

# EDUCATION LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP



Education Legislative Roundup is a compilation of bills, presented by subject, which were signed into

law and have an impact on the legal issues our clients are facing. Unless the bills were considered urgency legislation (which means they went into

effect the day they were signed into law), bills are effective on January 1, 2026, unless otherwise

noted. Urgency legislation will be identified as such. Many of the bills summarized below apply directly to public education districts. Bills that do not directly apply to public education districts are

presented because they indirectly apply, may set new standards that apply or would generally be of interest to our school clients.

If you have any questions about your district's obligations under the new or amended laws as outlined below, please contact our Los Angeles, San Francisco, Fresno, San Diego or Sacramento office and an attorney will be happy to answer your questions.

## INDEX

Preschool and Childcare Programs .....	2
K-12 School Districts .....	2
Community Colleges .....	20
CSU and UC .....	22
Postsecondary Education (CCD, CSU, UC) .....	24
Requirements Related to Immigration Enforcement .....	28
Governance .....	31
Terms and Conditions of Employment .....	33
Retirement .....	38
Unemployment Insurance .....	39
Workers' Compensation .....	39
Public Safety .....	40
Business and Facilities .....	42
California Public Records Act .....	46
Budget Bills .....	47
Public and Elected Officials .....	63
Elections .....	65

## PRESCHOOL AND CHILDCARE PROGRAMS

### ***AB 753 – Temporary Flexibility for Preschool and Childcare Programs with Interim Assistant Teachers.***

Existing law requires instructional teachers in state-licensed preschool and early childcare programs to have a credential from the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) and complete a designated amount of coursework. In response to a recent shortage of credentialed early childcare teachers, this bill authorizes CTC to issue a new, temporary Assistant Teacher Permit with a reduced coursework requirement. Beginning January 1, 2026, preschools, school districts, and childcare providers that operate under a state contract (Contracting Agencies) may hire staff under this new pathway. A private preschool that operates solely on tuition and does not contract with the state cannot use the Assistant Teacher Permit and must continue to meet existing teacher certification requirements.

Under [AB 753](#), an individual with an Assistant Teacher Permit may now assist in the care, development, and instruction of children under the supervision of a fully credentialed teacher and may supervise a classroom independently for up to 120 minutes per day. Each preschool that hires an Assistant Teacher must keep the teacher's education plan in the employee's file and must report staffing data to the Department of Education or the Department of Social Services through annual self-evaluations or other required reports. The preschool may use the Assistant Teacher Permit only one year after the Commission on Teacher Credentialing adopts a revised child development permit matrix, or until January 1, 2029, whichever comes later.

*(AB 753 adds sections 8231.5 and 8301.1 to the Education Code and sections 10267.6 and 10383.1 to the Welfare and Institutions Code.)*

### ***SB 151 - Makes Several Budget-Related Adjustments to California's Subsidized Early Childhood Education and Childcare System.***

Under existing law, the state reimburses recipients of state childcare subsidies, including licensed childcare centers, licensed family childcare homes, and license-exempt providers, based on the maximum authorized or certified hours of care listed in a family's eligibility paperwork, rather than a child's actual attendance. Originally adopted during the COVID-19 emergency to stabilize provider income, this approach was set to expire in June 2026. [SB 151](#) extends it through July 1, 2028.

The bill also makes permanent the "cost of care plus" monthly rate add-ons for subsidized family childcare providers and centers. These supplemental per-child payments, which vary by region and provider type, will now continue indefinitely.

Under SB 151, providers will also receive a one-time stabilization payment for each subsidized child enrolled in April 2025: \$431 per child for licensed family childcare homes and centers, and \$300 per child for license-exempt providers. SB 151 appropriates \$157.8 million from the General Fund to cover these stabilization payments. Finally, the bill guarantees continued funding for the CCPU Training Partnership Fund, the Workers Health Care Fund, and the Retirement Trust, with annual contributions through July 1, 2028. It also approves the August 7, 2025, agreement between the State and CCPU, giving effect to provisions requiring legislative approval.

*(SB 151 amends 8245.5 of the Education Code and sections 10227.5, 10277.1, 10277.2, 10277.3, 10277.4, and 10277.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.)*

## K-12 SCHOOL DISTRICTS

### ***A. STUDENT DISCIPLINE***

#### ***AB 1230 – Restricts Continued Expulsions and Amends Rehabilitation Plans for Reentry.***

Under existing law, school district boards can expel a student for certain actions and must create a rehabilitation plan, which can include tutoring or

counseling. The expulsion remains until the board approves readmission, which hinges on the student meeting rehabilitation plan conditions and not being a danger to others.

**AB 1230** establishes new requirements for rehabilitation plans, mandating periodic reviews, assessments 45 days before the expulsion term ends, and tailoring plans to address the behavior that led to expulsion. It also specifies that the governing board should help students access resources needed for rehabilitation and stipulates that financial or logistical barriers should not prevent readmission. The governing board cannot require that a pupil or the pupil's parent or guardian pay for any costs or services the governing board determines to be necessary for the pupil to complete a plan of rehabilitation. The bill requires that the governing board readmit the student unless they fail to meet the plan's conditions or pose new safety concerns.

The bill provides that a pupil may not be denied readmittance if the pupil is unable to complete the rehabilitation plan due to financial or transportation barriers or lack of viable opportunities to complete the term of the rehabilitation plan. The governing board must adopt rules and regulations regarding the readmission of expelled pupils.

Additionally, the expulsion term can be extended if the pupil fails to complete the rehabilitation plan despite having access to the necessary resources, or continues to exhibit documented behaviors for which the pupil was expelled, or is documented to have committed one or more new acts during the expulsion term. An expulsion may be extended for one semester at a time, and the pupil shall be reassessed for readmission.

Furthermore, the bill requires county educational plans for expelled students to include potential special education services, diverse educational programs, a clear readmission process, and support for integration upon return. School districts must maintain and report new data related to expulsions, including average expulsion durations.

*(AB 1230 amends Sections 48916, 48916.1 of the Education Code.)*

## ***B. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES***

### ***AB 962 – Requires Public Schools to Develop a Policy Limiting the Use of Smartphones.***

**AB 962** requires that, by July 1, 2026, the governing board of a school district or county office of education and the governing body of a charter school must develop a policy to limit or prohibit the use of smartphones by students while they are at a school site or under the supervision and control of an employee. Governing boards or bodies must develop this policy with significant stakeholder involvement and update it at least every five years. AB 962 also allows governing boards and bodies to include enforcement mechanisms that limit student access to smartphones in this policy.

However, AB 962 further provides that a student may not be prohibited from possessing or using a smartphone in any of the following circumstances:

1. In the case of an emergency or in response to a perceived threat of danger, unless this circumstance is explicitly addressed in a comprehensive school safety plan;
2. When a teacher or administrator grants the student permission;
3. When a licensed physician and surgeon determines that it is necessary for the student's health or well-being, or
4. When required in a student's individualized education program.

*(AB 962 amends Section 48901.7 of the Education Code.)*

### ***AB 677 – Allows Disclosure of Directory Information for a Homeless Child or Youth for Eye or Oral Health Assessments.***

Existing law generally authorizes school districts to release student directory information, including a student's name, address, telephone number, and date of birth. However, existing law also provides that a school district may not release directory information of a student identified as a homeless child or youth, unless a parent or the student, if eligible, has given written consent.

**AB 677** modifies the restriction on releasing directory information of a student identified as a homeless child or youth without consent in certain, limited situations. Specifically, AB 677 authorizes a school district to disclose directory information of a student identified as a homeless child or youth for the purpose of facilitating an eye examination by a nonprofit eye examination provider or a free oral health assessment, unless the parent or the student, if accorded parental rights, has provided written notice that they do not consent to the physical examination. Additionally, AB 677 provides that reports made to a parent, legal guardian, or caregiver of a pupil experiencing homelessness about a defect identified through such an eye examination or oral health assessment should be made through communication channels other than mail, when possible.

*(AB 677 amends Sections 49073, 49452.8, and 49455.5 of the Education Code.)*

### ***SB 848 – Expands Mandated Reporters and Associated Policies and Trainings***

**SB 848** amends existing law to expand the application of Mandated Reporting laws to private schools, state special schools, and diagnostic centers operated by the Department of Education to ensure safe and nurturing environments. This summary will focus on the additional requirements for local educational agencies (LEAs), which include school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools.

First, SB 848 expands the list of individuals who are identified as “mandated reporters” to also include the following:

1. An employee, volunteer, or governing board or body member of a school district, county office of education, charter school, or private school. A volunteer is a person who is over 18 years of age and who interacts with pupils outside of the immediate supervision and control of the pupil’s parent or guardian or a school employee.
2. An employee, volunteer, or board member of a public or private school, contractor to a school district, county office of education, charter school, state special school or diagnostic center operated by the State Department of Education, or private school

whose duties require contact with or supervision of pupils at that school district, county office of education, charter school, state special school or diagnostic center operated by the State Department of Education, or private school.

3. An employee or volunteer assigned to a state special school or diagnostic center operated by the State Department of Education.

Second, the bill expands existing instructional requirements to include instruction on child neglect, sexual abuse and assault, and prevention of abuse.

Third, on or before July 1, 2026, the governing board of an LEA must adopt written policies that address the following:

1. Promote safe environments for pupil learning and engagement that explicitly address professional boundaries between pupils and school employees, adult volunteers, school contractors, or adults under contract.
2. Establish appropriate contact limits during or outside the school day between pupils and school employees, volunteers, and school contractors via social media internet platforms, text messages, and other communications that do not include the pupil’s parents or guardians. Policies may vary based on the age or grade of the pupil.

Fourth, LEAs must also adopt written policies, plans, or specifications regarding school facilities and the furnishing of school facilities that address classroom and non-classroom environments to promote safe environments for learning and engagement that are easily supervised.

Fifth, the definition of “sex offense” and “violent crime” is revised to be more expansive.

Sixth, LEAs are required to revise their comprehensive school safety plans to address child neglect and to report all crimes happening on campus and campus-related activities. The bill also requires that all school staff be trained on comprehensive school safety plans. The comprehensive school plans must be revised during the next update cycle and no later than July 1, 2026. The plans shall include procedures specifically

designed to address the supervision and protection of children from child abuse or neglect or sex offenses, as defined.

Seventh, the bill requires that all persons applying for a noncertificated position with an LEA must provide the LEA with a complete list of every LEA, state special school, and diagnostic center operated by the Education Department, and private school that the applicant previously worked. The LEA is required to contact all the educational agencies listed and ask if the applicant, while employed, was the subject of any credible complaints of, substantiated investigations into, or discipline for, egregious misconduct as defined that were used to support a substantiated investigation. Additionally, the bill provides that any report by an LEA to the Commission on Teacher Credentialing of a certificated employee's egregious misconduct must also be reported in response to any inquiry made by an LEA, state special school, or diagnostic center operated by the Department or private school.

Eighth, the bill requires that the Commission on Teacher Credentialing establish a database of noncertificated positions for LEAs and private schools. The information collected shall include:

1. The name, date of birth, and a unique identification number of the employee.
2. The name of the school employer.
3. The starting date, ending date, if applicable, and title for each school position held by the employee.
4. The name of any local educational agency or private school employer that conducted an employee investigation for egregious misconduct that resulted in evidence for a substantiated report, as defined in Section 11165.12 of the Penal Code, on or after July 1, 2027.
5. The date the investigation started.
6. The date the substantiated report was filed with the Commission.

The LEAs and private schools shall submit the above information to the Commission within 30 calendar days of hiring an individual for a

non-credited position. If the individual's job title changes, the change must be reported. Additionally, within 10 calendar days of the employee leaving their position, the employing educational agency must notify the Commission of the start date of employment or the final date in the position. The bill also requires that an employer report within 10 calendar days of starting an investigation of egregious misconduct. Within 10 calendar days of completing the investigation of egregious misconduct, the LEA or private school must notify the Commission of the results.

Finally, the State Department of Education, in consultation with the Office of Child Abuse Prevention, shall prepare instructional material and information to educate pupils on abuse, neglect, and assault. A pupil's parent or guardian has the right to sign an opt-out slip for the child.

*(SB 848 amends Sections 32280, 32281, 32282, 44010, 44242.5, 44830.1, 44939.5, and 51950 of, amends, repeals, and adds Section 44691 of, adds Sections 44051 and 44052 to, and adds Article 10 (commencing with Section 32100) to Chapter 1 of Part 19 of Division 1 of Title 1 of, the Education Code, and amends Section 11165.7 of the Penal Code.)*

***AB 727 – Requires Pupil ID Cards to include The Trevor Project's LGBTQ+ Suicide Hotline Number beginning July 1, 2026.***

**AB 727** amends existing law to require public schools, including charter schools, that serve pupils in grades 7 to 12, and public institutions of higher education that issue pupil identification cards, to print, beginning July 1, 2026, The Trevor Project's LGBTQ+ suicide hotline that is available through both of the following options:

- A. Telephone number: 1-866-488-7386.
- B. Text line, which can be accessed by texting START to 678-678

*(AB 727 amends Section 215.5 of the Education Code.)*

***AB 1005 – Requires That Information Regarding Drowning Prevention Be Provided in English.***

The existing law allows specific drowning or injury prevention organizations to provide informational materials about drowning prevention to public

schools. These materials must currently be available in the three most commonly spoken languages at the school upon request.

**AB 1005** amends the existing requirement to mandate materials in English and encourages including other common languages. The bill requires these materials to be provided at no cost to schools and distributed to students and parents. It also mandates that materials align with federal guidelines from the CDC, with written proof provided by the organization. Additionally, the bill involves the State Department of Education, which will collaborate with other state departments to make water safety and drowning prevention resources available online for schools. Public schools can then use these resources provided by organizations.

The bill also amends existing law regarding public swimming pools. The bill empowers the Department to assess current laws and propose changes or technical corrections to ensure these regulations are clear and aligned with modern public health practices.

AB 1005 defines "public school" to mean a school operated by a school district, county office of education, or a charter school. The bill also defines "water safety" to include age-appropriate education intended to promote safety in, on, and around bodies of water, and reduce the risk of injury or drowning.

*(AB 1005 amends Section 51140 of, and adds Sections 51139, 51141, and 51900.1 to, the Education Code, and adds Section 116036 to, and adds Chapter 4.6 (commencing with Section 131359) to Part 1 of Division 112 of, the Health and Safety Code.)*

### C. GRADUATION RECOGNITION AND REGALIA

#### **AB 422 – State Seal of Civic Engagement – Expanded Democracy Criteria.**

Existing law mandates that by January 1, 2020, the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall propose criteria to the State Board of Education for awarding the State Seal of Civic Engagement to students excelling in civics education, demonstrating an understanding of the U.S. and California Constitutions, and the democratic

system. This includes considering criteria based on successful completion of courses in history, government, civics, character education, and involvement in community or extracurricular activities. By January 31, 2021, the State Board was required to adopt, reject, or modify the criteria.

**AB 422** requires that the Superintendent recommend revised criteria the next time the State Board updates the requirements for the State Seal of Civic Engagement. The revised criteria must include that students demonstrate an understanding of the importance of preserving democracy and its critical institutions, including but not limited to the free press, free access to libraries, compulsory education, and the federalist system.

*(AB 422 amends Section 51474 of the Education Code.)*

#### **AB 1369 – Expands the Pupil's Right to Wear Traditional Tribal Regalia or Recognized Objects of Religious or Cultural Significance to School Events.**

Existing law allows students to wear traditional tribal regalia or religious/cultural adornments at graduation ceremonies, provided it does not disrupt the event. Adornments are currently defined as items worn with or attached to, but not replacing, a cap and gown.

**AB 1369** expands this allowance to include school events related to graduation. It specifies that students and their families decide what constitutes traditional or significant adornments. The bill prevents schools from requiring a preapproval process for wearing these items and permits students to forgo wearing a cap if it conflicts with their adornment. It also redefines "adornment" to include items worn with, attached to, or in place of a graduation cap.

*(AB 1369 amends Section 35183.1 of the Education Code.)*

### D. NOTIFICATIONS

#### **AB 144: Omnibus Health Trailer Bill Revises HPV Immunization Notification Obligations.**

**AB 144** is an omnibus health trailer bill that contains changes to implement the 2025–26 budget and primarily makes changes to health regulations,

licensing, Medi-Cal, and public health standards. For schools, the most direct impact comes in the immunization and notification provisions.

Existing law requires school districts to include in the annual notice to parents and guardians that the state recommends students complete the full immunization schedule for the human papillomavirus (HPV) before entering 8th grade. Existing law also requires both public and private schools to notify parents or guardians that the state recommends HPV vaccination before admission to the 8th grade. Both provisions require the notice to reflect the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and its Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

Beginning July 1, 2026, both public and private schools will need to issue HPV vaccine notices consistent with the recommendations of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), rather than the CDC and ACIP. AB 144 also specifies that the notice must clearly state that HPV vaccination prevents over 90% of HPV-related cancers, that the vaccine is safe, and that the benefits outweigh the risks.

*(AB 144 amends section 48980.4 of the Education Code and amends, repeals, and adds section 120336 of the Health and Safety Code.)*

## **E. SPECIAL EDUCATION AND INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PLANS**

### ***AB 1412 – Requires School Districts to Accept Student Records Related to Individualized Education Program and Adopt or Create and Implement a New IEP.***

**AB 1412** addresses the provision of education for students with special needs, particularly focusing on those who transfer schools, including from out of state, within the same academic year. It mandates that local educational agencies must, within 30 days of receiving a student's records, either adopt the existing individualized education program (IEP) or create and implement a new IEP in compliance with federal and state regulations.

Additionally, the bill enhances the procedures for transferring students who are military dependents. It requires new schools to promptly obtain student records and accept unofficial records from parents until they can be officially verified, aligning with the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. The bill also extends existing residency provisions to include all students whose parents are active duty military members, regardless of their need for special services under federal disability laws. It requires schools to coordinate services for these students efficiently.

*(AB 1412 amends Sections 48204.3 and 56325 of the Education Code.)*

### ***AB 784 - Clarifies that Individualized Education Programs May Include Specialized Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Services.***

Existing law requires that local educational agencies identify, assess, and provide free appropriate public education to individuals with exceptional needs in the least restrictive environment. This includes creating an individualized education program (IEP) tailored to their requirements. "Special education" is defined as custom instruction provided at no cost to parents, addressing the unique needs of these individuals. It can include services like speech-language pathology if deemed special education rather than a related service.

**AB 784** clarifies that IEPs can include specialized services for deaf and hard-of-hearing students as the sole services, without being restricted by previous provisions.

*(AB 784 amends Section 56031 of the Education Code.)*

### ***SB 373 - Strengthens Oversight and Student Protections for Students in NPS Placements.***

Existing law requires nonpublic, nonsectarian schools (NPSs) to be certified by the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) before they can contract with school districts or county offices of education to serve students with disabilities. Certification involves an onsite review, compliance with credential and staff training requirements, and assurances that students can communicate privately with their individualized education program (IEP) teams. Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) must

also conduct annual monitoring visits for each contracting NPS.

SB 373 imposes new obligations on California NPSs and expands LEA duties, especially when students are placed out of state. For California NPSs, the bill clarifies that the prohibition on corporal punishment under Education Code Section 49001 applies not only to public schools but also to NPSs, charter schools, and the State Special Schools for the blind and deaf. Additionally, this bill expands the existing requirement that an NPS ensure confidential communication between a student and their IEP team to specifically mandate that an NPS ensure the privacy and confidentiality of telecommunication when students contact their IEP teams or the California Department of Education's Constituent Services Office, at the student's discretion.

For LEAs, this bill expands responsibilities beginning in the 2026–27 school year. Under existing law, LEAs were required to provide students' parents a copy of their rights and procedural safeguards at specified times. Now, any time an LEA is required to provide a parent a copy of their rights and procedural safeguards, the student must also receive a copy.

Additionally, when students are placed in out-of-state NPSs, LEAs must conduct in-person interviews as part of their annual onsite visits, evaluate student health and safety, and report their findings to CDE. They must also conduct quarterly unmonitored phone check-ins with each out-of-state student consistent with the student's IEP. In addition, when an IEP team considers out-of-state placement, LEAs must share the SPI's certification findings with parents, including compliance history and corrective actions, and must document in the IEP that this information has been provided and discussed. By July 1, 2026, CDE must develop a standardized pupil interview tool to help LEAs and SPI evaluate dignity, respect, and safety. LEAs may use this state tool or their own if it meets equivalent standards.

In short, [SB 373](#) reinforces student protections by clarifying and expanding the obligations of both NPSs and LEAs. NPSs must ensure strict confidentiality of student communication and are explicitly covered by the corporal punishment ban, while LEAs face heightened monitoring and

notification requirements, particularly when they place students out of state

*(SB 373 amends sections 49001, 56301, 56366.1, 56366.4, 56366.12, and 56836.20 of the Education Code.)*

## F. PROGRAMS AND GRANTS

### *AB 542 – Allows Continuation Schools to Establish Youth Workforce Programs as Instructional Time.*

Existing law mandates that school districts determine the school day's length, adhering to specific conditions. In continuation high schools and education classes, attendance for a school day is defined as 180 minutes, with students not credited for more than 15 hours per week, adjusted for weeks with holidays.

[AB 542](#) allows school districts with continuation high schools to offer youth workforce development programs once or twice a week. These programs can be offered if students are enrolled in at least 15 hours of class each week. Additionally, school districts must establish methods to monitor student attendance and participation in these programs.

For purposes of this bill, "youth workforce development programs" means a program implemented by a continuation high school or school offering continuation education classes, under the supervision of a certificated employee, which enables pupils to earn either academic credit or an industry certificate while engaging in workplace experiences, or workforce development training, to provide the pupils with the skills and experience necessary to obtain employment at a livable wage following graduation. The bill includes additional criteria that must be met by the youth workforce development program. The bill defines "supervision" to mean pupil participation in paid or unpaid on-the-job experiences wherein the supervisor of the training site and certificated school personnel share the responsibility for the supervision of on-the-job experiences.

*(AB 542 amends Section 46170 of the Education Code.)*

## ***SB 638 – Revises Eligibility Criteria for California Career Technical Education Incentive Grants.***

Existing law establishes the California Career Technical Education Incentive Grant (CTEIG) Program. The California Department of Education awards CTEIG grants to career technical education programs that meet certain minimum eligibility standards.

Effective June 1, 2026, **SB 638** revises the minimum eligibility standards for receipt of a CTEIG grant. Grant applicants must satisfy updated standards related to (A) collaborating with labor and business entities, (B) ensuring career programs and career pathways are aligned with workforce needs and labor market demand, (C) providing opportunities for certain pupil populations, and (D) reporting information for purposes of program evaluation. The bill also requires successful grant applicants to demonstrate a holistic approach to providing career technical education and career pathways, including, but not limited to, demonstrating involvement of employers and providing wraparound services for students.

Existing law requires the Department of Education to give positive consideration to grant applicants located in an area with a high unemployment rate, but did not define that term. SB 638 additionally requires positive consideration for an applicant located in an area with a high poverty rate. The bill defines the terms high unemployment rate and high poverty rate.

The bill requires the Department of Education to consult with the California Education Interagency Council (established by **AB 1098**) rather than the Chancellor's Office for CTEIG grant application development and review.

*(SB 638 amends Sections 53070, 53070.1, 53071, 53072, 53074, 53075 of the Education Code and adds Sections 11906, 11907, 11908 to the Government Code.)*

## ***G. LEAVE***

### ***AB 642 - Expands Catastrophic Leave for Employees to Include Governor-Declared State of Emergencies.***

**AB 642** became effective immediately on July 30, 2025. The bill amends existing law, which authorizes the governing body of a school district or county office of education to establish a catastrophic leave program for employees to also apply to charter schools. It also expands the qualifying reasons for which catastrophic leave may be donated and used.

