inclusive, information on existing schoolsite and community resources related to the support of pupils who may face bias or bullying on the basis of those characteristics. The bill would require the department to also assess whether the local educational agency has prominently

and conspicuously displayed the policy at each schoolsite and local educational agency office and on the local educational agency's internet website, as provided.

Chapter 38, Statutes of 2024

[SB 163 \(Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review\) - Early learning and childcare.](#)

The Early Education Act, among other things, requires the Superintendent to administer all California state preschool programs, including, but not limited to, part-day and full-day age and developmentally appropriate programs for 3- and 4-year-old children. The act establishes eligibility criteria for those children. This bill would require the State Department of Education to develop and implement a streamlined request for application process for existing California state preschool program contractors to be awarded new California state preschool program slots and would require the State Department of Education to collaborate with the State Department of Social Services to ensure the request for application process is, where applicable, similar to the streamlined request for application process in the general childcare and development program. The bill would make certain contractors ineligible for the streamlined request for application process if any of specified conditions are met.

Chapter 73, Statutes of 2024

Capitol Advisors Group has produced a set of comprehensive client briefs detailing new education laws that were passed by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Newsom in 2024. Each brief is organized by subject area and includes an executive summary highlighting major changes we think you should know about. Bills signed by the Governor take effect on January 1, 2025, unless the bill specifically states otherwise.

SCHOOL SAFETY

CHANGES IN LAW
2024

 CAPITOL
ADVISORS

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Loya, Ruud & Romo

Handful of Bills Make Changes to Comprehensive School Safety Plans (CSSP)

There was a group of bills this year signed into law that made changes or otherwise added new requirements to the CSSP.

- [AB 1858](#) (Ward, D-San Diego) - Prohibits, to the extent that a CSSP contains procedures to prepare for active shooters or other armed assailants, a local educational agency (LEA), county office of education (COE), or charter school from conducting high-intensity active shooter drills and requires an LEA, COE, or charter school to use a trauma-informed approach in the design and execution of any drill
- [AB 2887](#) (Maienschein, D-San Diego) - Requires a LEA, COE, and charter school to add to their CSSP, on or after July 1, 2025, procedures to respond to incidents involving an individual experiencing a sudden cardiac arrest or a similar life-threatening medical emergency while on school grounds
- [AB 2968](#) (Connolly, D-San Rafael) - Requires, commencing in the 2026-27 fiscal year, LEAs in high or very high fire severity zones to include in their CSSP procedures related to severe fires, including a communication, refuge, and evacuation plan

In addition to these bills, this year's budget ([SB 153](#)) also added a requirement that, beginning July 1, 2025, LEAs must include in their CSSP an instructional continuity plan to establish communication with pupils and their families and provide instruction when in-person instruction has been disrupted due to an emergency. The plan must include all the following:

- Procedures for pupil engagement, as soon as practicable, but no later than 5 calendar days following an emergency. The procedures must be designed to establish two-way communication with pupils and their families and to identify and provide supports for pupils' social-emotional and mental health as well as their academic needs.
- A plan to provide access to in-person instruction or remote instruction throughout independent study, as soon as practicable, but not later than 10 instructional days following the emergency.

Budget trailer bill clean-up ([AB 176](#)) then further requires, for J-13A waivers submitted for events occurring after July 1, 2026, an LEA to certify that it has a locally adopted CSSP in place that includes the required instructional continuity plan.

Web-based Safety Apps Now Encouraged in California Schools

As California and the nation continue to grapple with ways to improve school safety, despite the importance of the issue, cost and overly burdensome requirements often disrupt legislative efforts. However, one bill dealing with how schools can respond to safety incidents did make it all the way to the Governor's desk this year and was ultimately signed into law.

[AB 960](#), authored by Assembly Member Devon Mathis (R-Porterville) seeks to bolster school safety without technically putting new requirements on schools in California. Specifically, the bill encourages public schools, including charter schools, with an enrollment of 100 pupils or more, on or before July 1, 2030, to implement a web-based or app-based school safety program. Under the bill, the app would need to have the following major parameters:

- A common alphanumeric grid mapping system for the identification of all buildings and locations upon the schoolsite;
- A multilayered digital map of the schoolsite that contains key information, including, but not limited to, detailed building floor plans, alphanumeric building identification, gate locations, shut-off valve locations, first aid equipment locations, automated external defibrillator locations, links to 360-degree interior and 360-degree aerial photography, and the location of, and field of view of, schoolsite surveillance cameras;
- The ability to place time stamped event markers on the digital map that identify important information about a crisis, including, but not limited to, injuries, hazards, suspect sightings, and safety zones; and,
- The ability to alert first responders from multiple agencies within a reasonable geographic area from the school in the event of an emergency on or around the schoolsite.

In authoring the bill, Assembly Member Mathis noted:

"We must do our best to keep our children and staff at schools safe. A society and school system that takes advantage of modern resources, in the best interest of our children, is the society I want to live in and the school system I want to send my children to."

It is important to note that the bill does not require the use of a web-based safety app, it merely encourages it. That being said, as the Legislature continues to examine new and rapidly evolving technologies (Artificial Intelligence, for example), there will likely be continued efforts in this space to get more and better resources deployed to California schools.

State Bolsters Cyberbullying Laws; Takes Aim at Social Media Platforms

Two years ago, [AB 2879](#) (*Low, Chapter 700, Statutes of 2022*), responding to reports of increased cyberbullying, especially among students in junior high and high schools, enacted the Cyberbullying Protection Act. The bill simply required social media platforms to create a mechanism by which those

with or without an account on the platform could report cyberbullying. In addition, the legislation sought to increase transparency by requiring social media companies to disclose the platform's cyberbullying reporting procedures in the platform's terms of service. Although AB 2879 provided an enforcement mechanism, it limited this to civil actions brought by California's Attorney General. It did not provide for a private right of action.

