

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

California Schools in Focus: Quarterly Newsletter on Legislation Affecting Schools



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LEGISLATIVE TIMELINE

January 3, 2024

California legislature reconvenes

January 10, 2024

Deadline for the budget to be submitted by Governor

January 19, 2024

Last day to submit bill requests to the Office of Legislative Counsel

February 16, 2024

Last day for bills to be introduced

May 24, 2024

Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house

June 15, 2024

Deadline for the budget bill to be passed

August 31, 2024

Last day for each house to pass bills

September 30, 2024

Last day for the governor to pass or veto bills

Legislation Trends

Lawmakers returned to Sacramento in January just before the Governor's office released the proposed state budget for 2024/2025 with a projected \$38 billion shortfall. However, the Legislative Analysts' Office estimated a \$68 billion deficit in their [2024/2025 Fiscal Outlook](#). What this means for lawmakers is that proposed legislation may have a tough time getting through the Appropriations Committee this year.

Passed Legislation

In 2023, there were several safety-related bills passed through the legislature that would have required LEAs to cover the expenses required to be compliant. This includes purchasing trauma kits for certain buildings outlined in AB-70, and purchasing fentanyl test strips as outlined in AB461. Bills that are chaptered in 2023 become effective on January 1, 2024, unless otherwise specified in the bill.

One of the most notable safety related bills passed in 2023 was [SB-553: workplace violence: restraining orders and workplace violence prevention plan](#). As indicated in the title, this bill has 2 components:

- 1.A process for union representatives to obtain a restraining order on behalf of an employee, and
- 2.Development of a Workplace Violence Prevention Plan (WVPP)

The effective date for the WVPP requirement is July 1, 2024, while the effective date for changes to the restraining order procedures is January 1, 2025.



Pending Legislation

Several school related bills were not chaptered by the end of the 2023 legislative year, but are returning in 2024:

AB-19 Pupil health: opioid antagonists

K-12

Any K-12 school that has elected to make a school nurse or another trained personnel available for an opioid overdose response shall carry at least two doses of Naloxone.

AB-359 Pupil instruction: dual enrollment: College and Career Access Pathways partnerships

K-12

CC

Governor Newsom has issued an edict for the community colleges to increase dual enrollment participation by 15% from 2022 to 2027. The roadmap required the Chancellor's Office to compile datasets by 2023 and to establish a timeline for meeting the required goals by 2024. The intent of this bill is to streamline dual enrollment pathways for K-12 students. However, our community college members will need to be mindful of the risks related to minors on campus.

SB-581 Third-party litigation financing

K-12

CC

SB581 was proposed last year with the intent to bring transparency to the practice of "litigation financing" where a third party (unrelated to the lawsuit) loans funds to the plaintiff in return for a portion of any financial recovery resulting from the case. This allows plaintiffs the financial ability to pay bills and other expenses while they wait for their anticipated award. The bill's author noted concerns that this practice is predatory, and hurts plaintiffs from low-income or vulnerable communities, as they are required to repay the third-party loans with interest, in addition to providing the third party with a portion of the settlement or award. This bill aimed to require all litigation financiers to register with the Secretary of State's office, and prohibits them from engaging in specified conduct. However, the Appropriation Committee may have concerns about the fiscal impact on the Secretary of State due to increased filing and the unknown volume of litigation financiers.

AB-1299 School safety: school resource officers: school police officers: school safety plans

K-12

According to the bill's author, current data and lawsuits in California call on the legislature to reevaluate the role that school resource officers on K-12 campuses have played. The intent is to strike a balance between protecting lives, and ensuring no unintended consequences affect the health and well-being of students of color, foster care students, or students with disabilities. This proposal bill would:

- Prohibit the use of handcuffs on campus unless the officer determines the student is a danger to themselves or others
- Prohibit the use of pepper spray unless utilized in a manner consistent with Penal Code 13652
- Require officers who are not employed or contracted with districts as SROs to first notify the principal or designee before accessing school grounds





AB-1575 Public postsecondary education: students codes of conduct: advisers.

CC

This bill would authorize Community College students, who receive a disciplinary notification, the right to have an adviser of their choosing and requires postsecondary education institutions to provide trainings for the aforementioned adviser. While existing law provides that advisers should be made available to students involved in a Title IX complaint, this bill would seek to extend the provision of advisers to students who face any disciplinary procedure on campus

BSB-868 Pupil safety: trauma kits

K-12

The legislature has passed bills in both 2022 (AB-2260) and 2023 (AB-70) expanding the requirement for trauma kits in buildings. While the existing laws require at least 6 trauma kits in schools with an occupancy of 200 or more, SB-868 would require a trauma kit in every classroom. The cost of a trauma kit can range from \$25 to over \$150, depending on its contents. The state has more than 10,000 school sites which vary greatly in size. Assuming a school site has, on average, 10 to 20 classrooms that would require a trauma kit under this bill, costs to purchase trauma kits could range from \$2.5 million to \$30 million for the state. While both the Education Committee and Judiciary Committee approved the bill, it remains to be seen whether the Appropriations Committee will move this legislation forward in light of the current state budget.

On the horizon:

It is still quite early in the legislative year, and it is anticipated that the State Senate and Assembly will continue to introduce hundreds of additional bills between now and the February 16th deadline, including “Spot Bills” which are intended as bills filed before the deadline as a placeholder for a bill that has not been completely drafted. Spot bills typically have very little content, and will later be gutted and amended before the May 24th deadline for each house to pass introduced bills. School advocacy groups expect to see the legislature focus on public safety, homelessness, housing market and wildfire liability. While an election year may impact certain types of legislation, the greatest hurdle for many bills will be whether they have a fiscal impact. The Appropriation Committee focuses on fiscal impact to the State, as opposed to impacts on local government.



LEGISLATIVE MATTERS



A Message from our Claims Services Manager

CSRM works closely with CAJPA and PRISM to advocate for the best interests of our membership and provide educational outreach to legislators on bills that may have an adverse impact on our public schools and community colleges. It is our goal to keep members informed throughout the year of potential impacts.



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CSRM Mission Statement

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

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