AB 642 authorizes the governing body of a school district, county office of education, or charter school to establish a catastrophic leave program that permits employees to donate eligible leave credits to an employee impacted by a state of emergency. The bill defines "eligible leave credits" as vacation leave and sick leave accrued to the donating employee. The state of emergency must be proclaimed by the State Governor. The bill requires that the governing board establish rules and regulations that:

- A. Requires the impacted employee to use accrued leaves before catastrophic leave;
- B. Limits the amount of leave an employee may receive during 12 consecutive months;
- C. Verifies the impact of a state of emergency on the employee; and
- D. Makes leave donations irrevocable.

The rules and regulations may be included in a collective bargaining agreement.

*(AB 642 amends Section 44043.5 of, and adds Section 44043.6 to, the Education Code.)*

## ***H. HEALTH AND SAFETY***

### ***AB 1264 – Bans Ultra-Processed Foods from Certain Food and Beverage Sales by Public Schools.***

Existing law provides that a public school district, county superintendent of schools, or charter school

maintaining kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 12, is limited in the type of food and beverages they can sell to students during school hours and shortly after the end of the school day. The food sold must meet certain dietary guidelines, unless the food is sold as part of a school fundraising event. The dietary guidelines, which vary by grade level, include various prohibited substances. AB 1264 adds to the list of prohibited substances. Beginning July 1, 2035, prohibited substances in the dietary guidelines will include restricted school foods and ultra-processed foods of concern. However, schools should begin to phase out restricted school foods and ultra-processed foods by July 1, 2029.

AB 1264 requires the State Department of Public Health to adopt regulations to define “ultra-processed foods of concern” and “restricted school foods” by June 1, 2028, taking into account certain factors, such as whether the foods are linked to health harms like cancer or obesity.

*(AB 1264 amends Sections 49431, 49431.2, 49431.5, 49501.5, and 49531 of the Education Code. AB 1264 adds Article 3 (commencing with Section 104660) to Chapter 2 of Part 3 of Division 103 of the Health and Safety Code.)*

### ***SB 568 – Expands Access to Epinephrine Delivery Systems in Schools and Childcare Programs.***

Existing law includes various provisions regarding the use and storage of auto-injectable epinephrine at school. Existing law requires school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools to provide emergency epinephrine auto-injectors to school nurses or trained volunteer personnel for emergency use. Existing law also authorizes pharmacies to furnish epinephrine auto-injectors to school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools, and allows students to carry and self-administer such devices during the school day with appropriate authorization.

SB 568 replaces references to “epinephrine auto-injectors” with “epinephrine delivery systems” to allow the use, storage, and provision of a wider range of epinephrine delivery systems. SB 568 also extends requirements relating to epinephrine delivery systems to childcare programs operated by or under contract with local educational agencies, requiring that those programs also maintain

emergency epinephrine delivery systems and trained personnel.

*(SB 568 amends Sections 49414 and 49423 of the Education Code and Section 4119.2 of the Business and Professions Code.)*

### ***I. EMPLOYEE STAFFING***

#### ***AB 560 – Requires Equitable Distribution of Workload Among Resource Specialists.***

Existing law mandates that local educational agencies (LEAs) must identify, assess, and provide free appropriate public education to students with exceptional needs, including a continuum of special education services tailored to each student through an individualized education program (IEP). These services must be offered in the least restrictive environment and include various program options like resource specialist programs, which focus on regular progress monitoring and participation in IEP reviews. Resource specialist caseloads are capped at 28 students, following state regulations.

AB 560 requires equitable distribution of initial assessment workloads among all resource specialists unless otherwise negotiated.

Existing law stipulates the availability of special classes for students with intensive needs who cannot be adequately served in regular classes, despite supplementary aids. AB 560 requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to recommend a maximum adult-to-student staffing ratio for these special classes by July 1, 2027, and to report these recommendations to state authorities by April 1, 2027. The Superintendent shall consult stakeholders and consider the pupils' needs, the varying school settings, existing practices, facility constraints, and other related factors when determining the adult-to-student ratio. The recommendation must also be posted on the Department of Education's website.

*(AB 560 amends Section 56362 of, and to add Section 56364.3 to, the Education Code.)*

#### ***AB 1438 – Extends the Existing Exemption Related to Administrative Employee to Teacher Ratio for Paradise Unified School District.***

Existing law outlines maximum allowable ratios of administrative employees to every 100 teachers

in various school districts. It mandates the Superintendent of Public Instruction to calculate annually the number of administrative employees versus teachers in each district and determine any excess administrative personnel, which would lead to a reduction in state financial support for the district. This reduction does not apply to the Paradise Unified School District for the fiscal years 2021–22 to 2023–24.

**AB 1438** extends the existing exemption to the 2024–25 through 2026–27 fiscal years. Paradise Unified must submit a report on its employee-to-teacher ratio by September 1, 2026, to the Superintendent, the Department of Finance, and the appropriate budget and policy committees of both houses of the Legislature. The bill declares itself as urgent; therefore, it became effective immediately on October 1, 2025.

(*AB 1438 amends Section 41404.5 of the Education Code.*)

***SB 389 – Expands Existing Law to Allow a Licensed Vocational Nurse to Perform Respiratory Services If Supervised by a Credentialed School Nurse.***

**SB 389** amends existing health care laws to allow a licensed vocational nurse (LVN) to perform suctioning and other basic respiratory tasks in schools, under the supervision of a credentialed school nurse.

The bill also amends Section 49423.5 of the Education Code to incorporate the change in the health care laws and explicitly allow an LVN licensed by the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians of the State of California to provide basic respiratory services under the supervision of a credentialed school nurse for individuals with exceptional needs.

(*SB 389 amends Section 3765 of the Business and Professions Code, and amends Section 49423.5 of the Education Code.*)

***AB 1170 – Maintenance of the Codes, Including Changes to the Education Code.***

The California Legislature reviews existing code sections and makes substantive and non-substantive changes. This year, those changes are reflected in **AB 1170**. This summary identifies

the substantive changes made to Education Code sections.

1. Amends Education Code section 45202. Existing law provides that a classified employee of a school district, county superintendent of schools, state special school, or community college district who is terminated from their employment after one calendar year or more for reasons other than for cause, shall have the total amount of earned leave of absence for illness and injury transferred to the subsequent employing school district, county superintendent of schools or state special school. AB 1170 amends existing law to also include *community college districts*. This revision provides that an employee may now transfer earned illness and injury leave if their subsequent employer is a community college district.
2. Amends Education Code section 66023.5 to remove the provision that provided access to food pantry services offered by the Basic Needs Center to classified employees for the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 fiscal years. It also removes the requirement to create a report with the data and information regarding the number of classified employees who used the food pantry service. While AB 1170 removed this language, **SB 148** amends the law and reinstates the program and reporting requirements.
3. Amends Education Code section 66076.2, which requires a 2/3 vote of the governing board to designate qualifying applicants with the Designation of California Black-Serving Institutions. The bill amends this section to clarify that it requires a 2/3 vote of the governing board present for the vote.
4. Repeals Education Code section 69996.9 effective July 1, 2025, which established the KIDS Account.

(*AB 1170 amends Sections 8222, 8242, 10864, 17586, 33328.5, 33355, 42238.026, 44260.1, 44320.5, 44395, 45202, 46392, 47604.2, 48306, 51225.7, 51255, 66023.4, 66023.5, 66076.2, 66270.7, 66280.5, 66308, 66749.81, 69996.9, and 76303 of, and amends and renames Section 51225.32 of, the Education Code, amongst other Code sections.*)

## J. CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

### ***SB 472 – Requires the Department of Education to Issue Notice of the Purpose of Genocide and Holocaust Curriculum and Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to Create the Holocaust and Genocide Education Grant Program to Support Instruction and Professional Development.***

Existing law requires the State Department of Education to include age-appropriate materials on genocide and the Holocaust in educational resources for teachers, aligned with history and social science standards. The law encourages the use of oral testimonies from survivors, rescuers, liberators, and witnesses in teaching about these topics. Additionally, a state program, the California Teachers Collaborative for Holocaust and Genocide Education, offers professional development for educators to ensure that this education is interdisciplinary and suitable for different grade levels.

**SB 472** requires the Department of Education to issue a notice to all local education agencies serving pupils in grades 7 to 12 that clarifies that social science instruction that includes genocide and the Holocaust is designed to provide a foundation for the understanding of human rights issues with particular attention to the study of the inhumanity of genocides, slavery, and the Holocaust. The bill identifies specific information that must be included in the notice.

SB 472 also requires that the Superintendent of Public Instruction create the Holocaust and Genocide Education Grant Program. This program shall allocate funds directly to school districts, county offices, and charter schools to support Holocaust and genocide education and professional development. A fund in the State Treasury would finance this program.

*(SB 472 adds Section 51221.2 to the Education Code.)*

### ***SB 510 – Requires That, On or After January 1, 2026, the Instructional Quality Commission Consider Including Content on the Contributions of African Americans During Specified Time Periods in the History-Social Science Curriculum.***

Existing law mandates that when updating the history-social science curriculum framework on or after January 1, 2025, the Instructional Quality Commission consider including content on Native American experiences during the Spanish colonization of California and the Gold Rush Era.

**SB 510** amends existing requirements to also include content on the contributions of African Americans during the same historical periods, with changes to be considered in curriculum updates or new instructional materials on or after January 1, 2026.

*(SB 510 amends Section 51226.3 of the Education Code.)*

### ***AB 1255 – Requires the Instructional Quality Commission to Consider the Inclusion of Instructional Material for Newcomers.***

**AB 1255** took effect immediately as urgency legislation upon the Governor's signature on October 1, 2025.

Existing law mandates the Instructional Quality Commission (Commission) to recommend curriculum frameworks and instructional materials for approval by the State Board of Education. It also requires the Commission to consider including resources in the English Language Arts and English Language Development frameworks to aid teachers in addressing the unique academic and language development needs of newcomer pupils. This pertains to the materials recommended for kindergarten through 8th grade.

AB 1255 requires that the Commission include resources to help teachers meet the unique academic and English language development needs of newcomer pupils when the instructional materials are next adopted or follow-up adoption for kindergarten and grades 1 to 8, inclusive.

The bill also revises the existing definition of "migrant region" to include county offices of

education, school districts within a county, or public or private nonprofit agencies. The new definition broadens the scope of eligible entities.

(AB 1255 amends Sections 33547 and 54441 of the Education Code.)

## **K. CHANGES TO THE COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING**

### ***AB 606 – Establishes Criteria to Allow the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to Issue a Preliminary Professional Services Credential to an Out-of-State Applicant.***

Existing law allows the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (Commission) to set standards for issuing and renewing teaching credentials and requires minimum qualifications for a professional services credential specializing in pupil personnel services, such as school counseling and child welfare.

The law permits local educational agencies (LEA) to offer preparation programs for these credentials, particularly in child welfare, if the professional preparation program meets standards of program quality and effectiveness as established by the Commission. [AB 606](#) amends existing law to remove the reference to “child welfare.” Instead, it provides that for a service credential with a specialization in pupil personnel services in any area other than the area of child welfare and attendance, an approved program of professional preparation shall be in partnership with a regionally accredited institution of higher education.

AB 606 requires that the Commission issue a preliminary professional services credential with a specialization in pupil personnel services to an out-of-state applicant who meets the following requirements:

- A. Possesses a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education;
- B. Has earned a valid corresponding pupil personnel services credential specialization in school counseling, school social work, or

school psychology, based upon an out-of-state preparation program; and

- C. Has successfully completed a criminal background check conducted under California law for credentialing purposes.

The bill also allows the Commission to issue a preliminary two-year credential, with the option to renew for another two years. The renewal is conditioned on the credential holder demonstrating satisfactory progress, as determined by the employing LEA and pursuant to the LEA’s established criteria.

(AB 606 amends Section 44266 of, and to add Section 44266.5 to, the Education Code.)

### ***AB 1034 – Requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing Health Education Program to Cover Youth Mental Health.***

Existing law mandates the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (Commission) to set standards for issuing and renewing teaching credentials. To obtain a preliminary multiple-subject, single-subject, or education specialist teaching credential, educators must complete a professional preparation program accredited by the Committee on Accreditation. This program includes health education with topics like nutrition, CPR, and the effects of alcohol, narcotics, and tobacco use.

[AB 1034](#) requires the Commission to include in its health education program a basic understanding of youth mental health.

(AB 1034 amends Section 44259 of the Education Code.)

### ***AB 1119 – Requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to Evaluate Existing Processes to Streamline Dual Credentialing.***

Existing law requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (Commission) to set standards for issuing and renewing teaching credentials, certificates, and permits. A key requirement for obtaining a preliminary multiple-subject, single-subject, or education specialist teaching credential is completing a specified professional preparation program. The Commission is also authorized to

issue a PK–3 early childhood education specialist instruction credential.

**AB 1119** requires that by March 1, 2027, with input from stakeholders, the Commission create and implement regulatory processes that streamline the following:

- 1) teacher candidates obtaining multiple subject, single subject, or PK–3 early childhood education specialist instruction credentials, and an education specialist credential, known as dual credentialing;
- 2) existing teachers with certain credentials to acquire an education specialist credential; and 3) existing teachers with an education specialist credential to obtain other teaching credentials.

The bill requires the Commission to evaluate existing processes used by individuals holding multiple subject credentials; evaluate existing preparation material to create efficiency; evaluate barriers to dual credentialing; and evaluate existing processes used by other states for dual credentialing.

(AB 1119 adds Section 44238.5 to the Education Code.)

**AB 1123 – Amends the Composition of the 15 Voting Members of the Commission on Teacher Credentialing.**

Existing law establishes the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (Commission) with 15 voting members, including the Superintendent of Public Instruction and 14 other members, such as 6 practicing teachers and 3 public representatives appointed by the Governor with Senate approval for 4-year staggered terms.

**AB 1123** amends existing law to allow the Governor to appoint one of the 6 practicing teachers from a state-funded preschool or prekindergarten program who holds a child development teacher permit. Additionally, starting from January 1, 2026, when a public representative position becomes vacant, the number of public representatives will be reduced from 3 to 2. The Governor will then appoint an early childhood faculty member who teaches in either a baccalaureate program at a California State University or University of California campus or an associate degree program at a California Community College.

(AB 1123 amends Section 44210 of the Education Code.)

**AB 959 and AB 1009 – Amends the Commission on Teacher Credentialing Requirements for Administrative Services Internships, and Occupational and Physical Therapists.**

Existing law tasks the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (Commission) with setting standards for the issuance and renewal of teaching credentials, certificates, and permits. To obtain a preliminary services credential in administrative services, candidates must meet certain minimum requirements, including holding a specific type of credential and completing either an entry-level specialized preparation program or a one-year supervised internship.

**AB 959** limits these one-year internships to being offered only by school districts, county education offices, or regionally accredited higher education institutions. The bill also requires the Commission to review its preservice, professional development, and supervision standards for internship programs during its next evaluation of administrative services credential pathways.

**AB 1009** allows the Commission to allow the possession of a valid occupational or physical therapy license to fulfill the credential requirements for an administrative services credential. However, the bill provides that possession of a valid occupational or physical therapy license does not allow the recipients to supervise or evaluate teachers unless certain conditions are met. Additionally, the bill increases the minimum required full-time experience for this credential from 3 to 5 years, now allowing school-based occupational or physical therapy experience to count towards this requirement. However, a local educational agency (LEA) may request a waiver for up to 2 years of this experience if the candidate completes an administrative services program approved by the Commission, holds an appropriate clear or life prerequisite credential, and has been offered employment in an administrative position by the LEA.

AB 1009 defines LEA as a school district, county office of education, or charter school.

(AB 959 and AB 1009 amend Section 44270 of the Education Code.)

**AB 1306 – Authorizes the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to Approve A Teacher Education Program Related to English Learner Certifications.**

AB 1306 allows the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (Commission) to approve teacher education programs provided by school districts or county offices of education that lead to certificates such as the cross-cultural Language, academic development certificate, English learner authorization, or the Bilingual authorization certificate. The Commission must apply the same standards to these programs as it does to those offered by accredited higher education institutions.

(AB 1306 adds section 44253.45 of the Education Code.)

**AB 1454 – Requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to Revise Specified Credential Program Standards and Professional Development, and the Adoption of Instructional Material.**

Existing law mandates that the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (Commission) sets standards for issuing and renewing teaching credentials. For a preliminary services credential with a specialization in administrative services, requirements include either completing a specialized preparatory program or a one-year internship, both subject to commission approval. Similarly, for a reading and literacy leadership specialist credential, a specialized preparatory program is required.

AB 1454 establishes new mandates. The bill requires that by January 1, 2028, the Commission must ensure the preparation of candidates for the reading and literacy leadership specialist credential includes preparation on how to deliver instructional and support teachers in teaching literacy in alignment with the following criteria:

1. The English Language Arts/English Language Development (ELA/ELD) Framework, including instruction to meet the varied language development needs of English learners.

2. Evidence-based means of teaching foundational reading skills that meet specified requirements and offer tiered supports for pupils with reading difficulties, English learners, and pupils with exceptional needs; and

3. The program guidelines for dyslexia.

By September 1, 2028, the Commission shall ensure that the professional preparation of candidates for a preliminary services credential in administrative services includes preparation on how to support teachers in delivering instruction through effective means of teaching, including the above criteria.

Additionally, the bill requires that by January 31, 2027, the State Board of Education adopt English language instructional materials for kindergarten through eighth grade that meet the following criteria:

1. Align to the current ELA/ELD Framework, including integrated and designated English language development instruction adopted by the state board, and including strategies to meet the varied language development needs of English learners.
2. Align to evidence-based means of teaching foundational reading skills as specified, including tiered supports for pupils with reading difficulties, English learners, and pupils with exceptional needs.
3. Align to the program guidelines for dyslexia; and
4. Include materials that focus on the teaching of specific skills and standards that are a subset of the entire ELA/ELD Framework and clearly designate which standards they effectively address.

Upon adoption, state guidance for local instructional materials must be updated, and local educational agencies must follow this or certify that their materials meet the standards.

(AB 1454 adds Sections 44265.1, 44270.6, and 60205 to the Education Code.)

## ***AB 1216 – Elementary and Secondary Education Omnibus Bill.***

The Omnibus bill makes substantive and non-substantive changes to the Education Code. **AB 1216** makes the following changes:

1. Amends Education Code section 44256 to revise the definition to allow credential holders to add subjects to their credentials even if they are already certified to teach them.
2. Amends Education Code section 51222, which establishes the instructional minutes for physical education (PE). The bill changes how these minimum PE minutes are calculated, basing them on school days instead.
3. Other non-substantive changes are made to Education Code sections 8208 and 44256 to correct inaccuracies in references to various entities and cross-references in the existing legislation.

*(AB 1216 amends Sections 8208, 44256, 48901.7, and 51222 of the Education Code.)*

## ***L. OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS***

### ***AB 715 and SB 48 – Establishes the California Schools Office of Civil Rights with Specified Positions and Antisemitism Prevention Initiatives.***

Existing law states the policy of the State of California is to afford all persons in public schools, regardless of their disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or any other specified characteristic, equal rights and opportunities in the educational institutions of the state. Existing law prohibits the governing board of a school district, a county board of education, or the governing body of a charter school from adopting or approving the use of any textbook, instructional material, supplemental instructional material, or curriculum if its use would subject a pupil to unlawful discrimination, as specified.

**AB 715** expands existing law to prohibit the use of any professional development materials or services that could lead to unlawful discrimination, adding to existing bans on discriminatory textbooks and instructional materials. The prohibitions extend to vendors and third parties that violate discrimination laws. AB 715 also provides that if the governing board learns or has reason to believe that professional development materials or services were used that resulted in unlawful discrimination, it must investigate and take appropriate corrective action. Additionally, if the governing board learns that the third party or vendor engaged in unlawful discrimination, it must take action or the complainant may notify the Superintendent of Instruction, who shall require the governing board to take corrective action.

Under existing law, the California Department of Education may intervene to ensure local education agencies (LEAs) comply with existing complaint procedures under specified conditions. The bill provides that a party to a written complaint of prohibited discrimination may appeal the complaint to the Superintendent in accordance with Section 4650(a)(4) of Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations. The Superintendent must then take the necessary steps to work with the LEA to issue an investigation report within the specified time.

AB 715 also establishes the Office of Civil Rights to work with local agencies to prevent discrimination and requires the office to address issues such as antisemitism. The bill also requires the Governor to appoint the Director of the Office of Civil Rights and subject to confirmation by the Senate. The bill requires the Office of Civil Rights to:

- A. Provide education and educational resources to identify and prevent antisemitism and other forms of discrimination and bias;
- B. Share relevant laws and regulations with educational state agencies, school districts, county offices of education, charter schools, and community stakeholders; and
- C. Annually, beginning September 1, 2027, submit a report to the Government Operations Agency, the Superintendent of Public

Instruction, the executive director of the State Board of Education, and the Legislature on the state of discrimination and bias in all local educational agencies.

The bill requires the Office of Civil Rights to employ the Antisemitism Prevention Coordinator to be appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The Antisemitism Prevention Coordinator is required to develop, consult, and provide antisemitism education to school personnel to identify and proactively prevent antisemitism, and to make recommendations, in coordination with the executive director of the state board, to the Legislature on legislation necessary for the prevention of antisemitism in educational settings.

AB 715 requires that the governing board investigate discrimination claims and take corrective action if violations occur. If the governing board fails to take corrective action after investigating a complaint, the bill authorizes a party to a written complaint of prohibited discrimination to appeal if the governing board fails to issue an investigation report within a certain timeline.

This bill also requires the Department of Education, by October 1 of each year, to issue a management bulletin to all local educational agencies describing the protections, requirements, and responsibilities prescribed under this bill and existing law prohibiting discrimination. The bill requires the Superintendent, in consultation with the executive director of the state board and the Antisemitism Prevention Coordinator, to develop and maintain a distinct internet webpage containing resources and information specific to antisemitism on its board's website. Additionally, it mandates annual notifications to parents about discrimination protections and a dedicated website for antisemitism prevention.

**SB 48** establishes various discrimination prevention coordinators as part of the Office of Civil Rights. The bill specifically requires the Office of Civil Rights to employ the following coordinators: Religious Discrimination Prevention Coordinator, a Race and Ethnicity Discrimination Prevention Coordinator, a Gender Discrimination Prevention Coordinator, and an LGBTQ

Discrimination Prevention Coordinator. The coordinator shall be appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.

*(AB 715 amends Sections 244, 262.3, 48980, 51500, 51501, and 60151 of, adds Section 60152 to, adds Article 11 (commencing with Section 280) to Chapter 2 of Part 1 of Division 1 of Title 1 of, and adds Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 33800) to Part 20 of Division 2 of Title 2 of, the Education Code; SB 48 adds Sections 33803.2, 33803.3, 33803.4, and 33803.5 to the Education Code.)*

## ***M. REQUIREMENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION***

### ***AB 772 – Requires the State Department of Education to Develop a Model Policy Regarding Off-Campus Cyberbullying.***

Existing law required a local educational agency (LEA) to adopt procedures for preventing acts of bullying, including cyberbullying, by December 31, 2019. **AB 772** now requires the State Department of Education to develop, by June 30, 2026, a model policy on how to address reported acts of cyberbullying that occur outside of school hours and off campus, provided that, if the cyberbullying occurs off campus, it must be sufficiently severe or pervasive to have the actual and reasonably expected effect of creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment. This model policy will be appropriate for LEAs serving students in grades 4 to 12 and will clarify that LEAs are authorized, but not required, to address acts of cyberbullying occurring outside of school hours and off campus.

