



New 2026 Education-Related Laws

The California legislative process operates in two-year increments that coincide with the two-year terms of Assembly members. January 2025 marks the beginning of the two-year legislative session. In their first year, the California Assembly introduced 1,533 bills and the Senate 864.

Through its committee process, bills are reviewed, amended, suspended, and cancelled. To expedite the process, deadlines are established, and bills that meet the deadline continue through the process; the rest are suspended until the following year, during the first year of the two-year session. Bills that do not meet the deadlines within the second year are considered dead and can no longer be heard.

The state legislature must conclude all business for the year by mid-September. A bill passed by the state legislature requires the Governor to sign or veto it within 12 calendar days. There is an exception if the bills are sent to the Governor at the end of the year's session (mid-September). If the bill is sent at the end of the session, the Governor has 30 days to sign or veto the bill. Bills that the Governor does not take action on within the 12 or 30-day limit automatically become law; this differs from the federal legislative process. Bills approved by the Governor or by inaction take effect on January 1 of the following year unless specified in the signed bill. The state legislature passed and sent to the governor 1536 bills in 2025.

Below are education-related bills that are becoming law on January 1, 2026 (unless otherwise noted). Due to the complexity of the bill, a few bills will be listed in more than one category.

ATTENDANCE

AB 461 by Assemblymember Patrick Ahrens (D-Silicon Valley)

Truancy

Parents of a student between kindergarten and 8th grade who have failed to supervise and encourage the pupil's school attendance reasonably, even with support services to address the pupil's truancy, will no longer be held criminally liable.

AB 268 by Assemblymember Ash Kalra (D-San Jose)

State holidays: Diwali.

On the 15th day of the month of Kartik in the Hindu lunar calendar of each year (typically between mid-September and mid-November), the state will recognize "Diwali" as a state holiday. As a religious holiday, students may have an excused absence. As a state holiday, all state courts will be closed, but other state government employees may receive what is commonly referred to as a "Floating Holiday." Please refer to your CBA on the process to recognize a religious holiday.

BUDGET

SB 151 by Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review

Early childhood education and childcare

****Effective Immediately****

Would extend the period in which reimbursement of state-subsidized childcare and development providers, license-exempt providers, and California state preschool family childcare home education network providers is based on the maximum authorized or certified, as applicable, hours of care to July 1, 2028.

AB 503 by Assemblymember Mark Gonzalez (D-Los Angeles)

School facilities: Civic Center Act: direct costs

****Effective Immediately** **UASC Supported Bill****

The ability to charge the public for the use of school district property expired on December 31, 2024. This new law, effective immediately, will allow schools/districts to charge the public for the use of district facilities. The funds collected **MUST** be placed in a special account and **ONLY** used for the costs of supplies, utilities, janitorial services, services of school district employees, and salaries paid to school district employees directly associated with the administration to operate and maintain school facilities or grounds, which is proportional to the entity's use of the school facilities or grounds.

COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SAFETY PLANS

AB 962 by Assemblymember Josh Hoover (R-Folsom)

Pupil safety: comprehensive school safety plans: use of smartphones.

A school/district can prohibit or restrict a student's use of a smartphone while on school grounds. In the event of an emergency, the restriction or prohibition of the use of a smartphone by a student must also be detailed in the Comprehensive School Safety Plan.

SB 98 by Senator Perez (D-Pasadena)

Elementary, Secondary, and Postsecondary Education: Immigration Enforcement Notification.

****Effective Immediately****

Until January 1, 2031, when a comprehensive school safety plan is next reviewed and updated, or by no later than March 1, 2026, the Safety Plan is to include procedures specifically designed to notify parents and guardians of pupils, teachers, administrators, and school personnel when the school confirms the presence of immigration officials on the school site.

SB 848 by Senator Sasha Renée Pérez (D-Pasadena)

Pupil safety: school employee misconduct: child abuse prevention.

It extends hiring-screening and reporting rules (for "egregious misconduct") to noncertificated staff and private school employees; it mandates creation of a statewide data system for recording substantiated misconduct cases (and prohibiting hiring of individuals with such records) by July 2027; it requires all schools' governing bodies to adopt written policies and facility plans by 2026 to ensure safe, supervisable environments; it strengthens mandated-reporter duties to include more employees and volunteers; and it obliges schools to revise their safety plans (by mid-2026) to include protections against child abuse, neglect, and sex offenses, and to broaden "crime assessment" requirements.

