



California Association for Bilingual Education

April 2023 Legislative Advocate Report

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CABE/Californians Together 2023 Co- Sponsored Legislation Update

AB 1127 (Reyes): Bilingual Teacher Professional Development Program—Would revise and update the Bilingual Teacher Professional Development Program, which will use a “grow your own” approach to address the bilingual teacher shortage. This bill is additionally co-sponsored by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. AB 1127 has been placed on the Assembly Appropriations Committee Suspense File, which will likely be taken up on May 18th.

AB 370 (Addis): State Seal of Biliteracy—Would update the criteria required to obtain the State Seal of Biliteracy in order to make it equitable for all students to obtain and create a better understanding for all participating local educational agencies as to its implementation. This measure received full bipartisan support in the Assembly Appropriations Committee and is waiting to be heard on the Assembly Floor.



AB 393 (L. Rivas): Child Care: Dual Language Learners—Would expand asset-based dual language learner identification to general childcare programs to help California achieve the goals of the Master Plan to support these students. This legislation will require the Department of Social Services, in consultation with the Department of Education, to create a process with the necessary guidelines and requirements regarding information to coordinate data collection for these students. This bill is also co-sponsored by Early Edge and is waiting to be heard by the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

CABE Bill Updates

Oppose 

SB 691 (Portantino): Dyslexia Screening—Would create a state-wide dyslexia screening process for students in kindergarten, first and second grades. Identifying children throughout their early educational career who may be at-risk of dyslexia and providing them with appropriate reading interventions is an admirable goal. CABE believes identifying and providing support to California’s dyslexic students is needed. Unfortunately, the process identified under SB 691 (Portantino) could lead to over-identifying dyslexia in our youngest learners, particularly those who have not yet developed English language skills, narrowing their instructional curriculum.

SB 691 (Portantino) is now in the Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense file which will be taken up on May 18th. This Committee is chaired by Senator Portantino. CABE continues to express support for the need for children to be screened but opposes the method being prescribed in SB 651. To view CABE’s opposition letter to Senator Portantino, visit: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HDqSeOdGB_S7GzVv4xOeQN_D-qu9jLC/view?usp=sharing.

Support

AB 506 (Fong): Ethnic Studies—Would create a seamless process to ensure that students who take an ethnic studies course within the community college system would be able to successfully transfer that course to the California State University (CSU) System. This process would be created through a collaboration between the CSU, the Community College Chancellor, and the CSU Council on Ethnic Studies. This bill is in the Assembly Higher Education Committee.

AB 1255 (Carrillo): Ethnic Studies Task Force—Would require the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to create a statewide task force, including relevant stakeholders, and provide a report to the Legislature with recommendations necessary to create a single-subject credential in ethnic studies. This bill is in the Assembly Education Committee.

AB 1354 (Fong): Curriculum—Would ensure that when the Instructional Quality Commission next revises the history-social science curriculum framework, they consider including the contributions made by Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, as well as highlight racism, discrimination, and violence that have been perpetrated against these critical communities. This bill is in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

SB 348 (Skinner): Pupil Meals—Would require local educational agencies to provide free meals to students, including both breakfast and lunch, beginning with the 2024-25 school year. As poverty rates and family hunger increases, schools play an increasingly important role to bridge that hunger gap for children. This bill is in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

SB 767 (Rubio): Mandatory Kindergarten—Would ensure all children receive critical instruction during their earliest years of learning by requiring students to attend kindergarten prior to entering the first grade. Research shows that a quality early childhood education program provides a foundation for learning, both socially and academically, that will help a young child in school. Early education is essential for the physical, intellectual, and socio-emotional development of children and provides students with the fundamental skills and tools needed for academic success. This bill is in the Senate Education Committee.

Senate Democrats Release Budget Plan

The Senate Democrats recently released an updated budget plan that builds upon previous plans, which seeks to protect the progress that has been made over the past decade. While the plan is from the Senate Democrats, it includes many issues that are also priorities for the Assembly Democrats, which can be used in negotiations with the Governor. The plan is based upon the Governor's January 10th revenue forecast, which both the Department of Finance and the Legislative Analyst's Office have already noted was too optimistic based upon reduced revenues. Based upon this assumption, it is likely that key elements of this plan may shift once the final budget numbers are released in the Governor's May Revision of the budget.

A proposed \$800 million in new funding to increase childcare rates is included in the plan, as well as close to \$1.3 billion in Proposition 98 funds for schools and community colleges to meet critical needs. The plan additionally rejects the \$1.2 billion reduction to the Arts, Music, and Instructional Materials Discretionary Block

Grant and instead, recommends increasing this grant by \$232 billion. Further, it proposed to provide \$1.1 billion in Proposition 98 Funds through a block grant to address certificated and classified recruitment needs while also adding \$1.1 billion into the Local Control Funding Formula, on top of the 2022-23 increases and the 8.13 percent cost-of-living-adjustment.

To view the details of the proposed plan, visit:

<https://sbud.senate.ca.gov/sites/sbud.senate.ca.gov/files/Protect%20Our%20Progress%20Senate%20Budget%20Plan.pdf>.

The Department of Finance Releases April Report

The Department of Finance recently released its April Finance Bulletin confirming cash receipts were indeed \$4.684 billion below the Governor's initial 2023-24 budget forecast of \$126.675 billion. These shortfalls were primarily due to lower-than-expected personal income and corporate tax receipts. Complicating the ability to assess what the final tax receipts are is the extension to file taxes by October 16th, meaning the final numbers will not be realized until the extended deadline. California's share of the U.S. real Gross Domestic Product has moved to 14.4 percent in 2022, which is just above the pre-pandemic level in 2019 of 14.3 percent. U.S. headline inflation continues to slow to five percent year-over-year, which is well below its high of 9.1 percent in 2022. Much of this reduction was due to gasoline deflation.

The Finance Bulletin can be found at: <https://dof.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/352/2023/04/Finance-Bulletin-April-2023.pdf>.