AB 772 further requires each LEA to adopt a policy, or modify its existing cyberbullying procedures, on how to address reported acts of cyberbullying that occur outside of school hours and off campus. AB 772 provides that LEAs may use the State Department of Education's model policy or a locally adopted policy, but, either way, they must post a copy of the policy on their website and the website of each of their school sites.

*(AB 772 adds Section 234.41 to the Education Code.)*

***AB 935 – Requires the Superintendent of Instruction and the Civil Rights Department to Collect and Publish Demographic Data Related to the Protected Classifications of Individuals Filing Complaints.***

**AB 935** requires, beginning July 1, 2026, that the Superintendent of Public Instruction collect the following information upon receipt of a complaint under the Uniform Complaint Procedures that alleges unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying:

- A. The self-identified protected group of the complainant;
- B. A description of the complaint received;
- C. Any action taken by the Department in response to the complaint and the timeline for that action; and
- D. The disposition of the complaint.

This information is confidential and shall not be disclosed or subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act. The bill also requires the Superintendent to create a summary report of the information collected that shall be posted on the Department's website. The summary shall not contain personally identifiable information about any complainant.

AB 935 also establishes new requirements for the Civil Rights Department. The bill requires the Civil Rights Department to collect demographic information regarding the complainant's protected class and the final action taken by the Department, and the timeline between the receipt of the complaint and the action taken. The bill provides that the information collected shall be kept confidential and not subject to disclosure under the Public Records Act except to the extent the complaint itself is subject to disclosure.

Beginning July 1, 2027, the Civil Rights Department shall, no later than October 1 of each year, create and publish on the Civil Rights Department's website a summary report of the information collected for the preceding calendar year. The report shall not contain any personally identifying information about the complainant.

The collection of information shall comply with existing governing state and federal laws.

(AB 935 adds Section 33315.5 to the Education Code and adds Section 8310.10 to the Government Code.)

***SB 1296 – Requires The State Department of Education to Publish an Application on its Website by January 1, 2027, to Enable Local Educational Agencies to Submit Notice of Their Interest to Use Real Property for a Housing Project.***

**SB 1296** requires that the State Department of Education (Department) make available on its website a form for local educational agencies (LEA) to submit notice of their interest to use real property they own for a housing project. The form must be available by January 1, 2027.

The bill also requires that the Department make resources available to LEAs that will help LEAs understand the laws, processes, help draft agreements, and funding sources. The Department may provide the assistance directly or contract with third parties, such as law firms, non-profits, or housing development consultants, to provide the necessary resources.

Lastly, the bill provides that the Department shall prioritize technical assistance for LEAs that serve high-need student populations or are located in areas experiencing high housing-cost burdens or educator-staffing shortages.

(SB 1296 adds Sections 50408.6 and 50512.5 to the Health and Safety Code.)

***SB 374 – Extends the Deadline for the State Department of Education to Report on the List of Mandatory Reports Schools Must Submit to January 1, 2027, and Removes the Requirement to Adopt an Individuals with Disability Education Act Addendum.***

Existing law mandates that by March 1, 2025, the State Department of Education must report to the Superintendent, Governor, and Legislature on the number and types of reports school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools are required to submit annually. This

report should include each report's purpose and suggestions for consolidation, elimination, or reduction. This requirement was initially set to expire on January 1, 2026, but **SB 374** extends this deadline by one year to January 1, 2027.

Additionally, existing law requires the State Board of Education to adopt an Individuals with Disability Education Act (IDEA) Addendum by January 31, 2027, aimed at enhancing services for individuals with exceptional needs. Certain educational institutions were required to complete this addendum and related activities by July 1, 2027. SB 374 eliminates the IDEA Addendum requirements.

*(SB 374 amends Section 33318.2 of, and repeals Section 52064.3 of, the Education Code.)*

## **N. BOARD GOVERNANCE**

### **AB 1390 – Allows Governing Boards to Increase Their Compensation.**

Existing law allows board members of the county board of education and school districts to receive compensation between \$60 and \$1,500 monthly, depending on average daily attendance from the previous year.

**AB 1390** revises existing law by increasing the maximum monthly compensation to a range of \$600 to \$4,500, still based on prior year attendance figures.

*(AB 1390 amends Sections 1090 and 35120 of the Education Code.)*

### **AB 320 – Excludes Certain Income for Determination of Public Social Services Benefits.**

Existing law provides that county boards of education and school district governing boards may provide a student member elective course credit and monthly financial compensation. **AB 320** provides that, to the extent permitted by federal law, any such compensation paid to a student member shall not be considered as income or resources when determining eligibility and the amount of benefits for any means-tested program

under the jurisdiction of the Department of Social Services (DSS), including but not limited to the following:

- CalWORKS;
- General Assistance;
- Medi-Cal;
- Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants; and
- Any scholarships for public colleges and universities, including Cal Grant awards, Chafee grant awards, Middle Class Scholarship Program awards, California College Promise Grants, California State University Educational Opportunity Program grants, Community College Extended Opportunity Programs and Services grants, and grants from the University of California or the California State University.

AB 320 shall apply when DSS notifies the Legislature that the California Statewide Automated Welfare System can perform the necessary automation to implement AB 320. DSS must issue guidance to begin automation no later than July 1, 2026.

*(AB 320 adds Sections 1090.1 and 35120.1 to the Education Code and Section 11157.3 to the Welfare and Institutions Code.)*

### **AB 640 – Requires Governance Training for Local Educational Agency Officials.**

**AB 640** establishes a new requirement that local education agency (LEA) officials must complete training in K-12 public education school finance laws, including laws related to the creation and approval of an LEA budget to support student learning and achievement and laws related to fiscal penalties for noncompliance. AB 640 defines LEA officials to include any regular member of a governing board of a school district, or a county board of education, or any regular member of the governing body of a charter school, or a nonprofit public benefit corporation operating a charter school.

AB 640 provides that the training regarding K-12 public education school finance laws may be up

to four (4) hours long. It further provides that the County Office Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (COFCMAT) must develop a curriculum for this training by October 1, 2026. Entities that offer the training must use the curriculum that COFCMAT develops.

LEAs or LEA consortia may offer the training through any of the following methods:

1. Use LEA employees or contracted legal counsel with demonstrable experience in K-12 public education school finance laws to provide the training.
2. Arrange for an entity that supports LEAs with technical assistance and expertise in K-12 public education school finance laws and has trainers with demonstrable experience in K-12 public education school finance laws to provide the training.
3. Arrange for COFCMAT to provide the training.
4. Arrange for a nonprofit statewide education association led by officials who govern school districts and county offices of education to provide the training.
5. Offer or arrange for an entity meeting the requirements detailed in #2 above to provide sets of self-study materials with tests.

LEAs must maintain records of the dates LEA officials completed the training and what entity provided it for at least five years after the date of the training.

LEA officials in office as of April 1, 2027, must complete the training by April 1, 2028, unless their term ends before then. Officials who commence initial service or a subsequent nonconsecutive term on or after April 1, 2027, must complete the training within a year of the start of their service, but they should be encouraged to begin the training prior to the first meeting of their governing body. Officials need not repeat the training during subsequent consecutive terms.

(AB 640 adds Article 6.5, commencing with Section 35220, to the Education Code.)

## COMMUNITY COLLEGES

### ***AB 1028 – Requires CCDs to Terminate Part-Time Employees Pursuant to the Termination Procedures in the Applicable Collective Bargaining Agreements.***

Existing law authorizes the establishment of community college districts (CCDs) under the administration of community college governing boards and authorizes these CCDs to provide instruction at community college campuses throughout the state. Existing law authorizes the governing board of a CCD to terminate the employment of a temporary employee at its discretion at the end of a day or week, whichever is appropriate, as specified.

***AB 1028*** expands existing law to require the governing board of a CCD to terminate part-time faculty members using the procedures established in collective bargaining agreements that pertain to the termination of a temporary faculty member. However, the bill provides that in all cases, part-time faculty assignments are temporary in nature, contingent on enrollment and funding, and subject to program changes, and no part-time faculty member has reasonable assurance of continued employment at any point, irrespective of the status, length of service, or reemployment preference of that part-time, temporary faculty member.

(AB 1028 amends Section 87665 of the Education Code.)

### ***SB 241 – Reaffirms that Community College Employees Must Meet the Required Minimum Qualifications and Permits the Use of AI To Assist Employees in Operating Community Colleges and Helping Students.***

Existing law establishes the California Community Colleges under the Board of Governors, which oversees public postsecondary education in the state. The Board of Governors is responsible for setting and maintaining minimum qualifications for various roles, including faculty members teaching credit and noncredit courses, librarians, counselors, administrators, and several service workers. Existing law provides a community college instructor, librarian, counselor, student

personnel worker, supervisor, administrator, or chief administrative officer under a credential shall retain the right to serve under the terms of that credential, and, for that purpose, shall be deemed to possess the minimum qualifications specified for every discipline or service covered by the credential until the expiration of that credential. The law also allows local governing boards to hire faculty members and education administrators who do not meet the specified minimum qualifications, provided they satisfy alternative requirements.

**SB 241** requires a community college instructor, librarian, counselor, student personnel worker, supervisor, administrator, chief administrative officer, extended opportunity programs and services worker, disabled student programs and services worker, apprenticeship instructor, or supervisor of health to be a person who meets the minimum qualifications to serve in that position as currently required.

The bill also provides that it does not prohibit community college staff from using artificial intelligence tools to assist in the operations of a community college or in providing services to community college students.

*(SB 241 amends Section 87359.2 of the Education Code.)*

#### ***AB 992 and SB 385 – Updates Education Criteria for Peace Officers.***

Existing law requires the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, in consultation with specified entities, to develop a modern policing degree program and to prepare and submit a report to the Legislature outlining a plan to implement it. **AB 992** and **SB 385** repeal the requirement that the California Police Officer Standards and Training Commission (POST) approve and adopt the education criteria for peace officers based on the recommendations in the report. AB 992 and SB 385 thus impose higher education requirements directly, without POST approval and adoption. SB 385 also declares that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Existing law enumerates the minimum standards that peace officers must meet, including minimum education standards. AB 992 authorizes specified

credential evaluation services to evaluate the equivalency of a foreign college or university degree for purposes of attaining the minimum education standards.

Starting on January 1, 2031, each peace officer must attain at least one enumerated degree or certificate. This includes a modern policing degree or a professional policing certificate as described in AB 992. The degree or certificate must be attained no later than 36 months after the peace officer receives their basic certificate from POST.

This requirement does not apply to any individual with at least eight years of experience as a sworn peace officer from another state and with a separation in good standing, or with at least eight years of military service and with an honorable discharge if military service has concluded. An individual with less than eight years of the requisite experience as a sworn police officer from another state or the requisite military service must attain an enumerated degree or certificate no later than 48 months after receiving their basic certificate from POST.

A modern policing degree or professional policing certificate must meet certain enumerated criteria. A modern policing degree must require at least 60 semester units or 90 quarter units, award credits for required POST-certified academy course instruction, and offer courses that include, without limitation, communications, psychology, writing, ethics, and criminal justice. A professional policing certificate must require at least 16 semester units or 24 quarter units, and include, without limitations, courses in the same list of subjects as a modern policing degree.

AB 992 does not apply to any person who, as of December 31, 2030, is currently enrolled in a basic academy or is employed as a peace officer by a public entity in California or the State Department of State Hospitals.

*(AB 992 amends section 1031 of the Government Code and adds section 1031.5 to the Government Code; AB 992 and SB 385 amend section 13511.1 of the Penal Code.)*

## ***SB 670 – Defines “Immigrant Integration” for Adult Education Programs.***

The Chancellor of the California Community Colleges and the Superintendent of Public Instruction are responsible for overseeing the Adult Education Program. State law mandates that they designate adult education regions across the state and establish one adult education consortium per region. They must annually report by February 1 to several state entities on how program funds are used, outcomes for adults, and provide any recommendations on improving education and services for adult education, immigrant integration, and workforce development. This process involves receiving input from the Statewide Director of Immigrant Integration and adult education providers.

**SB 670** defines "immigrant integration" for purposes of the Adult Education Program and to assist with establishing common measures to assist the needs of immigrant and refugee adults.

*(SB 670 amends Section 84901 of the Education Code.)*

## ***AB 323 – Allows Community College Districts to Use Apportioned Funds to Provide Direct Support as Part of the Strong Workforce Program.***

Existing law establishes the Strong Workforce Program, which provides funding to career technical education regional consortia made up of community college districts and local educational agencies. Existing law also required the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (Chancellor's Office) to develop and implement policies, regulations, and guidance necessary to accomplish certain objectives, including providing work-based learning opportunities for students, by June 30, 2017.

**AB 323** amends Education Code section 88821 to now require the Chancellor's Office to revise its policies, regulations, and guidance by June 30, 2026, to ensure that students, employers, or both may be provided with paid work-based learning opportunities, which may be supported with funds apportioned to a community college district through the Strong Workforce Program. To that end, AB 323 also amends Education Code section

88825 to allow community college districts to use apportioned funds to provide direct support to students, employers, or both, for paid work-based learning, including, but not limited to, apprenticeships, internships, externships, and student-run enterprises to increase employability and employment.

*(AB 323 amends Sections 88821 and 88825 of the Education Code.)*

## ***SB 391- Allows Imposition of a Data Request Fee by the Chancellor of California Community Colleges.***

**SB 391** authorizes the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to implement a data request fee policy to recover the costs for significant data compilation, extraction, or programming use of the data system related to researchers applying for access to individually identifiable data, student data, or both. Any fee policy must be approved by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, comply with state and federal privacy laws, and be posted publicly on the Chancellor's website. The policy must also be reviewed and updated periodically.

SB 391 exempts the following from data request fees: individual students seeking data for their studies, community college faculty members seeking data for their research, and state agencies, except for fees related to the release of data for research purposes to the University of California, the California State University, or the State Department of Education.

*(SB 391 adds Section 71094.5 to the Education Code.)*

## ***CSU AND UC***

### ***AB 602 – Requires the University of California and California State University to Prioritize Campus Health and Safety When Establishing Policies.***

Existing law requires the California State University (CSU) and University of California (UC) to implement rules on student behavior and prohibit illicit drugs or alcohol on campus. The rules must impose sanctions for violations, which

shall include completing a rehabilitation program as a valid sanction.

**AB 602** expands existing law to require the CSU and UC to establish rules no later than July 1, 2026, that prioritize campus health and safety. The bill requires the adoption of rules and regulations governing student behavior as follows:

- A. Not penalize students receiving medical treatment for personal use of drugs or alcohol, if the student completes an appropriate rehabilitation program; and
- B. Offer students who violate the law due to their personal use of drugs or alcohol the opportunity to complete an appropriate rehabilitation program.

Students must be permitted to participate in the rehabilitation program and avoid discipline once per academic term, quarter, or semester. To avoid discipline, the student must complete the appropriate rehabilitation program within the period specified by the campus administrator or be subject to discipline. “Appropriate rehabilitation program” means an appropriate counseling, treatment, rehabilitation, or other diversion program, and may include, but is not limited to, participating in meetings with a school counselor or attending a drug education group.

The bill does not prohibit disciplining students who receive medical treatment for personal use of drugs or alcohol from sanctions for additional violations of CSU’s or UC’s rules and regulations.

The bill further provides that it does not modify or affect the requirement under state or federal law for the reporting of crimes that occur on campus as it pertains to drug possession, drug manufacturing, drug distribution, and drug use.

*(AB 602 amends Section 66300 of the Education Code.)*

#### ***AB 681 – Increases the California DREAM Loan Program Limits.***

Existing law authorizes a student attending a participating campus of the University of California (UC) or California State University (CSU) to borrow up to \$4,000 in a single

academic year and \$40,000 in the aggregate. Undergraduates are limited to \$20,000, and graduates to another \$20,000.

**AB 681** changes the borrowing limits. The bill provides that undergraduates can still borrow up to \$4,000 yearly, but graduate students can borrow up to \$20,500 annually. The total borrowing cap for graduate students rises to \$118,500, though the undergraduate cap remains \$20,000, allowing a combined limit of \$138,500 for students who receive loans in both programs.

*(AB 681 amends Section 70034 of the Education Code.)*

#### ***AB 1155 – Allows Compensation for Law Student Externships.***

**AB 1155** would require law schools to allow law students to receive compensation from an externship while concurrently earning academic course credit beginning August 1, 2026. AB 115 applies to law schools accredited by California or by the American Bar Association that receive, or benefit from, state-funded student financial assistance or that enroll students who receive state-funded student financial assistance. However, AB 1155 only applies to law schools at the University of California to the extent that the Regents of the University of California act, by appropriate resolution, to make the provisions of AB 1155 applicable.

While AB 1155 requires that law schools allow students to be compensated for externships, it does not require that students actually be compensated for externships. Ultimately, whether to compensate and the amount of compensation are set by the externship employer.

*(AB 1155 adds Chapter 7.5 (commencing with Section 66550) to Part 40 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education Code.)*

## POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION (CCD, CSU, UC)

### A. NOTICE OF INFORMATION

#### **AB 466—Mandates Donate Life California Education for All New Students.**

**AB 466** requires that CCDs and CSUs, and requests the UC, provide educational information about Donate Life California and the Donate Life California Organ and Tissue Donor Registry to all incoming students. The bill authorizes each campus to decide how best to distribute the information to students and the student population. The bill provides the following methods of dissemination as examples: campus orientations; in health centers; via webinar, school newsletter, campus, event, short message system alerts; on the campus' website; or during student health insurance registration.

AB 466 requires that Donate Life California provide the campuses with all necessary resources to assist with the dissemination of resources. Donate Life California is also required to be available to confer and collaborate on an ongoing basis with all campuses.

(AB 466 adds Section 66027.41 to the Education Code.)

### B. FINANCIAL AID

#### **SB 67—Extends Cal Grant and Middle Class Scholarship Program Eligibility to Children or Spouses of Certain Members of the Armed Forces.**

**SB 67** extends Cal Grant and Middle Class Scholarship Program (MCSP) eligibility to a student who was not a resident of California at the time of high school graduation, if the student is the child or spouse of an active duty member of the Armed Forces stationed outside of California who maintains California as their state of legal residence. The student must also meet all other Cal Grant and MCSP eligibility requirements.

(SB 67 amends Sections 69411, 69433.9, 69436, 69514, and 70022 of the Education Code.)

#### **AB 88 – Expands the Cal Grant and Middle Class Scholarship Program to Include Dependents of Specified Members of the Armed Service.**

The Cal Grant Program, administered by the Student Aid Commission, includes various awards such as Cal Grant A and B Entitlement Awards and others, aimed at supporting students in California. The Cal Grant Reform Act plans to update this program, contingent upon the availability of funds beginning in the 2024-25 fiscal year. Eligibility depends on criteria, including California residency. Additionally, the Middle Class Scholarship Program (MCSP) is available for eligible students at public universities and certain community college programs.

**AB 88** extends Cal Grant and MCSP eligibility to students who graduated high school outside California but meet other criteria, if they are dependents or spouses of active members of the U.S. Armed Forces who are stationed outside California but maintain legal residence in the state.

(AB 88 amends Sections 69411, 69433.9, 69436, 69514, and 70022 of the Education Code.)

#### **AB 243 – Streamlines Financial Aid for Juvenile-System Youth in California.**

The Donahoe Higher Education Act organizes California's public postsecondary education into three segments: California Community Colleges (CCD), California State University (CSU), and the University of California (UC), each governed by different boards. The act mandates CSU and requests UC to annually report on their financial aid programs to the Legislature, but UC is only bound if its Board of Regents agrees. The Student Aid Commission oversees state-authorized financial aid for all segments.

**AB 243** requires that financial aid officers for CCDs, CSUs, and UCs accept sworn attestations from designated local agencies as documentation of "unusual circumstances" when determining a student's dependency status for financial aid purposes for certain students. The bill defines "adjustment for unusual circumstances" consistent with existing Federal Financial Aid regulations. The sworn statement must include the following:

- A. The name, organization, and title of the attester.
- B. A declaration that the attester has provided services, instruction, or assistance to the student.
- C. A declaration that the attester is familiar with the student's relationship with their parent or parents, as defined in Section 668.2(b) of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations.
- D. A declaration that, to the best of the attester's personal knowledge, the student is either unable to contact their parent or parents, or contacting their parent or parents would pose a risk to the student.

The bill also allows, at the student's request, limited release of juvenile case file information to aid in enrollment, financial aid, or accommodations. This information is beyond the authorized attestation. Any information provided must be kept strictly confidential. Failure to maintain confidentiality is a misdemeanor.

*(AB 243 adds Section 66020.8 to the Education Code and adds Section 826.9 to the Welfare and Institutions Code.)*

***AB 587 – Changes the Composition of The 15-Member Student Aid Commission to Include A Member of the Public with Knowledge and Experience with U.S. Armed Forces Veterans.***

Existing law establishes a 15-member Student Aid Commission, which includes three public members. The Student Aid Commission is responsible for managing state-approved student financial aid programs for postsecondary students.

**AB 587** amends existing law. The bill replaces one of the public members with an individual who has knowledge, expertise, or experience in accessing educational benefits for U.S. Armed Forces veterans. The replacement will occur at a public member's term expiration.

*(AB 587 amends Section 69510 of the Education Code.)*

***AB 313 – Extends Application Deadline for Student Financial Aid Due to FAFSA Delays.***

Existing law establishes the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) as the primary state agency administering state financial aid programs to postsecondary education students. Existing law requires the Commission to grant an extension of up to 30 days beyond an application deadline for any financial aid program it administers if it: (1) receives a formal request from a school district, community college district, or other institution of higher education eligible to receive state funds for student financial assistance; and (2) finds that a qualifying event, including a natural disaster, a declared state of emergency, or a labor event, has occurred. Existing law also allows the Commission to grant up to an additional 30-day extension without a formal request if a state of emergency has been declared.

**AB 313** adds that the Commission must grant an extension of up to 30 days with a formal request and up to an additional 30 days without a request, if it finds there has been a delay in the opening of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

*(AB 313 amends Section 69513.2 of the Education Code.)*

***SB 271 – Requires Community Colleges and the California State University, and Requests University of California Refer Students with Dependent Children to the Basic Needs Coordinator or Provide Information Regarding Existing Resources.***

Existing law mandates that California Community Colleges (CCDs), the California State University (CSU), and requests University of California (UC) establish Basic Needs Coordinators and Centers to assist students with essential services like childcare.

**SB 271** expands the definition of basic needs to explicitly include childcare services and resources, allowing for direct financial and service support. It mandates that financial aid offices at CCDs and CSUs provide information on campus childcare options and supplemental

financial aid awards, such as the Cal Grant for students with dependent children. It also requests that financial aid officers at UCs do the same. For campuses with existing centers supporting parenting students, the bill allows directing students to those more specialized centers if beneficial. Additionally, it requires child development programs at CCDs and CSUs, and requests those at UCs, to offer referrals to the Basic Needs Center and the financial aid office.

(AB 271 amends Sections 66023.4 and 66023.5 of, and adds Sections 66027.83 and 66062 to, the Education Code.)

### C. TRANSFER AND ADMISSIONS

***SB 619 – Establishes the Transfer Requirements that Must Be Met for the California State University and Renames the Foster Care Education Program Funded by the California Community Colleges to the Foster and Kinship Care Education Program.***

The Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act, part of the Donahoe Higher Education Act, ensures that students with an associate degree for transfer can seamlessly enter a California State University (CSU) bachelor's program if they meet specific requirements. Currently, students must complete a set number of transferable units, including the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) or CSU General Education-Breadth Requirements.

