



LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

California Schools in Focus: Quarterly Newsletter on Legislation Affecting Schools



It's a wrap! The 2025 California legislative year has come to a close, and October 13, 2025, was the last date for Governor Newsom to either veto or sign the legislation sent to his office. It's important to note that some bills do not make it to the Governor's desk. Instead, they may either fail to advance in a Committee or be held in a suspense file. It's not uncommon for those bills to gain new life in the second year of the legislative session with new amendments or reintroductions. This means that even if a bill did not pass this year, we may see it return in 2026. The effective date for legislation will be January 1, 2026, unless otherwise specified.

Bills that Passed: **IMMIGRATION**

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AB-49 Limitations on ICE Access to Schools Grounds **K-12**

This bill would impose stricter limits on immigration enforcement at schools. District employees are prohibited from allowing immigration enforcement agents to enter nonpublic areas of a school (e.g. offices, classrooms, staff rooms, etc) without a valid judicial warrant, judicial subpoena, or a court order. In addition, district employees are prohibited from disclosing any information or records about a student or their family to immigration officials without written parent/guardian consent, valid judicial warrant, subpoena, or court order.

The California Attorney General's office will update Safe Haven policies to align with this new legislation by December 1, 2025 and all districts must adopt the updated policies by March 1, 2026. The CDE will be tasked with ensuring compliance.

SB-98 Staff, Student and Parent notification of ICE **K-12** **CC**

Beginning March 1, 2026, districts and community colleges must develop notification procedures for when ICE is confirmed on campus.

K-12 Districts: These procedures must be included in the CSSP.

Community Colleges: Notifications must be sent to students, staff, faculty, and all on-campus workers, and must follow procedures established by each system (e.g., chancellor, president, or designee). If students, faculty, or staff have been taken into custody, the college must notify the individual's emergency contact.

The law includes a sunset date of January 1, 2031.

AB-419 Posting Information Related to ICE and Student Rights **K-12**

All children in California have a right to equal access to free public education, regardless of their parents' immigration status. This bill requires districts to post the California Attorney General's "Know Your Educational Rights" Guide for students and families in the following locations:

- Administrative buildings
- Each school site
- District website

The guide advises families on their rights related to immigration enforcement actions at schools.

STUDENT SAFETY**SB-848 Child Abuse Prevention and Employee Misconduct** **K-12**

SB848 includes several new requirements to prevent sexual abuse and misconduct. The deadline for these changes will be July 1, 2026:

Training:

Current law requires district employees to complete annual mandated reporter and abuse prevention training. Beginning July 1, 2026, this annual training requirement will extend to volunteers. Districts will need to ensure they have processes to document training completion and audit compliance annually.

Board Policy:

This bill also requires districts to adopt board policies that specifically address professional boundaries between adults and students, and establish appropriate limits on contact between students and employees, volunteers and other adults outside of school. CSBA sample policy 4119.24, Maintaining Appropriate Adult-Student Interactions will meet this requirement. Policies will need to be in place by July 1, 2026.



CSSP:

In addition, the bill requires the CSSP to include procedures for the supervision of children to prevent child abuse.

Student Training:

Lastly, this bill will require the CDE to create and disseminate guidance on how to instruct students regarding the prevention of abuse. Districts will then be required to provide this training to students. Parents will have the right to excuse their child from all or part of the instruction.

AB-962 Student Use of Smartphones

K-12

Existing law requires districts to adopt policies prohibiting or limiting smartphone usage by July 1, 2026. This bill creates an exception in the following circumstances:

- In case of emergency or threat of danger as outlined in the CSSP
- When permission is expressly given by a teacher or administrator
- When a physician determines that use of a smartphone is necessary for the health and well-being of the student
- When possession of a smartphone is required in the student's IEP

SB-568 Epinephrine "Delivery systems"

K-12

Districts are currently required to store and provide access to Epinephrine Auto Injectors, commonly known as Epi-Pens, in the event of an emergency. On August 4, 2024, the FDA approved an epinephrine nasal spray for emergency treatment of allergic reactions. This bill seeks to update the language in the existing regulations from Epinephrine Auto Injectors to Epinephrine Delivery Systems. This broadens the reference in statute to enable the use of epinephrine nasal sprays in schools.

