

Critical Bulletin

SB 848: Updates to AB 1913 Mandated Reporter Requirements

Effective July 01, 2026, [SB 848](#) expanded California's mandated reporter and pupil safety requirements to include private schools, state special schools, and diagnostic centers operated by the Department of Education. Building upon the mandated reporter training requirements established under [AB 1913](#), which became operative July 01, 2025, SB 848 introduces additional compliance obligations for local educational agencies (LEAs), including school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools. These changes strengthen pupil protections by expanding who qualifies as a mandated reporter, enhancing training requirements, establishing new policy expectations, and adding employment screening requirements.

Key Provisions of SB 848

1. Expanded Definition of Mandated Reporter

SB 848 expands the list of individuals considered ***mandated reporters*** to include:

- **Employees, volunteers, and governing board members** of school districts, county offices of education, charter schools, and private schools.
- **Employees, volunteers, or board members of contractors** serving specified schools or educational agencies duties involve contact with or supervision of pupils.
- **Employees and Volunteers of State Special Schools and CDE-Operated Diagnostic Centers**

For purposes of this requirement, a volunteer is an individual over 18 years of age who interacts with pupils outside the immediate supervision and control of a parent/guardian or school employee.

2. Expanded Training Requirements

SB 848 expands existing mandated reporter instructional requirements. Training must now include instruction on:

- Child neglect
- Sexual abuse and assault
- Prevention and identification of abuse

These training components must be incorporated into existing mandated reporter training programs.

Volunteer Training Requirements:

Covered volunteers must complete mandated reporter training annually and provide proof of completion within six weeks of beginning volunteer service. This requirement applies to volunteers over 18 years of age who interact with pupils outside the immediate supervision and control of the pupil's parent/guardian or a school employee.

3. Required Policies on Professional Boundaries

On or before **July 1, 2026**, the governing board of each LEA must adopt written policies that:

- Promote safe environments for pupil learning and engagement
- Clearly address professional boundaries between pupils and adults, including:
 - School employees
 - Volunteers
 - School contractors
 - Adults working under contract

Policies must also establish appropriate communication limits between pupils and adults, including communication through:

- Social media platforms
- Internet messaging services
- Text messages
- Other electronic communications that do not include the pupil's parent or guardian

Policies may vary depending on the age or grade level of the pupil.

4. Facility Design and Supervision Requirements

LEAs must adopt written policies, plans, or specifications related to school facilities and furnishings that promote environments that are:

- Easily supervised
- Structured to reduce opportunities for misconduct
- Designed to support safe learning and engagement

These provisions apply to both classroom and non-classroom environments.

5. Expanded Definitions of Sex Offense and Violent Crime

SB 848 revises and expands the statutory definitions of “sex offense” and “violent crime” in order to strengthen background review and reporting obligations related to pupil safety.

6. Comprehensive School Safety Plan Updates

LEAs were required to update their [Comprehensive School Safety Plans \(CSSPs\)](#) at the next policy review, but no later than July 01, 2026, to include procedures addressing:

- Child abuse and neglect prevention
- Supervision and protection of pupils from abuse, neglect, and sex offenses
- Reporting crimes occurring on campus or during school-related activities
- Training school staff on the CSSP

7. Expanded Employment Screening Requirements

Individuals applying for non-certificated positions must provide a complete list of every educational employer they previously worked for, including:

- LEAs
- State special schools
- Diagnostic centers operated by the Department of Education

- Private schools

The hiring LEA must contact each prior employer to determine whether the applicant was the subject of:

- Credible complaints
- Substantiated investigations
- Discipline related to egregious misconduct

Additionally, if a certificated employee was reported to the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) for egregious misconduct, that information must be disclosed when responding to employment inquiries.

8. New State Database for Non-Certificated Employees

The Commission on Teacher Credentialing must establish a database for non-certificated employees that includes:

- Employee name, date of birth, and unique identification number
- Employer name
- Job title
- Start and end dates of employment
- Information related to substantiated investigations of egregious misconduct

LEAs and private schools must submit required employment data:

- Within 30 calendar days of hiring
- Within 10 calendar days of an employee leaving employment
- Within 10 calendar days of initiating an investigation
- Within 10 calendar days of completing an investigation

9. Pupil Education on Abuse Prevention

The California Department of Education, in consultation with the Office of Child Abuse Prevention, must develop instructional materials to educate pupils about:

- Abuse
- Neglect
- Sexual assault

Note: Parents and guardians retain the right to opt their child out ([see section 13 of SB 848](#)) of this instruction.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What actions can be taken?