**SB 619** provides that starting in the fall term of the 2025-26 academic year, students must complete the new California General Education Transfer Curriculum. Students who began under the IGETC or CSU General Education-Breadth Requirements before this change can still meet the requirements through their original plan with proper certification.

The bill also renames the Foster Care Education Program funded by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges to the Foster and Kinship Care Education Program. Instead of focusing solely on foster parent and relative/kinship care provider education, the funds will support education for "resource families," as newly defined. "Resource family" means an individual or family that has successfully met both the home

environment assessment standards and the permanency assessment criteria adopted pursuant to specified law for child placement.

*(SB 619 amends Sections 48800, 66721.7, 66739.5, 66746, 79420, and 79500 of, and amends the heading of Article 8 (commencing with Section 79420) of Chapter 9 of Part 48 of Division 7 of Title 3 of the Education Code.)*

***SB 640 – Establishes the California State University Direct Admission Program; Extends Dual Admissions Program for First-Time Freshman to the 2025-2026 Academic Year; and Requires that California Community Colleges Share Information Regarding the Program.***

Existing law establishes the California State University (CSU) system, which must maintain academic standards for admission and plan for adequate space for eligible California resident students.

**SB 640** establishes the CSU Direct Admission Program, allowing high school graduates from participating areas to be automatically eligible for enrollment at designated CSU campuses. The bill provides that eligibility is assessed using data from CaliforniaColleges.edu, and students shall receive direct admission notices.

Furthermore, current law mandates a dual admissions program for first-time freshmen meeting certain criteria for guaranteed admission to a CSU campus, subject to completing transfer requirements within two years at a community college. SB 640 extends this program to the 2035-36 academic year, requiring completion within three years instead.

SB 640 also requires that California Community Colleges (CCCs) promote this program. The specification states that the CCCs must take the following actions to promote the program:

1. Share information at new student orientation.
2. Provide information through an annual email to the new students for each incoming fall term.

3. Post information in an easily identifiable and accessible format on the campus website.
4. Post information in counseling offices and transfer centers.

*(SB 640 amends Section 66744.1 of, and adds Section 66209 to, the Education Code.)*

#### **D. ACCREDITATION**

##### ***SB 744 - Temporarily Reserves Accreditation Status for California Purposes.***

Under California state law, higher education institutions must receive accreditation to be eligible for state resources and professional licensures. Accreditors review institutions' policies and curricula to certify that they meet a specified level of quality for all higher education institutions. This accreditation makes students eligible for financial aid, student loans, and deems that a degree or certificate that they earn from the institution meets a federally recognized standard.

This bill provides a temporary safeguard for California institutions of higher education in light of concerns about changes to the federal accreditation landscape. The bill specifies that as of January 1, 2026, any national or regional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as of January 1, 2025, will retain that recognition in California until July 1, 2029, so long as the accrediting agency continues to operate in substantially the same manner as it did on January 1, 2025. The bill also amends Education Code section 66010 to align the definition of "independent institutions of higher education" with this recognition timeline.

*(SB 744 amends and repeals section 66010 of the Education Code and adds and repeals section 144.7 of the Business and Professions Code.)*

#### **E. HEALTH AND SAFETY**

##### ***AB 594 – Permits Students To Terminate Institutional Health Plans Mid-Year And Expands Oversight Of Insurers.***

**AB 594** establishes new legal requirements for student health insurance plans offered by institutions of higher education. Since 2024, California law has classified student health insurance as a form of individual coverage but has exempted it from certain regulations, including guaranteed availability, minimum coverage standards, and single risk pool requirements. Once enrolled, students are generally required to maintain their student health insurance for the entire policy year.

Effective July 1, 2026, this bill makes several significant changes to the administration and regulation of student health insurance coverage, including:

- **Mid-Year Termination:** Students who graduate, take a leave of absence, or withdraw may request to end coverage during the policy year. They must submit the request at least 30 days in advance. Institutions must end coverage within the same month if possible, and no later than the last day of that month. Students remain responsible only for premiums through the termination date, and institutions must issue a pro rata refund for any unused portion if the student prepaid for the year. Enrollment materials must clearly state this right to terminate coverage.
- **Waivers for Other Coverage:** Institutions must grant a waiver if a student requests it and proves enrollment in other minimum essential coverage (such as Medi-Cal, Covered California, or parental coverage). Institutions may not charge fees or premiums when they grant a waiver.
- **Rate Oversight:** The bill expands the Department of Insurance's enforcement authority. The Insurance Commissioner may block rate changes if an insurer misses filing deadlines and may impose administrative

penalties of up to \$5,000 per violation, or \$10,000 for willful violations.

All California institutions of higher education must revise their student health insurance practices. They must allow mid-year termination and pro rata refunds, establish clear waiver procedures for students with other coverage, update enrollment materials, and coordinate with insurers to comply with expanded Department of Insurance oversight.

(AB 594 amends section 10965.03 of the Insurance Code.)

## **REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT**

### **A. K-12**

#### ***AB 49 – Amends Existing Law to Further Restrict Immigration Enforcement on School Campus.***

**AB 49** became effective September 20, 2025, following the Governor's signature. The bill applies to local education agencies (LEA), which consist of school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools.

AB 49 amends existing law to prohibit school officials from allowing an officer or employee of an agency conducting immigration enforcement from entering a nonpublic area of a school site without a valid judicial warrant, judicial subpoena, or court order. However, even if a valid judicial warrant, subpoena, or court order is presented, the bill is not intended to restrict the LEA's right to consult with legal counsel or challenge the validity of a warrant, subpoena, or court order.

The bill further provides that LEA employees or personnel shall not disclose records or information about a pupil, their family or household, without the pupil's parents' or guardians' written consent. The prohibition extends to a pupil's home and information about a pupil's travel schedule. Additionally, if a valid judicial warrant, subpoena, or court order is issued, the LEA must provide the parent notification required under federal law.

(AB 49 amends Section 234.7 of the Education Code.)

#### ***AB 419 – Requires Local Education Agencies to Post and Distribute The "Know Your Educational Rights" Guide Published by The Attorney General.***

**AB 419** requires that the governing board of local educational agencies (LEAs) post and distribute to parents and guardians information created by the California Attorney General regarding children's right to free public education regardless of immigration status or religious beliefs. Specifically, the LEA must post and distribute the Attorney General's Guide on the Immigration-Enforcement Actions at Schools Guide for Students and Families, also known as "Know Your Educational Rights."

The bill requires LEAs to post the Know Your Educational Rights guide on their administrative buildings, each school site, and on their website. The information must be posted in every language that the Attorney General provides. The Attorney General is required to update the information. The LEA must update the posted information no later than the school year following the Attorney General's update.

In addition to posting, the information in the Know Your Educational Rights guide must also be provided to parents and guardians. The information may be included in the required annual notification to parents and guardians or any other cost-effective means as determined by the LEA.

For purposes of this bill, LEAs include a school district, county office of education, and charter school. "School site" is defined as an individual school campus of a school district, county office of education, or charter school, an area where an LEA's school-sponsored activity is currently held, or a school bus or other transportation by an LEA.

The California Attorney General's resources related to immigration may be accessed at <https://oag.ca.gov/immigrant#resources>.

(AB 419 amends Section 234.7 of the Education Code.)

#### ***AB 495 – Establishes the Family Preparedness***

## ***Plan Act, Expanding Caregiver Affidavits and Strengthens Immigration-Related Protections in Schools and Childcare.***

**AB 495**, the *Family Preparedness Plan Act of 2025*, addresses challenges faced by children at risk of family separation due to a parent's immigration status. The bill strengthens caregiving arrangements, expands access to caregiver authorization affidavits, and enhances protections in schools and early childhood programs to ensure children have stable, legally recognized caregivers while preserving parental rights.

This bill broadens the definition of "relative" who may execute a caregiver's authorization affidavit, giving these relatives the same authority as guardians to authorize school-related medical care. The bill also reinforces prohibitions on schools collecting immigration-related information and requires Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) to provide parents with updated information on Attorney General guidance regarding immigration enforcement. LEAs must revise their local model policies whenever the Attorney General updates the statewide model policies.

These relatives gain the same authority as guardians to authorize school-related medical care for a child, ensuring consistency and broader recognition of caregiving arrangements. The bill also strengthens the prohibition on immigration-related data collection by schools. Additionally, this bill mandates LEAs provide parents and guardians with updated information about guidance on immigration enforcement issued by the Attorney General and must revise their local model policies whenever the Attorney General updates state model policies. For licensed child daycare facilities, employees of licensed child daycare facilities, and license-exempt California state preschool program facilities, this bill also creates new obligations. Such entities and their employees are prohibited from collecting information or documents regarding the citizenship or immigration status of children or their family members. If immigration enforcement officials request information or access to a facility, the licensee or administrator must report the request to the State Attorney General and the appropriate state agency. Licensed child daycare facilities and license-exempt California

State Preschool Programs must keep children's emergency contact information updated and, if a parent or authorized representative is unavailable, follow the parent's written instructions in that file before taking any other action.

Finally, by April 1, 2026, the Attorney General must publish model policies limiting cooperation with immigration enforcement at childcare facilities and license-exempt preschool programs, similar to the model policies already developed for LEAs. By July 1, 2026, all California State Preschool Programs must adopt these model policies or equivalent protections, update them whenever the Attorney General revises guidance, and provide parents with information about how to access the policies.

*(AB 495 amends Section 234.7 of the Education Code, Sections 6550–6552 of the Family Code, Section 1597.640 of the Health and Safety Code, and Sections 150 Probate Code.)*

## ***B. PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS***

### ***SB 98 - Establishes New Campus Notification Obligations for Immigration Enforcement.***

**SB 98** became effective September 20, 2025. The bill establishes new requirements for school districts (including K-12 school districts, charter schools, county offices of education (collectively "LEAs")), community college districts (CCDs), the California State University (CSU), and qualifying independent institutions of higher education when immigration enforcement is confirmed on campus. The Regents of the University of California (UC) are requested to comply with the bill's requirements.

Because SB 98 contains an urgency clause, its requirements took effect immediately. SB 98's requirements remain in effect until January 1, 2031, unless extended by future legislation.

#### **Requirements for LEAs.**

Existing law requires that LEAs adopt comprehensive school safety plans to address specified emergencies. **SB 98** amends existing law to require that comprehensive school safety

plans include procedures to notify parents and guardians of pupils, teachers, administrators, and school personnel when the school confirms the presence of immigration enforcement on campus.

Comprehensive school safety plans must be revised to comply with the requirements of SB 98 during their next review, but no later than March 1, 2026.

SB 98 does not dictate the content of the notice or its timing. LEAs maintain the sole discretion in determining the content and timing of the notice, but must prioritize student safety. LEAs may, but are not required to, include in the notice links to resources on educational rights, right to privacy, and counseling and support services available to support families impacted by immigration enforcement.

SB 98 also requires that charter schools review and update their comprehensive safety plans by March 1 of every year. Chartering authorities have discretion to deny a charter school's petition if its comprehensive safety plan lacks procedures for notifying parents, guardians, teachers, administrators, and charter school personnel about immigration enforcement on campus.

#### **Requirement for Community College Districts, CSU, and Institutions of Higher Education.**

Existing law prohibits community college districts, the CSU, and qualifying institutions of higher education (Educational Institutions) from disclosing student and employee information to immigration agents, absent a judicial subpoena or warrant or as required by law. Existing law also requires compliance with various precautionary measures when federal immigration enforcement activities are undertaken on campuses.

**SB 98** amends existing law to add a notice requirement upon confirmation that immigration enforcement is occurring on campus to the extent permitted by law. It requires that a campus notify all students, faculty, staff, and campus community members who work on campus when the presence of immigration enforcement is confirmed on campus.

The notice must include the following information, but it shall not contain personally identifiable information:

- A. The date and time the immigration enforcement was confirmed;
- B. The location of the confirmed immigration enforcement; and
- C. A hyperlink to resources available to support students and families impacted by immigration enforcement, and related information like Know Your Rights.

While SB 98 does not identify the means or method of providing this immigration enforcement notice, it is important that LEAs and Educational Institutions consider disseminating the notice in a way that does not create panic or fear.

*(SB 98 amends Sections 47605 and 47605.6 of, amends, repeals, and adds Sections 32282 and 66093.3 of, and adds, repeals, and adds Section 47606.3 of, the Education Code.)*

#### **C. CSU AND UC**

#### ***SB 307 – Requires the California State University and the University of California to adopt Policies to Assist Undocumented Students Affected by Immigration Enforcement.***

Existing law requires the California State University and requests the University of California to implement measures to assist undocumented students detained, deported, or unable to attend to their academic requirements due to immigration orders to take all reasonable steps to help these students retain eligibility upon their return.

**SB 307** expands existing law to support students affected by immigration enforcement orders. It requires that CSUs and UCs ensure that undocumented students subject to immigration enforcement do not lose their qualification for the exemption from paying nonresident tuition. CSUs and UCs must also ensure that staff and the designated Dreamer Resource Liaison assist undocumented students in accessing all

financial aid and academic resources available to undocumented students.

Finally, SB 307 requires that the Trustees of the CSU, and requests the Regents of the UC, adopt systemwide policies addressing course grades, administrative withdrawal, and reenrollment for undocumented students who are unable to attend their courses by the final drop date due to immigration enforcement activities. The policy must specify the timeframe during which the student is reenrolled and retains the same academic status they held before the withdrawal, following the student's written submission confirming their intent to return to the CSU or UC.

(SB 307 adds Section 66093.2 to the Education Code.)

## D. EMPLOYMENT

### ***SB 580 — Model Immigration Enforcement Policies for State and Local Agencies.***

Existing law requires the California Attorney General to develop model policies limiting assistance with immigration enforcement to the fullest extent possible, consistent with federal and state law, at public schools, public libraries, courthouses, specified health facilities, shelters, and other specified agencies.

**SB 580** requires the Attorney General, by July 1, 2026, to publish model policies for state and local agencies that govern interactions with federal immigration authorities, consistent with federal and state law.

SB 580 requires that the Attorney General must also issue guidance, audit criteria, and training recommendations to ensure that databases operated by or for state and local agencies limit the use of personal information for immigration enforcement purposes.

SB 580 requires that state and local agencies adopt these models or equivalent policies by January 1, 2027.

SB 580 states that it addresses a matter of statewide concern and applies to all cities, including charter cities.

(SB 580 adds Section 12532.5 to the Government Code.)

## GOVERNANCE

### ***A. THE RALPH M. BROWN ACT***

#### ***SB 707 — Revisions to Meetings and Teleconferencing Requirements Under the Brown Act.***

The Ralph M. Brown Act (Brown Act) requires local legislative bodies to hold open and public meetings, with limited exceptions, and to permit all persons be permitted to attend and participate in these meetings. Current law sets standards for teleconferencing, public notice, agenda posting, and public participation.

**SB 707** significantly overhauls and standardizes key provisions of the Brown Act.

SB 707 also imposes additional requirements on “eligible legislative bodies” that do not otherwise apply to all legislative bodies subject to the Brown Act. SB 707 defines “eligible legislative body” as “a city council of a city with a population of 30,000 or more,” a “county board of supervisors of a county, or city and county, with a population of 30,000 or more,” or a “city council of a city located in a county with a population of 600,000 or more.” The definition of “eligible legislative body” also includes “the board of directors of a special district that has an internet website” for special districts that (1) include the entirety of a county with a population of 600,000 or more and the special district has over 200 full-time employees; (2) have over 1,000 full-time employees; or (3) have over 200 full-time employees and annual revenues, based on the most recent Financial Transaction Report data published by the California State Controller, that exceed four hundred million dollars (\$400,000,000), adjusted annually for inflation commencing January 1, 2027, as measured by the percentage change in the California Consumer Price Index from January 1 of the prior year to January 1 of the current year.” The current definition of “special district” under Government Code section 53835 remains unchanged by SB 707. *A community college district or a school district is not a “special district” as defined by*

*Government Code section 53835, nor are they eligible legislative bodies."*

SB 707 also expands public comment rights. The Brown Act requires agendas for regular meetings to let the public directly address the legislative body on any topic of public interest. It exempts items already reviewed by a committee unless the legislative body determines the item has substantially changed. SB 707 adds new exceptions to that exemption, excluding committees focused on elections, budgets, police oversight, privacy, limiting access to public library materials, or taxes and related spending, except as otherwise specified. SB 707 directs every local agency to provide a copy of the Brown Act to all elected and appointed members of legislative bodies.

Key amongst SB 707's provisions are the standardization of audio and visual teleconferencing rules. Each legislative body that uses teleconferencing will need to provide two-way audiovisual or telephonic access and a live webcast that lets the public both see and hear the meeting. The legislative body must record in its minutes the names of members who participate remotely and the specific law that authorizes each member's remote participation. Each local agency must identify and make available meeting locations for use by legislative bodies. Members with disabilities will still be able to participate remotely as a reasonable accommodation.

SB 707 redefines "teleconference" to exclude situations where members only watch or listen through non-interactive media. SB 707 requires all legislative bodies to post special meeting notices on their websites and establishes uniform emergency meeting procedures across all local agencies. The bill applies these provisions to neighborhood councils, student body associations, student-run community college organizations, and certain subsidiary or multijurisdictional bodies. These bodies must maintain at least one (1) physical location where the public can attend, observe, and participate. Presiding officers will have the authority to remove disruptive individuals from both in-person and teleconferenced meetings.

*(SB 707 amends Sections 54952.7, 54953, 54953.5, 54953.7, 54954.2, 54954.3, 54956, 54956.5, 54957.6, 54957.9, and*

*54957.95, amends and repeals Section 54952.2, adds Sections 54953.8, 54953.8.1, 54953.8.2, and 54957.96, and adds and repeals Sections 54953.4, 54953.8.3, 54953.8.4, 54953.8.5, 54953.8.6, and 54953.8.7 of the Government Code.)*

## B. PUBLIC ETHICS

### *SB 827 – Ethics Training for Local Agency Officials.*

The Government Code requires that specified local agency officials receive two hours of ethics training every two years, with the first training occurring within one year of the official commencing their service. The Government Code requires that local agencies maintain records of such training.

Effective January 1, 2026, SB 827 expands these requirements to include department heads or similar administrative officers of local agencies. Effective January 1, 2026, covered officials must complete an initial ethics training within six months of the official commencing their service.

**SB 827** requires that local agencies maintain records of such training for at least five years and post clear instructions to their websites and contact information for members of the public to request copies of such training records.

SB 827 also creates a new requirement related to fiscal and financial training for the following officers, officials and executives: (1) elected officers; (2) members of a local agency's legislative body; (3) appointed officials who make decisions or recommendations regarding financial administration, budgeting, or the use of public resources; (4) local agency executives; and (5) employees designated by the local agency. Covered individuals must complete at least two hours of training on financial administration, budgeting, reporting, capital financing, debt management, pensions, cash management and investments, fiscal and financial planning, procurement and contracting, and related laws. Covered individuals must complete this training every two years.

SB 827 authorizes local agencies to contract with a qualified provider to offer the training or develop self-study materials with tests. SB 827 requires

that providers develop content in consultation with recognized experts in local government finance and provide participants with proof of participation. Local agencies must distribute to covered individuals information on available training at least once annually.

*(SB 827 adds amends Sections 53234, 53235.1, and 53235.2, and adds Article 2.4.6 (commencing with Section 53238) to Chapter 2 of Part 1 of Division 2 of Title 5 of the Government Code.)*

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

### A. LEAVE AND HOLIDAYS

#### ***AB 268 - Adds Diwali as a State Holiday, Allowing Community College Districts To Observe the Holiday.***

Existing law specifies certain days as state holidays, allowing community colleges and public schools to close on those days if agreed upon between the governing board and employees. It includes "Native American Day" on the fourth Friday in September. State employees can take time off with pay for these holidays, with some exceptions.

**AB 268** adds "Diwali" to the list of state holidays, permitting community colleges, public schools, and educational institutions to close on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month of Kartik in the Hindu lunar calendar of each year, or if already closed, then on an alternative day determined by the governing board. The holiday may be paid if agreed to through collective bargaining.

The bill allows state employees to take paid time off for its observance. However, "Diwali" would not be recognized as a judicial holiday, like existing exceptions like Admission Day and Columbus Day.

The bill also provides that public schools and educational institutions may include exercises, funded through existing resources, acknowledging and celebrating the meaning and importance of Diwali.

*(AB 268 amends Sections 37220.7, 45203, 79020, and 88203 of the Education Code, Section 135 of the Code of Civil Procedure, and Sections 6700, 19853, and 19853.1 of the Government Code.)*

#### ***SB 590 — Leave for Designated Persons Under Paid Family Leave.***

The Unemployment Insurance Code established the Paid Family Leave Program that provides wage replacement benefits for up to eight weeks for workers who take time off work for prescribed purposes, including to care for a seriously ill family member.

Effective July 1, 2028, **SB 590** expands eligibility for benefits under the Paid Family Leave Program to include individuals who take time off work to care for a "designated person" who is seriously ill. SB 590 defines designated person to mean any care recipient related by blood or whose association with the individual is the equivalent of a family relationship and makes conforming changes to the definitions of the terms "family care leave" and "family member."

SB 590 requires an individual who requests benefits pursuant to the Paid Family Leave Program to care for a designated person for the first time to identify the designated person and, under penalty of perjury, attest to how the individual is related by blood to the designated person, or how the individual's association with the designated person is the equivalent of a family relationship.

*(SB 590 amends Sections 3301, 3302, and 3303 of the Unemployment Insurance Code.)*

#### ***AB 378 – Amends The Definition of LEAs for Purposes of The Classified School Employee Summer Assistant Program to Include Joint Powers Authorities.***

Under existing law, the Classified School Employee Summer Assistance Program allows local educational agencies (LEAs), defined as school districts or county offices of education, to participate in a system where classified employees can choose to withhold a portion of their monthly paycheck during the school year. This withheld amount is paid out over

the summer recess. The State Department of Education provides funds to participate in LEAs within 30 days of a payment request. The program operates only if it receives funding through the annual Budget Act or another statute. Additionally, under the Joint Exercise of Powers Act, two or more public agencies can collaborate on shared powers through a formal agreement.

**AB 378** amends the definition of an LEA to include joint powers authorities made up solely of school districts and county offices, allowing them and their classified employees to take part in the program.

(AB 378 amends Section 4500 of the Education Code.)

## B. TRAINING AND INFORMATION

### **SB 303 – Bias Mitigation Training.**

The Civil Rights Department (CRD) enforces the California Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA), which prohibits employment and housing discrimination based on protected characteristics. CRD investigates complaints, pursues enforcement actions, and seeks to eliminate unlawful practices.

Public and private employers provide bias mitigation or elimination training to educate employees on understanding, recognizing, and acknowledging bias, including employees' own personal biases, and their impact in the workplace. **SB 303** provides that an employee's assessment, testing, admission, or acknowledgment of their own personal biases that is made in good faith and solicited or required as part of a bias mitigation training does not, by itself, constitute unlawful discrimination.

(SB 303 adds Section 12940.2 to the Government Code.)

### **SB 642 – Pay Scale and Wage Ranges.**

The Labor Code requires employers to provide applicants, upon request, with a pay scale or range of wages the employer reasonably expects to pay for a position and to include that information in job postings if the employer employs more than 15 employees. The Labor Code also prohibits employers from paying

employees at rates less than those paid to employees of the opposite sex or of another race or ethnicity for substantially similar work, except under specific circumstances.

Effective January 1, 2026, **SB 642** updates the definition of "pay scale" to mean "a good-faith estimate of the expected salary or hourly wage range that an employer reasonably expects to pay for a position upon hire." Employers must continue to include the pay scale in job postings.

SB 642 also replaces the phrase "opposite sex" with "another sex," clarifying that the law applies across all gender comparisons.