In response to what some viewed as shortcomings of the original legislation, Senator Henry Stern (D-Los Angeles) introduced [SB 1504](#) this year. The bill was signed into law, and makes a handful of notable changes to the Cyberbullying Protection Act:

- Extends the Act's definition of cyberbullying to include acts committed by any person directed toward one or more minors.
- Inserts a definition of "severe or pervasive conduct."
- Requires the reporting mechanism to be prominent but limits the scope of reporting to cyberbullying or content that violates the terms of service related to cyberbullying.
- Mandates the mechanism meet specified criteria, including:
 - The mechanism provides, within 36 hours of receipt of a report, written confirmation to the reporting individual that the social media platform received that individual's report.
 - The mechanism issues periodic updates and a final written determination to the reporting user.
- Authorizes, in addition to the Attorney General, the parent or legal guardian of a minor, or a school administrator, that reports cyberbullying to the platform, as well as any city attorney, district attorney, or county counsel, to bring a civil action for violations and raises the statutory damages available. A prevailing plaintiff may be awarded reasonable attorney's fees and costs.
- Provides that the remedies provided are in addition to any other civil, criminal, and administrative remedies, penalties, or sanctions provided by law and do not supplant, but are cumulative to, other remedies, penalties, or sanctions. The duties and obligations imposed are cumulative with any other duties or obligations imposed under other law and shall not be construed to relieve any party from any duties or obligations imposed under other law.

For his part, Senator Stern noted:

"Existing California law falls short in addressing this pressing issue. Current statutes lack specific provisions holding platforms accountable for failing to address cyberbullying and offer insufficient protections for bullied children. SB 1504 seeks to rectify these deficiencies by updating current legislation to ensure platforms respond promptly and effectively to reports of cyberbullying."

There were several bills this year looking to address the student mental health crisis - SB 1504 being just one of them. Many did not make it to the Governor's desk, but we anticipate the Legislature will continue to look at ways to tackle this problem when they return in January to commence the 2025-26 Legislative Session.

The Governor signed the following school safety bills:

Drugs

[AB 1976 \(Haney\) - Occupational safety and health standards: first aid materials: opioid antagonists.](#)

This bill requires the Division of Occupational Safety and Health, before December 1, 2027, to submit a draft rulemaking proposal to revise specified regulations on first aid materials and emergency medical services to require first aid materials in a workplace to include naloxone hydrochloride or another opioid antagonist approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration to reverse opioid overdose and instructions for using the opioid antagonist. The bill also requires the standards board to consider for adoption revised standards for the standards described above on or before December 1, 2028.

Chapter 689, Statutes of 2024

[AB 2690 \(Patterson, Joe\) - Pupil safety: parental notification: synthetic drugs.](#)

Current law requires a school district, COE, and charter school to annually inform parents or guardians, at the beginning of the first semester or quarter of the regular school term, of the dangers associated with using synthetic drugs and the possibility that dangerous synthetic drugs can be found in counterfeit pills. AB 2690 requires a LEA to, as part of the above-described annual notification to parents or guardians, also include the risk of social media platforms being used as a way to market and sell synthetic drugs, such as fentanyl.

Chapter 241, Statutes of 2024

[AB 2998 \(McKinnor\) - Opioid overdose reversal medications: pupil administration.](#)

AB 2998 prohibits a school district, COE, or charter school from prohibiting a pupil 12 years of age or older, while on a schoolsite or participating in school activities, from carrying or administering, for the purposes of providing emergency treatment to persons who are suffering, or reasonably believed to be suffering, from an opioid overdose, a naloxone hydrochloride nasal spray or any other opioid overdose reversal medication that is federally approved for over-the-counter, nonprescription use.

Chapter 974, Statutes of 2024

[AB 3218 \(Wood\) - Unflavored Tobacco List.](#)

Current law prohibits a person from selling or otherwise furnishing tobacco products to a person under 21 years of age. The Stop Tobacco Access to Kids Enforcement (STAKE) Act provides for enforcement of that prohibition by the Attorney General. This bill would require the Attorney General to, by no later

than December 31, 2025, establish and maintain on the Attorney General's website a list of tobacco product brand styles that lack a characterizing flavor.

Chapter 849, Statutes of 2024

[SB 908 \(Cortese\) - Fentanyl: child deaths.](#)

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) administers the California Overdose Surveillance Dashboard that provides data on state- and local-level drug-related overdose outcomes for California, including, among other data, the number of deaths related to fentanyl overdoses. This bill requires CDPH to use best efforts to utilize all of its relevant data regarding overdoses in the state to monitor and identify current trends of fentanyl-related deaths of children 0 to 5 years of age. The bill also requires CDPH to develop guidance and spread awareness of the trends to protect and prevent children from fentanyl exposure and, on or before January 1, 2026, to annually distribute its findings and guidance to local health departments, county boards of supervisors, and the Legislature.

Chapter 867, Statutes of 2024

[SB 997 \(Portantino\) - Pupil health: opioid antagonists and fentanyl test strips.](#)

SB 997 prohibits school districts, COEs, and charter schools from prohibiting pupils in middle schools, junior high schools, high schools, or adult schools, while on a schoolsite or participating in school activities, from carrying fentanyl test strips or a federally approved opioid antagonist for the emergency treatment of persons suffering, or reasonably believed to be suffering, from an opioid overdose.

Chapter 872, Statutes of 2024

School Safety

[AB 262 \(Holden\) - Children's camps: safety and regulation.](#)

This bill, subject to an appropriation by the Legislature for this purpose, requires the California Department of Social Services (DSS) to prepare a report, in consultation with a wide variety of stakeholders, regarding approaches for children's camp health and safety regulation and oversight. The bill requires the stakeholder group to be composed of representatives of designated state entities, including, but not limited to, the CDPH and the California Department of Education (CDE), and other stakeholders, such as parent advocate groups and local parks and health departments. Under the bill, DSS will be required, following consultation with the stakeholder group, and within 24 months after funds are appropriated, to submit its recommendations in a report to the Legislature.