CREDENTIALS

AB 753 by Assemblymember Robert Garcia (D-Rancho Cucamonga)

Childcare: facility licensure: teacher requirements

****Effective January 30, 2026** **UASC Supported Bill****

Allows for a CDC teacher's assistant to receive a two-year maximum Assistant Teacher permit. The permit holder must have completed six units of Early Childhood, Child Development, Human Development courses, or a combination thereof. At the time of applying for the permit, they must submit an education plan outlining how they will complete their credential courses. The permit is non-renewable. Other restrictions as to the number of assistance a site may have are included in the bill.

AB 959 by Assemblymember Heather Hadwick (R-Alturas)

Teacher Credentialing: Administrative Services Credential: Internship Program

To complete the Administrative Credential program, candidates must complete a one-year internship. This new law requires the internship to be completed in a school district, county office of education, or regionally accredited institution of higher education.

AB 1009 by Assemblymember Blanca Rubio (D-Baldwin Park) – Teacher credentialing: administrative services credential: occupational and physical therapists.

Allows someone who holds a valid occupational therapy (OT) or physical therapy (PT) license, plus three years working in a school as an OT or PT, and having passed a basic skills requirement, to count that toward the preliminary administrative services credential requirement. However, the bill makes clear that if the credential is based on an OT/PT license, that person may not supervise or evaluate teachers except in very limited, specified circumstances.

AB 1119 by Assemblymember Patel (D-San Diego)

Teacher credentialing: dual credentialing

On or before March 1, 2027, the CTC is to develop, establish, and promulgate through the regulatory process efficient routes for (1) teacher candidates to obtain (A) a multiple subject credential, a single subject credential, or a PK–3 early childhood education specialist instruction credential, and (B) an education specialist credential, known as dual credentialing, as provided, (2) existing teachers who hold a multiple subject credential, a single subject credential, or a PK–3 early childhood education specialist instruction credential to obtain an education specialist credential, and (3) existing teachers who hold an education specialist credential to obtain a multiple subject credential, a single subject credential, or a PK–3 early childhood education specialist instruction credential.

AB 1306 by Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance)

Teacher preparation programs: school districts and county offices of education: English learners.

****UASC Supported Bill****

The 2025 version of AB 1306 authorizes school districts and county offices of education (not just colleges and universities) to operate teacher-preparation programs specifically for issuing cross-cultural, language, and academic development (CLAD), English learner authorization, or bilingual authorization certificates. It requires these district/office-administered programs to be held to the same approval standards that currently apply to teacher-preparation programs at regionally accredited institutions of higher education.

CURRICULUM

[AB 542](#) by Assemblymember Celeste Rodriguez (D-San Fernando)

Continuation schools and classes: youth workforce development programs

Authorizes a school district that maintains a continuation high school or continuation education classes to offer youth workforce development programs to pupils on one or 2 weekdays per school week if it ensures that those pupils are otherwise enrolled in at least 15 hours of class attendance per school week. The bill would require a school district that implements a youth workforce development program for these purposes to establish procedures to track pupil attendance and participation while engaging in the program.

[AB 1454](#) by Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas (D-Salinas)

Pupil literacy: credential program standards and professional development: instructional materials

****UASC Supported Bill****

Mandates the California State Board of Education to provide “evidence-based” reading instruction methods, requiring that teacher credentialing, training, and reading materials align with best literacy practices. It establishes a schedule for the state to approve training programs and instructional materials, provides funding for schools to train staff in teaching reading in TK–5, and updates credentialing rules to enable school leaders to support literacy efforts better.

[SB 510](#) by Senator Laura Richardson (D-South Bay)

Pupil instruction: treatment of African Americans.

This bill would require the Instructional Quality Commission, when the state board next revises the history-social science curriculum framework or adopts new instructional materials, on or after January 1, 2026, to consider including content on the historical, social, economic, and political contributions of African Americans during the Spanish colonization of California, the Gold Rush Era, and Antebellum, as provided.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

[AB 1369](#) by Assembly member Ramos (D-San Bernardino)

Pupil rights: school graduation ceremonies and related events: adornments

Clarifies students’ rights to wear traditional tribal regalia at high school graduations.

[AB 821](#) by Assemblymember Mike A. Gipson (D-Carson)

Pupil instruction: high school graduation requirements: career technical education.

****UASC Supported Bill****

Indefinitely extend the authorization for career technical education to count toward that graduation requirement, which expires in July 2027.

IMMIGRATION

AB 49 by Assemblymember Muratsuchi (D-Los Angeles)

School Sites: Entry Requirements and Immigration Enforcement.