SB 642 extends the statute of limitations for filing a civil action for alleged violations from two to three years after the last date the cause of action occurs, allowing employees to seek relief for the entire period of a violation, up to six years. SB 642 specifies that a cause of action occurs under the following circumstances: (1) when an alleged unlawful compensation decision or practice is adopted; (2) when an individual becomes subject to the decision or practice; or (3) when an individual is affected by the application of the decision or practice.

(SB 642 amends Sections 432.3 and 1197.5 of the Labor Code.)

### **SB 294 – The Workplace Know Your Rights Act.**

The Division of Labor Standards Enforcement (DLSE), within the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR), enforces state labor laws.

**SB 294** creates the Workplace Know Your Rights Act under the Labor Code, which requires employers to provide a stand-alone written notice to each current employee about specified workers' rights. Employers must provide such notice on or before February 1, 2026, and annually thereafter.

Employers must provide notice to all current employees, new hires, and any authorized representatives describing the following rights:

1. Rights to workers' compensation benefits and contact information for the Division of Workers' Compensation.

2. The right to notice of immigration agency inspections.
3. Protection from unfair immigration-related practices.
4. The right to organize or join a union and engage in concerted activities.
5. Constitutional rights when interacting with law enforcement at the workplace, including protections against unreasonable searches and self-incrimination.

Employers may provide the notice by personal service, regular mail, email, text, or another method that can be reasonably anticipated to be received within one business day.

SB 294 requires employers to issue the notice in the language normally used to communicate with employees, and to maintain compliance records for three years. The Labor Commissioner must create and post a template notice by January 1, 2026, that will include other legal developments that the Labor Commissioner deems relevant, update the template annually, and make it available in multiple languages.

SB 294 also requires that, by March 30, 2026, employers provide employees the opportunity to name an emergency contact and to indicate whether they would like the employer to notify the contact if the employee is arrested or detained on their worksite, or during work hours or during the performance of the employee's job duties, but not on the worksite, if the employer has actual knowledge of the arrest or detention of the employee. SB 294 requires employers to provide employees with the opportunity to update their emergency contact at any time.

SB 294 prohibits retaliation or discrimination against employees who exercise or attempt to exercise their rights under the Workplace Know Your Rights Act. The Labor Commissioner and public prosecutors may enforce the law, and employers who violate it may face penalties of up to \$500 per employee per violation per day, up to \$10,000 per employee for violations of the emergency contact provisions of the Workplace Know Your Rights Act. The law permits waivers through a collective bargaining agreement only if clearly stated, and allows local ordinances to provide greater employee protection.

*(AB 294 adds Part 5.6 (commencing with Section 1550) to Division 2 of the Labor Code.)*

**NOTE:**

*Existing law requires community college districts, the California State University, and the University of California to notify the emergency contact of a student or employee if the educational institution has information that the student or employee was detained by immigration enforcement.*

## C. PROTECTED INFORMATION

### **SB 513 – Personnel Records Related to Education and Training.**

The Labor Code grants current and former employees, or their representative, the right to inspect and receive a copy of personnel records maintained by an employer relating to the employee's performance and to records regarding any grievance concerning the employee. Existing law requires the employer to make the contents of those personnel records available for inspection, as specified, and makes it a crime for an employer to violate these requirements.

**SB 513** adds any records maintained by the employer that relate to employee education and training to the type of personnel records subject to inspection. SB 513 requires that an employer that maintains such education and training records ensure those records include: (1) the name of the employee; (2) the name of the training provider; (3) the duration and date of the training; (4) the core competencies of the training, including skills in equipment or software; and (5) the resulting certification or qualification.

*(SB 513 amends Section 1198.5 of the Labor Code.)*

### **SB 497 – Medical Information About Legally Protected Healthcare Activity.**

Existing law restricts the disclosure of medical information and regulates the issuance of subpoenas related to gender-affirming health care and other sensitive services. It also establishes the Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System (CURES) to monitor controlled substance prescriptions.

Similar to [AB 87](#), [SB 497](#) prohibits a health care provider, health care service plan, contractor, or employer from releasing or disclosing medical information about an individual seeking or obtaining gender-affirming health care or gender-affirming mental health care in response to a foreign or out-of-state subpoena or request based on another state's law that conflicts with California law. SB 497 prohibits those entities from cooperating with or providing medical information to an out-of-state or federal agency if the requested information would identify an individual in connection with gender-affirming health care that is lawful in California. SB 497 applies similar restrictions to subpoenas or requests for information related to sensitive services, as defined in the Insurance Code.

SB 497 amends procedures for issuing subpoenas in California to prohibit attorneys and courts from recognizing or enforcing foreign subpoenas that are based on another state's law penalizing a person for providing, seeking, or obtaining gender-affirming health care.

SB 497 also prohibits state or local agencies and their employees or contractors from providing CURES data or using public resources to assist any out-of-state investigation or proceeding that seeks to impose civil, criminal, or disciplinary liability under another state's law for legally protected health care activity. The Department of Justice may share CURES data with out-of-state law enforcement only when presented with a valid warrant, subpoena, or court order. Unauthorized access to or disclosure of CURES data constitutes a misdemeanor.

SB 497 coordinates with AB 82 concerning amendments to the Health and Safety Code made by both bills.

SB 497 took effect immediately on October 13, 2025, as urgent legislation.

*(SB 497 amends Sections 56.109 of the Civil Code, Sections 2029.300 and 2029.350 of the Code of Civil Procedure, Section 11165 of the Health and Safety Code, and Section 1326 of the Penal Code.)*

## D. EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

### [SB 809](#) – Employment Status and Reimbursement Rules for Vehicle Use.

Courts apply the three-part "ABC" Test to determine whether a worker qualifies as an employee or an independent contractor in matters concerning wages and benefits. Under this test, a court evaluates whether the worker: (1) operates independently of the hiring entity's control; (2) performs work outside the usual course of the hiring entity's business; and (3) engages in an independently established trade, occupation, or business.

Additionally, the Labor Code requires employers to reimburse employees, but not independent contractors, for necessary expenditures incurred in the course of employment.

[SB 809](#) clarifies that existing law does not consider ownership of a vehicle used to perform labor or services for compensation, whether personal or commercial, as determinative of a worker's status as an independent contractor.

SB 809 further clarifies that the Labor Code provision requiring employers to reimburse employees for necessary work-related expenditures includes costs associated with the use of personal and commercial vehicles. In the context of construction trucking, SB 809 requires employers to reimburse employees who are commercial drivers and who own their trucks, tractors, or trailers for expenses related to use, maintenance, and depreciation.

Employers and employees who drive personal and commercial vehicles, or the labor union that represents such employees, must negotiate reimbursement rates. Such reimbursement rate may be established as either a flat rate or per-mile rate, but not less than either the actual expenses incurred by the employee or the standard mileage rate set by the Internal Revenue Service.

*(SB 809 adds Sections 2750.9, 2775.5, and 2802.2 to the Labor Code.)*

## **E. ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCY AND PROHIBITED CONDUCT**

### ***SB 477 – California Civil Rights Department Enforcement Procedures.***

The Civil Rights Department (CRD) enforces the California Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA), which prohibits employment and housing discrimination based on protected characteristics. CRD investigates complaints, pursues enforcement actions, and seeks to eliminate unlawful practices.

Effective January 1, 2026, **SB 477** clarifies FEHA's enforcement procedures regarding complaint processing, deadlines, and right-to-sue provisions. SB 477 provides a statutory definition for the term "group or class complaint," which means a complaint that alleges a pattern or practice of discrimination. SB 477 notes that the definition is declaratory and reflects existing law.

SB 477 clarifies the CRD's deadline to issue a right-to-sue notice that shall be no later than one year for an individual complaint and two years for a group or class complaint.

SB 477 directs CRD to issue a right-to-sue notice to a complainant whose complaint relates to a complaint filed in the name of the director or a group or class complaint upon request by the person claiming to be aggrieved or, if the person claiming to be aggrieved does not request such notice, after the complaint has been fully and finally disposed of and all related proceedings, actions and appeals conclude.

SB 477 tolls (pauses) the time to file a civil action when a complainant timely appeals the closure of a complaint by CRD, signs a written agreement with CRD, or CRD extends the complaint investigation period due to a petition to compel cooperation.

*(SB 477 amends Sections 12926, 12960, 12965, and 12981 of the Government Code.)*

### ***SB 261 – Enforcement of DLSE Judgments Against an Employer.***

The Labor Code authorizes the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement (DLSE) under the Labor Commissioner (Commissioner) to enforce California's labor laws, investigate wage claims, and issue orders, decisions, and awards for unpaid wages. When a judgment becomes final, the Commissioner or a judgment creditor may collect the amount owed and recover attorney's fees and costs spent for enforcing the judgment. If a final judgment against an employer remains unsatisfied after specified periods of time, such as for 30 days, the Commissioner may take enforcement actions, including barring the employer from conducting business in the state.

**SB 261** extends who may recover court costs and attorney's fees for enforcing a judgment to include a public prosecutor.

Additionally, SB 261 requires a court to impose a civil penalty of up to three times the unpaid judgment amount, including post-judgment interest, when an employer fails to pay a final judgment for unpaid wages 180 days after the appeal period ends and no appeal is pending.

SB 261 directs courts to impose the full penalty unless the employer demonstrates by clear and convincing evidence good cause to reduce the penalty. Courts must distribute penalties 50 percent to the affected employees and 50 percent to the DLSE for enforcement and education purposes.

*(SB 261 amends Section 98.2 and adds Sections 238.05 and 238.10 to the Labor Code.)*

### ***AB 406 – Prohibition on Discrimination Against Victims of Violence Reinstated.***

The California Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) prohibits employers from discriminating against or retaliating against employees who take time off work due to jury service, court appearances, or circumstances related to qualifying acts of violence or crime. The FEHA currently authorizes the Civil Rights Department (CRD) to enforce these protections effective January 1, 2025, and provides rights

related to leave, confidentiality, and reasonable accommodation for affected employees.

Until January 1, 2025, the Labor Code set forth the statutory prohibitions on discrimination or retaliation against an employee who took time off from work for the above purposes. During that time, the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement (DLSE) had authority to enforce these provisions. However, as of January 1, 2025, these Labor Code provisions were repealed and replaced by the provisions in the Government Code (under FEHA, as noted above) prohibiting discrimination or retaliation against an employee who is a victim or whose family member is a victim of qualifying acts of violence.

**AB 406** reinstates the prior Labor Code provisions that governed employee rights to take leave or request accommodation as victims of crime, applying those provisions on a limited basis to alleged violations that occurred on or before December 31, 2024. AB 406 adds a sunset clause to the reinstated Labor Code provisions such that they are repealed January 1, 2035.

AB 406 also transfers enforcement responsibilities for the reinstated Labor Code provisions from the DLSE to the CRD to maintain consistency in enforcement.

AB 406 also updates the paid sick leave law in Labor Code Section 246.5 to reflect the transition from Labor Code to Government Code provisions, clarifying that victims of violence may use paid sick leave for qualifying absences.

AB 406 took effect immediately on October 1, 2025, as urgent legislation.

*(AB 406 amends Section 12945.8 of the Government Code, amends Section 246.5, amends and repeals Sections 230.2 and 230.5, and adds Sections 230 and 230.1 of the Labor Code.)*

### ***AB 692 – Prohibition on Employee Repayment Contract Provisions.***

Existing law declares that contracts restraining a person from engaging in a lawful profession, trade, or business are void against public policy, except as expressly authorized.

Effective January 1, 2026, **AB 692** prohibits employment contracts or work-related agreements that do the following: (1) require a worker to repay an employer, training provider, or debt collector if the worker's employment or work relationship ends; or (2) impose any penalty, fee, or cost as a result of termination. AB 692 exempts certain repayment obligations under contract, including the following: (1) a governmental loan repayment or forgiveness program; (2) a tuition repayment for transferable educational credentials that satisfies certain conditions; (3) an approved apprenticeship program; (4) the receipt of discretionary or unearned monetary payment at the outset of employment (i.e., a signing bonus); and (5) the lease, financing, or purchase of residential property.

AB 692 authorizes an employee or their representative to bring a civil action to recover actual damages or \$5,000 per affected employee, whichever is greater, as well as injunctive relief, attorney's fees, and costs. AB 692 specifies that these rights and remedies do not restrict other enforcement options under state law.

*(AB 692 adds Section 16608 to the Business and Professions Code and Section 926 to the Labor Code.)*

## **RETIREMENT**

### ***SB 853 – Amendments to California Public Retirement Systems.***

California's public retirement systems, including the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS), county systems governed by the County Employees Retirement Law of 1937 (CERL), and the State Teachers' Retirement System (STRS), administer defined benefit programs that determine eligibility, benefit formulas, and compensation standards for public employees. Each system operates under its own statutory framework but shares common principles governing service credit, final compensation, and coordinated benefits for members with employment in multiple jurisdictions. These statutes establish procedures for calculating retirement allowances, crediting service across concurrent or reciprocal systems, and applying benefit caps and contribution limits. They also

regulate membership, employer reporting duties, and post-retirement employment restrictions.

**SB 853** revises several provisions across PERS, CERL, and STRS to align practices with the Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013 (PEPRA). SB 853 standardizes how retirement systems calculate "compensation earnable" and "pensionable compensation" for members who participate in multiple systems or retire concurrently under PERS, STRS, the University of California Retirement System, or judicial and legislative plans.

SB 853 clarifies that "state service" includes county employment that qualifies as compensation under PEPRA and directs county systems to calculate final compensation during absences based on the member's pay rate at the start of the absence.

SB 853 also limits retroactive conversions of general service to safety service for county prosecutors, public defenders, and investigators to service performed before January 1, 2013, while requiring post-2013 reclassifications to comply with PEPRA's limits on safety benefits.

SB 853 strengthens reporting and compliance provisions within county retirement systems. It directs retirement boards to set their own reporting intervals for rehired retirees and authorizes a \$200-per-month fee for employers that fail to report or enroll such employees on time. SB 853 allows retirement boards to recover administrative costs from employers or members who violate post-retirement employment limits.

SB 853 authorizes the Teachers' Retirement Board to determine an "employer" or "employing agency" under STRS and to determine membership in the Defined Benefit Program under STRS. SB 853 updates the reduced workload program for educators by requiring the program to end when a member earns less than one-half of their annualized pay rate, instead of working less than one-half the required hours or days.

Finally, SB 853 requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for any costs the Commission on State Mandates identifies as state-mandated obligations.

*(SB 853 amends Sections 22104.8, 22131, 22146.5, 22713, 22954, 22955, 22955.1, 24616.2, and 26122 of the Education Code, and amends Sections 7522.02, 20034, 20069, 20638, 20639, 31462.05, 31470.14, and 31680.9 of the Government Code.)*

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

### **SB 854 — Mail and Electronically Transmitted Documents.**

The Unemployment Insurance Code governs the administration of unemployment and disability compensation programs and defines key terms used throughout the Code.

**SB 854** standardizes the treatment of mailed and electronically transmitted documents throughout the Code by defining the terms "mail," "mailing," and "mailed" to include not only writings transmitted through the United States Postal Service or another mail carrier, but also those sent by electronic transmission. For electronically transmitted documents, the bill specifies that the "postmark date" means the date the writing was sent.

*(SB 854 adds Section 22 to the Unemployment Insurance Code.)*

## WORKERS' COMPENSATION

### **AB 1293 — Qualified Medical Evaluations.**

The Division of Workers' Compensation, through its Administrative Director, administers the Workers' Compensation system, which compensates employees for injuries that occur in the course of employment. The system provides procedures to resolve disputes about whether an injury is compensable and uses a qualified medical evaluator (QME) to conduct a comprehensive medical-legal evaluation addressing all contested medical issues in a claim. The law requires parties to send all communications with a panel QME before an evaluation in writing and to serve them on the opposing party 20 days in advance. The law also requires any later communication with the QME to be in writing and served at the opposing party when sent.

Effective January 1, 2027, [AB 1293](#) will require the Administrative Director of the Division of Workers' Compensation to develop and make available a template QME report form that includes all required statutory and regulatory elements for a QME report. AB 1293 also requires the Administrative Director to develop and make available a medical evaluation request form for parties to use when communicating with a panel QME before an evaluation.

(AB 1293 adds Section 4062.4 to the Labor Code.)

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### ***SB 459 – Extends Confidentiality Protection to Confidential Communications during Group Peer Support Services.***

The existing Law Enforcement Peer Support and Crisis Referral Services Program authorized local and regional law enforcement agencies to create a peer support network. In addition, subject to certain enumerated exceptions, prior law permitted law enforcement officers to keep communications with peer support team members confidential. [SB 459](#) expands these rights.

SB 459 amends the term “confidential communications” to include any information transmitted between law enforcement personnel and recipients of group peer support services while a peer support team member or mental health professional provides group peer support services. The term “group peer support services” is amended to mean peer support services comprised of at least one peer support team member or mental health professional and more than one recipient of group peer support services.

Subject to certain enumerated exceptions, which now include juvenile delinquency proceedings, a law enforcement officer has a right to refuse to disclose and to prevent another from disclosing a confidential communication between law enforcement personnel and recipients of group peer support services made while a peer support team member or mental health professional provides group peer support services.

(SB 459 amends sections 8669.3 and 8669.4 of the Government Code.)

### ***SB 524 – Creates Recordkeeping Requirements for AI-Assisted Police Reports.***

[SB 524](#) addresses law enforcement agencies' use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools to create reports, such as AI software that analyzes camera footage or audio recordings to generate a report. The bill requires law enforcement agencies to adopt a policy governing the use of AI in preparing reports. The policy must include the following requirements.

If a law enforcement officer or agent uses AI, fully or in part, to draft a report, every page of the report must identify the specific AI program(s) used and prominently state: “This report was written either fully or in part using artificial intelligence.” The officer or agent who prepared the report must sign it to verify that they personally reviewed the report and the facts it states are true and correct. All drafts of the report (including earlier AI-generated versions) must be retained for as long as the final report is retained. Drafts generated using AI cannot constitute an officer's statement for legal purposes. The AI software program used must maintain an audit trail that, at a minimum, identifies who used AI to create the report, who made edits or changes, and, where applicable, any video footage used to generate content (e.g., body cameras). A contracted vendor providing AI services to a law enforcement agency may not share, sell, or use the agency's data, except in limited circumstances.

Law enforcement agencies must adopt the required policy by January 1, 2026.

(SB 524 adds section 13663 to the Penal Code.)

### ***SB 627 – Prohibits Law Enforcement Officers from Wearing Masks or Personal Disguises while Interacting with the Public in the Performance of Their Duties.***

[SB 627](#) makes it a misdemeanor for a local, state, or federal law enforcement officer to wear a facial covering, as defined in the bill, that conceals or obscures that officer's facial identity in the performance of their duties. The prohibition does not apply to certain narrowly tailored exemptions or when an officer is assigned to a Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) unit while actively

performing SWAT duties. Any officer found to have committed certain enumerated torts while wearing a facial covering in knowing and willful violation of this bill is not entitled to assert any privilege or immunity in a civil action and is liable for the greater of actual damages or statutory damages of no less than \$10,000.

SB 627 also requires law enforcement agencies operating in California to maintain and publicly post a written policy regarding the use of facial coverings by not later than July 1, 2026. The bill enumerates the minimum requirements that must be included in the written policy, which shall be deemed consistent with Penal Code section 185.5, unless a verified written challenge to its legality is submitted by a member of the public. Upon receipt of the verified written challenge, the agency shall be afforded 90 days to correct any deficiencies, and if it fails to do so, the complaining party may challenge the written policy in a court of competent jurisdiction. The written policy will remain in effect until the court rules that it is not in compliance with Penal Code section 185.5 and all potential appeals to higher courts have been exhausted.

*(SB 627 adds section 185.5 to the Penal Code and section 7289 to the Government Code.)*

#### ***AB 354 – Provides for Fingerprint-Based Background Checks of Certain POST Employees or Staff.***

**AB 354** requires Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) employees or staff, including appointees, volunteers, contractors, and subcontractors, whose job duties require access to criminal offender record information, state summary criminal history information, or information obtained from the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETs) to undergo fingerprint-based state and national criminal history background checks. In addition, AB 354 authorizes POST and POST employees or staff for whom fingerprint-based background checks have been completed and whose duties require such access to inspect or duplicate any information derived from CLETs.

AB 354 also authorizes POST to inspect and duplicate any criminal history, criminal offender

record, or criminal justice information, or any other sensitive, confidential or privileged information if it determines that the information is needed in the course of its duties.

*(AB 354 adds section 15169 to the Government Code, and Amends sections 13500, 13503.1, 13510.8, and 13510.9 of the Government Code.)*

#### ***AB 572 – Requires Identification Before Interviewing Immediate Family Members of a Person Who Was Killed or Seriously Injured by a Peace Officer.***

By January 1, 2027, every law enforcement and prosecutorial agency must maintain a policy setting forth certain requirements for a peace officer or prosecuting attorney who initiates a formal interview to gather evidence related to a law enforcement incident resulting in a person's death or serious bodily injury by a peace officer.

Before the initial formal interview, the peace officer or prosecuting attorney must clearly identify themselves to the killed or seriously injured person's immediate family member, defined as a spouse, parent, grandparent, sibling, child, or grandchild, with their full name and the name of their employing agency. For in-person interviews, they must also display a form of official identification, such as a business card or official badge. The peace officer or prosecuting attorney must also inform the immediate family member of the status, if known, of the person who was killed or seriously injured.

Police officers and prosecuting attorneys must inform the immediate family member that they are conducting a formal interview for purposes of an investigation that may or may not involve an assessment of the conduct of the person who was killed or seriously injured, and that the family member may have a trusted support person with them. A support person need not possess any certification, training, or other special qualification, but may not be a percipient witness to or person of interest or suspect in the incident.

Police officers and prosecuting attorneys may not use threats or deception to coerce or when conducting such an interview.

These requirements do not apply when a reasonable officer believes that delay would result in the loss or destruction of evidence or pose an imminent threat to public safety, or when the immediate family member has received advisements substantially equivalent to *Miranda* advisements.

(AB 572 adds chapter 7.43, commencing with section 7287, to division 7 of title 1 of the Government Code.)

### ***AB 847, 1178, and 1388 – Expands and Clarifies Access to Confidential Peace Officer Personnel Records.***

Existing law provides for confidentiality protections that apply to peace officer personnel records, and enumerates the exceptions to those protections, including under the California Public Records Act (CPRA) and investigations of a peace officer and their employing agency conducted by a grand jury, a district attorney's office, the Attorney General's Officer, or Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST.)

AB 847 expands access to confidential peace officer personnel records to a civilian oversight board or commission for a law enforcement agency. In addition, under AB 847, the inspector general and members of a sheriff oversight board can access confidential peace officer personnel records required for performance of their oversight duties, but must maintain the confidentiality of these records. A sheriff oversight board may also review these records in closed session, if such sessions comply with applicable confidentiality laws.

AB 1178 requires a court in an action to compel disclosure of confidential peace officer personnel records under a CPRA request to consider: 1) whether an officer is working undercover and their duties demand anonymity in determining whether there is a specific, articulable, and particularized reason to believe that disclosure would pose a significant danger to the physical safety of a person; (and 2) whether to allow a law enforcement agency to redact that record.

AB 1388 prohibits an employing agency from entering into an agreement with a peace officer that would require the agency to destroy, remove, or conceal a record of a misconduct investigation,

to halt or make particular findings in a misconduct investigation, or to restrict the disclosure of information about an allegation or investigation of misconduct. AB 1388 also renders any provision of an agreement that is inconsistent with these requirements contrary to law and public policy, and void and unenforceable. In addition, any such prohibited agreement is subject to disclosure pursuant to a CPRA request.