Chapter 341, Statutes of 2024

[AB 960 \(Mathis\) - School safety: web-based or app-based school safety programs.](#)

This bill encourages each public school, including charter schools, with an enrollment of 100 pupils or more, to implement a web-based or app-based school safety program that includes specified program parameters, including, among others, (1) a multilayered digital map of the schoolsite that contains key information, (2) the ability to alert first responders from multiple agencies within a reasonable geographic area from the school in the event of an emergency on or around the schoolsite, to be used only when there is a situation involving imminent danger of serious physical injury or death to a person on school property, and (3) detailed schoolsite information, including, but not limited to, the general

schoolsite location, schoolsite size, pupil populations, the schoolsite's grade levels, the number of staff on campus, and the emergency procedures for that schoolsite.

Chapter 528, Statutes of 2024

[AB 1858 \(Ward\) - Comprehensive school safety plans: active shooters: armed assailants: drills.](#)

Under current law, LEAs are required to develop a comprehensive school safety plan (CSSP) for each of its schools operating kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 12, inclusive, in cooperation with certain local entities. Current law requires the comprehensive school safety plan to include the development of procedures for conducting tactical responses to criminal incidents, including procedures related to individuals with guns on school campuses and at school-related functions. AB 1858 additionally requires, if the CSSP includes procedures to prepare for active shooters or other armed assailants by conducting a drill, the development of specified procedures relating to that drill. The bill also requires, on or before June 15, 2025, CDE to curate and post on its website best practices pertaining to school shooter or other armed assailant drills for use by LEAs and encourages LEAs to comply with those best practices.

Chapter 530, Statutes of 2024

[AB 2887 \(Maienschein\) - School safety plans: medical emergency procedures.](#)

This bill requires, as part of a school's CSSP when the plan is next reviewed and updated on or after July 1, 2025, the inclusion of procedures to respond to incidents involving an individual experiencing a sudden cardiac arrest or a similar life-threatening medical emergency while on school grounds..

Chapter 419, Statutes of 2024

[AB 2968 \(Connolly\) - School safety and fire prevention: fire hazard severity zones: comprehensive school safety plans: communication and evacuation plans.](#)

This bill, commencing with the 2026–27 fiscal year, requires the disaster procedures in CSSPs to include the establishment of a procedure to identify appropriate refuge shelter for all pupils and staff, for use in the event of an evacuation order, and to notify the operational area having jurisdiction of the refuge. The bill also requires, as applied to public schools serving more than 50 pupils in a high or very high fire hazard severity zone, the procedure to be coordinated with the operational area, and requires, commencing with the 2026–27 fiscal year and as a part of the CSSP for these schools, the development of a communication and evacuation plan, to be used in the event of an early notice evacuation warning, that allowed enough time to evacuate all pupils and staff.

Chapter 582, Statutes of 2024

[AB 3262 \(Maienschein\) - Automated external defibrillators.](#)

AB 3262, when an automated external defibrillator (AED) is placed in a public or private school serving grades 6 to 12, requires the principal to, at least annually, notify pupils as to the location of all AED units on the campus.

Chapter 19, Statutes of 2024

[SB 400 \(Wahab\) - Peace officers: confidentiality of records.](#)

Under current law, the personnel records of peace officers and custodial officers are confidential and not subject to public inspection, though there are certain exemptions to this confidentiality, including the reports, investigations, and findings of certain incidents involving the use of force by a peace

officer. This bill would clarify that this confidentiality does not prohibit an agency that formerly employed a peace officer or custodial officer from disclosing the termination for cause of that officer.

Chapter 3, Statutes of 2024

[SB 1504 \(Stern\) - Cyberbullying Protection Act.](#)

The Cyberbullying Protection Act requires a social media platform to disclose all cyberbullying reporting procedures in the social media platform's terms of service and to establish a mechanism within its internet-based service that allows an individual, whether or not that individual has a profile on the internet-based service, to report cyberbullying or content that violates the existing terms of service. SB 1504 generally applies the Act's provisions to minors rather than pupils. The bill also defines the phrase "severe or pervasive conduct" to include only content that has, or can be reasonably predicted to have, specified harmful, detrimental, or substantially interfering effects and provide that "severe conduct" may also include conduct that, among other things, calls for self-injury or suicide of a minor or a specific person or of a group of individuals related to a minor.

Chapter 900, Statutes of 2024

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STUDENT SERVICES

CHANGES IN LAW
2024

 CAPITOL
ADVISORS

 *aa/r/r* Atkinson, Andelson
Loya, Ruud & Romo

State drills down on the youth mental health impacts of social media platforms.

With the U.S. Surgeon General calling for a warning label to be placed on social media platforms due to their contribution to the youth mental health crisis, Governor Newsom has signed four bills aimed at regulating youth interaction with social media.

The first bill, [AB 1282](#) by Assembly Member Josh Lowenthal (D-Long Beach), will have the state evaluating and reporting out on the impacts of social media use on the state's children and youth. Specifically, the bill requires the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to report to the Legislature, on or before December 31, 2026, a "statewide strategy to understand, communicate, and mitigate mental health risks associated with the use of social media by children and youth." The strategy must include, among other things, the degree to which youth mental health is positively, negatively, or neutrally impacted by the use of social media and recommendations to strengthen children and youth resiliency strategies and California's use of mental health services related to social media. In developing the strategy, the bill requires CDPH to prioritize the perspective of children and youth through a "robust engagement process" that focuses on transition-age youth, at-risk populations, in-need populations, and underserved cultural and linguistic populations. CDPH must also consult with the California mental health community, within which the bill includes educators.

