



CA School Garden Coalition Senate Appropriations Committee Bill Analysis Response

Purpose: This document provides key clarifications and talking points for SB 341, the Delaine Eastin Instructional School Garden Program bill, to correct a mischaracterization in the Senate Appropriations Committee [analysis](#) and emphasize that the bill does not seek Proposition 98 funds.

SB 341 – Clarifying Fiscal Intent and Reinforcing Climate Alignment

- **SB 341 does *not* seek Proposition 98 funding**—not for the development of the ISGP criteria and guidelines through a working group (what SB 341 does) nor for any future implementation phase.
- **Proposition 98 was never referenced** in our [bill proposal](#) or [bill](#) and was not intended as a funding source at any stage.
- The **Senate Appropriations Committee’s fiscal analysis is inaccurate**; the \$15 million Prop 98 estimate appears to be drawn solely from a [2006](#) version of the program that focused on building gardens (not for maintaining them or using them as an instructional tool, like SB 341 calls to do by utilizing the previously built, but unused garden infrastructure).
- **SB 341 is a modest, Phase 1 planning bill**, requiring only staffing capacity from CDFA to convene a working group and develop grant guidelines—a **low-cost, high-impact investment**. All other working group agencies consider the working group absorbable costs.
- **Phase 2 implementation is not part of SB 341** and will be developed through the working group. We are already **pursuing alternative, non-Prop 98 funding options** for future program delivery.
- We have clearly communicated this fiscal intent with **Senator Pérez and committee staff**, and appreciate their collaboration to ensure the record reflects this.

Future Program Funding Could Come from Climate-Appropriate Sources

- The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (Cap-and-Invest) is a far more aligned source for future program funding because instructional school gardens are **transformative climate projects** that meet Cap-and-Invest criteria:
 - Serve as carbon sinks through regenerative planting and soil stewardship.
 - Provide wildfire prevention through cultivated, maintained green spaces.
 - Support climate resilience and literacy among K–12 students.
 - Align directly with the Governor’s May Revise vision for Cap-and-Invest spending on high-impact, community-based solutions.

Why SB 341 Matters

1. **Expanding Hands-On Learning** – SB 341 lays the foundation for all students to benefit from instructional school gardens, [improving](#) academics, health and nutrition, career pathways, environmental literacy, and more.
2. **Building a Plan for Sustainable Funding** – The bill restarts and begins the process to update California’s [Instructional School Garden Program](#) (ISGP), which went unfunded and unused during the Great Recession and COVID-19 pandemic, creating a [phased-approach](#) for long-term funding and implementation.

3. **Addressing Inequities** – Only about [9%](#) of school gardens are actively used, mostly in high-income districts with private funding. SB 341 sets the stage for equitable access statewide.
4. **Cost-Effective First Step** – Requires only a 5% FTE workload from the California Department of Food and Agriculture to establish a working group and develop a plan, making it a low-cost, high-impact investment.
5. **Bipartisan and Education Leadership Support** – Led by Senator Sasha Renée Pérez (D-Alhambra) with coauthors Senator Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh (R-Yucaipa) and Senator Susan Rubio (D-Baldwin Park). SB 341 is [1 of 41](#) California bills with bipartisan co-authors (of 2,278 bills introduced this session)
6. **Statewide Benefits** – A phased approach could reach [1 million students](#) within three years for about [0.5%](#) of the state's per-student base funding.
7. **Take Action** – Help pass SB 341! [Sign on](#), share, and join our movement for hands-on, outdoor learning in every California school.
8. **Background** - The unused, unfunded ISGP [previously](#) issued some \$2,500 grants to schools for building school gardens. SB 341 calls for the inclusion of **instruction and maintenance** to ensure longevity of educational garden programs.