****Effective Immediately** **UASC Supported Bill****

Would prohibit school officials and employees from allowing an officer or employee of an agency conducting immigration enforcement to enter a nonpublic area of a school site for any purpose or disclosing or providing, in writing, verbally, or in any other manner, the education records of or any information about a pupil or a pupil's family and household without the pupil's parents' or guardians' written consent, name of a school employee or a teacher to an officer or employee of an agency conducting immigration enforcement without a valid judicial warrant, judicial subpoena, or a court order. School officials and employees are required, to the extent practicable, to request valid identification from any officer or employee of an agency conducting immigration enforcement seeking to enter a non-public area of a school site. The school district employee will have the right to consult with counsel or challenge the validity of a warrant, subpoena, or court order in a court of competent jurisdiction.

AB 419 by Assemblymember Damon Connolly (D-San Rafael)

Educational equity: immigration enforcement

****UASC Supported Bill****

Requires school districts and charter schools to publicly post and share a guide called "Know Your Educational Rights: Immigration-Enforcement Actions at California Schools". The guide must be displayed in school administrative buildings and on their websites (in English and any required translations), and included when notifying parents about students' rights.

AB 495 by Assemblymember Celeste Rodriguez (D-San Fernando)

Family Preparedness Plan Act of 2025

This new law expands who can legally enroll a child in school and make decisions about school-related medical care by broadening who qualifies to sign a "Caregiver's Authorization Affidavit." Under current law, that power is generally limited to certain relatives; AB 495 would allow a wider set of "nonrelative extended family members" (e.g., mentors, godparents) to be eligible. The bill also introduces a new joint-guardianship mechanism, allowing a custodial parent to designate a temporary guardian (without relinquishing parental rights) in cases such as detention, illness, or deployment.

SB 98 by Senator Perez (D-Pasadena)

Elementary, Secondary, and Postsecondary Education: Immigration Enforcement Notification.

****Effective Immediately** **UASC Supported Bill****

Until January 1, 2031, when a comprehensive school safety plan is next reviewed and updated, or by no later than March 1, 2026, the Safety Plan is to include procedures specifically designed to notify parents and guardians of pupils, teachers, administrators, and school personnel when the school confirms the presence of immigration officials on the school site.

INVENTORY & PROCUREMENT

AB 629 by Assemblymember Christopher Ward (D-San Diego)

School districts: equipment inventory.

Existing law requires the governing board of a school district to establish and maintain an inventory, as provided, of each item of equipment acquired by the school district that has a current market value that exceeds \$500. This bill would increase the threshold value to \$1,500. The bill would require the Superintendent of Public Instruction to biennially adjust that threshold market value by a specified inflation factor, rounded to the nearest \$50, and to post the adjusted threshold market value to the State Department of Education's internet website.

AB 361 by Assemblymember Nick Schultz (D-Burbank)

Best value procurement: school districts

Authorizes the school district to use, before December 31, 2030, a best value procurement method for bid evaluation and selection for public projects exceeding \$1,000,000. The bill would establish various requirements applicable to the use of the best value procurement method under this authorization. The bill would require a school district to submit a report on the use of the best-value procurement method, as specified, to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature by January 1, 2030.

LABOR RELATIONS

AB 642 by Assemblymember Muratsuchi (D-Los Angeles)

Emergencies proclaimed by the Governor: school employee catastrophic leave.

****Effective Immediately** **UASC Supported Bill****

Authorizes a school district to establish or add to its catastrophic leave bank for employees experiencing hardship due to an event declared by the Governor as a State of Emergency (i.e., floods, earthquakes, firestorms).

AB 339 by Assemblymember Liz Ortega (D-San Leandro)

Local Public Employee Organizations: Notice Requirements.

This bill would require the governing body of a public agency, and boards and commissions designated by law or by the governing body of a public agency, to give the recognized employee organization no less than 45 days' written notice before issuing a request for proposals, request for quotes, or renewing or extending an existing contract to perform services that are within the scope of work of the job classifications represented by the recognized employee organization, subject to certain exceptions. The bill would require the notice to include specified information, including the anticipated duration of the contract. The bill would also require the public agency, if an emergency or other exigent circumstance prevents it from providing the written notice described above, to give as much advance notice as is practicable under the circumstances.