The Governor also signed [SB 976](#) by Senator Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley), the Protecting Our Kids from Social Media Addiction Act. While the bill is largely about regulating social media platforms it does include some provisions specific to when students are on campus. Under SB 976, operators of an "addictive internet-based service or application" are prohibited from providing an "addictive feed" to a user unless the operator does not know the user is a minor, the operator has obtained parental consent, or, beginning January 1, 2027, the operator has reasonably determined the user is not a minor.

The bill also requires operators to provide a way for the parent of a minor to place limits on what their child sees, including limiting notifications and limiting use of an application to a set amount of time per day. By default, the bill also requires minor accounts to be set to private and to limit the ability of a minor user to view the number of likes or other forms of feedback on posts. Specific to use of social media at school, SB 976 effectively prohibits an operator from sending notifications to a user it knows is a minor during school hours, defined as between 8 am and 3 pm, Monday through Friday, from September to May. Additionally, beginning January 1, 2027, this prohibition will extend to users the operator has not reasonably determined are not minors.

The last two bills in this package deal with governing board policies regulating the use of smartphones and social media on school campuses. Probably the most well-known of the bills is [AB 3216](#) by Assembly Member Josh Hoover (R-Folsom), which requires school governing boards to adopt, no later than July 1, 2026, a policy to limit or prohibit the use of smartphones by students while on campus. The Governor also signed [SB 1283](#) by Senator Henry Stern (D-Los Angeles), which authorizes school governing boards to adopt a policy to limit or prohibit the use of social media by a student while the student is at a schoolsite or while under the supervision and control of a local educational agency (LEA) employee.

New law bans forced-outing policies in schools.

As the rights of transgender and other LGBTQ+ students have been brought to the forefront of political debate in recent years, Governor Newsom issued a strong statement in support of these students when he signed [AB 1955](#) by Assembly Member Chris Ward (D-San Diego), otherwise known as the Support Academic Futures and Educators for Today's Youth (SAFETY) Act. Under the Act, LEAs, and their governing boards, are prohibited from enacting or enforcing any policy, rule or regulation that would require a school employee or contractor to disclose information regarding a student's sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression to another person without the student's consent. The bill also prohibits a school employee or contractor from being required to disclose such information and protects them from retaliation for complying with the bill's provisions.

In support of the bill, Assembly Member Ward emphasized that the bill was about ensuring LGBTQ+ students can come out at their own speed, writing:

Young people thrive when they have parental support and feel safe sharing their authentic selves at home, but it can be harmful to force young people to share their full identities before they're ready. AB 1955...strengthens existing protections, ensuring all students are safe, supported, and not isolated due to any part of their identity, as well as supports families to have personal conversations and work towards family acceptance on their own terms.

The bill comes after, in 2023, a number of school district governing boards, including Chino Valley Unified School District, Rocklin Unified School District, Temecula Valley Unified School District, and Murrieta Valley Unified School District, adopted nearly identical policies that would require schools to inform parents whenever their child requests to use a name or pronouns different from that on their birth certificate or official records.

The policies were immediately condemned by California Attorney General Rob Bonta, who stated, "The rise in school districts adopting policies that target California's vulnerable LGBTQ+ student population is of grave concern. My office...will not tolerate districts compromising the safety and privacy of transgender and gender nonconforming students." The Attorney General would go on to open an investigation into Chino Valley's policy before ultimately successfully suing the District to block enforcement of the policy. Given this aggressive approach, that the state would pursue legislation codifying the state's stance on these "forced-outing policies" was all but inevitable.

Since being signed back in July, the law has been met with pushback in parts of the state. The day after being signed, Chino Valley Unified filed a lawsuit against the state claiming that AB 1955 violates parental rights under the First Amendment, the Fourteenth Amendment, and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and seeking an injunction against the bill's enforcement. The Orange County Board of Education has since joined the lawsuit as a plaintiff. In September, the Huntington Beach City Council voted to declare the city a "Parent's Right to Know City," prohibiting educators in the city from withholding from parents information about their child's sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression, and subsequently filed its own lawsuit against the state.

However, since the outcomes for either of these cases has yet to be determined, AB 1955 is still on track to go into effect on January 1, 2025.

Increased accountability and opportunity for students in juvenile court or other alternative schools.

Three bills were signed by the Governor that increase transparency as well as provide better access to learning opportunities for students in juvenile court or other alternative schools such as community or continuation schools.

All LEAs are required to report and examine student suspension and expulsion rates on their local control accountability plan (LCAP) and annual updates. When those rates are made public, the LEA can come under scrutiny. There has been a concern in the Legislature that some LEAs might be transferring students to alternative schools for disciplinary reasons rather than suspending or expelling them to avoid negative attention. [AB 1984](#) by Assembly Member Akilah Weber (D-San Diego) allows for the creation of a more transparent process by requiring LEAs to provide data on any transfers to the California Department of Education (CDE). The bill also requires CDE to advise LEAs against transferring students to avoid reporting suspensions or expulsions.

The second bill, [AB 2176](#) by Assembly Member Marc Berman (D-Menlo Park), increases transparency and accountability for students, but is specific to those students in juvenile court schools. Given the nature of juvenile court schools, one might expect that student attendance is high. Yet, in some counties, because of a practice of barring students from school for disciplinary reasons, chronic absenteeism is a problem. AB 2176 requires the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) to first develop an annual report on chronic absenteeism rates in juvenile court schools, then, if funding is provided, investigate the reasons for absenteeism and provide technical assistance to ameliorate the identified causes.

