



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

October 2018

By Martha Zaragoza-Díaz, CAFE Lobbyist

I. A Busy First Year of the 2017-2018 Regular Legislative Session

The Legislature finished its first year of work on September 15, 2017 and Interim Recess officially begins. Legislators are now in their districts taking care of constituent business.

More than 700 bills are on Governor Brown's desk awaiting his review and action. In the first year of the 2017-2018 regular legislative session, approximately 2,250 bills were introduced in the California Legislature. The Assembly passed about 970 of its bills to the Senate; 56% of the measures introduced. The Senate passed 514 of its own bills; 63% of the bills introduced in the upper house this year. Per Capitol Track, approximately 472 Assembly Bills and 243 Senate Bills are on the Governor's desk. Other bills may still be going through the engrossing and enrollment process.

Bills introduced ranged from family leave, housing, to immigrant rights. There were many education bills ranging from teacher housing to reading programs. Below are some of the bills impacting our English learner students. Governor Brown has until September 15, 2017 to sign or veto bills. At that time, a more comprehensive report regarding the outcome of bills monitored by CAFE will be made available.

AB 952 (Reyes) The Bilingual Teacher Professional Development Program

Amended: June 22, 2017 **CABE & Californians Together Sponsored Bill**

Summary: As amended, requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) to establish a process to identify short-term, high-quality pathways to address the shortage of bilingual education teachers, to identify and recommend pathways and require the

CTC to report to the appropriate fiscal and policy committees of the Legislature by July 1, 2021, on all identified short-term, high-quality pathways to address the shortage of bilingual teachers.

Status: Governor's Desk

Position: Support

AB 1142 (Medina) State Seal of Biliteracy

CABE & Californians Together Sponsored Bill

Amended: June 12, 2017

Summary: Current law requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to award a State Seal of Biliteracy. Current law provides that the State Seal of Biliteracy certifies attainment of a high level of proficiency by a graduating high school pupil in one or more languages, in addition to English, and certifies that the graduate meets specified criteria, including, but not limited to, passing the California Standards Test in English language arts administered in grade 11 at the proficient level or above. This bill would replace that criterion with one requiring that a pupil pass the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress for English language arts, administered in grade 11, at or above the “standard met” achievement level.

Status: Signed by Governor Brown, Ch. 208

Position: Support

AB 81 (Gonzalez Fletcher) Home Language Survey: Notice

Amended: September 1, 2017

Summary: Would require the notice of assessment of a child’s English proficiency to include specified additional information, including whether a child is a long-term English learner or is an English learner at risk of becoming a long-term English learner, and would authorize a local educational agency or charter school to send an alternative notice to comply with this requirement, as specified. The bill would require a school district to provide a notification letter to a pupil’s parent or guardian at the time a home language survey is provided that explains the purpose of the home language survey and the procedures for identification and reclassification of English learners.

Status: On Governor’s Desk

Position: Support

SB 354 (Portantino) Special Education: IEP: Translation

Amended: June 14, 2017

Summary: Would revise the definition of “parent” to specify that it also includes the educational rights holder and the conservator of a child. The bill would require a local educational agency to communicate in the native language of the parent, or in another mode of communication used by the parent, during the planning process for the individualized education program, as provided, and to provide alternative communication services, including by providing translation services for a pupil’s parent, as specified.

Status: 2 Year Bill

Position: Support

SB 463 (Lara) EL: Reclassification

Amended: May 26, 2017

Summary: Current law requires the State Department of Education, with the approval of the State Board of Education, to establish procedures for conducting an assessment for English language development and for the reclassification of a pupil from English learner to English proficient. This bill would delete the provision requiring the department to establish procedures for the reclassification of a pupil from English learner to English proficient and would instead require, commencing with the 2018–19 school year, a local educational agency, as defined, that has one or more pupils who are English learners in any of grades 3 to 12, inclusive, and who do not have an individualized education program or a pupil disability accommodation plan adopted pursuant to specified federal law, to determine whether to reclassify such a pupil as English proficient according to specified factors. The amendments: 1) change the July 1, 2018 to January 1, 2019 for when the SBE, in consultation with the CDE, to identify minimum scores for English language arts assessments, 2) require CDE to develop a rubric to measure academic-related evidence and 3) includes in the guidance to be developed by CDE, in consultation with the SBE, the development of instructional tools to help LEAs be consistent in implementing reclassification criteria .

Status: 2 Year Bill

Position: Support with Amendments

SB 494 (Hueso) Language Arts: Reading Program

Amended: July 17, 2017

Summary: Would establish the Golden State Reading Guarantee grant program, which would be administered by the State Department of Education. The bill would require a local educational agency that chooses to apply for a grant to submit an application that contains certain minimum information to the department, in a format and by a date determined by the department. The bill would provide requirements for eligibility for a grant and for spending grant funds. As amended, the implementation of the grant program is contingent upon appropriation of funds in the Annual Budget Act or another statute for purposes of the grant program. The bill was amended to include language specific to English learners in several provisions of the bill.

Status: On the Governor's Desk

Position: Support

II. RFA Available for Bilingual Teacher Professional Development Grant

Through the advocacy efforts of CAFE and Californians Together along with the efforts of Assembly Members Eloise Gomez Reyes and Kevin McCarty, to establish a Bilingual Teacher Professional Development Program (BTPDP) \$5 million dollars was included in the 2017-18 State Budget (AB 952 & AB 99) for the BTPDP.

CDE has recently put out its Request for Applications (RFA) for those interested in providing professional development to support bilingual teachers—those who have been teaching in English only programs and for native speakers of other languages who wish to possess bilingual certification.

School districts or County Offices of Education (COE) are eligible to apply or school districts and COEs in partnership with other entities such as IHEs Schools of Education or non-profit organizations with expertise on English learners are eligible to apply for the grants. Funding for this program is through the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

If you are interested in applying for this funding you can find all the details about the program at the CDE Teaching and Learning Web page. RFAs can be obtained at this link:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/fo/r12/btpdp17rfa.asp>. An “Intent to Submit” must be forwarded to CDE on September 15, 2017 and the final completed application on October 13, 2017.

If you have any questions you can contact Marcia Trott - mtrott@cde.ca.gov or at 916-323-8901. Any downloading questions should be referred to Melissa Flemmer, Educator Excellence Office, e-mail: mflemmer@cde.ca.gov, tel. 916-324-5689

Please feel free to share this update with other interested parties!