(AB 847 amends section 25303.7 of the Government Code and section 832.7 of the Penal Code. AB 1178 amends section 832.7 of the Penal Code. AB 1388 amends sections 832.7 and 13510.9 of the Penal Code.)

## **BUSINESS AND FACILITIES**

### ***SB 19 - Criminalizes Threats Against Schools, Preschools, and Childcare Facilities.***

This bill strengthens protections for schools, preschools, and childcare centers by explicitly criminalizing threats made against these locations, whether in person or online. Specifically, this bill adds Penal Code section 422.3, creating a new, location-specific crime for making threats against daycares, schools, universities, workplaces, houses of worship, or medical facilities.

Under SB 19, any person who willfully threatens, by any means, including an image or threat posted or published on an internet web page, to commit a crime that will result in death or great bodily injury at a daycare, school, university, workplace, house of worship, or medical facility, with the specific intent that the statement be taken as a threat, even if there is no intent to carry it out, and if the threat is so unequivocal, unconditional, immediate, and specific as to convey a gravity of purpose and an immediate prospect of execution, and if it causes a person or persons to reasonably be in sustained fear for their safety or the safety of others at these locations, shall be punished by imprisonment in the county jail not to exceed one year or by imprisonment. If the offender is under 18, they will be referred to Social Services, and if ineligible, the offense is punishable as a misdemeanor.

While this bill does not impose new affirmative duties on schools or childcare providers, the law strengthens protections for these institutions by ensuring that threats targeting them carry clear and enforceable criminal penalties.

(SB 19 adds section 422.3 to the Penal Code.)

### ***AB 503 – Restores the Ability to Charge Direct Costs for Certain Facilities Uses under the Civic Center Act.***

Existing law, the Civic Center Act, requires school districts to allow youth and community organizations to use school facilities and grounds. For that use, a school district may charge an amount not to exceed its direct costs. In 2012, a bill was passed that expanded the definition of direct costs to include a proportional share of maintenance, repair, restoration, and refurbishment costs associated with the use of the school grounds or facilities. That expanded authority recently expired on January 1, 2025. **AB 503** restores that expanded definition and ability to charge these costs indefinitely, and, as an urgency statute, takes effect immediately. AB 503 also adds a requirement that the costs collected relating to maintenance, repair, restoration, and refurbishment must be deposited into a special fund and only used for those purposes.

(AB 503 amends Section 38134 of the Education Code.)

### ***AB 538 – Requires an Awarding Body to Obtain Payroll Records from a Contractor in Response to Public Request.***

Existing law requires each contractor and subcontractor on a public works project to keep accurate certified payroll records, showing the name, address, social security number, work classification, straight time and overtime hours worked each day and week, and the actual per diem wages paid to each journeyman, apprentice, worker, or other employee employed by the contractor or subcontractor in connection with the public work. Upon request of the public through either the awarding body or the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement (DLSE), these payroll records must be made available as copies or for inspection.

**AB 538** requires that, if such a request for certified payroll records is made through the awarding body and the body does not have those records, the awarding body must obtain those certified payroll records from the relevant contractor or subcontractor and make them available. AB 538 further provides that the contractor or subcontractor must provide the requested certified payroll records to the awarding body within ten (10) days of receiving written notice from the awarding body. If the contractor or subcontractor fails to comply within that timeframe, the awarding body must notify the DLSE, which may take enforcement action pursuant to its authority under existing law.

(AB 538 amends Section 1776 of the Labor Code.)

### ***AB 435 - Updates Passenger Seatbelt Restraint Requirements.***

Beginning January 1, 2027, California law will change how children must be secured in cars, vans, and charter buses. Existing law requires drivers and supervising adults to ensure that children are properly secured in motor vehicles equipped with seat belts. In cars, vans, and trucks, parents, guardians, or drivers must secure children under 8 in a child passenger restraint system (car seat or booster), and children ages 8 through 15 must be secured in either a booster seat, a child passenger restraint system, or a seat belt. In charter buses equipped with safety belts, passengers 16 and older must be restrained, and chartering parties, parents, or guardians must ensure that children under 16 are restrained. For purposes of these laws, “properly restrained” means that the lap belt fits low across the hips or thighs and the shoulder belt (if present) crosses the chest in front of the passenger.

**AB 435**, effective January 1, 2027, replaces the current definition of “properly restrained” with the “5-Step Test.” Under this standard, a child is only properly restrained if they: (1) sit all the way back against the seat; (2) bend their knees comfortably at the edge; (3) keep the shoulder belt across the middle of the chest and shoulder, not the neck; keep the lap belt low across the thighs, not the stomach; and (4) can stay seated like this for the entire trip.

The 5-Step Test applies to motor vehicles such as cars and vans for children ages 8-15 (and children under 8 who qualify to use a seat belt instead of a car seat under a limited exception) and chartered buses with safety belts for children under 16. The law places the duty on the “chartering party,” so a school arranging transportation for a field trip or extracurricular activity must ensure that students meet the 5-Step Test.

The law does not change rules for school buses or school pupil activity buses (SPABs), which remain governed by separate provisions. Violations remain punishable by a \$20 fine for a first offense and \$50 for subsequent offenses, with the option of traffic school in place of a fine for a first offense.

*(AB 435 sections 27315, 27318, 27360.5, and 27363 of the Vehicle Code.)*

***AB 662 – Establishes A South County Higher Education Planning Task Force to Consider a Mixed-Use Intersegmental Education Facility in The City of Chula Vista.***

**AB 662** creates the South County Higher Education Planning Task Force to assess the feasibility of a mixed-use educational facility in Chula Vista, California. The task force shall include eight representatives from various local entities, including the Sweetwater Union High School District, San Diego State University, Southwestern College, University of San Diego, and the City of Chula Vista. The task force is tasked with conducting specific activities, holding its first meeting by July 1, 2026, and reporting its findings to the Legislature by July 1, 2027.

The bill declares the need for a special statute for Chula Vista, with the task force provisions set to expire on January 1, 2031.

*(AB 662 adds and repeals Section 66014.7 of the Education Code.)*

***AB 927 – Amends the Existing Intervals for Inspecting Public Schools Identified on the Superintendent’s List.***

The existing law requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to create a list of schools inspected annually by the county superintendent, who must provide a report on their condition. This list is updated every three fiscal years, starting with 2024-25. These inspections focus on ensuring sufficient textbooks and identifying any facilities that pose health or safety threats to students or staff. The county superintendent must enforce the use of state-approved textbooks. If a school is on this list, it must be reviewed annually as a priority.

**AB 927** stipulates that for schools listed in 2024-25 and subsequent relevant years, the textbook and materials review must be completed by the 8th week of the school year. It also requires prioritizing visits within the first 4 weeks for schools reported to lack sufficient textbooks or have urgent facilities issues. The list shall identify all schools that were most recently identified for comprehensive support and improvement, and additional targeted support and improvement, or identified as low performing under Federal laws.

This bill contained an urgency clause, becoming effective immediately on July 14, 2025.

*(AB 927 amends Section 1240 of the Education Code.)*

***AB 629 – Updates Minimum Value for Public School Equipment Inventory.***

Existing law requires the governing board of a school district to establish and maintain an inventory of each item of equipment acquired by the school district and the date and manner of its disposal, if the item has a current market value that exceeds \$500.

**AB 629** raises the threshold value for inclusion on the inventory from \$500 to \$1,500. It further requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to adjust this threshold every two years for inflation, rounded to the nearest \$50, and post the updated amount on the Department of Education’s website.

*(AB 629 amends Section 35168 of the Education Code.)*

### ***AB 648 – Exempts Certain Community College Housing Developments from Zoning Regulations.***

**AB 648** provides that a community college district is not required to comply with the zoning ordinances of a city, including a charter city, county, or city and county, for a student housing project or a faculty and staff housing project constructed on property owned or leased by a community college district, if the parcel on which the project will be built is contained either wholly or partially within a one-half mile radius of a main campus or of a satellite campus that existed before July 1, 2025.

Additionally, AB 648 requires that, if the project includes units for faculty and staff, the community college district must ensure that a portion of the units are made available at affordable rents to extremely low-income faculty and staff and lower-income faculty and staff.

*(AB 648 adds Section 81055 to the Education Code.)*

### ***AB 752 – Allows Child Daycare Facilities in Multifamily Housing.***

**AB 752** provides that, when a daycare center is co-located with multifamily housing, it is considered a residential use of property and a use by right. It further provides that no city, including a charter city, county, or city and county, may impose a charge, tax, or fee for a business license, equivalent instrument, or permit for the privilege of operating such a daycare center. A daycare center co-located with multifamily housing must still comply with all state licensing laws and requirements, as well as the requirements of the California Building Standards Code, the California Fire Code, and other state laws relating to life and fire safety in daycare centers.

*(AB 752 adds Section 1597.22 to the Health and Safety Code.)*

### ***AB 889 – Adjusts Process for Computing Employer Credits Toward Prevailing Wage.***

Existing law requires workers employed on public works projects to be paid the prevailing wage determined by the Director of the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR Director), according

to the type of work and location of the project. Existing law also permits employers to credit certain payments for fringe benefits against the obligation to pay the prevailing wage. Finally, existing law requires this credit to be computed on an annualized basis if the employer seeks credits for payments that are higher for public works projects than for private construction, except under certain circumstances, including if the DIR Director determines that annualization would not serve the purposes of the public works laws. **AB 889** removes this exception for computing credits on an annualized basis. AB 889 further revokes any annualization exemptions that the DIR Director issued before January 1, 2026.

AB 889 also provides that an employer may take full credit for the hourly amounts contributed to defined contribution pension plans if the plans provide for both immediate participation and essentially immediate vesting, meaning that the benefits vest within the first 500 hours worked, even if the employer contributes at a lower rate or does not make contributions to private construction.

Finally, AB 889 provides that an employer has the burden of demonstrating properly calculated credits on an annualized basis and must provide supporting records for the calculation to the Labor Commissioner upon request.

*(AB 889 amends Section 1773.1 of the Labor Code.)*

### ***AB 487 – Blanket Insurance Coverage Expanded to Volunteers.***

Existing law allows colleges, schools, and other institutions of learning, as well as sports teams, camps, and similar organizations, to issue “blanket insurance” policies that cover all or nearly all persons within a defined class under a single master policy. These policies may ensure students, teachers, employees, team participants, campers, officials, supervisors, and persons responsible for their support. Coverage typically includes benefits for accidental death or dismemberment and for hospital, medical, surgical, or nursing expenses resulting from accident or sickness.

**AB 487** expands this authority by permitting blanket insurance policies to also cover volunteers. As a result, schools, sports teams, and camps may now include volunteers in their group policies, extending the same protections that already apply to students, staff, and participants.

(AB 487 amends section 10270.2 of the Insurance Code.)

### ***AB 250 - Expands Revival Window for Certain Sexual Assault Claims.***

Under existing law, a plaintiff may seek damages for sexual assault that occurred on or after the plaintiff's 18th birthday if one or more entities are legally responsible for damages and the entity or its agents engaged in a cover-up, as defined. This law revives claims that would otherwise have been time-barred before January 1, 2023. A plaintiff may proceed with an action if the claim was already pending in court on January 1, 2023, or if the plaintiff filed the action between January 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023.

**AB 250** extends and expands this revival process. The bill permits plaintiffs to bring claims that would otherwise be barred before January 1, 2026, and allows those claims to move forward if they are already pending on January 1, 2026, or if they are filed between January 1, 2026, and December 31, 2027. A revived claim must allege that the plaintiff was sexually assaulted and that one or more entities or persons, including the perpetrator, are legally responsible for damages, as well as that an entity or its representatives engaged in or attempted a cover-up of a previous instance or allegation of sexual assault by the perpetrator.

The bill also revives claims directly against perpetrators of sexual assault when plaintiffs allege that entities or individuals are legally responsible for damages. It clarifies that failure to allege a cover-up against one entity does not prevent revival of claims against another entity or against the perpetrator. For purposes of this law, a "cover-up" means a concerted effort to hide evidence of sexual assault, including through nondisclosure or confidentiality agreements. An "entity" includes businesses and organizations, but not public entities. Public entities remain

exempt, and the bill specifies that no public entity has a duty to indemnify perpetrators or other persons under revived claims.

In practice, AB 250 gives survivors an additional two-year window, from January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2027, to pursue civil claims that would otherwise be time-barred. The revival applies to claims against perpetrators and private entities that may have engaged in cover-ups, while excluding public entities from liability.

(AB 250 amends Code of Civil Procedure Section 340.16.)

## **CALIFORNIA PUBLIC RECORDS ACT**

### ***AB 370 – Extension of Time to Respond During a Cyber Attack.***

The California Public Records Act (CPRA) requires agencies to determine whether a public records request seeks copies of disclosable records in the agency's possession. The CPRA requires that, within 10 days of receiving the request, the agency notify the requester of its determination and the reasons for it and state the estimated date and time when the records will be made available, if the request seeks copies of disclosable records in the agency's possession. If unusual circumstances exist, the CPRA allows an agency to extend the deadline to respond to the request by no more than 14 days by providing written notice to the requester, setting forth the reasons for the extension and the date on which a determination is expected to be dispatched. The CPRA enumerates certain "unusual circumstances" for which an extension may be necessary.

Effective January 1, 2026, **SB 370** expands the list of qualifying "unusual circumstances" to include a situation where, due to a cyberattack, the agency is unable to access its electronic servers or systems to search for and obtain a responsive electronic record. Under AB 370, the agency may delay the provision of a response to the requester only until the agency regains access to its electronic servers or systems and can search for and obtain the electronic record responsive to the request.

(AB 370 amends Section 7922.535 of the Government Code.)

## ***AB 1004 – Exemption for Confidential Tribal Financial Information.***

The California Public Records Act (CPRA) grants the public a broad right to obtain disclosable records in the possession of a local or state agency.

**AB 1004** makes any record containing financial information provided by an Indian tribe to an agency confidential, if such information was provided as a condition of or requirement for receiving financial assistance, and not a public record subject to inspection or disclosure under the CPRA. Agreements or contracts between agencies and tribes related to financial assistance must contain a provision stating that the financial information disclosed shall remain confidential, shall not be a public record, and shall not be open to public inspection.

AB 1004 adds Tribal financial information to the list of records exempted under the CPRA.

*(AB 1004 amends Section 7922.535 of the Government Code.)*

## **BUDGET BILLS**

### ***SB 160 – Authorizes the California Department of Education, California State University, and University of California to Require Background Checks for Specified Positions and Under Specified Conditions.***

**SB 160** amends existing law and expands the current fingerprinting requirements. SB 160 was signed on September 17, 2025, and contained an urgency clause, which means it became effective upon the Governor's signature.

SB 160 mandates that various boards and agencies submit fingerprints of applicants seeking licensure for roles such as physicians, psychologists, midwives, behavioral sciences professionals, repossession agents, private investigators, and household movers to the Department of Justice (DOJ) for criminal history checks.

As it relates to public education, SB 160 adds additional sections to the Education Code. The bill adds the following new requirements:

1. Permits the California Department of Education (Department) to require employees, prospective employees, volunteers, contractors, subcontractors, and subcontractors for the California School of the Deaf, California School of the Blind, or diagnostic centers to undergo a fingerprinting-based state and national criminal history background check. If the Department requires fingerprinting, it is required to electronically submit the fingerprint images and related information to the DOJ.
2. Permits the California State University to require employees, prospective employees, volunteers, contractors, and subcontractors to undergo a fingerprinting-based state and national criminal history background check. If the Department requires fingerprinting, it is required to electronically submit the fingerprint images and related information to the DOJ.
3. Permits the University of California to require background checks during the final stages of the recruitment process for a prospective staff employee, contractor, or volunteer. The background checks must be performed by the DOJ, and the DOJ is required to provide a state and federal response for any individual it runs background checks. However, the background checks shall comply with the Fair Employment and Housing Act.

*(SB 160 adds Sections 33113.5, 59009, 59105, 59206, 66611, and 92612.3 to the Education Code, amends Sections 2064.5, 2082, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2125, 2168.2, 3575, and 19239 of, and adds Sections 2042, 2513.5, 2953.1, 2960.01, 2960.02, 2999.106, 4982.01, 4989.55, 4992.31, 4999.92, 7503.05, and 7525.3 to, the Business and Professions Code, repeals and adds Section 1030 of the Government Code, adds Section 733.5 to the Harbors and Navigation Code, adds Sections 53.5 and 90.1 to the Military and Veterans Code, and amends Section 11105 of, and adds Sections 11105.001, 11105.002, 11105.05, 11105.2, 11107.6, and 26330 to, the Penal Code.)*

## ***SB 148 – Higher Education Budget Trailer Bill.***

**SB 148** amends existing law and appropriates funds to support program expansions. SB 148 makes the following changes:

1. Requires that for the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 fiscal years, each community college campus provide classified employees with access to food pantry services offered by the Basic Needs Center. It also requires report data and information related to that access to the chancellor's office, as specified, and requires the annual reports submitted by the chancellor's office to include that data and information.
2. Expands the definition of "basic needs services and resources" to include childcare services and resources. The bill defines "childcare services and resources" to include information on affordable childcare options on and near campus and information and connections to local resource and referral agencies to obtain support in applying to state and federal childcare subsidies and programs and finding local childcare providers, including, but not limited to, the California state preschool program, Head Start, the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKS) childcare program, and general child care and development programs. Childcare services and resources may also include direct financial support or service support. It also authorizes a Basic Needs Center to provide direct financial or service support to parenting students.
3. SB 148 provides that if a federal, state, or institutionally administered student need-based scholarship, grant, or fee waiver of less than \$300 is identified following determination of a student's Middle Class Scholarship Program (MCSP) award, the bill, for purposes of determining the student's MCSP award amount, does not require the student's MCSP award to be recalculated. The bill requires each institution participating in the MCSP to sign an institutional participation agreement with the commission,

acknowledging the institution's willingness to administer the MCSP program, as specified.

4. The bill authorizes grant recipients to also use funds from the Zero-Textbook-Cost Degree Grant Program for developing and implementing degrees to obtain professional development and technical assistance to assist in the development of open educational resource materials. The bill authorizes the Chancellor's Office to allocate any unallocated resources appropriated for purposes of the program, on or after June 30, 2025, to a community college district to contract for the establishment of statewide open educational resources infrastructure, as provided.
5. Appropriate \$49,734,000 from the Public School System Stabilization Account to be transferred by the Controller to Section B of the State School Fund for the support of community college districts, for the fiscal year 2025-2026, as specified.
6. Existing law requires the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges to adopt regulations providing for the payment of apportionments to community college districts on a specified schedule. Existing law, notwithstanding that provision referenced above, adjusts the payment of apportionments to community college districts for the 2024-25 fiscal year to defer \$243,693,000 of those payments to the 2025-26 fiscal year in accordance with a designated schedule. SB 148 specifically references two items of appropriation made in the Budget Act of 2025 as the funding source of the deferral payment described above.
7. Beginning in the 2026-27 fiscal year, the bill prohibits the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges from reserving more than 3.5% of funds appropriated for Mathematics, Engineering, Science, Achievement (MESA) programs on administrative and discretionary costs of supporting MESA programs, and authorizes the Chancellor, in consultation with the California Community College Association of MESA Directors, to allocate the reserved funds solely for statewide coordination and enhancement of MESA programs.

8. The Chancellor's Office is authorized to reallocate funds appropriated for the 2025-2026 fiscal year to community college districts to ensure all eligible California Dream Act application (CADA) filers receive a grant. The bill also requires the Chancellor's Office to report to the appropriate policy committees and budget subcommittees of the Legislature on the progress of community college districts in awarding the emergency financial assistance grants to students, as specified.
9. For the 2025-26 fiscal year, it makes funding appropriated in the Budget Act of 2025 in certain items of appropriation for community colleges available for transfer by the Controller to Section B of the State School Fund for purposes of distributing those funds to community college districts.
10. The bill incorporates additional changes to Section 66023.5 of the Education Code proposed by SB 271 to be operative only if this bill and SB 271 are enacted and this bill is enacted last. SB 271 was passed before this bill, and therefore, the changes made by SB 148 take effect.
11. The bill incorporates additional changes to Section 70022 of the Education Code proposed by AB 88 and SB 67 to be operative only if this bill and either or both of those bills are enacted, and this bill is enacted last.

*(SB 148 amends Sections 66023.5, 66205.5, 70022, 70023, 78052, 84321.64, and 88682 of, and adds Section 84750.7 to the Education Code, and amends Section 21 of Chapter 9 of the Statutes of 2025 for appropriations.)*

### ***SB 120 – Makes Budget Allocations to Early Childhood Education and Childcare.***

**SB 120** amends existing law related to early childhood education and childcare. The bill makes the following changes:

1. It provides that when families already receiving childcare services add another child, the eligibility period is extended to guarantee at least 12 months of services for the new child before redetermination of eligibility.

2. It removes the requirement for certain reporting on preschool service numbers.
3. The bill reduces the required documented need for daily rate reimbursement from 6 hours to 5 hours.
4. It extends the monthly cost of care plus rate payments until mid-2026 and introduces a formula-based increase for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.
5. The bill suspends cost-of-living adjustments for 2025-2026 for childcare and development programs.
6. It extends the timeline for implementing new reimbursement rates to July 1, 2027, introduces additional reporting requirements, and emphasizes using an alternative methodology to set future rates. The bill also modifies how reimbursements are calculated, requiring that from July 2025 through June 30, 2026, they be based on actual certified need instead of attendance. The bill appropriates \$88,550,000 from the General Fund for this purpose.
7. The bill also amends existing law to allow family childcare providers to participate in provider organizations that can negotiate with the state, and the resulting agreements can override conflicting reimbursement provisions without further legislative approval.

*(SB 120 amends Sections 8242, 8245.5, and 42238.15 of the Education Code, and amends Sections 10227.5, 10227.6, 10243, 10271, 10277.1, 10277.2, 10280, and 10374.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.)*

### ***SB 147 – Education Omnibus Trailer Bill Amends Existing Law and Makes Appropriations.***

**SB 147** amends existing law and makes appropriations to educational programs as follows:

1. The bill requires professional development program providers to declare intent before submitting materials for review and allows

the State Department of Education (Department) to charge a fee not exceeding \$10,000 per program for review costs until September 30, 2026. Additional funds from the Budget Act of 2025 will assist in the implementation of these reviews. \$200 million is allocated for literacy training from 2026 to 2030.

2. Proposition 98 established a formula for calculating the minimum state funding for school and community college districts. Any excess funding for a fiscal year should be credited back. For 2022–23, the bill modifies the allocation by reducing the amount to \$5,422,143,000 and adjusts how these funds are recognized for budget reporting from 2027 to 2040.
3. Requires that the Department, by July 1, 2026, develop a data system for employee salary and benefits, and the bill mandates that this data be publicly available.
4. The Student Teacher Stipend Program receives \$300 million for training prospective teachers. This bill increases the allocation to \$6 million to Kern County for multimedia campaigns and grant management systems.
5. The Classified School Employee Summer Assistance Program funding will now be available for use both during the fiscal year appropriated and the following year, starting from 2023–24.
6. From July 1, 2025, attendance recovery programs can be implemented by educational agencies to compensate for student absences. The bill specifies requirements for instructional minutes for these programs.
7. The availability of Golden State Teacher Grant Program funds is extended to applications received from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026. This provides up to \$5,000 grants to students in teacher preparation programs who commit to work in priority areas.
8. The local control funding formula uses supplemental and concentration grant add-ons for unduplicated pupil counts. For 2025–26 and 2026–27, a proxy will be used for English

learner counts in transitional kindergarten not qualifying for free or reduced lunch, or not foster youth.