Also related to juvenile court schools, [AB 2181](#) by Assembly Member Mike Gipson (D-Carson), focuses on increasing opportunities for students. Currently, students in juvenile court schools who complete state coursework requirements for graduation are automatically issued a diploma, unless the student chooses to defer receipt of a diploma in order to continue to be enrolled while detained. AB 2181 eliminates the process whereby a student defers receipt of a diploma, and instead requires that students in their third or fourth year of high school who meet state graduation requirements be exempted from local graduation requirements unless it is determined that they can meet those

requirements. It also permits students who are determined to be able to complete the local graduation requirements after the student's fourth year of high school, to remain enrolled after the student's fourth year of high school. AB 2181 ensures that court school students have the same opportunities as other highly mobile populations (foster, homeless, and military-connected youth) to gain additional career and college preparatory skills prior to graduation.

Prohibition of certain dyes in foods might impact school meals.

Over the last few years there have been a number of legislative proposals related to food products in schools as well as the use of certain food dyes. This year we have one bill that touches both areas. [AB 2316](#) by Assembly Member Jesse Gabriel (D-Encino), which prohibits LEAs from offering, selling or otherwise providing any food or beverages containing specific food dye additives, received quite a bit of attention but, in reality, makes very modest changes to school meal programs over time. In addition, the school nutrition community worked very hard with the author to craft a bill that protects students as well as school meal programs.

First, the majority of school foods are already free from the ingredients specified in AB 2316 because of current state and federal nutrition standards.

Second, the bill only applies to food items not provided to LEAs through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food in Schools program. These USDA foods are typically referred to as commodity foods, usually in the form of whole cheese, meat, and vegetables. Schools can utilize their commodity foods to create other food items. The bulk of food served in school meal programs comes from the USDA and all are exempted from the requirements of AB 2316 because California cannot regulate the USDA.

Finally, school food manufacturers have until December 31, 2027 to modify any products that might contain the prohibited food dye additives. The time will allow for current product supplies to be utilized, substitute materials to be incorporated, packaging to be redone and for education and awareness to be provided to the education community. The timeline also aligns with one from the USDA for some changes coming from federal requirements.

Changes to suicide prevention policies.

Since the COVID pandemic, California has seen an increase in student suicides. Current law requires LEAs to have procedures in place relating to suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention that were developed in consultation with school and community stakeholders, school-employed mental health professionals, and suicide prevention experts. In addition, CDE must identify one or more evidence-based online training programs that a LEA can use to train school staff and pupils as part of the LEA's policy on pupil suicide prevention.

Current suicide prevention policies often require the calling of 911 to assist a student suffering a mental health crisis. However, depending on the circumstances, the presence of law enforcement may escalate rather than deescalate the situation. [SB 1318](#) by Senator Aisha Wahab (D-Silicon Valley)

attempts to provide students with the mental health support they may need in a time of crisis by requiring CDE to update its model suicide prevention policy to address crisis intervention protocols in the event of a student suicide crisis. The model policy must cover the process by which staff and external agencies are deployed to address a pupil suicide crisis, including a prioritization of the use of school mental health professionals. The goal of the bill is to clarify that the involvement of law enforcement officers, including resource officers, should be the final step to protect a child's life, and that connection with mental health professionals should be the first.

During the next regularly scheduled review of their suicide prevention policy on or after July 1, 2026, LEAs will be required to include crisis intervention protocols aligned with the policy developed by CDE.

The Governor signed the following student services bills:

After School

[AB 1113 \(McCarty\) - California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System: expanded learning opportunity programs.](#)

AB 1113 requires CDE, beginning with the 2025–26 school year, to define and collect, as part of the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS), annual pupil enrollment data for each pupil enrolled in an expanded learning opportunity program, including, but not limited to, the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELO-P), the After School Education and Safety (ASES) Program, and the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program. The bill also requires CDE to identify and reduce data reporting redundancies and to provide guidance and recommendations to LEAs in the collection of pupil data for these programs.

Chapter 1003, Statutes of 2024

Alternative Education

[AB 1984 \(Weber\) - Pupil discipline: transfer reporting.](#)

This bill requires, commencing with the 2026–27 school year, CDE to collect and publish on its website, and school districts, county offices of education (COEs), and charter schools to provide to CDE, data on pupil transfers due to disciplinary reasons, including whether the pupil transferred to an alternative school based on a referral by the school. The bill also requires CDE, when providing guidance on its website about reducing disproportionate discipline of pupil subgroups in schools, to advise LEAs against the use of transfers to avoid reporting suspensions and expulsions.

Chapter 368, Statutes of 2024

[AB 2176 \(Berman\) - Juvenile court schools: chronic absenteeism rates.](#)

AB 2176 requires the OYCR within the California Health and Human Services Agency to develop an annual report on chronic absenteeism rates in juvenile court schools. The bill also, subject to available funding, requires the OYCR to investigate the reasons for absenteeism at juvenile court schools with chronic absenteeism rates of 15% or more and, if after an investigation the OYCR determines that insufficient staff, transportation, punitive policies, or any policies under the court school's control are

contributing to chronic absenteeism rates, requires the OYCR to provide technical assistance to address the identified causes of the chronic absenteeism.

Chapter 385, Statutes of 2024

[AB 2181 \(Gipson\) - Juvenile court school pupils: graduation requirements and continued education options.](#)

This bill requires a COE to exempt a pupil from all coursework or other requirements of the COE that are in addition to the statewide coursework requirements if the pupil (1) transfers into a juvenile court school any time after the completion of the pupil's 2nd year of high school, (2) completes the statewide coursework requirements for graduation while attending a juvenile court school, and (3) is in their 3rd or 4th year of high school, unless the COE makes a finding that the pupil is reasonably able to complete these local graduation requirements in time to graduate from high school by the end of the pupil's 4th year of high school. The bill also requires the COE to notify a pupil who may qualify for the exemption from local graduation requirements, the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the pupil, and the pupil's social worker and probation officer of the availability of the exemption and whether the pupil qualifies for the exemption, within 30 calendar days of the date that the pupil transfers into a juvenile court school for an enrollment period in the juvenile court school of at least 30 days.

