

March 2022 Legislative Advocate Report



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Governor's Budget

Significant momentum has been created within the halls of the Legislature regarding CABE's budget priorities. Meetings have now taken place with Governor Newsom's office, both Senate and Assembly budget staff, the Senate Pro Tempore's office, the Assembly Speaker's office, as well as with the Department of Finance, and the State Board of Education.



CABE's budget priorities include advocating for:

- Bilingual Teacher Professional Development Grant - \$10 million appropriation to implement over five years to continue the "grow your own" work to address the bilingual teacher shortage;
- Educator Workforce Investment Program English Learner Roadmap Policy Implementation – \$20 million appropriation over five years to continue the professional learning established in the last grant;
- California State University (CSU) Jump Start Program - \$25 million appropriation to provide funding for AB 1701 (Medina) to increase student enrollment in bilingual authorization programs through the recruitment and retention of full-time faculty through its Colleges of Education;
- Disaggregation of Data: Long-Term English Learners (LTELs) – We are seeking an appropriation to provide funding for AB 1868 (Rivas) to disaggregate data to strengthen California's guidance and resources to ensure Long Term English Learner students are correctly identified and provided with targeted interventions that best meet their needs.

CABE/Californians Together Sponsored Legislation

Significant movement has taken place regarding sponsored legislation:

AB 1701 (Medina) – would create a grant program within the CSU to increase full-time faculty in its Colleges of Education in bilingual authorization programs to create more teachers with bilingual authorizations. This bill received strong support and passed the Assembly Higher Education Committee and has now moved to the Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File. All bills that cost more than \$50,000 are automatically sent to the Suspense File, which will be taken up in late May.



AB 1868 (Rivas) – would require local education agencies with specified numbers of LTELs to delineate goals and strategies for serving the needs of these students within their Local Control and Accountability Plan. measure bill will be heard by the Assembly Education Committee on April 6th.

SB 952 (Limón) – would expand the number of schoolwide dual-language immersion programs in California. This measure received full bipartisan support in the Senate Education Committee and is now located in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

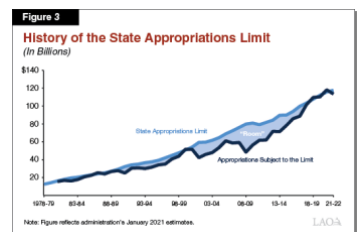
Legislative/Budget Timeline

All policy bills that have a fiscal cost must be passed by a policy committee by April 29th. If a bill fails to meet this deadline the bill will die. All fiscal bills must be passed by the Appropriations Committees by May 20th. Bills that fail this deadline will be considered dead. Both houses of the Legislature will only conduct floor sessions from May 23-27. Any bill that fails to pass out of its house of origin will also die.



The Governor's May Revision of his budget will be released in early May and will reflect the tax receipts that were due on April 15th. It is highly expected that the state will have well over \$45 billion in excess revenue due to significantly higher revenues than initially anticipated. While there is a significant windfall, these funds may not all be readily available due to the triggering of the State Appropriations Limit (SAL).

The SAL was created by Prop.4 in 1979, then amended by Prop. 111 in 1990. Its purpose is to keep spending under 1978-79 levels. It is created through a complex calculation but will ultimately limit the total amount of spending the state may make. The state may create exemptions, such as capital outlay, to create more room for spending. If the state has difficulties achieving exemptions, it could hinder the total amount of excess funding it can spend on schools and social programs. If the SAL is triggered, the excess funding must be spent on education and must also go back to taxpayers. This is where the gas discussion comes in.



Additionally, the Legislature and Governor have begun a series of negotiations regarding the gas tax and taxpayer relief that have the potential to encroach on excess funds. This is a fluid conversation that will become more solidified after the Governor's May Revision of the budget is released. The Governor has proposed a one-year reduction in fuel excise tax rates, which would offset the current impact of inflation, with a loss to the state of \$523 million. CAFE will monitor this conversation, particularly its potential impact on funding CAFE budget priorities.



Legislative Musical Chairs

The 2020 California Citizens Redistricting Commission finished redrawing legislative districts based upon the results of the updated census, which will become operative beginning with the June 2022 election cycle. This 14-member commission consisted of five Republicans, five Democrats, and four individuals not affiliated with either of these two parties. The Commission followed very strict nonpartisan rules meant to create districts of relatively equal populations and representations across the state.



The results of the census and work on the Commission has shifted a number of boundaries, creating a number of conflicts for current Legislators. Some Legislators have been redrawn out of their districts, while some are now in the same district as their Legislative peers. As a result, over 25 Legislators have already indicated they will not run for re-election in November. A few have even resigned their seats mid-term.

These changes are already changing the political environment in Sacramento by shifting membership for a number of Legislative Committees as well as potentially weakening the political potential of those who have already announced they are leaving. In a year where California's potential budget surplus could ultimately be as high as \$45 billion, no Legislator wants to be left out of the opportunity to provide resources for their district.



Additionally, these changes are important to CAFE as it signals a significant new crop of Legislators who will be joining the ranks of Legislators in Sacramento. These changes will create a dramatic shift in institutional knowledge shifting out of Sacramento which will mean CAFE will need to focus time and energy on creating new relationships with the Legislature in 2023, while simultaneously educating them about issues of importance to CAFE. It is likely that most of the new Legislators may have little to no knowledge about issues related to English learners or biliteracy/multiliteracy.