RETIREMENT

SB 853 by the Committee on Labor, Public Employment, and Retirement

Public employees' retirement

Makes primarily technical but essential updates to retirement laws affecting CalSTRS, CalPERS, and county retirement systems. It grants the Teachers' Retirement Board final authority to determine who qualifies as an employer or member, clarifies the definition of "annualized pay rate," and updates the rules for the Reduced Workload Program to base eligibility on compensation rather than hours worked—protecting participants who take paid leave. It also standardizes the process for state fund transfers when deadlines fall on weekends or holidays, requires CalSTRS subrogation actions to be filed in California superior courts, and aligns definitions such as "pensionable compensation" across the retirement systems. These changes streamline administration, reduce ambiguity, and ensure greater consistency & fairness in the management of retirement benefits.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

AB 560 by Assemblymember Dawn Addis (D-Morro Bay)

Special education: resource specialists: special classes.

Beginning July 1, 2026, every school site must have a "Special Education Team" that meets monthly to plan and review special education services and at least twice a year to focus on inclusive practices. Resource specialists (teachers who support students with disabilities) will have a reduced caseload limit of 20 students (including those needing initial assessments). Also, the bill creates specific class-size (or staffing) ratios for more intensive "special classes." It requires the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to propose, by July 1, 2027, a recommended maximum adult-to-student ratio for those special classes and make that recommendation publicly available.

STUDENT RECORDS

AB 677 by Assemblymember Isaac Bryan (D-Los Angeles)

Pupil records and health: pupils experiencing homelessness: directory information and reporting

Would authorize the disclosure of directory information of a pupil identified as a homeless child or youth, as defined, to facilitate an eye examination or an oral health assessment, as described above, unless the parent or a pupil who has been accorded parental rights, as provided, has provided written notice to the school that they do not consent to the physical examination, as specified. The bill would require directory information disclosed pursuant to this authorization to be disclosed only for the purpose of facilitating an eye examination or an oral health assessment, as provided. The bill would provide that reports made to a parent, legal guardian, or caregiver of a pupil experiencing homelessness about a pupil's defect identified through an eye examination or oral health assessment, as described above, should be made via alternative communication channels whenever possible, rather than by mail.

AB 1412 by Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez (R-Indio)

Special education: pupil transfers: residency requirements: records

Tightens the obligations of California school districts with respect to students with disabilities who transfer into the district mid-year, including transfers from out of state: it requires the receiving district, within 30 days, to either adopt and implement the student's existing individualized education program (IEP) or develop, adopt, and implement a new IEP consistent with federal and state law, rather than merely providing "comparable services" pending assessment. The bill also reinforces the duty to promptly exchange relevant educational and special education records (including IEPs and supporting documents) between districts to prevent delays in services.

STUDENT HEALTH & SAFETY

AB 310 by Alanis (R-Modesto)

Nevaeh Youth Sports Safety Act.

Would delay the requirement to have access to an AED until January 1, 2028, would remove the requirement that it be administered by a medical professional, and would also require, by January 1, 2027, a youth sports organization to ensure that its coaches are certified, as specified, to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation and to operate an AED. The bill would require, by January 1, 2027, a youth sports organization to have a written emergency response plan that includes specific information, including the location and procedures to be followed in the event of a sudden cardiac arrest. The bill would require, by January 1, 2028, a youth sports organization to properly maintain and test its AED.

AB 382 by Assemblymember Marc Berman (D-Menlo Park)

Pedestrian safety: school zones: speed limits

Lower speed limits in school zones to improve safety. It allows cities and counties to immediately reduce school zone speed limits from 25 mph to 20 mph by local ordinance, and starting in 2029, 20 mph will become the statewide default speed limit. In some smaller residential areas, the speed limit can be as low as 15 mph, based on traffic studies. Local governments must update signage, inform the public, and coordinate with law enforcement to enforce the new limits and protect children near schools.

SB 389 by Senator Ochoa Bogh (R-Redlands)

Pupil health: individuals with exceptional needs: respiratory services: licensed vocational nurses

Under the supervision of a credentialed school nurse, a licensed vocational nurse will be authorized to assist an individual with exceptional needs who requires specialized physical healthcare services, and perform suctioning and other basic respiratory tasks and services.

AB 715 by Assembly members Zbur (D-Los Angeles) and Addis (D-Monterey)

Educational equity: discrimination: antisemitism prevention

Strengthens protections against antisemitism in public schools by expanding state anti-discrimination laws to explicitly cover antisemitism & Islamophobia, broadening definitions of “nationality” & “religion,” & prohibiting instructional materials, curricula, or professional development that subject students to unlawful discrimination. It requires that teaching on controversial issues be balanced & not vilify or ostracize any group, establishes a new Office of Civil Rights and an Antisemitism Prevention Coordinator to oversee complaints and advise the state, and enhances the Uniform Complaint Process with stronger appeals and corrective actions. It also mandates parental notification of these protections and restricts schools from reusing discriminatory materials unless they are corrected, with implementation contingent upon companion legislation (SB 48).