Chapter 703, Statutes of 2024

Child Nutrition

[AB 2316 \(Gabriel\) - Pupil nutrition: substances: prohibition.](#)

AB 2316, beginning December 31, 2027, prohibits a public school from offering, selling, or otherwise providing any food containing Blue 1, Blue 2, Green 3, Red 40, Yellow 5, or Yellow 6. The bill exempts from this prohibition foods provided by the USDA Foods in Schools program.

Chapter 914, Statutes of 2024

Homeless/Foster Youth

[AB 2137 \(Quirk-Silva\) - Homeless and foster youth.](#)

The Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program authorizes a COE, or a consortium of COEs, to apply to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) for grant funding to operate an education-based foster youth services coordinating program. Additionally, as a condition of receiving funds, current law requires a foster youth services coordinating program to develop and implement a foster youth services plan that includes, among other things, authorization of a school district, when specified conditions apply, to enter into a temporary agreement with the foster youth services coordinating program to provide tutoring, mentoring, and counseling services to pupils. This bill instead authorizes a foster youth services coordinating program to provide tutoring, mentoring, and counseling services to a foster youth pupil, if a foster youth educational services coordinator determines that they are unable to secure those services from the foster youth pupil's school district and if those services are established as needed and identified by the foster youth educational services coordinator.

Chapter 382, Statutes of 2024

[AB 3223 \(Wilson\) - Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program.](#)

Current law establishes the Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program, under the administration of the SPI, to provide supplemental funding to COEs to coordinate and ensure that districts within a COE's jurisdiction are providing services to pupils in foster care pursuant to a foster youth services coordinating plan with the purpose of ensuring positive educational outcomes. This bill adds to the definition of "pupil in foster care" a child who is the subject of a juvenile court petition and has been identified by a county child welfare agency, a probation department, or an Indian tribe meeting specified criteria as being at imminent risk of removal and placement into foster care.

Chapter 850, Statutes of 2024

Mental Health

[AB 1282 \(Lowenthal\) - Mental health: impacts of social media.](#)

AB 1282 requires CDPH, in consultation with the Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission, to report to the Legislature, on or before December 31, 2026, a statewide strategy to understand, communicate, and mitigate mental health risks associated with the use of social media by children and youth. The bill requires the report to include, among other things, (1) the degree to which the mental health of children and youth is positively, negatively, or neutrally impacted by use of social media and (2) recommendations to strengthen children and youth resiliency strategies and California's use of mental health services related to social media use.

Chapter 807, Statutes of 2024

[SB 976 \(Skinner\) - Protecting Our Kids from Social Media Addiction Act.](#)

SB 976, among other things, prohibits the operator of an addictive internet-based service or application to provide an addictive feed to a user, unless the operator (1) does not have actual knowledge that the user is a minor, (2) has reasonably determined, beginning January 1, 2027, that the user is not a minor, or (3) has obtained verifiable parental consent to provide an addictive feed to the user who is a minor. The bill also prohibits the operator of an addictive internet-base service or application to send notifications to a user that the operator has actual knowledge is a minor, between the hours of 12 am and 6 am, and between the hours of 8 am and 3 pm, from Monday to Friday from September through May. Beginning January 1, 2027, the bill applies the same prohibition on notifications for a user the operator has not reasonably determined is not a minor.

Chapter 321, Statutes of 2024

[SB 1063 \(Grove\) - Pupil safety: identification cards.](#)

This bill, commencing July 1, 2025, requires a public school or private school that serves pupils in any of grades 7 to 12, inclusive, and that issues pupil identification cards, to have printed on the identification cards the number for the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. The bill also expressly authorizes these schools to additionally have printed on either side of the card a quick response (QR) code that links to the mental health resources internet website of the county in which the school is located. The bill also provides that if a school subject to this requirement has a supply of unissued, noncompliant identification cards as of July 1, 2025, the school shall issue the noncompliant identification cards until that supply is depleted.

Chapter 642, Statutes of 2024

[SB 1318 \(Wahab\) - Pupil health: suicide prevention policies: pupil suicide crisis.](#)

SB 1318 requires, on or before July 1, 2026, CDE to update its model policy on suicide prevention to address crisis intervention protocols in the event of a pupil suicide crisis, including the process by which staff and external agencies are deployed to address a pupil suicide crisis and limiting the involvement and notification of law enforcement to situations in which a pupil's life is in imminent danger and their needs cannot be addressed by a mental health professional. This bill also requires, on or after July 1, 2026, the governing board or body of a LEA to update their pupil suicide prevention policy to include these crisis intervention protocols.

Chapter 645, Statutes of 2024

[SB 1353 \(Wahab\) - Youth Bill of Rights.](#)

This bill specifies that the Youth Bill of Rights includes the right to receive adequate, appropriate, and timely behavioral health services.

Chapter 163, Statutes of 2024

Pupil Health

[AB 1955 \(Ward\) - Support Academic Futures and Educators for Today's Youth Act.](#)

AB 1955 provides that an employee or a contractor of a school district, COE, charter school, or state special school for the blind or the deaf cannot be required to disclose any information related to a pupil's sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression to any other person without the pupil's consent, unless otherwise required by state or federal law. The bill also prohibits a LEA from enacting or enforcing any policy, rule, or administrative regulation that would require such a disclosure and declares any policy, regulation, guidance, or other action of an LEA that is inconsistent with this prohibition invalid and without any force or effect.

Chapter 95, Statutes of 2024

[AB 2630 \(Bonta\) - Pupil health: oral health assessment.](#)

Existing law requires a pupil, while enrolled in kindergarten in a public school, or while enrolled in first grade in a public school if the pupil was not previously enrolled in kindergarten in a public school, to present proof of having received an oral health assessment by a licensed dentist, or other licensed or registered dental health professional operating within the professional's scope of practice, that was performed no earlier than 12 months before the date of the initial enrollment of the pupil. AB 2630 defines "kindergarten" for these purposes as including both transitional kindergarten and kindergarten, and clarifies that the proof is only required once during a 2-year kindergarten program.