9. The Budget Act of 2020 allocated funds to create a standardized state IEP template, also involving a workgroup convened by a county office of education. Further allocations from subsequent budgets continue to support this effort.
10. Incorporates amendments proposed in AB 378, but only if both [AB 378](#) and this bill are enacted and become effective January 1, 2026. Amendments to Education Code section 4500 are in effect until the expiration of AB 378.

*(SB 147 amends Sections 33319.6, 41206.04, 42238.016, 44400.03, 45500, 46120, 46211, 48000.1, and 69617 of the Education Code, and amends Sections 75, 76, 79, 84, and 88 of Chapter 8 of the Statutes of 2025.)*

#### ***AB 123 – Higher Education Budget Trailer.***

[AB 123](#) amends existing law and appropriates funding to support higher education as follows, effective June 30, 2025:

1. Requires the University of California to fund construction grants for two specified student housing projects using revenue bond funding issued by the University of California.
2. Beginning the 2025–2026 school year, the governing board of a local education agency is required to provide each pupil and the pupil's parent or legal guardian with information about the California Kids Investment and Development Savings (KIDS) Program and the pupil's potential eligibility for that benefit, as provided. The bill also requires the Scholarshare Investment Board, for the 2025–26 to 2029–30 fiscal years, to partner with Riverside County Office of Education and the San Diego Unified School District to explore ways to increase participation in the KIDS Program. The bill requires the Scholarshare Investment Board, on or before September 30, 2029, in collaboration with those local educational agencies, to submit an additional report with the same information related to

those partnerships to the Department of Finance and Legislature.

3. This bill requires the California State University and requests the University of California to begin working on establishing a model uniform set of academic standards for high school courses for admission recognition, as specified, on or after October 1, 2025. It also requires that a model uniform set of academic standards be established for college-level coursework taken for credit at a California public college or university by a pupil simultaneously enrolled in high school, as provided. The bill requires the office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to post on its website the model uniform set of academic standards for college-level coursework taken for credit at a California public college or university, as provided.
4. Requires the Student Aid Commission to use the 3-year cohort default rate certified in 2020 to certify an otherwise qualifying institution for the 2025-26 and 2026-27 academic years for certain Cal Grants.
5. Existing law requires each participating institution, as a condition for its voluntary participation in the Cal Grant Program, to annually report to the commission specified information regarding its undergraduate programs. Existing law requires the commission to provide on its website the information submitted by a Cal Grant participating institution pursuant to reporting requirements and other information and links that are useful to students and parents who are in the process of selecting a college or university. This bill authorizes the systemwide central office of a public postsecondary educational institution, acting on behalf of the participating institution, to annually report to the commission the information regarding the institution's undergraduate programs. It also modifies the data that must be reported to the Financial Aid Commission (Commission), establishes an alternative method for reporting that data, and requires the data reported to the Commission to be reported in a manner that complies with applicable federal and state laws to protect individual privacy, as specified.
6. Existing law establishes the Golden State Teacher Grant Program under the administration of the Commission. For applications received under the program on July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, existing law requires the Commission to provide one-time grants of up to \$10,000 to each student enrolled in a professional preparation program leading to a preliminary teaching credential or a pupil personnel services credential if the student commits to working at a priority school or a California preschool program for two years within four years following the date the student completes the professional preparation program, as specified. The bill extends the availability of those grant program funds to applications received under the program on July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026.
7. The bill extends the Hire UP Pilot Program and authorization allowing the office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to enter into agreements with up to 10 community college districts to provide funding for stipends to formerly incarcerated individuals, CalWORKs recipients, and former foster youth from January 1, 2029, to March 15, 2029, and repeals them on January 1, 2030. It also extends the time for the Chancellor to submit additional reports regarding the pilot program to March 1, 2029.
8. The Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges is required to issue a report regarding the grants provided under the Native American Student Support and Success Program on an annual basis on or before September 12. The bill amends the reporting time to require the chancellor's office to develop and submit those reports triennially until September 1, 2030, as specified.
9. Adjusts the payment of apportionments to community college districts for the 2025-26 fiscal year to defer \$408,363,000 of those payments to the 2026-27 fiscal year in accordance with a designated schedule. The bill appropriates that amount to the board of governors for apportionments to community

college districts for expenditure in the 2026-27 fiscal year, as specified.

10. Authorizes the chancellor's office to enter into agreements with all community colleges to establish Rising Scholars Networks.

11. Establishes the California Career Passport Program. The office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, in partnership with the Office of Cradle-to-Career Data and the Labor and Workforce Development Agency, is responsible for managing the program and for developing a Career Passport that provides individuals with a secure digital tool that displays their preparation for employment, academic records, and credit for prior learning, as specified. The bill specifies the goals it must accomplish, including providing individuals with access to their aggregated information for use in applying for employment and in training at no or low cost to them. The bill requires the Chancellor's office to convene agency and employer representatives to identify technical and policy considerations for building the secure digital tool, and to engage with business and industry leaders collaboratively to ensure Career Passports are useful to, and used by, California's employers, as specified. The bill appropriates \$25,000,000 from the General Fund to the board of governors to support the development of the program, as specified. The Chancellor's office is required to report to the Department of Finance and the fiscal committees of the Legislature a timeline establishing target dates for key deliverables for the program and to collect and report specified data.

12. Authorizes the Bureau of Private Postsecondary Education within the Department of Consumer Affairs to use moneys in the Student Tuition Recovery Fund to cover the costs of Student Tuition Recovery Fund claim administration and positions of the Office of Student Assistance and Relief.

13. Amends the Budget Act of 2023 by reducing the appropriation made to the board of governors for apportionments by \$67,001,000.

14. Amends the Budget Act of 2024 by increasing the appropriation made to the board of governors for apportionments by \$10,822,000.

15. Appropriates \$6,558,000 from the General Fund to the board of governors to support the development of e-Transcript California pursuant to that provision.

16. Appropriates \$5,100,000 from the General Fund to the board of governors to provide grants through a community college district to California community-based organizations for financial aid outreach and application assistance supporting current and prospective community college students, as provided.

17. Appropriates \$20,000,000 from the General Fund to the board of governors to support emergency financial assistance grants to students attending a community college, as specified.

18. Appropriates \$15,000,000 from the General Fund to the board of governors for Dreamer Resource Liaisons in assisting students at community colleges to meet certain requirements to be exempt from paying nonresident tuition by streamlining access to all available financial aid and academic opportunities for those students.

19. Appropriates \$10,000,000 from the General Fund to the board of governors to support the California Healthy School Food Pathway program.

20. Appropriates \$10,000,000 from the General Fund to the board of governors for transfer to a community college for allocation to the California Firefighter Joint Apprenticeship Council to conduct Emergency Medical Technician and Paramedic Preapprenticeship Training Academies.

21. Appropriates \$125,000 from the General Fund to the board of governors for allocation on a one-time basis to Santa Rosa Junior College for the construction of a fire academy tower.

22. Appropriates up to \$15,000,000 from the General Fund to the board of governors to support the Credit for Prior Learning Initiative, a systemwide initiative to award degree-applicable

or certificate-applicable credit for prior learning opportunities at each campus, as provided.

23. Appropriates \$60,000,000 from the General Fund to the board of governors to establish the Student Support Block Grant. The bill requires the office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to allocate the funds to community colleges pursuant to a specified formula. The bill authorizes community college districts to use the allocated funds for certain purposes, including assisting students with food, housing, transportation, and other basic needs.
24. Appropriates \$5,000,000 from the General Fund to the board of governors for allocation to community colleges that are members of the Los Angeles Regional Consortium to assist with workforce recovery efforts and career technical education workforce development associated with the Los Angeles region's recovery from the Palisades and Eaton fires.

*(AB 123 amends Sections 17201, 51225.7, 66205.5, 69432.7, 69433.2, 69617, 69996.9, 78071, 78082, 78084, 79520, and 94923 of, adds Section 84321.65 to, and adds Part 53.8 (commencing with Section 88780) to Division 7 of Title 3 of, the Education Code, adds and repeals Section 68926.2 of the Government Code, to amend the Budget Act of 2023 (Chs. 12, 38, and 189, Stats. 2023).)*

### ***AB 121 – The Education Omnibus Budget Trailer Bill.***

**AB 121** amends existing law and makes funding appropriations to support and expand existing program allocations as follows:

1. Authorizes the Superintendent to, in addition to examining the budget of a county office of education, review and consider studies, reports, evaluations, or audits of the county office of education that were commissioned by the county superintendent of schools, the Superintendent, or state control agencies that contain evidence that the county office of education is showing fiscal distress according to specified standards and criteria, or that contain a finding by an external reviewer that the county office of education is at moderate or high risk of intervention, as provided. The bill additionally authorizes the Superintendent to conditionally approve or disapprove a budget that does not

provide adequate assurance that the county office of education will meet its current and future obligations and resolve any problems identified in the studies, reports, evaluations, or audits, as specified. The bill also requires the Superintendent to notify the president of the State Board of Education, or the president's designee, if the Superintendent determines that a county office of education is in financial distress. The bill revises and recasts the provision related to fees and costs to instead require a county office of education to pay 75% of, and the Superintendent to pay 25% of, specified administrative expenses incurred or costs associated with improving the county office of education's financial management practices.

2. Expands the encumbrance, expenditure, and revision periods for the California Prekindergarten Planning and Implementation Grant.
3. Extends the expenditure and revision periods for the California Universal Preschool Planning Grant Program. It also extends the deadline by which the Superintendent must report on how the funds were spent by three years.
4. Reduces the amount of money the Superintendent may allocate from the Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program to address state-level systems building and align local practice with the research and practice-based strategies that best promote pupil outcomes and program quality from \$50,000,000 to \$10,000,000.
5. Authorizes funds for the California Community Schools Partnership Program that were initially made available for implementation grants in 2021-2022 and returned to the state to once again be available to extend implementation grants.
6. Changes when the amount appropriated for warrants is drawn by the State Treasurer for school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools to occur by July of the same calendar year. It reappropriates \$245,604,000 for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. It also requires, for the 2025-26 fiscal year, that

warrants for the principal apportionments for the month of June in the amount of \$1,874,781,000, or the total June principal apportionment payment, whichever is less, to instead be drawn in July of the same calendar year, except as provided.

7. Provide that all funds, including any interest earned on funds, in a county school lease-purchase fund for a school district that remains in the fund on and after January 1, 2026, shall not be reported or returned to the state and authorizes the interest to be used by the school district for capital outlay expenditures for school construction.
8. Authorizes a school district to apply for hardship assistance in cases of extraordinary circumstances, as specified, under the Leroy F. Greene School Facilities Act of 1998.
9. Appropriates an additional \$378,650,000 from the General Fund to the California Department of Education (Department) for transfer to the Learning Recovery Emergency Fund, to be allocated by the Superintendent to those local educational agencies (LEAs) operating in the 2025-26 fiscal year, as provided.
10. Requires the State Board of Education to approve, by September 30, 2026, criteria and guidance for the selection or development of in-service professional development programs for effective means of teaching literacy in transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, or any of grades 1 to 5, inclusive, with a list of in-service professional development programs that have been deemed to meet those criteria. The bill also requires the Department to post the criteria and guidance on its website. The bill appropriates \$200,000,000 from the General Fund to the Department to make available to LEAs to expend from the 2026-27 fiscal year to the 2029-30 fiscal year, inclusive, for purposes of training certificated and classified staff who provide or support literacy instruction, using the professional development programs that meet the criteria and guidance, as provided. LEAs that receive funding are required to report specified information to the

Department, and the Department is required to report a summary of information to the Legislature and the Department of Finance, as provided.

11. Requires that existing accounting systems of LEAs provide a separate accounting of expenditures related to actual payments of legal settlements, judgments, or special assessments by a joint pooling arrangement, because of specified childhood sexual assault claims, and a separate accounting of those expenditures because of all other civil claims, as provided.
12. It authorizes the use of unused funds as of December 16, 2022, appropriated for the Orange County Department of Education to be used to provide support to LEAs impacted by the fire-related state of emergency proclaimed by the Governor in January 2025, as provided. The bill authorizes the Orange County Department of Education to use up to 15% of those funds for administrative costs.
13. Amends existing law to authorize the county office of education to grant an LEA an extension of the least amount of time in increments of no more than 45 calendar days, and not to exceed a total of 90 calendar days to complete the required financial audit.
14. Provides that the existing law, which requires that state funds be prorated among the three segments of public education, school districts, community college districts, and elementary and secondary level instruction, is inapplicable for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.
15. Amends the calculation for average daily attendance to only exclude weekend and intersession days that generated attendance for an attendance recovery program.
16. Prohibits the Superintendent from making an apportionment for a county office of education if the county board of education or county superintendent of schools' neglects or refuses to adopt a local control and accountability plan (LCAP) or an annual update to an LCAP, except if the failure to adopt or update the LCAP is because of a natural disaster or

other event as prescribed. Similarly, it also prohibits the county superintendent of schools from making an apportionment of state, local, or county money for a school district if the governing board of the school district, charter school, or the school district or charter school neglects or refuses to adopt an LCAP or an annual update to an LCAP, except as provided.

17. Revises existing law authorizing reimbursement for budget review committee members. The bill authorizes the Superintendent to establish the rate of reimbursement, subject to Board approval. It also prohibits employees of the County Office Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team from being eligible for reimbursement.

18. Requires the county superintendent of schools to provide written notice to the governing board of the school district, the superintendent of the school district, each recognized employee organization of the school district, each recognized parent organization of the school district, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the president of the State Board of Education or the president's designee if a school district experiences a significant fiscal event that the county superintendent of schools determines will have an immediate severe fiscal impact that will cause a school district to be unable to meet its financial obligations for the current or subsequent fiscal year.

19. Amends existing law to require that LEAs (including charter schools) timely transmit LCAPs and annual updates to the LCAPs, as provided. To ensure compliance, the bill authorizes the county superintendent of schools to withhold payment of any stipend, expenses, benefits, or salaries and wages of the district superintendent, charter school administrator, or members of the governing board, as appropriate, until the delinquent reports have been submitted, except as provided.

20. Amends existing law to require that the Department create a data collection system for salary and benefit data for represented certificated and classified nonmanagement employees by July 1, 2026. The data collection must include salary, benefits, and full-time

equivalent employee counts for certificated employees and for specified classified bargaining unit classifications, which the bill requires to be collected in the same manner as for certificated employees. LEAs are required to submit data by August 31, 2026, and thereafter by July 1 annually. The bill requires the Department to report to the Legislature on the progress of LEAs (including charter schools) in increasing salaries for classified and certificated employees, as provided, by January 31, 2027, and thereafter, by November 30 annually thereafter.

21. Requires the Superintendent to increase the concentration add-on allocation to transitional kindergarten from \$2,813 to \$5,545 beginning fiscal year 2025-2026. Thereafter, the add-on shall be adjusted for inflation starting fiscal year 2026-2027, as specified.

22. Amends the definition of "pupils eligible for free or reduced-price meals" to include pupils determined to meet federal income eligibility criteria through a federal Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer for Children (Summer EBT) - compliant Universal Benefit Application. The bill also provides that, for purposes of the local control funding formula for the 2025-26 and 2026-27 fiscal years, it requires the count of English learner pupils enrolled in transitional kindergarten to be equal to the count of English learner pupils enrolled in kindergarten, as specified.

23. For charter schools damaged, destroyed, or impacted by the state of emergency declared by the Governor in January 2025, the Superintendent is required to calculate the difference between the charter school's certified local control funding formula entitlement in the 2025-26 fiscal year and the 2024-25 fiscal year, as specified, and, if there is a difference, allocate the amount of that difference to the charter school for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

24. Requires the Superintendent to recover overpayments made to a local education agency in any fiscal year, in which there is a decline in the Education Protection Account revenue that results in a non-transfer of funds into the Education Protection Account fourth-quarter

payment. The recovery is made from the current year's second principal apportionment payment, as provided.

25. Appropriates \$405,291,000 from the Public School System Stabilization Account to the Superintendent for allocation for the local control funding formula, as provided for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

26. Renames the State Assignment Accountability System to the California Statewide Assignment Accountability System and requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (Commission) to also identify instances of a teacher shortage, as specified, in each instance where, as of Census Day, either (A) a course or class assignment is permanently filled by an employee who is not fully credentialed or who is not appropriately assigned or (B) the LEA identifies a vacant position or an unfilled position, as provided.

27. Authorizes the Commission to adopt an off-the-shelf assessment that meets the specified requirements for the reading instruction competence assessment. Credential candidates who are required to pass the reading instruction competence assessment to earn the clear credential are authorized to take and pass the reading instruction competence assessment on or before October 31, 2025, as provided. The bill further requires the Commission to exempt specified preliminary multiple subject credential candidates and preliminary single subject credential candidates who complete specified induction program and service requirements on or before June 30, 2025, from the requirement, and any accompanying regulations, to complete a reading instruction competence assessment, as provided. The bill extends, for purposes of the exemption, the date by which the credential candidates are required to complete the induction program and service requirements by one year.

28. Amends existing law to provide that an applicant for a preliminary multiple subject teaching credential or a preliminary education specialist instruction credential holds a passing reading instruction competence assessment score prospectively if, within

the 10 calendar years following the date the score was earned, the applicant has achieved specified instruction competence assessment examination scores, as provided.

29. For the 2025-26 fiscal year, appropriate \$30,000,000 from the General Fund to the Department for purposes of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification Incentive Program and for covering National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification fees, as provided. The bill makes the funds available for encumbrance until June 30, 2030, and available for liquidation until June 30, 2034. Beginning July 1, 2027, the bill transfers the administrative duties of the program from the Department to the Commission and requires the Department to transfer all unencumbered funds available for the program to the Commission to award grants for the program.

30. Establishes the Student Teacher Stipend Program under the administration of the Commission to support prospective educators, as defined, during their completion of 500 or more hours of student teaching, as provided. The bill requires LEAs awarded funding pursuant to the program to provide stipends of \$10,000 paid during the school year in which the credential candidates are completing their student teaching. By January 1, 2027, and every year thereafter, the Commission must report to the Department of Finance and the appropriate fiscal and policy committees of the Legislature regarding the status of the program. The bill appropriates, for the 2025-26 fiscal year, \$300,000,000 from the General Fund to the Commission for allocation to support the Student Teacher Stipend Program, and requires \$5,000,000 of that amount to be made available to the Kern County Superintendent of Schools for specified purposes, including conducting a related multimedia campaign and the establishment of a grants management system, as specified. Starting July 1, 2026, to the extent funds are available, the bill requires up to \$100,000,000 to be made available annually for the Commission to award stipends under the program.

31. Appropriates \$70,000,000 from the General Fund to the Commission to augment the

Teacher Residency Grant Program to support teacher residency programs that recruit and support the preparation of teachers, as provided.

32. Beginning the 2025-2026 school year, related to the funding allocation for Expanded Learning Opportunities Program, the bill:

- A. lowers the unduplicated pupil percentage requirement for funding availability, and its associated funding conditions, from 75% to 55%,
- B. revises the auditing requirements for certain LEAs, as specified, and
- C. doubles the minimum funding for LEAs under the program to \$100,000 in a fiscal year.

For the 2025-26 fiscal year only, this bill requires the Superintendent calculate the difference between the prior fiscal year average daily attendance from the first period reported kindergarten and grades 1 to 6, inclusive, and the second period reported kindergarten and grades 1 to 6, inclusive, and, if there is a difference, allocate to the applicable local educational agency the amount of that difference attributable to specified local educational agencies, as provided.

33. Amends the school day and instructional minute requirements for attendance recovery programs of county community schools, continuation high schools, juvenile court schools, and community day schools.

34. Requires the Superintendent, by March 31, 2026, to select a list of screening instruments that meet specified requirements to support the identification of multilingual learners, enrolled in transitional kindergarten, as provided, and appropriates \$10,000,000 from the General Fund to the Superintendent to acquire the selected screening instruments and any training materials, and to support field tests of the screening instruments. Once approved, starting with the 2027-2028 school year, LEAs are required to use the screening

instrument to identify multilingual learners as required. Appropriates \$40,000,000 for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, from the General Fund to the Superintendent for this purpose.

35. For the 2025-2026 school year, and for each school year thereafter, the Superintendent must withhold a portion of a school district's or charter school's local control funding formula entitlement if the school district or charter school fails to comply with maintaining an average of at least one adult for every 10 pupils for transitional kindergarten classrooms at each school site, as provided.

36. Requires the Department to allocate funds appropriated in the Budget Act to technical assistance centers that carry out activities relating to the education of homeless children and youth for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. It also amends existing law to remove the provision that requires the technical assistance centers to be operative only for the duration of the availability of certain federal grant funds.

37. Amends existing law to instead of allowing a pupil to elect to be exempt from taking economics if they complete a personal finance course, to allow the LEA to exempt the pupil from economics if the pupil completes a stand-alone course on personal finance.

38. Expands the list of recommended curriculum frameworks the Instructional Quality Commission should include when it revises the history-social science curriculum on financial literacy to include the California Kids Investment and Development Savings Program.

39. Amends existing law to assess a financial penalty of 20% of the LEA's second principal apportionment local control funding formula entitlement, if the LEA, including charter schools, fails to timely adopt or update their LCAP.

40. Requires the State Board of Education to update the performance criteria for LEAs assistance and intervention as provided, no later than July 15, 2026, based on the

findings and recommendations provided in the 2021-2022 evaluation of the state's technical assistance system and its implementation, and the need to appropriately focus resources and supports where the demonstrated needs are greatest.

41. Appropriates \$2,000,000 for the 2025-2026 fiscal year from the General Fund to the Superintendent to award to county offices of education serving as regional English learner lead agencies, contingent on federal funding. The allocation is for the 11 regional county offices of education previously selected for the work. The selected regional county offices of education must provide their final report to the Department of Finance and the executive director of the state board, no later than December 30, 2026, on their performance on the specified metrics. The bill requires the Department, on or before July 1, 2026, to select county offices of education to serve as regional English learner lead agencies, pursuant to a process that ensures that no fewer than 5 and no more than 7 regional English learner lead agencies are selected in a manner that ensures statewide coverage. The regional English learner lead agencies shall be selected for a term not to exceed 4 years. The bill also authorizes the Department to either renew the selection of the existing regional English learner lead agency or reopen the selection process, as provided.
42. Requires schools to participate in the federal School Breakfast Program or National School Lunch Program to establish a pupil's Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer for Children (Summer EBT) eligibility status through a specified application, as provided.
43. Amends existing law to require, for the 2024-2025 fiscal year and each fiscal year thereafter, that the Superintendent calculates the amount of funding generated by short-term residential therapeutic program placements, as well as community treatment facility placements, as defined, based on the average daily population at both, as provided. The bill also makes conforming changes.
44. Revises the financial penalty calculation assessed against an LEA, including a

charter school, if the governing board of the LEA is found to violate the prohibition on adopting or approving the use of any textbook, instructional material, supplemental instructional material, or curriculum that subjects a pupil to unlawful discrimination.

45. Amends existing law to require the Superintendent to select one or more county offices of education to administer the California Center for Inclusive College (the center.) The center is required to convene an advisory workgroup consisting of representatives from at least two, but not more than six, existing inclusive college programs throughout the state to consult with the center, as specified.
46. Adds to the list of programs that are authorized for block grant funding instead of program-specific reimbursement to include requirements relating to ensuring pupil compliance with completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or a form for purposes of the California Dream Act, as provided.
47. Requires the school district governing board to have an approved 5-year school facilities master plan for the rehabilitation of school facilities before collecting fees from a residential development project that has not received a certificate of occupancy or temporary certificate of occupancy.
48. Extends the deadline to use the funds appropriated for the Clean Energy Job Creation Fund in the Budget Act of 2017 to June 30, 2026, so long as one or both fund conditions are met.
49. Extends the deadline to use the funds appropriated for the Department to contract with an LGBTQ+ organization to develop an online LGBTQ+ cultural competency training platform to June 30, 2025. The funds were previously appropriated under the Budget Act of 2021.
50. Extends the time to use funds allocated to the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence in the Budget Act of 2021 to January 1, 2028.