AB-772 Model Policy for Cyberbullying Off Campus

K-12

The CDE will be required to develop a model policy for school districts to address reports of cyberbullying of students occurring off campus and outside of school hours. The CDE is expected to develop the policy no later than June 30, 2026 and districts will be required to adopt the policy by July 1, 2027.

The California School Board had filed opposition to this bill regarding the expansion of district responsibility to student activities outside of school and after hours. This also creates potential liability for districts. Despite opposition, the bill has been passed and is now law. CSRM will continue to monitor policy development by the CDE on this issue.

SB-19 Threats of Violence at Schools, Universities and Workplaces

K-12

CC

Prosecutors rely on Penal Code 422 when responding to threats of violence by an individual. However, when students or employees post vague threats online that are not directed at specific individuals, it is difficult for prosecutors to bring charges against them. This legislation stems from a case where a student posted a photo of a realistic gun replica on Snapchat with the message "Everybody goes to school tomorrow. I'm taking gum [sic]."

Prosecutors initially charged the student under Penal Code 422, but the student appealed, arguing that there was insufficient evidence to show that his post was a direct threat, as he used the word "gum" and not "gun", or that any specific individual was threatened. This law expands Penal Code 422 to include scenarios where social media posts, including the posting of images, if intended to be a threat, can lead to charges, even if the threat was not directed at a specific individual.

**GOVERNANCE AND SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION****AB-640 Required School Finance Training for School Board Members** K-12

This bill will require all school board members and trustees to receive training on K-12 public education school finance laws. This training will be no longer than four hours and will be developed by the Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT).

AB-268 Diwali Added to State Holidays K-12 CC

This law adds Diwali to the list of state holidays and authorizes school districts and community colleges to close on Diwali. Since it is an authorization and not a requirement, the governing board for each school or college will determine if they will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with staff or unions to observe the holiday and adjust the work calendar. Human Resource teams should be prepared for unions to raise this during negotiations.

SB-294 The Workplace Know Your Rights Act K-12 CC

Beginning February 1, 2026, all employers will be required to provide all employees with a written notice describing rights and duties of employers and employees, workers' compensation, labor laws and notice requirements related to ICE inspections.

The Labor Commissioner will post the template notice for employers on their website by January 1, 2026.

If an employee has designated an emergency contact, employers will be required to notify the emergency contact if the employee is arrested or detained at the worksite.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION**AB-1293 Workers' Compensation: Standardizing QME Reports** K-12 CC

In California, Qualified Medical Evaluators (QME) are utilized to resolve disputes related to benefit entitlements such as temporary and permanent disability. A 2019 auditor review found that 85% of QME panel reports from 2015-2016 were not adequate to resolve the disputes in question. This leads to delays in the claim and additional expenses to acquire supplemental reports.

This law requires the Administrative Director to develop a template QME form which shall include all statutory and regulatory requirements for a QME report, with the goal of creating standardized reporting and reducing delays. The implementation date is January 1, 2027.

BILLS THAT FAILED TO ADVANCE

AB-600 Pupil Instruction: transgender concepts: opt out

AB-614 Claims against public entities

AB-68 School safety: armed school resource officers

AB-410 Bots: disclosure

AB-1163 Workplace violence prevention plans: topics and trainings

AB-90 Community Colleges: overnight student parking

SB-29 Civil actions: decedent's cause of action

AB-1331 Workplace surveillance

AB-65 School and community college employees: paid disability and parental leave

AB-340 Employer-employee relations: confidential communications



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

While some bills failed to advance, we expect that many of them will be revived in January when the legislature reconvenes. CSRM partners with both CAJPA and PRISM to continue advocacy efforts for our community college and school district members.

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