- Update mandated reporter training to address expanded requirements.
- Adopt policies addressing professional boundaries and electronic communications.
- Evaluate school environments for appropriate supervision and pupil safety.
- Update Comprehensive School Safety Plans (CSSPs) to address abuse and neglect prevention.
- Review hiring procedures for required prior-employers and misconduct checks.
- Prepare for CTC reporting of employee and misconduct information.

2. Where can I find updated requirements?

Additional information regarding SB 848 and AB 1913 requirements can be found through:

- [California Department of Education \(CDE\)](#)
- [California Commission on Teacher Credentialing \(CTC\)](#)
- Local educational agency legal counsel
- [Schools Legal Service guidance and memoranda](#)

3. Where can I find training?

- **Vector Solutions** – Districts can access mandated reporter training through the Vector Solutions platform. A Volunteer Self-Registration Portal is also available, allowing volunteers to self-register, complete the required training online, and receive a certificate of completion without districts creating individual volunteer accounts.
 - [California Department of Social Services – Mandated Reporter Training Program](#)
 - [California Department of Education](#)
- **Volunteer Training:** Volunteers over age 18 who interact with pupils outside the immediate supervision and control of a parent/guardian or school employee must complete mandated reporter training annually and provide proof of completion within six weeks of beginning volunteer service.
 - **Vector Volunteer Portal:** To enable the Volunteer Self-Registration Portal for your district, contact your CSRM Risk Consultant for your district.

4. What must LEAs do when developing protocols?

- Define professional boundaries for staff, volunteers, contractors, and pupils.
- Establish electronic communication protocols for interactions with pupils.
- Coordinate employment screening with HR, Legal Counsel, and Risk Management.
- Incorporate requirements into the CSSP review process.

REFERENCES AND RESOURCES

- [School & College Legal Services of California \(SCLS\): Legal Update Memo No. 15-2025 - SB 848 Pupil Safety \(K-12\)](#)

Questions? Please contact California Schools Risk Management (909) 763-4900

District Compliance Checklist

Quick implementation for California K-12 local educational agencies

Effective July 1, 2026: Use this checklist to confirm key SB 848 implementation steps are in place and documented.

Mandated Reporter Training

- ☐ Identify employees, volunteers, governing board members, and applicable contractor personnel who fall within the expanded mandated reporter requirements.
- ☐ Ensure training includes child neglect, sexual abuse and assault, and prevention and identification of abuse.
- ☐ Provide required volunteer training annually and establish a process to track completion within the applicable six-week timeframe.
- ☐ Maintain documentation or certificates showing completion of required training.

Professional Boundaries & Communications

- ☐ Confirm board-adopted policies address professional boundaries between pupils and employees, volunteers, contractors, and other adults working under contract.
- ☐ Address appropriate use of social media, messaging platforms, text messages, and other electronic communications with pupils.

Facilities & Supervision

- ☐ Review classroom and non-classroom areas for visibility, supervision, and opportunities to reduce misconduct.
- ☐ Evaluate facilities, furnishings, and layouts to support safe pupil learning and engagement.

Comprehensive School Safety Plan (CSSP)

- ☐ Confirm the CSSP addresses child abuse and neglect prevention and pupil supervision.
- ☐ Include procedures for protection from abuse, neglect, and sex offenses, and for reporting crimes on campus or during school-related activities.
- ☐ Ensure school staff receive training on the CSSP.

Hiring & Employment Screening

- ☐ Require non-certificated applicants to provide a complete list of prior educational employers.
- ☐ Contact prior educational employers regarding credible complaints, substantiated investigations, or discipline involving egregious misconduct.

CTC Reporting & Ongoing Compliance

- ☐ Prepare procedures for required non-certificated employee reporting to the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC), including applicable hiring, separation, and investigation deadlines.
- ☐ Coordinate implementation among Human Resources, Risk Management, Student Services, Facilities, and legal counsel, as appropriate.

Recommended: Assign an owner and completion date for each item, retain supporting records, and review implementation with legal counsel or your risk management partner as appropriate.

This checklist is intended as a general implementation aid and does not replace consultation with legal counsel regarding specific compliance obligations.

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