AB 727 by Assemblymember Mark González (D-Los Angeles)

Pupil and Student Safety: Identification Cards

****UASC Supported Bill****

Will add or replace any existing suicide prevention information with The Trevor Project’s 24-hour-per-day, 7-day-per-week suicide hotline to the back of the student ID card.

AB 772 by Assemblymember Lowenthal

Cyberbullying: off-campus acts: model policy

****UASC Supported Bill****

Direct the State Department of Education to develop a model policy addressing cyberbullying that occurs outside of school hours and off campus.

New Laws for 2026

AB 1005 by Assemblymember Laurie Davies (R-Laguna Niguel)

Drowning prevention: public schools: informational materials.

This bill would encourage the DIP organization to provide informational materials in the other most commonly spoken languages associated with the population attending the school and provide written evidence to a school administrator that demonstrates that the informational materials provided by the DIP organization align with the drowning, drowning prevention, water safety, rescue, and swim skills lesson information found on the drowning prevention web page of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as provided. The State Department of Education is also to make available on its website school-based water safety and drowning prevention education resources and curriculum.

SB 19 by Senator Susan Rubio (D-Baldwin Park) and Assemblymember Darshana Patel (D-San Diego)

Criminal Threats to Schools or Places of Worship

Expands state law to make it a crime to make credible threats against schools or places of worship. Previously, threats had to target an identifiable individual to be prosecuted. The new law closes that loophole by allowing prosecution of threats made by any method—such as online posts or messages—that cause reasonable fear for people at those locations. Adults can face misdemeanor or felony charges, while minors are generally referred to support services instead of automatic court penalties.

SB 48 by Senators Gonzalez (D-Long Beach) and Weber Pierson (D-San Diego) and Assembly Members Fong (D-Alhambra) and Ward (D-San Diego)

Educational equity: discrimination prevention coordinators

In conjunction with AB 715, it complements that effort by creating four statewide Discrimination Prevention Coordinators, focused on religious, racial, ethnic, gender, and LGBTQ discrimination, to provide resources and training to prevent and consistently address bias and discrimination in schools.

SB 568 by Senator Roger Niello (R-Fair Oaks)

Pupil Health: Epinephrine Delivery Systems in Schools and Childcare Programs.

Broadening the requirement from stocking only “epinephrine auto-injectors” to stocking a wider range of epinephrine delivery systems, so schools can use whichever devices are appropriate for different ages and weights. It requires school health supervisors to obtain prescriptions, stock, and restock these devices. It expands staff training to cover not just emergency use but also storage, restocking, and choosing the correct device. Schools must provide staff with an annual notice about volunteer training and the location of devices, keep written training materials readily accessible, and align training with the CDC's food allergy guidelines. The bill also lets schools accept donations or grants to cover costs and requires consultation with health organizations.

SB 848 by Senator Sasha Renée Pérez (D-Pasadena)

Pupil safety: school employee misconduct: child abuse prevention.

It extends hiring-screening and reporting rules (for “egregious misconduct”) to noncertificated staff and private school employees; it mandates creation of a statewide data system for recording substantiated misconduct cases (and prohibiting hiring of individuals with such records) by July 2027; it requires all schools’ governing bodies to adopt written policies and facility plans by 2026 to ensure safe, supervisable environments; it strengthens mandated-reporter duties to include more employees and volunteers; and it obliges schools to revise their safety plans (by mid-2026) to include protections against child abuse, neglect, and sex offenses, and to broaden “crime assessment” requirements.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

AB 1230 by Assemblymember Mia Bonta (D-Oakland)

Pupil discipline: expulsions: procedures.

****UASC Supported Bill****

Requires that rehabilitation plans for expelled students be tailored to their individual needs, include an early readmission assessment at least 45 days before the end of expulsion, and be supported with accessible opportunities like counseling or community service provided by the district. Schools can no longer require families to pay for these programs or deny readmission because of financial, transportation, or access barriers. Students must be readmitted unless they fail to substantially meet the requirements of their plan despite available resources, commit new expellable acts, or continue the same behavior. The bill also strengthens county community school plans by mandating multiple program options, support for special education needs, clear readmission pathways, and transition services, while requiring districts to collect new data such as average expulsion lengths.