Chapter 838, Statutes of 2024

[SB 1248 \(Hurtado\) - Pupil health: extreme weather conditions: physical activity.](#)

SB 1248 requires CDE, on or before January 1, 2026, and in consultation with relevant stakeholders and experts, to compile and post on CDE's website, standardized guidelines specifying temperature thresholds or index ratings that trigger modifications to pupil physical activities during extreme weather conditions. The guidelines will be required to consider relevant factors, including, but not limited to, pupil ages, harmful duration of exposure to extreme weather conditions, overall pupil safety, and available mitigation measures. The bill also requires LEAs, on or before July 1, 2026, to develop,

adopt, and implement weather protocols for extreme weather conditions that incorporate the standardized guidelines compiled by CDE. Implementation of both of these requirements is subject to there being an appropriation made for these purposes in the annual budget.

Chapter 463, Statutes of 2024

Student Services

[AB 1825 \(Muratsuchi\) - California Freedom to Read Act.](#)

This bill requires every public library jurisdiction that directly receives any state funding, excluding school libraries, to establish, adopt, and maintain a written and publicly accessible collection development policy for its libraries by January 1, 2026. The bill also requires the collection development policy to, among other things, (1) guide the selection and deselection of library materials and (2) establish a process for community members to share their concerns regarding library materials and request materials be reconsidered for inclusion in the library's collection.

Chapter 941, Statutes of 2024

[AB 2165 \(Reyes\) - Pupil instruction: financial aid application.](#)

Current law requires the governing body of a school district, COE, or charter school to confirm that a grade 12 pupil who has not opted out, completes and submits a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or, if the pupil is exempt from paying nonresident tuition under current law, completes and submits a form for purposes of the California Dream Act. This bill requires a LEA, before exempting a pupil or the pupil's parent or legal guardian from the requirement to complete and submit a FAFSA, a form for purposes of the California Dream Act, or an opt-out form, to provide specified information to the pupil and the pupil's parent or legal guardian, including the purpose and benefits of the FAFSA and the consequences of not completing a FAFSA.

Chapter 702 Statutes of 2024

[AB 2179 \(Davies\) - Pupil services: local apprenticeship programs and preapprenticeship programs: notification of parents or guardians.](#)

This bill requires a school district to, at the beginning of the first semester or quarter of the regular school term, provide information on local apprenticeship programs and preapprenticeship programs to the parents or guardians of pupils admitted to, or advancing to, grades 11 and 12, as part of its required annual notification to parents and guardians.

Chapter 62, Statutes of 2024

[SB 939 \(Umberg\) - Educational equity: schoolsite and community resources: neurodivergent pupils.](#)

This bill expands the information the SPI is required to post on CDE's website to include information to support students who have been subjected to discrimination or bullying on the basis of neurodiversity and, beginning with the 2025-26 school year, requires LEAs to ensure that resources related to neurodiversity are readily accessible to students and parents. The bill also requires CDE to include in its online training module information about how to support students who are bullied for being neurodivergent.

Chapter 907, Statutes of 2024

[SB 1335 \(Archuleta\) - The California Cadet Corps.](#)

Current law authorizes the Adjutant General to appoint officers in the California Cadet Corps and to order members of the corps into temporary active state duty. This bill, among other things, authorizes the establishment of an independent unit outside of a school, college, or community college under the guidance and control of a sponsoring organization.

Chapter 207, Statutes of 2024

Capitol Advisors Group has produced a set of comprehensive client briefs detailing new education laws that were passed by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Newsom in 2024. Each brief is organized by subject area and includes an executive summary highlighting major changes we think you should know about. Bills signed by the Governor take effect on January 1, 2025, unless the bill specifically states otherwise.

TECHNOLOGY

CHANGES IN LAW
2024

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Education Largely Untouched by Artificial Intelligence (AI) Legislation

One of the hottest topics of the 2024 Legislative year, AI is a term with which everyone in Sacramento quickly became familiar. At points, it felt like it was the only issue percolating in the Capitol. However, the bills that were ultimately signed into law this year largely left the education space untouched. This is partially due to the fact that policymakers do not have a full grasp on how AI is being deployed in schools. But most of the conversation around AI was muted by the increasing clout of technology companies lobbying to stall regulation in order to give California companies a more competitive advantage in the AI development race.

The only bill with a direct impact on schools was carried by Senator Josh Becker (D-San Mateo). His bill is [SB 1288](#), which requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) to convene a working group on AI and requires the working group to develop and expand guidance and create a model policy on AI for use by local education agencies (LEAs). The working group will be comprised of the following:

1. Current, credentialed public school teachers in elementary and secondary teaching positions
2. Classified public school staff
3. School site administrators
4. School district or county office of education (COE) administrators
5. University and community college faculty
6. Representatives from private sector business and industry
7. Pupils enrolled in public school

The workgroup will examine the current and future state of AI and its use in education, with a particular focus on things like the technologies most commonly in use, how much those technologies typically cost and the ownership structure of those technologies, as well as the ability to access source code for those technologies. Additionally, SB 1288 requires that the group develop, by July 1, 2026, a model policy for LEAs regarding the safe and effective use of AI in ways that benefit and do not negatively impact, pupils and educators. The workgroup will also be required to, by January 1, 2027, submit a report to the Legislature presenting any findings or recommendations that arise from its assessment of AI in schools.

The Governor vetoed perhaps the highest profile bill on AI this year, [SB 1047](#) by Senator Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco). The bill, named the Safe and Secure Innovation for Frontier Artificial Intelligence Models Act, made national headlines because it was one of the first bills in the nation that would have

put considerable safety restrictions on large AI companies and the computing power necessary to develop them. However, powerful opposition from Silicon Valley was enough to draw Governor Newsom's veto of the bill. In his [veto message](#), he noted:

"By focusing only on the most expensive and large-scale models, SB 1047 establishes a regulatory framework that could give the public a false sense of security about controlling this fast-moving technology. Smaller, specialized models may emerge as equally or even more dangerous than the models targeted by SB 1047 - at the potential expense of curtailing the very innovation that fuels advancement in favor of the public good."