51. Amends existing law to require that regional K-16 education collaboratives commit to creating two occupational pathways, including either accelerated degree or credential programs that incorporate work-based learning, based on the identification of primary priority sectors in collaboration with the California Jobs First Council. The bill delays the deadline for both criteria by two years, to instead be June 30, 2028. It also extends the period that those monies are available for encumbrance or expenditure until June 30, 2030. Appropriates, for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, \$250,000 from the General Fund to the Superintendent for this purpose.
52. Revises and recasts the Reading and Literacy Supplementary Authorization Incentive Grant Program by renaming it as the Mathematics Instructional Added Authorization and Reading and Literacy Supplementary Authorization Incentive Grant Program, includes mathematics authorizations in the program, as specified, increases the award amount a participating teacher is eligible to receive and reduces the local match requirements of the program, as provided, and makes conforming changes to reporting requirements related to the program. The bill extends the date the funds are available for encumbrance to instead be June 30, 2030.
53. Extends the deadline to use and report on the use of funds allocated for expansion of kitchen infrastructure upgrades that will increase a school's capacity to prepare meals served through a federal school meal program, as defined, to June 30, 2026. The funds are available for certain school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools, as specified.
54. The Budget Act of 2024 appropriated to the Department \$770,000 to support costs associated with developing an online training delivery platform and curriculum to support LGBTQ+ cultural competencies for teachers and other certificated employees in grades 7 through 12 by July 1, 2025. The bill extends the deadline from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2030, thereby making an appropriation.
55. The Budget Act of 2022 appropriated \$4,000,000,000 for the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program and made those funds

- available for encumbrance until June 30, 2023, and for liquidation until June 30, 2025. The bill extends the availability of the funds for liquidation until July 31, 2025.
56. Repeals the appropriation of \$4,000,000 from the General Fund to the Superintendent to select a county office of education to research models of hybrid and remote learning at public schools across the state and provide guidance, support, and resources to local educational agencies to build their own hybrid and remote learning programs to support innovative learning opportunities and instructional continuity.
57. Requires, on or before January 31, 2026, the Superintendent, in consultation with the Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges, as applicable, examine and determine the feasibility of streamlining specified career technical education grant application and reporting processes into a single universal application and collecting program reports and data in a consolidated process, and provide the chairs of the relevant policy committees and budget subcommittees of the Legislature, the executive director of the state board, and the Director of Finance with information, in writing, relating to that streamlining, as provided. The Superintendent and the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges are required, on or before October 15, 2025, to each provide related information, as specified. The Chancellor, in consultation with the Superintendent, on or before January 31, 2026, is required to provide information, in writing, with an update on steps that the Chancellor is taking to better align the timelines, application components, and reporting requirements of the K-12 Strong Workforce Program with the identified streamlined application and reporting processes, as specified.
58. The Director of Finance, as part of the budget submitted to the Legislature by January 10, 2026, is required to:
  - A. provide an updated estimate of the Proposition 98 funding requirement for the 2024-25 fiscal year and the sum of all

previous appropriations counting toward that requirement,

- B. identify the additional amount required to meet the Proposition 98 funding requirement in 2024-25 and propose a plan for appropriating that amount, as specified, and
- C. account for that amount that is available to support school programs before making any reduction otherwise allowed by law.

59. Codifies and extends for the 2025-26 school year, certain provisions of executive orders issued by the Governor as a result of a state of emergency that was declared by the Governor in January 2025, including provisions relating to the use by school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools in the County of Los Angeles of temporary facilities located outside of district boundaries, the collection of average daily attendance for those pupils served outside of district boundaries, the suspension of provisions relating to the leasing of local educational agency property to impacted local educational agencies in the County of Los Angeles, the authorization of a site-based charter school within the County of Los Angeles whose school site was damaged or is inaccessible due to the emergency to establish an alternative site anywhere within the County of Los Angeles, and the suspension of any requirement that a classroom-based charter school that provides independent study programs due to facility inaccessibility, damage, or destruction, or pupil displacement, as a result of the emergency, submit a funding determination, pursuant to specified law, and any requirement to obtain a material revision from the chartering authority of the charter school to offer non-classroom-based instruction.

60. For the 2025-2026 fiscal year, appropriates \$1,000,000 from the General Fund to the Superintendent for allocation to the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence for the digitization of the state standardized individualized education program (IEP)

template. The California Collaborative for Educational Excellence is required to enter into a contract with a California special education student information system vendor to convert the IEP template into a user-dynamic software platform, develop an interactive digital version of the IEP template that is accessible to the public at no cost, and make those digitized templates available to LEAs and the public, respectively, on or before June 30, 2026. The bill appropriates, contingent upon federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act funds appropriated in the Budget Act of 2025 for the translations of the digitized state standardized individualized education program template not being available due to a reduction in California's receipt of federal funds, for the 2025-26 fiscal year, \$1,000,000 from the General Fund to the Superintendent to allocate up to \$1,000,000 to a county office of education for the translation of the digitized IEP template into the top 10 most commonly spoken languages in California other than English.

- 61. Requires a basic aid school district, as defined, that experiences a decrease in local property tax revenues because of the Eaton and Palisades Fires in the County of Los Angeles in January 2025 to be reimbursed by the General Fund by the Controller for losses experienced in the 2024-25 and 2025-26 fiscal years, as provided, thereby making an appropriation.
- 62. For the 2025-2026 fiscal year, \$160,000,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department for the establishment of the Universal School Meals Support Grant, as provided. Of that amount, the following shall be available to LEAs (A) \$145,000,000 for the continued implementation of universal school meals, (B) \$10,000,000 to support the retention and recruitment of food service workers, as specified, and (C) \$5,000,000 for the Department to contract with the Marin County Office of Education for a study of, and report on, particularly harmful ultra-processed foods being offered in school meals in California, as provided.
- 63. On or before June 30, 2026, appropriates an amount to be determined by the Director

of Finance from the General Fund to the Superintendent in augmentation of a certain item in the Budget Act of 2025. The funds are available only to the extent that revenues distributed to LEAs for special education programs from successor agencies are less than the estimated amount determined by the Director of Finance. The bill requires, on or before June 30, 2026, the Director of Finance shall determine if the revenues distributed to LEAs for special education programs from successor agencies exceed the estimated amount reflected in the Budget Act of 2025 and, if so, requires a reduction to the specified appropriation in the Budget Act of 2025 by the amount of that excess.

64. Appropriate \$1,696,718,000 from the General Fund to the Department to establish the Student Support and Professional Development Discretionary Block Grant, for allocation to county offices of education, school districts, charter schools, and the state special schools for discretionary purposes, including, among other things, providing standards-aligned professional development for teachers on the English Language Arts/English Language Development Framework, the Literacy Roadmap, and the Mathematics Framework for California Public Schools and addressing rising costs, as provided.
65. Extend the time to use funds appropriated to the Teacher Residency Grant Program to June 30, 2032.
66. Establish the Secondary School Redesign Pilot Program to develop and identify effective models of middle and high school redesign, as provided. The bill appropriates \$10,000,000 from the General Fund to the Superintendent for the program for allocation to the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence as the lead agency to administer the program. Authorizes up to \$1,000,000 of the appropriated funds to be used by the lead agency for program administration and evaluation, as provided, and requires up to \$300,000 of the appropriated funds to be made available to reimburse the Marin County Office of Education, the administrative agent of the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence, for costs associated with the

administration of these provisions. The bill requires participating schools and LEAs to participate in the pilot program for two years, develop and implement programs to redesign middle and high schools to better serve the needs of all pupils, and collect and report data and resources, as provided.

67. Extends the date to liquidate the funds appropriated in the Budget Act of 2023 for the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program from June 30, 2026, to July 31, 2026.
68. Appropriates \$30,000,000 from the General Fund to the Superintendent for allocation to the Riverside County Office of Education for allocation to the Special Olympics of Northern and Southern California for specified purposes, as provided, and requires the Riverside County Office of Education to be the fiscal agent for those funds for the Special Olympics of Northern and Southern California.
69. Appropriates, for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, \$1,000,000 from the General Fund to the Superintendent for allocation to a county office of education to contract with one or more research or nonprofit organizations to study the processes by which other states develop curriculum guidance and to make recommendations about how to improve and streamline California's processes, as provided.
70. Appropriates, for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, \$250,000 from the General Fund to the Superintendent to allocate to the administrative agent for the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence to partner with one or more research organizations, institutions of higher education, or other nonprofit organizations with expertise in evidenced-based literacy instruction to develop guidance for the state board to adopt on or before January 31, 2026, to support the follow-up adoption and subsequent implementation of English Language Arts/English Language Development instructional materials by the Instructional Quality Commission and the state board, as provided.

71. Appropriates, for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, \$215,000,000 from the General Fund to the Superintendent to augment the previously established Literacy Coaches and Reading Specialists Grant Program. Of that amount, the following allocations are required:

A. \$200,000,000 to LEAs for eligible school sites, as defined, to develop school literacy programs, employ and develop literacy coaches and specialists, and develop and implement interventions for pupils in need of targeted literacy support, as provided, and

B. \$15,000,000 to select a county office of education or a consortium of county offices of education with expertise in both literacy instruction and multilingual education, through a competitive process, to provide training for educators to become literacy coaches and provide credentialing opportunities for educators to become reading and literacy and bilingual specialists, as provided.

72. Appropriate, for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, \$15,000,000 from the General Fund to the Superintendent to allocate to the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence to:

A. make \$7,500,000 available to convene a Statewide Literacy Network to support statewide implementation of evidence-based practices aligned to the English Language Arts/English Language Development Framework, the English Learner Roadmap, the Literacy Roadmap, and the use of data to support effective instruction, as provided, and

B. make \$7,500,000 available to convene a Statewide Mathematics Network to support statewide implementation of evidence-based practices aligned to the Mathematics Framework and the use of data to support effective instruction.

73. Appropriate \$10,000,000 from the General Fund to the Superintendent to allocate to the county office of education selected to administer the California Dyslexia Initiative to contract with the University of California, San Francisco Dyslexia Center to continue

to expand the capacity of a certain reading difficulties screening tool for California's diverse pupil population and to support its use. The bill makes the funding contingent on the maintenance of a reading difficulties screening tool that remains accessible to LEAs at no cost to California public schools to be administered to pupils in kindergarten and grades 1 and 2. The bill establishes annual summary reporting requirements for the University of California, San Francisco Dyslexia Center, through the designated county office of education, to submit to the department, the Department of Finance, the state board, and the relevant policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature.

74. Appropriate, for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, \$150,000,000 from the General Fund to the Department, subject to pending legislation. The bill requires the Department, upon the signing of that legislation, to transfer the funds to the administering entity identified in the legislation, if applicable, by no later than May 1, 2026. If that legislation is not enacted by January 1, 2026, the bill instead requires the appropriated funds, on or after January 1, 2026, to be used for the California Career Technical Education Incentive Grant Program, as provided.

75. Appropriates \$30,000,000 from the General Fund to the Superintendent for allocation to the Kern County Superintendent of Schools for the Mathematics Professional Learning Partnership to support educator training, including mathematics coaches, teachers, and school administrators for implementation of the new mathematics curriculum framework in LEAs. The bill requires the Mathematics Professional Learning Partnership to, among other things, continue to support the California Mathematics Project along with its other existing partners, as specified. Requires the Kern County Superintendent of Schools to submit expenditure plans on behalf of the Mathematics Professional Learning Partnership to the Department of Finance for approval by January 31, 2026.

76. Appropriates \$20,000,000 from the General Fund to the Department to allocate to the Sacramento County Office of Education to,

in partnership with the Santa Clara County Office of Education, award competitive grants to LEAs participating in specified cohorts of the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative that are determined to be qualified, as provided. Requires the Sacramento County Office of Education to, on or before March 1, 2026, and in partnership with the Santa Clara County Office of Education, provide a report to the state board, the Department of Finance, the State Department of Health Care Services, the California Health and Human Services Agency, and the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature that includes specified data, including, among other things, the number and amounts of awards granted, as provided.

77. Makes Legislative findings and declarations as to the necessity of a special statute for the West Side Union Elementary School District.
78. Authorizes the Plumas Unified School District, through the Superintendent, to request emergency apportionments in the form of cashflow loans from the General Fund for a total of up to \$20,000,000. The Controller, upon order of the Director of Finance, must draw warrants against the General Fund to the Plumas Unified School District once a loan is approved by the Director of Finance, thereby making an appropriation. The bill specifies conditions the District must follow in receiving the funds and repaying the loans.
79. Authorizes a school district to sell property owned by the school district from September 1, 2025, to June 30, 2028, inclusive, and use the proceeds from the sale to reduce or retire the emergency loan, and prohibits the school district from being eligible for financial hardship assistance under the Leroy F. Greene School Facilities Act of 1998 from September 1, 2025, to June 30, 2028, inclusive.

(AB 121 amends Sections 1622, 1623, 1630, 8281.5, 8320, 8337, 8902, 14041.5, 14041.6, 14041.8, 32526, 41020.2, 41203.1, 41344.1, 41490, 41601, 42127.1, 42127.6, 42128, 42129, 42238.01, 42238.016, 42238.02, 44258.9, 44283, 44395, 46120, 46211, 46392, 48000.1, 48857, 51225.3, 51284.5, 52064.5, 56836.168, 60151, and 66032.2 of, adds Sections 1631, 17037, 17075.11, 33319.6, 41011.1, 42238.017, 42252.1, 44283.1,

44415.8, 48004, 49506.5, 52065.1, 52073.4, and 53009 to, adds Article 13.5 (commencing with Section 44400) to Chapter 2 of Part 25 of Division 3 of Title 2 of, and to repeal Section 42120 of, the Education Code, amends Sections 17581.6 and 66007 of the Government Code, amends Sections 137 and 152 of Chapter 44 of the Statutes of 2021, to amend Sections 121, 126, and 132 of Chapter 52 of the Statutes of 2022, to amend Section 108 of Chapter 48 of the Statutes of 2023, to amend Section 110 of Chapter 38 of the Statutes of 2024, to repeal Section 112 of Chapter 38 of the Statutes of 2024, to amend the Budget Act of 2017 (Chapter 14 of the Statutes of 2017).)

## PUBLIC AND ELECTED OFFICIALS

### *SB 482 – Roster of Public Officials.*

The Government Code requires the California Secretary of State to compile, publish, and distribute a roster of state and local public officials, otherwise known as the “Cal Roster.” However, the Secretary of State’s office does not always receive the information it needs from state and local agencies to publish the Cal Roster promptly.

**SB 482** requires the governing body of each city, county, or delegated local entity, such as the office of the city clerk, to submit to the Secretary of State an updated list of local elected or appointed officials for publication in the Secretary of State’s roster of public officials no more than 120 days after each general election.

(SB 482 adds Section 12242 to the Government Code.)

### *AB 1286 – Prospective Employment of a Public Official.*

The Political Reform Act of 1974 (PRA) requires individuals elected, appointed, or nominated to office to file statements disclosing their investments, interests, real property, and income received in the 12 months before assuming office within 30 days of assuming office, at regular intervals during their service, and when they leave office.

**AB 1286** adds a new category to the disclosure: arrangements for prospective employment.

Officials must now disclose any arrangement for prospective employment. AB 1286 defines an “arrangement for prospective employment” as an agreement in which a person has accepted a job offer from a future employer, whether verbally or in writing.

AB 1286 requires that, when an arrangement for prospective employment is required to be reported, the statement shall contain the following information: (1) the date that the filer accepted the prospective employer’s offer of employment; (2) the business position; (3) a general description of the business activity of the prospective employer; and (4) the name and street address of the prospective employer.

*(AB 1286 amends Sections 87202, 87203, and 87204, and adds Sections 82004.2 and 87207.5 of the Government Code.)*

### ***AB 1029 — Statements of Financial Interest in a Digital Financial Asset.***

The Political Reform Act of 1974 (PRA) requires public officials to regularly disclose their financial interests, including investments, property, and income, to help prevent conflicts of interest. Under current law, an investment includes items such as stocks or business ownership interests valued at \$2,000 or more. Investments include a pro rata share of investments of any business entity, mutual fund, or trust in which the individual or immediate family owns, directly, indirectly, or beneficially, a 10 percent interest or greater. Each government agency must also have a conflict-of-interest policy that requires certain employees to report their financial holdings.

Effective January 1, 2027, **AB 1029** broadens the definition of an investment to include digital financial assets, such as cryptocurrencies or other digital forms of value.

AB 1029 requires that public officials and designated employees disclose their interests in these assets as part of their financial reporting.

*(AB 1029 amends, repeals, and adds Sections 82034, 87206, 87302, and 87350 of the Government Code.)*

### ***AB 1392 — Voter Registration Information of a Public Official or Candidate.***

The Elections Code requires county elections officials to keep a registered voter’s residence address, telephone number, and email address confidential. However, county elections officials must provide this information to candidates for office, committees supporting or opposing initiative or referendum measures, or anyone using it for election, scholarly, journalistic, political, or governmental purposes.

Effective January 1, 2026, **AB 1392** requires county elections officials to keep the residential address, personal phone number, and personal email address of elected officials and candidates for federal, state, and local office confidential, exempting this information from the disclosure requirement, other than for journalistic or government purposes.

AB 1392 requires the California Secretary of State to provide counties with a list of federal and state officials and candidates for office. Counties must add local officials and candidates for office to the list and make such individuals’ voter registration information confidential within five business days. AB 1392 requires that County officials exclude these individuals’ confidential information from voter lists, rosters, and indexes.

AB 1392 requires that county officials keep the elected official or candidate’s information confidential until, for an elected official, the official no longer holds the office or, for a candidate, the winning candidate takes office.

AB 1392 permits elected officials or candidates for office to opt out of confidentiality provisions.

AB 1392 allows disclosure of the confidential information only for bona fide journalistic or governmental purposes.

*(AB 1392 amends Sections 2194, 2227, 8040, 8600, and 10226.3, and adds Section 2166.9 to the Elections Code.)*

## ELECTIONS

### ***AB 1249 – Amends the Elections Code, Requiring Updates to the Annual Notice to Students Regarding Voting Rights.***

Existing law requires that the first month of each academic semester or quarter, each campus of California Community Colleges (CCD) and California State University (CSU), and requests each campus of the University of California (UC), distribute campuswide emails to all students identifying election dates and voting information.

**AB 1249** amends and repeals certain sections of the Elections Code. Specifically, AB 1249 repeals Elections Code section 3018 and adds Section 3016.3. Elections Code Section 3016.3 permits a voter using a vote-by-mail ballot to vote 29 days before the election and to vote at a voting center without a voter identification envelope, if voting at a satellite location. The bill allows a voter to register to vote, complete a provisional ballot, or complete a ballot, so long as a ballot has not been submitted. It also requires that election officials provide notice of satellite locations for voting at least two weeks before the satellite location is available for voting. Additionally, counties without elections must designate voting centers and provide the required notice.

AB 1249 amends Education Code section 66852 to cite to Section 3016.3 of the Elections Code. The notice distributed by campuses of a CCD, CSU, or UC must be updated to include information related to early voting with mail ballots and the requirements related to satellite locations.

*(AB 1249 amends Section 319.5, 3016.5, 18370, 18502, 18540, and 18541 of, adds Section 3016.3 to, and repeals Section 3018 of, the Elections Code, and amends Section 66852 of the Education Code.)*

### ***AB 1512 – Amends Existing Law To Require Specific Ballot Language.***

**AB 1512** amends existing law and requires changes to the language format used on ballots for local government measures, such as those related to cities, counties, school districts, and other special districts. It mandates that the words

"Yes" and "No" be printed on separate lines on the ballot, with voting options positioned to the right of or below the description of the measure. The bill specifies that if a voter marks the voting target next to the printed word "Yes," the voter's vote shall be counted in favor of the adoption of the proposal; or if the voter marks the voting target next to the printed word "No," the voter's vote shall be counted against its adoption.

AB 1512 also amends the Education Code section to include the specific language that must be used in a proposition seeking to change the number of members of the county board of education or a governing board, or whether a district should be established, reorganized, or a measure adopted.

AB 1512 amends Education Code sections impacting the county office of education, school districts, and community college districts.

*(AB 1512 amends Sections 1004, 5020, 15122, 18333, 18513, 19608, 19724, 24906, 35762, and 72026 of the Education Code, amends Sections 23271, 23355, 23374.5, 34876.5, 51929, 51930, 51931, and 57137 of, and repeals and adds Section 29903 of, the Government Code, amends Sections 6463 and 6612 of, and repeals and adds Section 20104 of, the Health and Safety Code, repeals and adds Section 5105 of the Public Resources Code, amends Sections 2965, 2973, 22740, and 22743 of the Public Utilities Code, amends Sections 1176, 1182, 26064, and 26163 of the Streets and Highways Code, and amends Sections 12057, 12889.2, 13417, 21929, 21931, 22171, 22173, 23224, 35520.15, 35520.19, 35884, 39931, 45276, 50976, 60385, 60414, 74099, 74101, 74467, 74833, 74850, 75063, 75065, 75444, 75936, and 76042 of, repeals Section 42327 of, and repeals and adds Sections 21930, 22172, 25675, 25703, 45271, 48255, 75168.3, and 75393 of, the Water Code.)*

### ***AB 17 – Election Precinct Maps.***

The Elections Code requires county elections officials to divide their jurisdiction into precincts and to prepare detailed maps or exterior descriptions of the precincts. When precinct boundaries change, county election officials must create updated maps or descriptions.

Effective January 1, 2026, **AB 17** adds a public access requirement for these maps. AB 17 requires the registrar of voters in each county make

available, upon request and free of charge, a digital map showing the effective boundaries of every precinct within the county.

(AB 17 adds Section 12263 to the Elections Code.)

### ***AB 5 — Deadline to Count Election Votes.***

The Elections Code requires county elections officials to commence the official canvass for an election no later than the Thursday following the election and to keep the canvass open to the public. The canvass must continue daily, except on weekends and holidays, for at least six hours each day until the canvass is completed. Elections officials must prepare a certified statement of results of the election within 30 days after the election and send a complete copy of all election results to the Secretary of State within 31 days of the election. The Secretary of State must then certify and file a statement of the vote no later than the 38<sup>th</sup> day after the election.

Effective January 1, 2026, **AB 5** adds a new interim reporting requirement to this process. AB 5 requires county elections officials, by the 13<sup>th</sup> day following an election, to complete the counting of all ballots, except the following: (1) duplicate ballots; (2) votes by mail that is forwarded to count election officials; (3) votes by mail that the voter has an opportunity to verify; (4) provisional ballots; (5) ballots cast by conditional voter registration; (6) and ballots received after the fourth day following an election.

AB 5 further requires county elections officials to release the vote count for all ballots on or before the 13<sup>th</sup> day following an election, except for those ballots identified above.

AB 5 requires a county elections official that will not meet the 13-day deadline for counting ballots and releasing the vote for such ballots to file a notice of extension with the Secretary of State, stating the reason for the extension and to post the extension filing on their website.

(AB 5 adds Section 15307 to the Elections Code.)

## **Don't Miss Our Upcoming Webinar!**

### **Labor Relations Legislative Update: What Your Agency Needs to Know about AB 339 and New Contracting**

#### **Obligations**

**December 11, 2025**  
**10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**

**Visit the above link for more information.**

