



June 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 (BTPDP), 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 passed out of the Senate Education Committee with full bipartisan support and has moved to the Senate Appropriations Committee, where it is expected to be referred to the Suspense File. The policy language and \$20 million in funding were passed in the final budget, which may mean this bill may not continue to move forward as the goal has already been accomplished. Many thanks go to the tremendous work of the bill’s sponsors, including CABE, Californians Together, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tony Thurmond. A big round of applause goes to Assembly Majority Leader Reyes and her amazing staff for shepherding the bill and budget funding through the process. CABE is also extremely grateful to Governor Newsom and the Legislature for supporting this tremendously important effort to address the bilingual teacher shortage.

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 Senate Education Committee on June 7th and was ordered from the Senate Appropriations Committee on June 26th. The bill is now on the Senate 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 measure is being heard by the Senate Human Services Committee on July 3rd, then will be heard by the Senate Education Committee on July 12th.

Final Budget Passed

The Legislature initially released its budget plan on the evening of June 11th and stated its intent to pass a Constitutionally mandated budget by June 15th. It turned out that what they passed was not a final agreement with the Governor. The Senate, Assembly, and Governor agreed on the final budget package late in the evening on June 26th. This final package was sped through the Legislature and was sent to the Governor, who signed [SB 101 \(Skinner\), the Budget Act of 2023](#), earlier this week. There are still numerous outstanding budget trailer bills that the Governor has 12 days to take action on, including [SB 114, the education omnibus trailer bill](#).

One of the primary reasons the final budget was held up stemmed from a Newsom proposal to shift water from Northern California to Southern California, which was ultimately eliminated. A number of economic uncertainties remain, including a recognition that final tax receipts will not be realized until October 15th, with an anticipated \$42 billion expected to come to the state.

The budget includes approximately \$310.8 billion in total, with \$227 billion in General Fund spending. Reserves total \$38 billion, including \$3.2 billion in the Special Fund for Economic Uncertainties, \$22.3 billion in the Budget Stabilization Account, and \$10.8 billion in the Public School System Stabilization Account.

State tax revenues have continued to drop from the 2021-22 and 2022-23 stellar fiscal performances at levels larger than anticipated due to stock market declines, the market collapse for initial public offerings, interest rate increases by the Federal Reserve, recent bank challenges and the recent threat of the federal debt ceiling. The 2023-24 General Fund tax revenues anticipated in the May Revision totaled \$198 billion, reflecting \$27 billion less than assumed in the prior year.

Additional budget challenges are expected to occur in 2024, as well as a few additional years, which may involve the recalibration of priorities, as noted in the above paragraph. The Legislature has noted their interest in future general tax increases should this take place, which were firmly opposed by the Governor.

While the final numbers will not be fully reflected until October, it is clear that education funding remains stable with total Proposition 98 funding of \$110.6 billion in 2021-22, \$107.4 billion in 2022-23, and \$108.3 billion in 2023-24. The education budget contains \$597 million above the Test One guarantee level in 2023-24 to account for enrollment growth in Universal Transitional Kindergarten. It includes a local control funding formula increase of \$3.4 billion, reflecting the implementation costs of universal transitional kindergarten, as well as a cost-of-living adjustment of 8.22 percent, raising the total budget year LCFF amount to \$79.8 billion.

CABE was thrilled that SB 114 contained the provisions of the Bilingual Teacher Professional Development Program, which will allow California to address key elements of the bilingual teacher shortage.

While CABE appreciated the opportunity to begin a dialog with the Newsom Administration in May, CABE does not believe the Panel for Reading Difficulties for Screeners, included in AB/SB 114, has adequate protections to ensure English learners will be protected from unintended consequences. With the creation of a complex program of this nature, CABE believes this program merits additional discussion and contemplation to ensure California takes thoughtful steps to create safeguards for English learners. CABE is disappointed that our requested amendments were not integrated into the trailer bill and has asked the Newsom Administration and Legislature to commit to ensuring that adequate transparency and oversight will be given to this significant new program so that we will be able to monitor its impact on California's English learners.

CABE additionally opposed a change in definition to long-term English learners included in SB 114 as it does not reflect the existing California education code defining Long Term English Learners. CABE believes this change will be problematic and lead to inconsistencies regarding the identification of students who are making progress toward English language proficiency as long-term English learners.

Assembly Welcomes New Speaker

[Speaker Designate Robert Rivas](#) is being sworn in as the new Assembly Speaker on Friday, June 30th, replacing outgoing Speaker Anthony Rendon. Speaker Rivas is a Democrat from Hollister who comes from rural roots, which is a significant leadership change as most leaders have come from urban areas. In addition to having a family history in the farmworker movement, he has also suffered from stuttering most of his life. He has been proud to provide support and awareness of how this has impacted him and others.

California—5th Largest Economy in the World

The [Department of Finance](#) recently revealed some positive news. California has maintained its status as the fifth largest economy in the world for 2022, with close to a \$3.6 trillion Gross Domestic Product behind Germany but beating India.

Inflation has slowed slightly in May at multiple levels. It is expected that total cash receipts will likely be \$22 million below the forecast fiscal year-to-date by June but \$173 million above the forecast for May. Combined increases in personal income and corporate income tax refunds were \$813 million higher than projected from this time last year.

While these higher tax refunds could illustrate potential liabilities for 2022, the whole scenario will not be known until the delayed tax season ends in October.

CABE-Supported Legislation Moving Forward

Most bills have made it through their final policy hearings. Those still waiting must be heard by July 14th, or they will become two-year bills. A few bills have also made it through their second fiscal hearing and are either moving forward or have been moved to the Suspense File of their respective Appropriations Committee. The Legislature will begin its summer recess on July 14th and return on August 14th. The following CABE-supported bills are still moving forward:

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 set to be heard by the Senate Education Committee on July 12th.

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 has passed the Senate Education Committee on June 14th and was moved out of the Senate Appropriations Committee on June 26th. The bill has now moved to the Senate Floor.

SB 348 (Skinner): Pupil Meals – would require local educational agencies to provide students free meals, including breakfast and lunch, beginning with the 2024-25 school year. As poverty rates and family hunger increase, schools play an increasingly important role in bridging that hunger gap for children. This bill is awaiting a hearing in the Assembly Education Committee but may be held as many of the components included in the bill have been integrated into the budget.