While technology advocacy organizations have stalled regulation in California, we expect the issue will continue to be an area of interest for future debate in Sacramento.

Devices, Social Media Usage and Student Mental Health

Several bills were signed into law dealing with social media use and device addiction effects on student mental health. Because these bills primarily affect school governance or students services, we cover them in more depth in those sections. Those bills are as follows:

- [AB 3216](#) (Hoover) - Requires, by July 1, 2026, all school districts, charter schools, and COEs to have adopted board policies that limit or prohibit the use by pupils of smartphones on campus.
- [SB 976](#) (Skinner) - Prohibits "internet-based services or applications" from providing "addictive feeds" to minors without parental consent, and from sending notifications to minors at night and during school hours without parental consent.
- [SB 1283](#) (Stern) - Authorizes a school district, charter school, or COE to adopt a policy to limit or prohibit the use by pupils of social media on campus.

The Governor signed the following technology bills:

Artificial Intelligence

[AB 1831 \(Berman\) - Crimes: child pornography.](#)

Current law prohibits the production, development, duplication, distribution, or possession of matter that depicts a person under 18 years of age engaging in or simulating sexual conduct. This bill expands the scope of these provisions to include matter that is digitally altered or generated by the use of AI.

Chapter 926, Statutes of 2024

[AB 2013 \(Irwin\) - Generative artificial intelligence: training data transparency.](#)

This bill requires, on or before January 1, 2026, and before each time thereafter that a generative AI system or service is made available to Californians for use, a developer of the system or service to post on the developer's internet website documentation regarding the data used to train the generative AI system or service.

Chapter 817, Statutes of 2024

[AB 2355 \(Carrillo, Wendy\) - Political Reform Act of 1974: political advertisements: artificial intelligence.](#)

This bill requires any political advertisement that is published or distributed by a political committee to include a disclaimer if content in the ad was generated or substantially altered using AI.

Chapter 260, Statutes of 2024

[AB 2885 \(Bauer-Kahan\) - Artificial intelligence.](#)

Despite being referenced several times throughout California Code, the term “artificial intelligence” had not been formally defined. This has far-reaching implications in defining the scope of California’s regulatory efforts. AB 2885 specifically defines “artificial intelligence” to mean “an engineered or machine-based system that varies in its level of autonomy and that can, for explicit or implicit objectives, infer from the input it receives how to generate outputs that can influence physical or virtual environments.”

Chapter 843, Statutes of 2024

[SB 896 \(Dodd\) - Generative Artificial Intelligence Accountability Act.](#)

In September 2023, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-12-23, which recognized the need to deploy GenAI “ethically and responsibly” throughout state government. Among other things, this bill, known as the Generative Artificial Intelligence Accountability Act, requires a state agency or department that utilizes GenAI to directly communicate with a person, to notify that person they are communicating with GenAI.

Chapter 928, Statutes of 2024

[SB 942 \(Becker\) - California AI Transparency Act.](#)

This bill defines a covered provider as a person that creates, codes, or otherwise produces a GenAI system that has over 1,000,000 monthly visitors or users, and is publicly accessible within the geographic boundaries of the state. It further requires that covered providers make available an AI detection tool at no cost that will allow a user to assess whether image, video, or audio content, or content that is any combination thereof, was created or altered by the covered provider’s GenAI system.

Chapter 291, Statutes of 2024

[SB 1288 \(Becker\) - Public schools: artificial intelligence working group.](#)

This bill requires the SPI to convene a working group related to AI in public schools. The bill requires, among other things, the working group to develop, on or before January 1, 2026, guidance for LEAs and charter schools on the safe use of AI in education, and to, on or before July 1, 2026, develop a model policy for LEAs and charter schools regarding the safe and effective use of artificial intelligence in ways that benefit, and do not negatively impact, pupils and educators. The bill requires the working group to, on or before January 1, 2027, report its findings and recommendations to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature. The bill dissolves the working group upon submission of that report, and would repeal these provisions as of January 1, 2031.

Chapter 893, Statutes of 2024

Data Privacy

[AB 801 \(Patterson, Joe\) - Student privacy: online personal information.](#)

This bill requires an operator of an internet website, online service, online application, or mobile application to delete a student's information at the request of the student's parent or guardian, if the student is no longer attending a school or school district.

Chapter 935, Statutes of 2024

Technology

[AB 1971 \(Addis\) - Administration of standardized tests.](#)

Among other things, this bill prohibits a national assessment provider, defined as a person that develops, sponsors, or administers standardized tests, from knowingly disclosing covered information to a third party, including, but not limited to, social media providers through cookies, pixels, or similar tracking technologies on the national assessment provider's internet website.

Chapter 508, Statutes of 2024

[AB 2481 \(Lowenthal\) - Social media-related threats: reporting.](#)

This bill, beginning January 1, 2026, requires a social media platform to disclose all social media-related threat reporting procedures for verified reporters in the social media platform's terms of service. The bill defines "social media-related threat" to mean content posted on a social media platform that promotes, incites, facilitates, or perpetrates cyberbullying, suicide, and drug trafficking.

Chapter 832, Statutes of 2024

[SB 764 \(Padilla\) - Minors: online platforms.](#)

This bill establishes protections for minors that perform in "vlogs". Specifically, it requires all vloggers whose content features a minor to maintain and make available to the minor upon request, several types of records. The bill also requires that vloggers compensate minors by setting aside gross earnings on images or content containing the minor in a trust.

Chapter 611, Statutes of 2024

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