

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

California Schools in Focus: Quarterly Newsletter on Legislation Affecting Schools



Welcome to the 2025/2026 legislative session! As you may know, legislative sessions run in two-year intervals. January 6, 2025, marked the beginning of the new two-year period. Over 2,300 bills were submitted by the February 21st deadline. This is a much smaller number of bills than we normally see, due to a recent reduction in the number of bills legislators were permitted to introduce. Previously, legislators were allowed to introduce up to 50 bills per two-year legislative session. However, this amount was lowered to 35 bills per legislator, per two-year session, as of January 1, 2025. This reduction aims to streamline the legislative process and manage the volume of legislation more efficiently. Please keep in mind that the following bills have been newly introduced, and we expect further amendments and subcommittee activity between now and September, when the bills will be sent to the Governor for final veto or approval.

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AB-259 Brown Act: Teleconferences K-12 CC

In response to the increase in gun violence in schools, this bill requires all K-12 LEAs to install interior locks on all doors to rooms with occupancy of more than 5 if the LEA undertakes an addition, alteration, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or retrofit of that building.

AB-600 Opt-Out for Transgender Instruction K-12

Current law requires instruction in social sciences to include the contributions of people of all genders. Parents and guardians also have the right to opt out of curricula if it conflicts with religious beliefs. This proposed legislation would also allow the student to be excluded from any part of a school's curricula, instructions, lessons, presentations, or assemblies discussing, involving, or referencing transgender concepts, and any anonymous, voluntary, and confidential tests, questionnaires, or surveys discussing, involving, or referencing transgender concepts.

AB-614 Claims Against Public Entities K-12 CC

Current law provides a 6-month statute of limitation to file a claim against a public entity for death or injury. This bill seeks to extend the timeline to 12 months.

AB-68 Armed School Resource Officers K-12

School districts currently have the option to contract with school resource officers or to establish a school police department. This bill would make it mandatory for districts to hire or contract with at least one armed school resource officer, authorized to carry a loaded firearm to be present at each school of the school district during regular school hours and any other time when pupils are present on campus. The deadlines for compliance are based on grade levels.

AB-410 Disclosure of AI/Bots K-12 CC

This bill would make it illegal for any school or college to use a bot to communicate or interact with another person online without disclosure that the bot is AI and not a real person. This includes chat bots built into websites.

AB-1163 Specific Training Topics for Workplace Violence Prevention K-12 CC

As of July 1, 2026, all school districts and community colleges would be required to provide in-person training on the topics of physical and verbal de-escalation techniques designed to minimize the likelihood of pupils committing violent incidents, as well as strategies to help pupils safely return to the learning environment after committing a violent incident.

**AB-49 School Sites and Day Care Centers - Entry for Immigration Enforcement** K-12 CC

This bill would prohibit school employees from allowing an officer or employee of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to enter a school site for any purpose without providing valid identification, a written statement of purpose, and a valid judicial warrant, and receiving approval from the superintendent of the school district, the superintendent of the county office of education, or the principal of the charter school, or their designee. The bill would require the LEA, if the officer or employee of ICE meets those requirements, to limit access to facilities where pupils are not present.

AB-90 Community Colleges: Overnight Student Parking CC

This bill is similar to AB 1818, which died in committee last year. While the current iteration includes some language to waive liability for CCDs, the proposal still exposes colleges to increased risks associated with student safety during overnight hours. Additionally, colleges may face financial and operational challenges in ensuring adequate security, maintenance, and facilities access for participating students. This bill is opposed by the Association of California Community College Administrators (ACCCA).

SB-29 Civil Actions: Decedent's Cause of Action K-12 CC

Beginning 1/1/25, all employers will be required to post an updated version of the DWC-7 form in a conspicuous place. The updated form includes information concerning an injured employee's ability to consult a licensed attorney to advise them of their rights under workers' compensation laws. CSRM members participating in the workers' compensation program were provided with the updated form to be posted in breakrooms or other locations where mandatory labor postings are required

SB-555 Workers' Compensation: Calculation of Average Annual Earnings K-12 CC

Indemnity payments are currently subject to minimum and maximum thresholds, calculated based on the employee's average weekly wages. This bill seeks to apply a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) to the limits beginning January 1, 2026 for all dates of injury after January 1, 2014. This would not apply to awards where the benefits have already been stipulated to or awarded by the WCAB.



CSRM Mission Statement

Promote student achievement by optimizing the financial and human resources of member districts through high quality risk financing and loss reduction services.



A Message from our Claims Services Manager

We are still very early in the legislative cycle, and bills will likely continue to be amended as they pass committee review. If you have specific concerns about any of the bills, please contact me to discuss them. Member feedback is critical to our legislative advocacy efforts.

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